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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 14, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

NAFTA ANNIVERSARY AND USMCA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this coming Sunday marks the 26th anniversary of the House of Representatives passing the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA.

This agreement with our two closest trading partners, Canada and Mexico, has become outdated as time has passed, markets have diversified, and

economies have flourished. We are in desperate need of updating NAFTA to meet modern-day economic demands.

I know many of us have staff who are younger than NAFTA, and we can all agree that the world has changed an awful lot in the last three decades. Congress needs to bring the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, or USMCA, to a vote immediately to keep trade free and fair. A vote on USMCA is long overdue.

It has been more than 400 days since President Trump announced this historic agreement, and Mexico and Canada have already given USMCA the green light. For farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and everyone in between, we must follow suit. So many different industries can benefit from a modern trade agreement.

In Pennsylvania, nearly 43,000 jobs depend on manufacturing exports to Canada and Mexico. Last year alone, Pennsylvania exported \$15 billion worth of products to Canada and Mexico.

There is no telling what economic potential lies ahead with a new revamped trade agreement.

In Pennsylvania, agriculture—and dairy, in particular—is the backbone of the Commonwealth's economy. USMCA's elimination of Canada's Class 6 and Class 7 dairy pricing programs would be a big win for dairy farm families. These programs have unfairly limited our export potential over the years.

The signing of USMCA into law will also signal to other major trade partners, like China and Japan, that we are serious about these kinds of deals and we are committed to a bright future for American exports.

There is no reason why we cannot pass USMCA before the end of the year. USMCA will create more jobs, boost wages, and spur the Nation's economy.

What are we waiting for? Each day that passes without a vote is a missed

opportunity. Let's get to work and hold a vote immediately.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we are involved in a very serious process to determine whether the President of the United States has committed high crimes and misdemeanors.

The Constitution provides for the removal of high officials who violate their oath of office, who violate the powers of their office, and who commit bribery or treason, or high crimes and misdemeanors.

In the course of that process, we have been involved with numerous people asking for the whistleblower to testify. I will not speak to the substance of the consideration that is ongoing with respect to the impeachment of the President of the United States, but I do want to speak pointedly to the calls from so many that the whistleblower be identified.

The whistleblower, of course, has no direct evidence to offer. What the whistleblower is is somebody who responded to "if you see something, say something."

We have witnesses to wrongdoing all over this country and all over the world, and our police departments have a line that is called an anonymous tip line so that somebody who sees something will say something. It is anonymous so that we do not intimidate those people or expose them to danger for coming forward to out criminal behavior.

The President of the United States has made an analogy to this information coming forward as the result of spying, treason, which, as we all know, according to the President, can subject someone to capital punishment.

Why do we have a whistleblower statute? We have a whistleblower statute,

□ 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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Mr. Speaker, because we want to encourage people, and we want to not expose them to danger or intimidation—including from the most powerful person on Earth, the President of the United States—or retaliation. Yet we continue to hear: Tell us who the whistleblower is. Let us throw the whistleblower into the lion's den.

In fact, of course, what we do know is the whistleblower, the information that was brought forward, A, led to the release of funds to the Ukrainians just shortly thereafter and, in addition, has led to substantive testimony corroborating the information that the whistleblower either saw or heard.

If you see something, say something.

It is irresponsible, it is wrong, and, in fact, in almost every jurisdiction, there are criminal penalties for threatening a witness, for impeding justice.

So, Mr. Speaker, when people say, "Show me the whistleblower," what they are doing is not only trying to intimidate that whistleblower, they are trying to intimidate every other whistleblower who might deign to come forward because they saw something or heard something.

I would hope all of my colleagues would think to themselves: Why do we have a whistleblower statute?

I represent 62,000 Federal employees, and, very frankly, I want them to have the confidence to come forward if they see wrongdoing in the Federal Government, even if it is about the President of the United States, and even if the President of the United States wants to make an analogy to a capital offense—despicable—undermining the very essence of why the Congress of the United States enacted a whistleblower statute and the essence of why police departments all over the United States have anonymous tip lines and why almost every State has a statute which imposes a criminal penalty for the intimidation of witnesses.

We are a nation of laws, not of men. We are proud of that. But if we are to be a nation whose top leaders try to intimidate those who would come forward if they see something or hear something and they say something, then we will be a lesser nation, less focused on a nation of laws.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that Members on both sides of the aisle, political pundits, commentators, and, yes, the President of the United States would cease and desist from trying to intimidate this whistleblower and all of those who may be whistleblowers.

The intent of that legislation, the intent of those protections, the intent of witness protection statutes and intimidation of witnesses is so that we will get at the truth and that our government of the people, by the people, and for the people will be more honest, will be more safe, will be more just.

TRACED ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that has afflicted nearly every American, including me, and it is the influx of annoying and deceptive robocalls. These seemingly endless automated calls disrupt every part of our daily lives, constitute a serious form of harassment, and expose millions of Americans to dangerous financial scams.

A prime example of the insidious nature of these calls occurred last year in New York when scammers pretended to be from the Chinese consulate and demanded money from people with what they considered to be Chinese-sounding last names. As a result, 21 Chinese immigrants lost a total of \$2.5 million.

In another instance, scammers attempted to phish personal information by calling people and threatening them with fines unless they signed up for health insurance.

These incidences are financially devastating and are happening to far too many people across our country. If there is one thing Republicans and Democrats should be able to agree on is that Congress can no longer sit back and ignore this problem. Our efforts must be focused on adding teeth to the Federal Government's ability to detect and punish individuals and organizations that abuse automated dialing technology.

With that in mind, I am proud to be a cosponsor of the TRACED Act, introduced by my friend, DAVID KUSTOFF. This legislation expands the penalties and the timeframes under which the Federal Communications Commission can identify robocallers and pursue civil action. This is entirely bipartisan, and it passed the Senate, last May, 97-1.

Under the TRACED Act, the FCC will be able to impose fines of up to \$10,000 for each individual scam call. Currently, telemarketing scammers face a maximum fine of only \$1,500. I am confident that increasing the maximum penalty up to \$10,000 will deter many scammers by making the cost of getting caught simply too expensive.

To make these harsher penalties the norm and not the exception, the FCC needs to be given more time to find the perpetrators of illegal robocalls. If the TRACED Act becomes law, the period in which the source of a robocall can be investigated and found liable will be tripled from 1 year to 3 years.

This important provision will work in lockstep with the increased fines. The FCC has told Congress that extending the statute of limitations in this way would improve the Commission's enforcement efforts.

During my time in office, I have heard frustration from countless constituents on this issue. Robocalls frequently interrupt our daily lives, ringing our phones during important work-hours, and distracting us from time spent at home with our families.

The TRACED Act is an important bipartisan bill that is supported by attor-

neys general in all 50 States, along with FCC Chairman Ajit Pai.

As scammers adjust the way they perpetrate fraud on the American people, it seems like common sense that our laws should be updated to fight back. No matter which side of the aisle we find ourselves on, we should all be able to agree that it is time for these illegal robocalls to be stopped once and for all.

□ 1015

HONORING THE LIFE OF THADDEUS SEYMOUR, SR.

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

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Thaddeus Seymour, Sr., who passed away recently at the age of 91.

In the obituary that appeared in our local, hometown paper, the Orlando Sentinel, Thad was described by one of his many admirers as a community treasure, and I think that sums up his life and legacy perfectly.

Thad moved with his beloved wife, Polly, and their children to the Orlando area over 40 years ago when Thad was named the 12th president of Rollins College, where I had the privilege to teach before being elected to Congress.

Thad served for a dozen years as the president of Rollins, from 1978 to 1990, and although he had long left by the time I arrived, his name was spoken on campus with respect and affection.

Thad was recognized as a popular and effective leader of the institution, helping make this gem of a school shine even brighter.

One decision Thad made during his tenure may seem modest, but it was meaningful to people who know Rollins best. In the 1950s, one of Thad's predecessors established Fox Day. Each spring, as finals loomed and on a day considered too beautiful to sit in a classroom, the school's president would cancel classes and provide students with a surprise day off.

The tradition was ended during the Vietnam war, but Thad brought it back. As Thad would recall years later: "The world had grown so grim, I thought we needed to cheer ourselves up." It is a choice that underscores both Thad's love of life and his belief that, at core, a college should be a close-knit community where young men and women live together; learn together; and, in many cases, become lifelong friends. Because Fox Day helped foster a sense of community and shared experience, Thad believed it mattered.

Thad left Rollins in 1990, but he never left central Florida, and he never stopped caring about our community. In fact, he literally helped build it, co-founding a chapter of Habitat for Humanity in Winter Park and in Maitland.

There is a wonderful picture of Thad in the Orlando Sentinel obituary. He is helping construct a home for someone less fortunate. He is perched on a ladder. His shirt is splattered with paint. He has a broad smile on his face. That is how I will always remember Thad: happily helping, happily building.

May President Seymour rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING FORMER MISSISSIPPI SPEAKER BILLY MCCOY

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

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the former speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives, the Honorable Billy McCoy, who is pictured here.

Former Mississippi Speaker Billy McCoy passed away on November 12 after an incredible, lifelong career of public service.

Billy was directly responsible for revolutionizing the economy of Mississippi and bringing thousands of jobs to our great State. As speaker, Speaker McCoy championed the 1987 infrastructure plan that created four-lane highways throughout Mississippi. The four-lane highways brought industries and added more than 1,300 miles of highways to the State.

Billy was also dedicated to improving public education in Mississippi and giving every child a chance for success. His influence on the lives of numerous Mississippians will not be forgotten, but his honorable demeanor and commitment will be greatly missed.

I just think back to being at Jacinto, an ancient courthouse that predates the Civil War in Mississippi near Rienzi, where Speaker McCoy was from. Whether you are a Republican or a Democrat, when you got ready to run, you had better go pay homage to the great Speaker Billy McCoy, who did so much for Mississippi.

And I can still see him sitting on the front lawn in front of the trailer with the hay bales on it, where I would speak for my first political speech, and seeing Speaker McCoy out there, knowing that I would have gone by and gotten advice from him, even though we were on opposite political parties.

May Mr. Speaker rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE SADIE HOLLAND

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Sadie Holland, another icon in history. And thank goodness she is still here with us. She is just retiring.

She is retiring from Lee County Justice Court as a judge, after 16 years of service in that capacity. She also has a history of being Lee County's first female justice court judge. She served, before that, as the Tupelo court administrator and mayor of Nettleton, a small community in Lee County.

Judge Holland's influence in the community has been so significant, Lee County proclaimed November 3 as Sadie Holland Day.

I also have to mention that one of her sons is retiring as a State representative of over 36 years, who I will recognize next, and her other is a supervisor in her home county of Lee County.

The Hollands are icons in Lee County, and I thank Judge Sadie Holland for her service.

RECOGNIZING STATE REPRESENTATIVE STEVE HOLLAND

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize soon-to-be former—he is about to retire from the Mississippi House of Representatives—Representative Steve Holland.

Steve has served in the House of Representatives in the Mississippi legislature for 36 years. He was also a desk mate, I think, of former Speaker McCoy, and they were good friends.

Steve has represented the 16th District of Mississippi proudly, as he has represented all of the people of his district. He is a true Mississippian who prioritized legislation that would create a brighter future for Mississippi.

And, if you have never met Steve Holland, he is a character who is not large enough for this body to contain. What a gentleman. Always for the State of Mississippi and a true Mississippian at heart, but always with a quip and quick humor. He was always willing to never take himself too seriously, although all the matters that he achieved were very serious.

Steve Holland is an icon in Mississippi politics. I look forward to working with Steve in his retirement and thank him for his service.

IMPEACHMENT PROCESS

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I just want to talk a little bit about this impeachment process, or whatever you want to call it that we have going on.

The American people deserve the facts—and just the facts—not supposition from witnesses who have second- and third- and fourth- and fifth-hand information.

They have a right to not have lawyers and alleged whistleblowers, who the lawyer has—the coup started in 2017 as soon as our President took office, or impeachment next.

Mr. Speaker, the people of America deserve the facts. They don't deserve secret proceedings, leaks, misinformation, and disinformation.

And I just want to make a small point. A whistleblower is not afforded anonymity by the statute. They are afforded the protection from firing or retaliation, not anonymity. It is not a hotline or an anonymous tip line.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the misinformation and disinformation stop. Just the facts.

RIISING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, November 8, the Department of Health and Human Services announced that the new Medicare part B premiums starting in January 2020 will increase by \$9.10 a month, a 6.7 percent increase over last year.

In dollars and cents, this means that premiums will go to \$144.60 a month, up from \$135 a month. As seniors know all too well, that \$144 will be deducted automatically from their Social Security checks, which is a bitter pill given the fact that Social Security itself is slated only to rise by 1.6 percent starting January 1.

Very simply, that \$9-a-month increase for millions of seniors will chew up a large part of any COLA that they can possibly receive starting in January.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just want to footstop that point about the fact that the Social Security system's COLA, which is tied to general inflation in the economy, is going up 1.6 percent; whereas, the Medicare part B premium, which is tied to healthcare costs, is going up 6.7 percent.

This is something that we know is endemic throughout the healthcare system. In the State of Connecticut, the Department of Insurance increased commercial insurance rates, that went up again above inflation, and identified the fact that prescription drug cost was the primary cost driver.

The Center for Medicare Services last Friday, when they announced the Medicare part B premiums, also confirmed the fact that it is prescription drug costs that are driving that 6.7 percent increase.

The increase in prescription drug costs that Medicare paid from 2018 to 2019 was 10 percent, and they are projecting that it is going to go to 10.10 percent in 2020; thus, we have a \$9 increase coming up in terms of people's premiums.

This is not going to come as a great surprise to the American people. If you go back to last year's election in 2018, the exit polls showed that the number one issue that people cared about and were concerned about and wanted Congress to act on was healthcare costs—more specifically, prescription drug costs.

That was an election that had the largest voter turnout since 1914 in a midterm election and elected a new majority with a 10-million-vote plurality.

So, that is the context that we are in right now, at a moment where this Congress, and particularly the House of Representatives, is poised to take up H.R. 3, which is the Lower Drug Costs Now Act. And in the midst of all the media focus on impeachment, it is important to know that the committees that have cognizance over healthcare—the Ways and Means Committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, and the Education and Labor Committee,

on which I sit—reported out basically the same version of H.R. 3.

And it is, again, a matter of just a couple of weeks for the Congressional Budget Office to finish scoring the bill that we are going to take up that measure for a vote.

What does it do? It basically unhandcuffs the Department of Health and Human Services to negotiate with the pharmaceutical companies. By law, they have been prohibited, with what is called the noninterference clause, from negotiating lower drug prices.

The VA system has been negotiating prescription drug costs for decades, and, in fact, they get a much better price for veterans in America than the folks who, again, are covered by Medicare.

So that noninterference clause is going to be scaled back. DHS is going to be able to negotiate the 250 highest brand-name drug costs tied to an international price index—because America pays the highest drug costs by far. The next highest country is Switzerland, and they pay 25 percent less than we do here in the U.S.

Again, what do those savings mean in terms of folks on Medicare? Already CBO has told us, for people on part D, which is the outpatient prescription drug benefit, they, again, will see a reduction in the out-of-pocket costs, which today are unlimited in terms of any copayments that they are paying for medications. That will be capped at \$2,000.

I have a constituent up in Killingly, Connecticut; she is a retired teacher. She has AFib. She is on Medicare part D. It has been a great help to her. But those copayments, because the AFib medication is so expensive, cost her \$13,000 a year.

That will be brought down to \$2,000 a year if we pass H.R. 3, and that is just one example of the benefits—\$350 billion in savings to Medicare over 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Again, this is a program, Medicare, which is slated to go into negative territory, according to the trustee, starting in 2026. We are giving a \$350 billion lifeline to Medicare to make sure that it is an enduring program moving forward in the future.

That is why organizations like AARP, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, Patients for Affordable Drugs Now, and the Small Business Majority are supporting H.R. 3.

It is time to sit up and pay attention to what just happened last week to Medicare and pass H.R. 3 for America's patients and seniors.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT MATTHEW WILLIAMS

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a native of the 21st Congress-

sional District of Texas, Master Sergeant Matthew Williams.

Master Sergeant Williams received the Medal of Honor at the White House 2 weeks ago for his heroic actions while serving as Weapons Sergeant, Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha 3336, Special Operations Task Force-33, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

According to the Medal of Honor citation, on April 6, 2018, Williams, his team, and roughly 100 Afghan commandos were airdropped from helicopters into a mountainous area in Afghanistan's Shok Valley.

The terrain was too rough for the helicopters to land, so the soldiers jumped from 10 to 12 feet off the back of the helicopters to start the mission. Some landed on jagged rocks. Others landed waist-deep in a river. None of them were detoured from the mission.

After making their way through fast-moving water and up rocky terrain, an element of Williams' team faced an onslaught of machine gun fire, sniper fire, and rocket-propelled grenades.

Williams and his group were forced to take cover. Once Williams learned members of his team were trapped and taking heavy fire, he quickly joined a small assault team to assist the wounded and the troops taking heavy fire.

Williams led the group up the mountain and across a 100-meter valley of boulders and difficult terrain toward the American troops in danger.

□ 1030

Quickly, they set up a human chain to bring the wounded down the mountain. As they were setting up the chain, one of his fellow soldiers was hit. Without a moment's hesitation, Williams braved enemy fire to give the soldier first aid and get him out of the line of fire.

After helping his fellow soldier, Williams immediately turned around and fought his way back up to the mountain to where his teammates were pinned down.

After taking out multiple insurgents, Williams worked to get his unit organized. He then went back to putting himself between enemy fire and his fellow soldiers, to protect them as they were making their way to safety.

Insurgents began attacking a small house at the base of the mountain the American troops were using as the collection point for casualties and injured soldiers. To buy time for helicopters to extract the wounded and get them to safety, Williams led a counterattack against a group of over 200 insurgents, fighting them off as his troops were being saved.

Master Sergeant Williams' actions were critical in helping to save the lives of four wounded soldiers. There is no doubt that Williams protected his fellow soldiers from grave danger. Because of his actions and that of his brave teammates, no American servicemembers were killed.

Master Sergeant Williams exemplifies the selfless commitment our men and women in uniform give to the United States of America, our values, and our way of life.

Master Sergeant Williams from Texas-21, from Boerne, Texas, the State of Texas and the entire Nation is proud of the honor you received 2 weeks ago.

HONORING SERVICE OF RICK PERRY

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I also want to say a few remarks quickly about my friend and former boss, and the former Governor of the State of Texas, Rick Perry. He is going to be ending his service as the Secretary of Energy, I believe at the end of this month.

He is a patriot, a proud veteran of the Air Force, and a proud Aggie, which he and my Aggie wife like to remind me of regularly.

He was born in Paint Creek, Texas, in a house that didn't have indoor plumbing. He lived in that house for 5 years without indoor plumbing.

He worked up to graduate from A&M, serve in the Air Force, serve as a State representative, as the Texas Agriculture Commissioner, the Lieutenant Governor, and the 14-year Governor of the State of Texas.

He is my friend. I respect him immensely. I thank him for his service as the Secretary of Energy.

I would just say that when I worked for him, I was battling Hodgkin's lymphoma, and the Governor could not have been more gracious and more supportive of me and my young family at the time.

He will always be someone for whom I will be happy to crawl across broken glass for any day, any week, anywhere in the United States. I know his public service is far from over because he loves this country so much.

QUESTIONS FOR MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I would make only one other point in my remaining 20 seconds.

I heard the distinguished majority leader talking about the whistleblower. We are in the middle of the Nation focusing on what the House of Representatives is doing, and the Nation is wondering why we aren't working on the things that will make their lives better: lowering healthcare prices, balancing the budget, securing the border, and doing the work that we should be doing to make their lives better in the United States of America.

To listen to the majority leader talking about the whistleblower in some hallowed respect when that very whistleblower had an attorney who was talking about a coup in 2017, I would ask one question: Why hasn't this alleged whistleblower fired that attorney?

Did the whistleblower know that the attorney was talking about a coup in 2017? If he did, why did he hire him? If he didn't, why hasn't he fired him?

Those would be my questions for the distinguished majority leader.

RECOGNIZING GLOBAL COALITION TO DEFEAT ISIS

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a bipartisan resolution I am introducing today, together with a group of Democrats and Republicans, recognizing the global coalition to defeat ISIS.

This resolution recognizes the critical contributions of the counter-ISIS coalition partners; the value of those partnerships to countering threats, both today and tomorrow; and the importance of building and maintaining trust among partners for the sake of future fights—as well as reaffirming Congress' commitment to defeating ISIS.

It is important to remember how this coalition of 60-plus countries came together in the first place. Take yourself back 5 years. ISIS had taken over wide swaths of Iraq and Syria. They had huge amounts of territory. They were systematically slaughtering the opposition. They were targeting ethnic groups. They were targeting Christians. They were targeting Yazidis. They were systematically raping women. They were setting up bureaucratic structures, charging taxes, and extorting people.

They were projecting violence and threats out of that territory into places like Europe, into places like Russia, and into places like the United States. So the Department of Defense and the Department of State pieced together 60 nations to contribute to a coalition.

Some of those countries provide F-16 air cover. Some provide overhead imagery. Some provide human intelligence. Some train the Iraqi security forces and police. Everyone has a part to play.

Today, as I speak, Secretary Pompeo is convening the counter-ISIS coalition at the highest levels in an emergency session to discuss the future of the counter-ISIS mission, following President Trump's decision to pull out U.S. forces from northern Syria.

Our allies and partners are rightfully questioning the future of this coalition. The President surprised these nations, all 60 of them, with the pullout. Many of our partners found out about the pullout, in which they are involved, via tweet and via the media.

As the counter-ISIS coalition partners come to Washington, I, therefore, want to take a moment to recognize their partnership, their contributions, and their commitment to the counter-ISIS fight.

Why is it important to have a coalition? Why is it important that 60 nations come together to fight this terrorist group? It is not just for show. For every airman, marine, soldier, or sailor from the U.K., Spain, France, or Norway who comes to contribute to the fight, that is one fewer soldier, airman, marine, or naval officer who needs to

come from the United States. For every piece of intelligence that they risk their lives to collect, that is one fewer piece that we need to collect and risk our lives for.

Most importantly, working in coalition keeps the American homeland safer than it would be simply if it were up to us to defend. In an era of globalized threats that can come from anywhere, we need a global coalition before the threats land on our shores.

As we know in Michigan, our handshake is our bond; our word is our reputation; and we are stronger together than we are apart.

I am, therefore, proud to be introducing this resolution, together with a bipartisan group, as a signal of our appreciation and our word and as a sign of our commitment to our counter-ISIS partners today and into the future.

HONORING SERVICE OF DR. DWIGHT VINES

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, the people of Louisiana lost a great man when former University of Louisiana at Monroe President Dwight Vines passed away at the age of 88.

Dr. Vines was born in Jackson Parish in 1931. After earning his doctorate degree in business administration, he became a professor at Northeast Louisiana University, which would later become ULM.

Under his leadership as president, from 1976 to 1991, ULM developed 40 new degree programs and built a school of nursing, an aquatic center, and a sports stadium, and it expanded its library.

In addition to his time at ULM, Dr. Vines served as economic development officer for the city of Monroe and district director for former Fifth District Congressman Dr. John Cooksey.

Please join me in honoring a great Louisianan, Dr. Dwight Vines.

SUPPORT LONG-TERM FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, we are just days away from another funding cliff for our community health centers.

This is unacceptable. Our Nation's community health centers need stable, long-term funding to serve the most vulnerable patients in our communities effectively.

Community health centers are a bright spot in our Nation's healthcare system. Last year, they served 29 million patients across the country, including 693,000 who visited 74 different sites in my district alone. Community health centers like Clinica Romero in Boyle Heights provide care to immi-

grants, low-income individuals, communities of color, and the homeless.

For many Americans, community health centers are the first and only place they turn when they need to see a medical professional. Making sure that these Americans receive the care they need is good for our healthcare system, for our economy, and for working families in all of our communities.

We have long had bipartisan support on community health centers, but our failure to provide long-term funding hurts their ability to budget and plan. It creates uncertainty and has an impact on the patients they serve, including hundreds of thousands of my constituents.

With them in mind, I urge my colleagues to join me to support stable, long-term funding for our Nation's community health centers.

APPRECIATION FOR FSA MARKET FACILITATION PAYMENTS

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, last week, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue announced another round of market facilitation payments to help farmers and ranchers deal with the continued impacts of ongoing trade disruptions.

President Trump is delivering on his promise to help agriculture producers while he works to open new markets and deliver free, fair, and reciprocal trade agreements for farmers and ranchers. While these payments serve only as a short-term solution, a Band-Aid, President Trump and USTR continue to fight, both day and night, to secure a deal with China.

I also want to give a special shout-out and thanks to Farm Service Agency State Executive Director for Kansas David Schemm, my good friend. David and the men and women of Kansas' 105 FSA county offices work tirelessly to process tens of thousands of MFP applications for Kansas farmers.

Thank you, David, and your team, for all you do for Kansas agriculture.

IMPEACHMENT EVIDENCE SHOWS NO HIGH CRIME OR MISDEMEANOR

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this week, House Democrats began the public hearing phase of their partisan impeachment sham, which continues in a completely unfair, unjust, and unprecedented manner.

There are at least four indisputable pieces of evidence showing no high crime or misdemeanor committed by the President.

Number one, the July 25 call summary, the best evidence of the conversation, shows no evidence of pressure or conditions.

Number two, President Zelensky and President Trump have both said there was no pressure on the call.

Number three, the Ukrainian Government was not aware of a hold on U.S. assistance at the time of the July 25 call.

Number four, President Trump met with President Zelensky, and the U.S. assistance flowed to Ukraine in September 2019, without Ukraine investigating President Trump's concern for corruption.

Mr. Speaker, there is no objective evidence to undo the votes of 63 million Americans.

Not only do the Democrats and their leadership ignore the facts in order to impeach President Trump, but they are also ignoring the American people by failing to get anything done.

Republicans stand at the ready to pass USMCA, secure our border, and create a bipartisan plan to lower prescription drug costs. Sadly, Democrats intend to deny the American people such progress.

COMMEMORATING SERVICE DURING MILITARY WEEK

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Veterans Day, this week is Military Week for our office. This week, we will honor the sacrifices of those who have and are currently serving in America's armed forces.

This year, our office took part in the 2019 Veteran History Project to give our Nation's heroes a platform to tell their stories. This project will allow future generations to hear directly from veterans to better understand their realities, the personal sacrifices of war, and the importance of public service.

For this project, our office interviewed three constituents from the Big First District about their military service. All three gentlemen not only served their country overseas but returned home to make lasting impacts on their communities and create a better Kansas for all of us.

Listening to these veterans' stories of sacrifice and bravery is quite inspiring. Thank you to each of these fine gentlemen for your service, for your families' sacrifices, and for sharing your stories for future generations.

FIGHTING NORTHWEST KANSAS WILDFIRES

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, a disaster declaration was issued for Cheyenne County in northwest Kansas after a series of grass fires broke out between St. Francis and Wheeler.

Thanks to fast-acting volunteers and the National Guard, many homes, farms, and, most importantly, families were kept safe. Even pheasant hunters out on opening day pitched in to help fight the fires.

Time and time again, rural Kansans rise to the occasion and the challenges to provide for their communities' needs without a moment's notice. That is what Kansans do. These are Kansas values.

Thank you to all the first responders, the troops, and the citizen volunteers who bravely responded to put out these fires in Cheyenne County. Thank you for helping take care of your neighbors.

□ 1045

HIGHLIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS TO VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Military Week in my office, I

would like to take a moment to highlight improvements made to our VA healthcare system by the VA MISSION Act. This week, our office partnered with Newman Regional Health Center in Emporia to host a community forum to share information about healthcare options available to veterans through the VA MISSION Act, which went into effect June 6.

Since being implemented, the VA MISSION Act has benefited thousands of veterans in Kansas greatly, allowing them the option to get care at home. In rural Kansas, it can be costly and burdensome for many veterans to travel to a nearby VA facility which might be as many as 2 to 3 hours away. The MISSION Act enables them to seek the care they want from a provider closer to home.

We must continue to empower our veterans, providing them with the choice they need to receive the care they deserve, the care we promised them all. Thanks to Congress and the work of the Trump administration, we are taking steps to provide our veterans the very best of care because they deserve nothing less.

AMERICANS WHO HAVE VOLUNTARILY SERVED AND SACRIFICED DESERVE OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE AND RECOGNITION

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

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act, which I am very proud to have introduced along with my friend and colleague from Wisconsin, Congressman MIKE GALLAGHER.

The global war on terrorism changed the course of American history and the lives of millions of servicemembers, first responders, and civil servants—including my own.

On 9/11 and since, we have learned that we can never take our democracy or our country's security for granted. It is a fight that, sadly, continues today.

The millions of Americans who have voluntarily served and sacrificed for our Nation deserve our deepest gratitude, but they also deserve our recognition.

Several generations of Americans have now come of age during the global war on terrorism. There are now Americans born after 9/11 who are serving today, overseas, in uniform in what has become our Nation's longest conflict.

That is one of the reasons why it is now time for us to recognize the several generations of Americans who have volunteered to serve our Nation: those of us who have served and who have worked to help our fellow veterans understand the important power of place, the transformational power of a sacred location where veterans and their families can come together to heal, to remember, and to reflect.

Memorials like those for World War II, Korea, and Vietnam have provided the opportunities for those generations whose lives and service were defined by those conflicts, and it is now time for the current generation of veterans to have that same opportunity. It is our hope that, by honoring them in the Nation's Capital, we will ensure a location befitting of their service and their sacrifice.

Over 2½ million Americans have served in uniform in the global war on terrorism, and millions more first responders, law enforcement, and civil servants have also supported global operations. To date, over 7,000 Americans have given the ultimate sacrifice and over 53,000 have been wounded. Many more bear the invisible scars of the war that will be with them for the rest of their lives.

If these feel like statistics to some, they are not to me and to many others. At a time when Congress feels more divided than ever before, I hope that this Congress can focus on what we do have in common and what does bring us together so that we can move our country forward.

We have a sacred duty to those who have selflessly served in our Nation's longest war, and it is a charge that we do not take lightly. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort by supporting the bill.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at noon.

PRAYER

Mr. Dipesh Pandya, BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, Warrington, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Aum.

O, Lord, lead us from illusion to the truth. Lead us from darkness to light. Lead us from death to immortality.

May everyone in the world be happy. May everyone be healthy. May all experience what is good. May there be no suffering.

O, Lord, may the skies give us peace. May space bring us peace. May the Earth give us peace. May the waters give peace. May herbs and plants give us peace. May all the beings of the Earth bring us peace. May the deities bestow peace. May all of Your creations bring us peace. May peace prevail throughout the universe.

As we are here to celebrate Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, I invoke the credo of my spiritual leader, His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj: "In the joy of others lies our own. In the progress of others rests our own. In the good of others abides our own."

O, Lord, may all the Members of this House and their staff receive Your guidance in their thoughts and actions. May our Armed Forces stay victorious, and may they be protected.

May God bless the United States of America.

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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. 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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. 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 Kentucky (Mr. COMER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COMER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING MR. DIPESH PANDYA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our guest chaplain for today, Dipesh Pandya, along with members of the BAPS mandirs in our district in Pennsylvania.

They are here with hundreds of prominent Indian Americans who are also members of the BAPS organization, a Hindu faith that holds services in 32 States across 91 congressional districts.

They are here with us today to celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights, a

festival celebrated by over 2 million Indian Americans across the United States. This 5-day celebration signifies the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair.

Diwali reminds us that there is joy in serving God, serving our country, serving our community, and our fellow citizens, particularly during times of calamity and despair. Traditionally, rows of divas, or candles, were used to illuminate and dispel darkness.

Today we are reminded that we must work together, united and in friendship, to serve this great Nation and the communities in which we live.

Indeed, the BAPS community throughout the United States continuously strives to serve society through various charitable and humanitarian activities, ranging from food drives to disaster relief efforts, including the planting of trees.

On behalf of my fellow Members of Congress, I am proud to recognize and welcome the BAPS members who have traveled here to Washington from across the country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

SUPPORTING THE FARM WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION ACT

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

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the nearly 5,000 farmers in my district, 96 percent of which are family-owned farms.

Every time I am home, I meet with farmers about the major challenges they face today. The need to modernize and make more effective our H2A visa program is consistently flagged.

That is why I am proud to support the bipartisan Farm Workforce Modernization Act, a historic bill that both simplifies and broadens the scope of the H2A application process. In addition to ensuring critical protections for work, the bill will finally allow dairy and other farm operations to access the H2A farm worker program, a critical priority for farmers in New York-19.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of upstate produce and vegetable growers, dairy operators, and all farmers in my district, I applaud the bipartisan work of my colleagues in negotiating this important agreement. Now let's come together and get this done.

IMPEACHMENT HOAX

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, after over a month of secret investigations against the President, Democrats have now decided to open these controlled hearings to the public.

This continued deception by Democrats to mislead the American people is insulting. No Republican witnesses, no counsel of the President to participate, and full exoneration by the courageous President Zelensky of Ukraine.

It is said that, instead of focusing on funding our military through the National Defense Authorization Act or passing the United-States-Mexico-Canada Agreement to create jobs, which improves our schools, like Lexington District 1, Democrats continue.

They have wasted \$30 million of taxpayer money on the Russian hoax and are now proceeding with the Ukrainian hoax. This partisan witch hunt diverts attention from the President's successes.

The unemployment rate is at a record low; there is record job creation; and the stock market is thriving, showing President Trump keeps his promises.

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

Thank you, President Lech Walesa of Poland, a world hero, for testifying yesterday for freedom.

LOWER DRUG PRICES NOW

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

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of lower drug prices, because Americans are getting squeezed while drug companies are raking in the cash.

One of my constituents, Mike McKenny, runs a minority-owned, small business in St. Petersburg. He works hard for a living, making payroll, serving his customers.

When Mike's daughter Taylor was diagnosed with diabetes, he had to pull thousands out of the family's 401(k) and do, in his words, "other creative things" to make ends meet when the insurance coverage ran out. At the toughest point, he paid \$120 for a 3-day supply of the insulin to keep his daughter alive.

Mr. Speaker, \$120 for 3 days. That is immoral.

Under the Elijah Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, nearly 600,000 of my constituents will pay less for drugs, some dramatically so.

End the drug company abuse. Lower drug prices now.

SALUTING MILITARY FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, it is my greatest privilege to represent our military servicemembers and their families in the 25th District of Texas, and I am humbled to be their voice in Washington.

During the month of November, we honor the dedication, the commitment, and daily sacrifices of 2.6 million military family members in the United States. These men and women may not take an oath to defend our liberty, but they are the forces behind our frontlines. They are the faces of courage and the steadfast models of resolve right here at home.

Their contributions to our national security are indisputable, and because of them, America continues to shine as a beacon of hope throughout this world.

I salute all our military families in the 25th District and across our Nation and thank them for the sacrifices they have made.

May God bless all these families. May God continue to bless the United States of America. Most importantly, in God we trust.

WE ARE BETTER THAN THIS

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, this week the Supreme Court heard oral arguments surrounding DACA. Now 800,000 lives hang in the balance.

Mr. Speaker, 800,000 is a big number, and in the face of abstract figures it is easy to lose touch with the human reality.

So let's think of, maybe, just one person, one young woman who has lived virtually her entire life in this country; whose friends, family, and community are here; who attends school and plays on the soccer team and volunteers at a food bank; who speaks English and no other language.

Which one of us would take that child to the border and send her across alone?

Which one of us would banish her to a place she has never been?

Which one of us would force her to build a life and a language she does not even know?

Which one of us could abandon that child with a clear conscience?

I suspect the answer is very few of us. And, if that is right, if in our hearts we would not permit us to behave with such coldness and cruelty, then we cannot allow our government to do so either.

As our dear colleague Mr. Cummings said, we are better than this.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week.

I am proud the Trump administration has, once again, placed an emphasis on these crucial skills development and employee advancement programs.

The Department of Labor has continually recognized the importance of apprenticeships to the future of work in our Nation and, for the fifth year in a row, dedicated a week to highlighting the need for expanded access to these educational and career opportunities.

It is essential we increase awareness of the benefits of these crucial programs which link our education system with our workforce development initiatives.

As I travel throughout Kentucky's First Congressional District, I hear from employers of all sizes and industries that say they are unsatisfied with recent graduates' credentials and they are lacking workers with the skills necessary to perform the duties of their job.

As a new member to the Committee on Education and Labor this Congress, I am proud of the bipartisan pieces of legislation we have advanced and look forward to future opportunities to support employers, provide skills development for those already employed, and enhance the jobs and generations of the future.

□ 1215

BRING DOWN PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a call to action to bring down prescription drug prices.

Some say a drug company should be able to charge any price because that is just how the market works. But the market for many prescription drugs is broken.

As a diabetic, I know how the price of insulin has skyrocketed for no good reason. Medicare spent 3½ times more on insulin per patient in 2016 than in 2007.

Many Americans depend on other drugs to survive: EpiPens for life-threatening allergies, emergency inhalers for asthma, chemotherapy drugs for cancer. Patients relying on life-sustaining drugs can't simply vote with their wallet to fight back against price gougers.

That is why I introduced H.R. 5039, to give Medicare the tools it needs to bring down the price of life-sustaining drugs, similar to other developed countries.

American families deserve better than the Big Pharma status quo. Let's pass H.R. 5039 and give that to them.

CALLING FOR CAUTION ON IMPEACHMENT

(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 highlight

the unfortunate position this institution has been placed in over the past several weeks. Long before Speaker PELOSI launched this impeachment inquiry, many of my colleagues had already made it clear that their number one priority was impeaching the President.

Congress should rightfully use its oversight powers to ensure laws are executed faithfully, but this exercise has shown itself to be the ultimate manipulation of the legislative branch's oversight to achieve political gains.

I caution my colleagues from placing political expediency ahead of moderation. A vote for impeachment will forever change this institution. Imagine a future where this body utilizes the most severe of its constitutional tools to continually put the minority party on trial.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have elected their representatives to be their voice and vote on matters most important to this country. We must collectively focus on these issues, not the political impulses of a few.

For the sake of this institution, and for the good of the Nation, this cannot become the new normal.

THANKING VETERANS FOR SERVICE

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I recently spent time visiting schools throughout the Virgin Islands.

While it is always exciting to spend time with our young people, it was sad to see that the school libraries across the territory are in dire need of books and librarians to provide students and teachers with educational resources, including territory-specific material that will enlighten our young people about their rich heritage. We all have to do better.

My office also hosted two townhalls with officials from the VA and the U.S. Postal Service to discuss issues facing our veterans and the community at large. Within the next few months, it is my hope that both the Postal Service and the VA will make measurable progress.

I thank members of my community for coming out, particularly our veterans, because, on Monday, we commemorated Veterans Day, paying tribute to men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Elmer Davis once said it "will remain the land of the free only for so long as it is the home of the brave."

I am proud that the Virgin Islands has one of the highest rates of military service in our country, including my father.

I thank every veteran across the Nation for your service to America and to freedom.

CONGRATULATING GREATER SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, congratulations to the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce on being named the Chamber of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of Chamber Professionals.

Located in Shamokin Dam, the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber has been in operation for 99 years and is a conglomeration of other local chambers, some of which are older than the main organization. It was named Chamber of the Year based upon its organizational strengths, including programs that encourage networking and a chamber ambassador program.

The chamber's most recent success is in attracting Luzerne County Community College to open a branch campus in Watsonstown, Pennsylvania. Chamber officials credit its success to the work of its members and staff working together to achieve positive economic outcomes for the people of the Greater Susquehanna Valley.

Again, congratulations to the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce and to president and CEO Bob Garrett on receiving the Chamber of the Year award.

SUPPORT DACA AND JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM REFORM

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me speak to a young man in my office who is studying at St. Edwards College in Austin, Texas. He is a person who is able to fulfill his dreams because of DACA.

Yesterday, the Supreme Court heard the case about all of these young people, 800,000 who are working as paramedics, in medical school, in law school, going into rural communities and being servants of the people, some wanting to go into the United States military. Here is a program that was working well, and this administration imploded it because of wrongheaded decisions about immigrants.

This is a nation of laws and of immigrants. We want to comply with the law. That is what DACA was allowing these young people to do.

We need to restore DACA, work together so that young people all over, no matter what walk of life they come from, can have opportunity.

At the same time, I am looking to reform the juvenile justice system. Most people don't know that when you go into a juvenile detention center, there is no sentence, and there is no bail. The bail process is complicated.

We are looking to provide what we call an omnibus bill to deal with how

we treat juveniles to ensure that we don't throw away lives; that if you have a mistake at the age of 12 or 14, your life is in front of you; and that we help parents with wraparound services.

What I hear most of all is a parent saying: "Help me. I don't know where to go. I don't have the resources."

A nation as great as America can invest in her children, whether it is the DACA status of our young children attempting to be part of this Nation or whether or not, in fact, it is those young people who made a slight wrong turn and are thrown away for years in detention centers that are like jails. We are a nation that can do better.

And, yes, God bless our veterans.

RECOGNIZING CITIES FOR TREE CITY USA DESIGNATION

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize eight cities in Texas' Third Congressional District that have received this year's Tree City USA designation by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Allen, Fairview, Frisco, McKinney, Murphy, Plano, Prosper, and Wylie, all located in Collin County, have proven they care about ensuring the environment around them is thriving and full of life.

These Collin County cities understand that trees serve an integral purpose in our community, including improved health, clean air and water, and a positive impact on business and homes in the area. Not only are these communities dedicated to providing necessary municipal tree care, but they are encouraging their residents to do the same.

I commend these cities for their investments in green infrastructure and for creating a lasting, positive impact for generations to come.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these eight communities on their efforts to maintain healthy and green environments and neighborhoods.

HONORING MEMORY OF JAY KISTLER

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a dear friend, Jay Kistler. Jay passed away on October 14 of this year, after a life of heroism and bravery. He was 71 years old.

He had been married to his wonderful wife, Sheila, for almost 50 years, and he was the father of Brooke, Kerri, and Jay Kistler III.

Jay retired as a Navy captain and retired as the government lead for the Electronic Warfare and Counter-

measures Office. Jay's forward-looking vision allowed him to project capabilities and actions decades into the future. He was respected by his peers, his subordinates, and his superiors. He was our adversary's worst nightmare.

I will miss him as a naval flight officer, a commander, a decorated veteran, a family man, and my mentor.

You changed everyone's life for the better, Jay. Fair winds and following seas, Captain.

DEMOCRATS DELIVERING ON AGENDA FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind our Republican colleagues how much work has been done by the House Democrats.

There has been a lot of discussion about the ongoing impeachment inquiry. While that work is being done, we have been hard at work, delivering on our agenda for the people of this country: driving down healthcare costs, driving down the cost of prescription drugs, raising family incomes with a real emphasis on rebuilding the crumbling infrastructure of America, taking on self-dealing and corruption in Washington, and getting the government to work for the people of this country again.

In that effort, we have passed over 300 pieces of legislation: 10 healthcare bills, 4 that will reduce the cost of prescription drugs; raising family incomes by raising the minimum wage for 33 million Americans and providing equal pay for equal work; universal background checks; restoring net neutrality; preventing our separating out of the Paris climate accord; a new veterans tax credit; and on and on. Eighty percent of those bills are sitting on MITCH MCCONNELL's desk, awaiting action.

Maybe most importantly, we passed H.R. 1, the biggest anticorruption bill passed by Congress since Watergate.

Again, 80 percent of those bills are awaiting action in the Senate.

The Senate doesn't have to pass the version we passed. This is a legislative process. Bring it to the floor, amend it, send it back, but do your job.

The American people are expecting us to deliver on the promises that we made to get government to work for the people of this country again.

IMPEACHMENT IMPOSES OPPORTUNITY COST

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, the impeachment hearings are continuing, in spite of the following factors existing.

Number one, this is a very unfair process. If Democratic leadership was truly interested in determining guilt or innocence, why not establish bipartisan rules and procedures allowing the President due process?

Number two, the leading Democratic players have maintained predetermined presumptions of guilt for well over a year now and have repeatedly been untruthful about contact with the whistleblower. The whistleblower's attorney even called for a Presidential coup more than 2 years ago.

Number three, Democratic leadership does not have any facts that constitute an impeachable offense. There has been no evidence whatsoever of quid pro quo. There was no "this for that."

This inquiry is called a sham by many for these reasons.

This has also been a great opportunity lost at a high opportunity cost to our country. Because of this politically motivated impeachment proceeding, there has been no USMCA, no illegal immigration reform, no lowering of prescription drug costs, no infrastructure bill, nothing except investigations to nowhere.

HONORING SACRIFICES OF OUR NATION'S VETERANS

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Veterans Day, when we honor the extraordinary sacrifices made by our Nation's veterans.

While Veterans Day has already passed this year, Congress must continue providing veterans with the support they need following their service.

We saw significant progress in this area in June, when President Trump signed the bipartisan Blue Water Navy Act into law. This bill expands Vietnam veterans' access to VA benefits. Yet, we still have much work to do.

The bipartisan Keeping Our Promises Act would further assist Vietnam-era servicemembers exposed to Agent Orange.

May we focus the attention of this body on what our Founders described as the pursuit of happiness. May we work across the aisle to provide both former and active servicemembers with both the support and the resources they need.

As Theodore Roosevelt said: "A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards."

Our democracy and freedom continue to thrive, thanks to the sacrifices of veterans and their families. On behalf of the Fourth District of Arkansas, thank you for your service.

HONORING LIFE OF COLE EASTON GORDON

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of 17-year-old Cole Gordon, an active and be-

loved community member who tragically passed away on September 22, 2019, in a car accident.

Cole was a lifelong resident of Friendswood, Texas, and would have been a graduate of Friendswood High School class of 2020. He was planning on attending Western Texas College in Snyder, Texas, to pursue a degree in agribusiness.

Cole was a member and 3-year officer of the Friendswood FFA, Future Farmers of America. He interned the last two summers on the Lackey Livestock farm and volunteered with the Light-house Charity Team, right by the side of his dad, Scott.

Cole had earned many ribbons, banners, and buckles showing livestock all over Texas, and even at the World Pork Expo in Iowa. He had great plans to "go big" for his senior year, raising six pigs for stock shows all over the Nation. But it is his incredible dedication to service that will never be forgotten.

Before Cole gained his passion for livestock, he spent most of his time volunteering. He volunteered with the Friendswood Fire, Police, and Emergency Medical Services Departments, along with the Rotary Club of Galveston, the Galveston County Emergency Response Team, and the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce.

The Rotary Club stated that Cole "exemplified the creed of service above self in serving 9 years of volunteerism with the Rotary Club Galveston."

His service throughout his entire life supported nearly 750 charitable events, helping to serve approximately 500,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, Cole made a lasting impact on the 14th Congressional District of Texas. He has not and will not ever be forgotten.

Today, we honor and we recognize the extraordinary life and service of Cole Easton Gordon.

□ 1230

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HR. 4863, UNITED STATES EXPORT FINANCE AGENCY ACT OF 2019; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 695 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 695

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4863) to promote the competitiveness of the United States, to reform and reauthorize the United States Export Finance Agency, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial

Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-36 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Section 201 of House Resolution 6 is amended as follows:

(1) In subsection (f)(3), strike "At the conclusion of the first session of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress" and insert "By October 30, 2020".

(2) In subsection (g)(1), strike "on February 1, 2020" and insert "at the conclusion of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress".

SEC. 3. House Resolution 661 is hereby adopted.

SEC. 4. House Resolution 693 is hereby adopted.

SEC. 5. (a) At any time on the legislative day of Thursday, November 21, 2019, it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House a motion to discharge the Committee on Foreign Affairs from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 70) directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic that have not been authorized by Congress, if offered by Representative Gabbard of Hawaii. The motion shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion except 20 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by Representative Gabbard of Hawaii and an opponent. The question of adoption of the motion may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

(b) The provisions of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546) shall not apply during the remainder of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress to House Concurrent Resolution 70.

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), pending which I yield myself such time

as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 695, providing for the consideration of H.R. 4863, the United States Export Finance Agency Act, under a structured rule.

The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member on the Committee on Financial Services, makes in order 21 amendments, and provides for a motion to recommit. It also provides that, upon passage of the rule, H. Res. 661 and H. Res. 693 will be hereby adopted. Additionally, it makes the motion to discharge H. Con. Res. 70 in order on November 21 if offered by Representative GABBARD, debatable for 20 minutes. Lastly, the rule extends the positive work of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress to the conclusion of the 116th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, given that the United States is the third largest exporter of goods in the world, maintaining and supporting this industry is imperative for our economic well-being and for good-paying jobs across the country. In 2018, we shipped over \$2.5 trillion worth of commercial aircraft, machinery, industrial supplies, consumer goods, and agricultural products overseas.

The Export-Import Bank, or Ex-Im Bank, plays a large role in supporting that business. Through direct loans, medium- and long-term loan guarantees, working capital, and insurance, the Ex-Im Bank steps in where private financing is unavailable and has been supporting American exporters for nearly a century. Because of work like this, in the last 10 years, Ex-Im has created 1.7 million American jobs.

Over the last several years, we have seen the Bank go through a lot of unnecessary political turmoil. After successfully reauthorizing the Bank in 2015, the Senate has failed to confirm board members. Under current law, without Senate action, the Bank was left almost inoperable.

The effects were felt across the Nation, and in my own district, it was affected there. In the past 5 years, my district in northern California has been home to nine exporters, of which seven are small businesses and five are owned by women and minorities. After Senate negligence left the Bank unable to do its work, today there are only three exporters remaining in my district.

In today's bill to reauthorize the Bank, we make substantial improvements that not only address the political problems displayed in the Senate, but also improve and diversify the

Bank's activities. In short, the United States Export Finance Agency Act will help support even more jobs, with new emphasis on small business, women- and minority-owned businesses.

As a former small business owner, I am encouraged by this effort. To stay on top, the United States must stay competitive. This bill gives us that chance to help workers, help businesses, and help our economy.

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

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and thank my friend from California for yielding me the time.

I want to tell a different story, Mr. Speaker. You and I haven't gotten a chance to work together down here when I have really gotten to come down here and really sell these rules, because back when I was in the majority on the Rules Committee, we didn't always get it right; but, as a rank-and-file member of the committee, I always had a chance to improve the bill, to make it better, to try to hear some voices.

My friend from Florida is not down here with us today. My friend from California knows, the worst thing about having ALCEE HASTINGS on your committee is that he gets all fired up and all geared up, and you almost get upset because so often he is right, and he is pointing out your flaws and he is making you do it better. We need more of that from one another, Mr. Speaker, where we get ourselves wound up, not about Republicans and Democrats, but about how to do the process better.

I know that your week and my friend from California's week has been just like my week. It started out with Veterans Day events back home in your district. And you didn't find a man or a woman who said, "Let's do better for Republican veterans but not so much for Democratic veterans," or vice versa. You found men and women who were proud of their service. You found men and women who wanted to support those men and women who had served us. You found folks grateful for our opportunities to be in community with one another and do better tomorrow than we did yesterday.

Then we showed up here on Tuesday after Veterans Day break and we started with our suspension calendar.

For the life of me, I don't understand why this institution hides all the good things that it does and accentuates all the controversial things it does. If we took a poll outside the Capitol today, Mr. Speaker, I just want to ask you, and I want to make sure I get it right: How many folks walking past the Capitol today know that, in a bipartisan way, you and I and the gentleman from California came together on Tuesday and passed General Bergman's GI Bill Planning Act to ease the burden on new servicemembers as they try to sort out accessing their education benefits?

This is an important issue that has been plaguing our veterans. We have

been talking about it here in this institution. We got together on Monday, and we did it together. Not one headline, not one 6 p.m. news story. Republicans and Democrats standing together in this House on behalf of veterans who were not being served as well as we knew we could serve them, we fixed it together, but that is not what we are talking about.

How many folks, Mr. Speaker, if we go outside today, are going to know that we passed Ms. BROWNLEY's Deborah Sampson Act, which recognizes the different needs that women veterans and newborn children have and established a department within the VA to make sure those needs are met?

Yes, the VA was formed as a male-centric institution. Of course, in 2019, there are going to be needs that were unmet. We have known that. We have talked about that. We have pushed that down the road. But this House this week came together, Republicans and Democrats, to solve that issue once and for all, but I challenge you to find somebody standing outside who knows that is what their U.S. House of Representatives has been working on this week.

What about Mr. CUNNINGHAM's VA Tele-Hearing Modernization Act? You have the same concerns in your veterans community that I do, Mr. Speaker: folks trying to file their appeals, trying to get in touch with those hearing boards, but because their mobility is limited, because they are distant from those population centers, they can't get that done. Mr. CUNNINGHAM's bill improves the ability to do that with the telecommunications that are available to us in 2019.

Of course, we should have gotten that done. Of course, we should have. We have been working on it; we have been perfecting it. This week, this House, Republicans and Democrats, came together and did that for veterans, too.

Mr. HARDER's Protecting Families of Fallen Servicemembers Act, to ensure that family members of servicemen and -women and Active-Duty reservists who were killed or seriously injured on Active Duty are allowed to terminate their financial dealings back home in a way that is easy.

My father passed away last summer, Mr. Speaker. It is incredibly difficult when you lose a family member to deal with all of those end-of-life issues, all of those financial issues. The last thing our service families need to be dealing with is sorting through all of that paperwork.

We have now come together in a collaborative partnership way to solve that issue. I challenge you to find a man or woman outside the Capitol who knows that.

Now, why do I tell you that story, Mr. Speaker? I tell you that story because that was just Monday and Tuesday, a little bit of Wednesday, and we are not talking about that on the floor of this House. Instead, I am down here today to talk about the Ex-Im Bank

bill, which is an important bill, an important bill that we could have done in a bipartisan way but didn't.

I don't know if you remember those headlines. I brought them down here with me, Mr. Speaker, if you don't recall them. This is when we produced the bipartisan Ex-Im Bank bill, the one that was going to committee, the one that Chairwoman WATERS and Ranking Member MCHENRY worked out together in a bipartisan way back in June: "Export-Import Bank Deal in Peril Amid Democratic Backlash."

□ 1245

The bipartisan bill that had been worked out didn't meet the standards of some in the Democratic Caucus. The bill got pulled back.

"Democrats Defy Waters on Ex-Im Bank Restrictions". Again, this is a bill to reform the Ex-Im Bank. It imposed some new restrictions. The Democratic Caucus pushed back. The bipartisan bill was pulled.

What we have before us today, Mr. Speaker, is a bill that is completely partisan in its passage. The only thing that is bipartisan about the bill today is the folks that voted against it. Republicans and Democrats said: No, this is not the right bill. Only Democrats said: This is the right bill.

All of these things we could be doing in partnership, things like Ex-Im Bank that started in partnership. It seems we go out of our way to focus on our divisions instead of our successes.

So when we went to the Rules Committee in the midst of all of these great veterans bills passing the floor of the House, we advocated to make improvements to the Ex-Im Bank bill. Again, this was a bill that started out as a bipartisan bill, a collaborative bill, one that had been sorted out between Republicans and Democrats so that we could move forward, and it turned into a partisan bill.

We went up to the Rules Committee to try to get some Republican amendments made in order to try to improve the bill in some way.

I know it is popular, and the lore back home is if you are in a different party, you don't have anything productive to add to the debate. I hear that at some county meetings, and I am sure my friends on the other side of the aisle do, too. It is just nonsense.

Having good ideas does not have a Republican or Democratic requirement to it. Folks on both sides of the aisle have something to offer.

But when Republicans brought their ideas to the Rules Committee, Mr. Speaker, with the exception of two Republican amendments, every other idea was rejected. Every other idea was rejected.

Now, that is the way it went in committee, too, Mr. Speaker. If you weren't following the committee hearings, the amendments in committee the Republicans offered were rejected on a party-line vote.

They had their chance in the Rules Committee to improve upon it. Those amendments: rejected one by one.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, and it gives me no pleasure to say this, because my chairman on the Rules Committee works very hard, the last two rules I have been down here to talk about, Republicans got the same number or even a few more amendments than Democrats got. It was the first time it had happened that I had been down here carrying such a rule, and it did bring some partnership back to the institution.

But for this bill, the Ex-Im Bank, how do we finance trade in America, not a partisan issue, we have got individual Democratic Members who have been offered more amendments personally than the entire Republican Party has collectively. Let me say that again, Mr. Speaker, because this institution is divided roughly down the middle here. I have got individual Members of the Democratic Party who have been offered personally more opportunities to change and improve this bill than the entire Republican side of the aisle combined. Combined. It is as if we go out of our way to find division in what ought to be partnership issues.

Eighty-one percent of the amendments that are offered are Democratic amendments; 17 Democratic amendments made in order, two Republican amendments, two bipartisan amendments.

The funny thing about this institution, Mr. Speaker, and you see it better from your chair than any of us do from our chairs, is that if you are in the majority, you get to win. Two things are important to winning. Being in the majority means you have the votes. Now you have to bring a good idea to pair with those votes. You can carry the day.

We have gotten into that habit, Mr. Speaker, of having all Republicans or all of Democrats carry the bills one direction or the other.

Where are those opportunities, like we did on veteran bill after veteran bill after veteran bill on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, to come together and do things collaboratively?

I will give you another example. I don't understand what the self-loathing is from time to time here, Mr. Speaker, that prevents us from celebrating what is the most democratic institution in the world today.

This rule that we are talking about today hides deep within it an extension of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. The Select Committee on Modernization is a bipartisan committee, it is the only one we have right now, Mr. Speaker, equal number of Republicans and Democrats. Why? Because they are not working on partisan issues. They are trying to improve the institution. They are trying to improve the process. They are trying to make this institution work better for the American people.

It is led by two great Members of this institution: DEREK KILMER out of Washington State, TOM GRAVES out of the great State of Georgia. Mr. KILMER

is a Democrat, Mr. GRAVES is a Republican. They have been leading this committee in partnership together, tackling thorny issue after thorny issue in a collaborative way.

The House only authorized the committee for a year. This rule gives them a second year. It is a great idea, it is a great thing to do.

Because this is a rule and because it contains all of these provisions that completely shut out Republican contributions on the Financial Services legislation that is before us today, it is going to pass on a party-line vote. All the Democrats are going to vote "yes," many having not read it, as is the function of rules, all Republicans are going to vote "no."

We have a chance here to have taken that language out, to have done that together, to have talked about the successes we have had collaboratively on the Modernization Committee. We are missing that chance today.

I am not enough of a failed student in mathematics, Mr. Speaker, to believe that I am going to prevail on the vote on the rule today. I have done the math again in my head. They still have more votes than we have. I am prepared to lose.

What I am not prepared to do is give up on doing better.

I challenge my friends on both sides of the aisle to find a partisan advantage in extending the Modernization Committee hidden inside the rule instead of having that debate on the floor of the House. You won't find it there.

I challenge the body to find a partisan advantage to spending 10 minutes on Tuesday talking about serving veterans in a bipartisan way and spending 2 hours on Thursday and Friday talking about financial services in a way that could have been bipartisan, but instead has been converted to a strictly partisan issue, and to add insult to injury, has denied all but two Republican amendments and bipartisan voices to the debate.

I know that habits are difficult things to break. Some of the bad habits that we are in in this institution started under Republican leadership, some of the bad habits that we are in in this institution started under Democratic leadership.

If we want to have a day of debate on who is to blame, I have a pretty good idea how those lines would fall out. I am not interested in that day of debate. I am interested in a day of debate not talking about who is to blame, but talking about how we are working together to fix it.

Because I don't know if your constituency is anything like mine, but my constituency is starting to think that we have given up working together to fix it. When my constituency turns on Fox News or MSNBC, that is not what the talking head of the day is talking about.

The thing that keeps me up at night, Mr. Speaker, isn't all the things we are voting against, it is all the things we

miss an opportunity to vote for, those things that, because we are here in community together today, we have an opportunity to fix.

I have got one for you, if you are interested and if you haven't had a chance to take a look at it. It is the Adoptee Citizenship Act, Mr. Speaker. It is just crazy to me.

The best part of this job, as my friend from California knows, is that really smart people spend time with us to make us smarter.

The Adoptee Citizenship Act, it is H.R. 2731, is a bill that my Democratic colleague, ADAM SMITH, and I have offered together. When American families adopted children from overseas in the 1970s and 1980s, those children didn't automatically get citizenship.

You would think an American family adopts a child, that child has American parents, they are going to become an American citizen. Not so, Mr. Speaker. It is an incredibly long process.

Now, in the 1970s and 1980s, we didn't care that much about that, but fast forward to September 11, 2001, we started talking a lot about citizenship status, only to find out that thousands upon thousands of Americans didn't have their citizenship because their parents didn't know they had to file all of this additional paperwork.

Now, who among us is opposed to letting American families that have been American families for 40 years, citizens who were adopted into American families, get that citizenship document and live the normal life that we all thought they were supposed to be living here? H.R. 2731.

The list of things that we do collaboratively, cooperatively that make differences for the American people is as long as any statement anyone is going to read on the floor of the House today, and it is not going to be what we celebrate this week.

The last vote today is at 2 o'clock. We are going to do amendment debate for the rest of the day. If we don't start spending more time on this floor celebrating those things that we are doing together, Mr. Speaker, we are going to lose the confidence of our constituency back home. I dare say, for many families, they have lost confidence in us already.

I don't shy away from the serious fights we are going to have down here at all. This is supposed to be a place where serious people come together and disagree about some ideas and sort it all out.

What I take issue with is when we stop trying to sort it all out and when we send the message back home that instead of succeeding on behalf of our bosses, we are actually just arguing amongst ourselves. It is not true. It is not true.

We are missing another opportunity today, as our ranking member said in the Rules Committee debate last night, to do better. I know that we have men and women on this floor, in this institution who want to do better.

Can we fix it this afternoon? Maybe not. Will we fix it if we stop focusing on it? Definitely not.

My commitment to my colleagues, for better or for worse, is that I will spend my next 14 months focusing on it as long as my friend from California continues to yield me 30 minutes in the Rules Committee debate, for which I am grateful.

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER) for his leadership, and my good friend from Georgia, I thank him for his explanation of the process of democracy in this place.

But I am excited to announce that this is a bipartisan effort, because the bipartisan aspect of it are the results of how this legislation will impact all of America irrespective, not respecting, their region, their faith, or their party.

Let me be very clear to say what we are actually talking about today and the real-life stories that make a difference. It is called the Export-Import Bank and it is legislated as the United States Export Finance Agency, and its short name, as I said, Export-Import.

What does that mean?

I rise to support it, because it means something to individual businesses. It means something to rural American farmers. It means something to small manufacturers.

We have been documenting that manufacturing is going down, manufacturing based upon how you sell your products.

This is a 10-year plan with \$175 billion to help those businesses, those small farms, those entrepreneurs in your community. That is jobs.

What it means is the company that makes light bulbs can now export those to developing nations on the continent of Africa or they can go deep into Southeast Asia or Asia and sell products from the United States to a foreign country.

For those of us who have seen the lopsidedness, there are governments that actually fund businesses outside the United States. We don't do that, mostly, unless it is through a grant or through a funding for a project that we need, and so you are on your own.

But this is going to provide small businesses with an extra hand up. It is going to help those who are, in particular, minority and women-owned businesses, along with others. It is going to create a process so that it does not lapse.

We had a period where there was no quorum. We couldn't help small businesses.

I remember sitting in a room with this company in a foreign country, a U.S. company that was there, and they said, "If it had not been for the Export-Import Bank, we would have lost 300 employees in the United States."

□ 1300

This is bipartisan. This is where we help people, no matter who they are. I am a strong supporter of this bill because it takes into consideration working men and women, and it takes into consideration the environment.

All of our union friends, who provide a pathway of success for working Americans, support this bill because it helps bring back manufacturing. We support it because it gives alternative options for energy a boost where jobs can be created with renewable energy.

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me just simply say that you have to live this to understand it, and I have spoken to those businesses that have benefited from Export-Import.

It sounds like a name that you can't get your hands around, but just understand it simply. You want to do business overseas. You want to get your products overseas. It is a big hurdle. You need additional finance. This is the place to come.

And they have been successful in paying for themselves. That \$175 billion is over 10 years, but it pays for itself with the number of businesses that Americans can take advantage of and create new businesses for the sole purpose of selling that product overseas, selling that small farmer produce, what is on that small farm, allowing them to send it to markets that are desperate for the wonderful bounty of food products that we are able to raise in this wonderful country.

In particular, I would like to add, it is a good place for veterans who want to start their business, to add to their business, because many of them, obviously, understand the international realm.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. I support this bill, the Ex-Im Bank, and I hope that my colleagues will support it.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds to say that I agree with every good thing my friend from Texas said that the Ex-Im Bank is able to do, which is why, when this bill began, it was a bipartisan bill by the chairwoman of the committee and the ranking Republican on the committee. It devolved from that so that, as it passed out of committee, it is not a bipartisan bill.

The only thing bipartisan about this bill is the opposition to it. Republicans and Democrats opposed it in committee. Only Democrats support it because of the partisan turn that it took.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), the gentleman from the Financial Services Committee who tried to make the bill better. He offered two amendments in the Rules Committee that would have brought bipartisan support to this bill.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to ask my colleagues to reject the rule that would enable a vote later this week on reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank.

Many of you will say: "Why, Frank, of all people, would you come to the floor to ask for the rejection of the rule and the underlying bill?" The reason they would ask that is because no one has worked harder than I have, in my career here, to make sure that this economic tool is available to American businesses. No one has struggled harder than I have to make sure that those individuals who make their living in the industries that use the Bank are able to continue to do that. No one has worked harder.

The last time this bill was reauthorized, I sat in the majority. My leadership at that time was opposed to the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. My colleague from Tennessee and I used a procedure from the beginning of the previous century to discharge a clean version of the bill, to bring it to the floor, to pass it, and, ultimately, for it to be passed by the Senate and signed by the President. So there is no one who appreciates more than I do the importance of this bill.

So, why am I here? I had a couple of amendments offered in the Rules Committee. I know some of my colleagues have said: "Frank, why didn't you offer those amendments in the markup of the bill?" Well, Mr. Speaker, I have been around here long enough, and I have been in this great life that we live long enough, to understand there are some fundamental rules.

My ranking member and my chairman on that committee engaged in one of the most splendid, intense, philosophical battles over reauthorizing this bill that you will ever see. They fought hard over every principle. They had proponents on both sides of the committee trying to drive the bill further to the left and, simultaneously, further to the right. That is a difficult set of issues to balance out.

You say: "Well, Frank, why weren't you engaged?" There is an old country logic that goes something like this: When your neighbor's bull jumps into your pasture, or when two of your bulls get in the same pasture together and engage in a fight and get mad and get hot and try to fight to the death, you don't get between them because they will kill you. They will kill you.

My perspective was, let the committee do its will, but on the floor of this United States House, let's offer alternatives.

You say: "What were your amendments that were rejected that would have made a difference?"

Amendment No. 17 simply reflected what the White House had said: Send us a clean 10-year reauthorization.

Clean, 10 years. Straightforward, understandable, logical.

But being the practical fellow I am, I offered amendment No. 18. What did No. 18 say? Basically, it was the most popular bill in the United States Senate at this time to reauthorize the institution: a 10-year reauthorization, raise the capitalization level to \$175 billion, and address the quorum requirement.

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

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman because we are hearing from a member of the committee who supports the Bank but who opposes this rule.

Mr. LUCAS. Either amendment, I believe, would have passed the floor. One amendment would have assured us a signature immediately. The second amendment would have assured us, I believe, passage in the Senate. But the forces fought themselves to exhaustion.

I came, as I had before, to appeal to this body as a whole. I was denied that opportunity. So, yes, I am voting against the rule. I will vote against the bill because, you see, somebody that matters greatly on the other side of this campus said this bill will never be heard over there, will never be heard.

I am here to make things happen, working with you. I am here working on behalf of our constituents, working with you. That is what I tried.

Reject the rule. Force this back to the Rules Committee. Give me a second chance. Give me a second chance. But you have to vote "no" on the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for the opportunity to express my concerns.

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

Mr. Speaker, I first want to recognize my colleague from Oklahoma and his passion, his history on this bill, and his argument. I also want to thank him for the bull analogy, although I am not sure how the chair of the committee might take that.

Having said that, I do want to say to my friend from Georgia a little bit about his comments. I find myself in agreement whenever I come down here on much of what Mr. WOODALL says in terms of the aspiration of working more together and still keeping our unique perspectives on things.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that he would admit that the chair of the Rules Committee, Mr. MCGOVERN, and the ranking member—certainly, two of the Members I respect the most, in addition to my colleague. We have had these debates in the committee, and I think that there is an earnest effort of both parties to do better. As you said, we can do better.

So I would like to thank my colleague for mentioning and referring to the instances when we did agree. I would like to remind us all that Mr. MCGOVERN has been very insistent on the 72-hour rule, which has been helpful. We have done a higher percentage

of structured rules to date, and fewer closed rules to date, under his leadership than we did under the previous Congress. Just 2 weeks ago, not that this is a baseball game, there were three times as many Republican amendments in the natural resources bill as there were Democratic.

Having said that, I think we can do better.

I do want to note to my colleague that I am a cosponsor of the Adoptee Citizen Act, a great piece of legislation with great authors. As we continue to try to do more together and better together, I think you know I yearn to serve in a body like that, where we have legitimate differences of opinion from our perspective, from what our constituents expect, and there is honest respect for both sides, that we create a work product that is probably more reflective of both. I have said that before. We have had this discussion.

In this instance, I think we are trying to do better all the time. For me, and I know for the chair and our staff, we want to continue to work with the gentleman to do better.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I do enjoy working with my friend from California. When I am critical of our work product, I am critical of all 13 of us on the Rules Committee. We are tasked with getting the job done, and when we don't get it done, it falls on all of us.

I was critical earlier today of stuffing so many things into this rule because I like to do things one at a time. But if we are going to stuff all the things into this rule, Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell my colleagues that if we defeat the previous question, I will add one more into this rule. It will be a collaborative effort, not a Republican effort, a collaborative effort. If we defeat the previous question, Mr. Speaker, I will add an amendment that will bring to the floor H.R. 2207. That is the Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2019, which most of my colleagues know is the bill to prevent the medical device tax, eliminate that tax.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment and any extraneous materials in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I told you this was a bipartisan piece of legislation. It has 253 bipartisan cosponsors. It is authored by a Democrat from Wisconsin, a great Member, Mr. KIND, and it makes a real difference to so many Americans. I can't explain it as well as my friend from Indiana can.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI), a Member who has worked

tirelessly to correct this legislative flaw on behalf of the American people.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, as my colleague said, if we defeat the previous question, Republicans will amend the rule to include the consideration of the repeal of the medical device tax.

The medical device tax hurts jobs and innovation, preventing the development of cutting-edge, lifesaving technologies. That also increases the cost of patient care for all of our constituents, Republican and Democrat. There is not a corner on the market for patient success and lifelong cures more than the medical device tax elimination.

Hoosiers in my State are proud to be leaders in medical innovation, with more than 300 medical device manufacturers in my State alone supporting nearly 55,000 good-paying jobs. However, after this tax took effect, the industry lost nearly 30,000 of those jobs nationwide from 2012 to 2015, according to the Commerce Department data.

Congress has temporarily suspended this job-killing tax since 2016, and this expires in January. Here we are at a crux that we have never faced before. We are 3 months away. Congress needs to act today, now, not for me, for all of us on this floor.

These folks who live and die by medical devices do not declare themselves as being Republicans, Democrats, or independents. They are Americans in need of our help, and they need it now.

Medical devices have literally changed the way we think about healthcare. In all of our districts, patients undergo less invasive procedures, which leads to shorter hospital stays. New technologies diagnose illnesses earlier, lowering the impact of care on a person's daily life. Yet, all these notable gains will be wiped out if the medical device tax elimination repeal is not carried through here today. It will divert millions of dollars that could have been spent on critical investments in research and development of cures and therapies.

□ 1315

There is huge bipartisan support for this bill. Unlike very few other bills in this place, it is bipartisan because we have all recognized at one time or another that our constituents need our help and we are doing something to help them.

By defeating the previous question, we can do that. We can unleash the potential of the medical device technology that could be developing better treatments, managing chronic care, and improving the quality of life for people in all of our districts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against the previous question.

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

Mr. Speaker, I can't say it any better than my friend from Oklahoma said it. He supports the goal of the underlying bill. He is going to oppose this rule because his ideas were not even heard,

not that his ideas weren't put into the language, but that he was not even allowed a chance to debate his ideas.

I will say it again: Only two Republican ideas were made in order for consideration in this rule, and more amendments were given to individual members of the Democratic Party than the entire Republican Party combined. That is not the way we ought to be doing things. We ought to have a full airing of issues and concerns.

You heard it from the gentleman from Oklahoma, vote "no" on the rule. But also vote "no" on the previous question.

Mr. Speaker, you heard from my friend from Indiana. We have an opportunity in a bipartisan way to solve a nationwide problem by eliminating the medical device tax. Everybody from the far left to the far right knows it; from the east, to the west, to the north, to the south. We can do this together.

If we have to do this closed rule that eliminates the diversity of ideas in this institution, then let's at least do it with the medical device tax language included.

Vote "no" on the previous question. Add that language. If we can't defeat the previous question, I am going to have to ask my colleagues to defeat the rule and see if we can't come back with a process that opens up this bill to more voices; not just from across the parties, but from across the country.

We can do better than this. My colleagues know it, as do I.

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

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

It is always a pleasure to be down here or on the Rules Committee with my friend from Georgia. I appreciate what we agree with, and I appreciate the passion that the gentleman brings when he disagrees with us.

I do want to say, as we fight for these things, there was a famous Frenchman who President Reagan used to quote, the quote was: "Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good."

So somewhere in there, in this process I think we try to find the best product we can. I believe what we have in front of us is that product. And I do also think and commit to this that we can always do better.

Mr. Speaker, a vote for this rule and this bill is a vote to promote American-made jobs, goods, and the American economy.

I urge a "yes" vote on the rule and the previous question.

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

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 695

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 6. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 2207) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical de-

vices. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 7. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 2207.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

Adoption of the resolution, if ordered; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 198, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 615]

YEAS—226

Adams	Davis (CA)	Jayapal
Aguilar	Davis, Danny K.	Jeffries
Allred	Dean	Johnson (GA)
Axne	DeFazio	Johnson (TX)
Barragán	DeGette	Kaptur
Bass	DeLauro	Keating
Beatty	DelBene	Kelly (IL)
Bera	Delgado	Kennedy
Beyer	Demings	Khanna
Bishop (GA)	DeSaulnier	Kildee
Blumenauer	Deutch	Kilmer
Blunt Rochester	Dingell	Kim
Bonamici	Doggett	Kind
Boyle, Brendan	Doyle, Michael	Kirkpatrick
F.	F.	Krishnamoorthi
Brindisi	Engel	Kuster (NH)
Brown (MD)	Escobar	Lamb
Brownley (CA)	Eshoo	Langevin
Bustos	Espallat	Larsen (WA)
Butterfield	Evans	Larson (CT)
Carbajal	Finkenauer	Lawrence
Cárdenas	Fletcher	Lawson (FL)
Carson (IN)	Foster	Lee (CA)
Cartwright	Frankel	Lee (NV)
Case	Fudge	Levin (CA)
Casten (IL)	Galleo	Levin (MI)
Castor (FL)	Garamendi	Lewis
Castro (TX)	Garcia (IL)	Lieu, Ted
Chu, Judy	Garcia (TX)	Lipinski
Cicilline	Golden	Loeb sack
Cisneros	Gomez	Lofgren
Clark (MA)	Gonzalez (TX)	Lowenthal
Clarke (NY)	Gottheimer	Lowe y
Clay	Green, Al (TX)	Lujan
Cleaver	Grijalva	Luria
Clyburn	Haaland	Lynch
Cohen	Harder (CA)	Malinowski
Connolly	Hastings	Maloney,
Cooper	Hayes	Carolyn B.
Correa	Heck	Maloney, Sean
Costa	Higgins (NY)	Matsui
Courtney	Himes	McAdams
Cox (CA)	Horn, Kendra S.	McBath
Crist	Horsford	McCollum
Crow	Houlihan	McEachin
Cuellar	Hoyer	McGovern
Cunningham	Huffman	McNerney
Davids (KS)	Jackson Lee	Meeks

Meng
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)

Richmond
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens

Suoizzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small
(NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—198

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Bost
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)

Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Newhouse

Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Phillips
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer
Roy
Ruthford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shinkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spano
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Watkins
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—6

Gabbard
Omar

Schiff
Serrano

Timmons
Yoho

□ 1348

Messrs. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, WITTMAN, SPANO, BILIRAKIS, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. MENG, Mr. CLEAVER, and Ms. PORTER changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 615.

Stated against:

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I voted electronically but it did not register. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 615.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 228, nays 198, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 616]

YEAS—228

Adams
Aguilar
Aguirre
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Cárbaral
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Ciilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham

Dauids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Españillat
Evans
Finkenauer
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman

Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebach
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney,
Caroleyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney

Meeks
Meng
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)

Richmond
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens

Suoizzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small
(NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—198

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Bost
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)
Gooden

Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Newhouse
Norman

Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Porter
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shinkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spano
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Watkins
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—4

Gabbard
OmarSerrano
Timmons

□ 1404

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAYNE). 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.

AUTHORIZING OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO RETAIN PRIVATE COUNSEL IN SUPPORT OF ONGOING INQUIRY INTO WHETHER SUFFICIENT GROUNDS EXIST FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO EXERCISE ITS CONSTITUTIONAL POWER TO IMPEACH PRESIDENT DONALD JOHN TRUMP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 695, H. Res. 661 is considered as adopted.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 661

Resolved, That the Office of General Counsel of the House of Representatives is authorized to retain private counsel, either for pay or pro bono, in support of the ongoing inquiry into whether sufficient grounds exist for the House of Representatives to exercise its Constitutional power to impeach Donald John Trump, President of the United States of America.

AUTHORIZING DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AND DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER OMBUDSMAN TO EACH APPOINT AND FIX PAY OF EMPLOYEES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 695, H. Res. 693 is considered as adopted.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 693

Resolved, That, pursuant to regulations issued by the Committee on House Administration—

(1) the Director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion established under section 104(d) of House Resolution 6 may appoint and fix the pay of employees of the Office; and

(2) the Director of the Office of the Whistleblower Ombudsman established under section 104(e) of House Resolution 6 may appoint and fix the pay of employees of the Office.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 1915

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 1915, a bill originally introduced by Representative Cummings of Maryland, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, November 14, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,

The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 14, 2019, at 11:51 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2851.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 72.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

UNITED STATES EXPORT FINANCE AGENCY ACT OF 2019

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4863 and to insert extraneous materials thereon.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 695 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4863.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1409

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4863) to promote the competitiveness of the United States, to reform and reauthorize the United States Export Finance Agency, and for other purposes, with Mr. BLUMENAUER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4863, the United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019.

H.R. 4863 reauthorizes and makes key improvements to the job-creating Export-Import Bank. Let me begin by describing why the Ex-Im Bank is so important.

The Ex-Im Bank was established 85 years ago and is the official export credit agency of the United States. Its mission is to promote the export of U.S. goods and services in order to help create and sustain jobs in the United States.

Over the last 10 years, the Ex-Im Bank has supported more than 1.5 million American jobs at no cost to the taxpayer, financed more than \$255 billion in U.S. exports, and remitted more than \$3.4 billion in deficit-reducing receipts to the Treasury.

In my district, the Ex-Im Bank is currently financing \$269 million worth of exports from 13 different exporters, including 10 small businesses.

Ex-Im does not compete with the private sector but, instead, fills in gaps when the private sector lacks the capacity or willingness to provide the financing required by U.S. exporters.

During the financial crisis, the Ex-Im Bank was an important source of financing when private capital was simply unavailable to many businesses. Ex-Im estimates that during fiscal year 2010, in the depths of the financial crisis, it supported 227,000 jobs at more than 3,300 companies.

The Bank also plays a key role in leveling the international playing field by offsetting the financing offered by foreign export credit agencies. The Ex-Im Bank is one of more than 100 export credit agencies around the world that help their home-country exporters compete in the global markets.

If we fail to reauthorize the Bank, American businesses will be harmed, and thousands of jobs will be lost.

Unfortunately, in 2015, the Republican leadership in the House allowed the Bank's charter to expire for the first time in the Bank's history. At that time, a number of countries, including China, celebrated the Bank's closure because of the competitive advantage it gave them over U.S. businesses and workers.

Later, Republicans in the Senate hobbled Ex-Im for 4 years by refusing to confirm board directors, which prevented them from having a quorum. Ex-Im reported that it was unable to approve \$40 billion worth of transactions during this period, which would

have supported an estimated 250,000 jobs.

□ 1415

H.R. 4863 is intended to renew the confidence of U.S. exporters in the Ex-Im Bank while also sending a message to the world that the U.S. is ready and is prepared to aggressively compete in overseas export markets.

H.R. 4863 reauthorizes the Ex-Im Bank for 10 years and increases the Bank's lending authority from \$135 billion to \$175 billion. The bill strengthens support for small businesses, which are the engine of growth in our economy, and it creates an Office of Minority and Women Inclusion as well as an Office of Territorial Exporting to support exporters in Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and other U.S. territories.

The bill also focuses the Bank's attention on protecting the environment by creating an office for renewable energy exports, strengthening the Bank's environmental policies and procedures, and encouraging greater accountability with respect to local communities that could be negatively affected by Bank-supported projects.

Importantly, H.R. 4863 also includes procedures to avoid a lapse in the Board's quorum so that the Bank can maintain its full operational capacity even when the Senate is unable to confirm Board directors.

The bill includes a number of provisions to ensure that Ex-Im financing does not inadvertently support bad actors. For example, the bill prohibits financing for the Chinese military, the Chinese intelligence services, and any other bad actors, including anyone who has criminally violated the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act or has violated U.S. intellectual property laws.

Moreover, H.R. 4863 would require the parties to an Ex-Im transaction to certify that neither they nor any of their subsidiaries engage in activities in violation of U.S.-sanctioned laws.

So, Mr. Chairman, it is imperative that we reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank so that our businesses, U.S. businesses large and small, will have the financing support they need to compete in the global markets while preserving and creating American jobs at home.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today I rise in opposition to H.R. 4863. The bill we are debating today encapsulates so much of what is wrong in Congress today.

This is a partisan bill to reauthorize what a bipartisan group supports, and it is a failure of legislating. That is why we have a partisan bill on the House floor to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

This bill passed the House Financial Services Committee by three votes, with Republicans all in opposition and a few of my Democratic colleagues in opposition, as well. To say this is dis-

appointing, though, is an understatement.

Earlier this year, Chairwoman WATERS and I joined together to introduce a bipartisan Ex-Im reauthorization bill, and it is here in the House known as H.R. 3407. It included sensible reforms for Ex-Im that both parties could support.

The chairwoman and I spent hours negotiating this package, but, unfortunately, she didn't have the support from her fellow Democrats to bring that to markup, and that is a sad thing. It is a sad thing because, in that bill, we took on the generational challenge that is incumbent upon us as American policymakers to be sensible about, which is the threat and aggression of China, both the economic and military aggressiveness of that regime.

The bill that we negotiated would have served as the most comprehensive and the longest extension to an authorization of the Ex-Im Bank, and it had a chance to get the President's signature and actually be legislated in the Senate, as well.

Sadly, the Democrats walked away from that agreement because it limited Ex-Im's subsidies to some businesses owned by the Chinese Communist Party. The Democratic majority stripped out all the reforms we had agreed to, and what we are left with in this bill text is a restatement of current law and current practice by the Export-Import Bank on this list of Chinese businesses that the Bank cannot do business with. They don't do business with them, and that creates another glaring hole for abuse.

The President has a Statement of Administration Policy just issued from the White House, and it says the President would veto this bill, so it is not going to get signed into law.

Moreover, the Senate majority leader said this morning: "We're not going to pass the House bill," McConnell said. "We do not want that bill. 'We do want to extend Ex-Im. A logical place to do that would be on the CR,'" on the continuing resolution, which will happen. That is what is going to happen.

So those watching, those listening here, this is all a show; and at the end of the day, this won't make it into law. We are going to have a clean extension of this Bank, which is an important economic tool for us.

In our bipartisan agreement, though, the most important compromise we had reached is that provision to limit Ex-Im's support for the Chinese Communist Party.

As we all know, Beijing poses a strategic threat to our national interest through its economic and military aggression. We know about the Chinese Government's shocking abuse of human rights. We see this in Hong Kong and the suppression of freedom there.

We know the Chinese Government's true motives for the Belt and Road Initiative and the Made in China 2025 initiative, and that is to extend China's global dominance.

They are not a strategic ally; they are a threat. And if we are savvy to this, we will ensure that we don't take an important tool of our government and subsidize Beijing. If we want to counter Beijing's ambitions, we shouldn't use Ex-Im to provide cheap financing for the Chinese Communist Party.

To compete with Beijing, we cannot subsidize Beijing. It is bad policy for Americans, and we should agree on that. And, in fact, we did in the bill that Chairwoman WATERS and I filed.

To be clear, Republicans support selling American goods and services around the globe and in China. That is why we support the reset of the trade arrangement with China that the President is negotiating. It is a very important thing.

We also know that the Chinese Communist Party sits on \$3 trillion of dollar-denominated reserves. This debate is not about commerce; it is about financial assistance. Why use a mechanism of our government to subsidize the Chinese economy? Why would we do that? That is not sound policy. That is not good policy.

And when we marked up this bill, the Democrats raised two interesting counterarguments to this view. The first one was—amazingly and, I think, absurdly—that the Financial Services Committee should not weigh in on any international matter, even though at Ex-Im's creation, the focus was on Marxist-Leninist countries and Soviet aggression internationally. We wanted more trading partners to us in selling American goods. Well, I think, likewise, we have a similar challenge with China this day.

Even though Ex-Im has been used as a tool of foreign policy from the very beginning, this argument was made in committee.

We also have important work that we do with oversight of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, a number of global institutions coming out of the financial services arena. All of these things fall under the Financial Services Committee's purview, and Democrats on this committee shouldn't opine that Ex-Im can't get into this. Ex-Im, at its creation, got into it and continues to get into it; and that is the nature of Ex-Im financing: to have more allies with us in opposition to other regimes around the globe.

The second argument the Democrats put forth is that their partisan bill has limits on China anyway because it bars Ex-Im from financing the People's Liberation Army, which current law prevents American companies from doing that directly. So it is a restatement of policy, existing law.

It says that companies on the Department of Commerce's entity list are banned from financing. Well, the joke's on that argument because those people on the entity list, we can't do commerce with them—not even a question of who subsidizes it or not.

So it is all a complete kabuki dance. And it is of no surprise to folks watching or listening to this debate that Ex-Im doesn't provide financial products to the submarine force of the Chinese Navy. Nice try, very cute, but we don't do that.

However, Ex-Im does provide financing for companies that the Chinese military can control to achieve Beijing's strategic objectives. In the language of this bill, we will have a handy-dandy chart that no one at home can read. We have a massive chart. It doesn't matter. We have a long list of entities that Ex-Im could still subsidize that this bill doesn't affect, does not touch.

So the Democrats put in this bill meaningless language for political cover rather than to do something right and real for the American economy. They don't have a response for the deep questions of Chinese aggression.

Ex-Im does provide financing to companies like AsiaSat, which is controlled by the Chinese Government and has helped Chinese security forces crack down on protesters in western China. Again, the Democrats' bill would do nothing to stop any of that, as one example.

And, of course, the Democrat bill does nothing to stop Ex-Im from financing government-controlled companies that are acting contrary to our national interests but which may not happen to be on this entity list of the Commerce Department.

Take Huawei, for example, which Ex-Im had authorized transactions for before the company was put onto the entity list in May. This is a recent example.

Under the Democrats' bill, Ex-Im subsidies for Huawei were perfectly fine in April, but in May were unacceptable. That is ridiculous. And it is bad policy for the American taxpayer to subsidize Chinese aggression.

By the same token, under the Democrats' bill, Ex-Im would safely finance Chinese Government-controlled ZTE Corporation up until April 15 of 2018, when it was put on the Commerce's Denied Persons List. At that point, Ex-Im would no longer be able to finance ZTE, except that it could finance ZTE just 3 months later when it was taken off the list.

Is anyone confused? Yes, you should be confused. This is the type of incoherent nonsense that this partisan bill has in it. It is not good for our national security. It is not smart policy. It is not good policy.

So, as a reminder, ZTE is China's second largest producer of telecommunications equipment, and it was involved in violations of our export control and sanctions laws with respect to Iran and North Korea. According to the Democrats' bill, taxpayer assistance should be flowing through Ex-Im Bank to ZTE. I don't think that is really what they want, but that is what their legislative text does.

These are just a few of the many examples of companies controlled by the Chinese Communist Party that the Democrat majority wants the Export-Import Bank to cater to under this bill.

Again, we can't let that happen. We should not let that happen. That is not good policy. It is not commensurate with where we are as a nation with this rising threat of China.

I want to reiterate my support of an extension of the Ex-Im Bank's authorities to ensure that the Bank remains open to support U.S. jobs and exports and job creation around the globe, but with a caveat that we should not be doing it in China to fund their aggression.

So I urge a "no" vote on this bill. We will have an extension of the Bank. It will happen. It will be a bipartisan vote.

This, though, is a bad bill that does not deserve to pass the House of Representatives. And even if it does pass the House of Representatives, it is going nowhere in the Senate. And even if it passes the Senate, the President says he is going to veto it.

So let's think calmly and rationally about it. Let's not waste the people's time here in the House of Representatives with a needless debate on something that is going to go nowhere. Let's actually work on something that could take us somewhere.

We had a bipartisan bill. Sadly, the majority walked away from it.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote "no," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to remind this body that Mr. MCHENRY is one of the ones responsible for the nonreauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank before. He didn't support it then, and he doesn't support it now, and he never will because he is opposed to Ex-Im Bank reauthorization, period.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK), a key sponsor of this legislation and a major supporter of Ex-Im.

Mr. HECK. I thank Chair WATERS for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I also am not going to spend much time rebutting the arguments of the previous speaker, indeed, given that he has opposed every single reauthorization of the Ex-Im since he began service in this Chamber—especially since he supported every amendment that would have been harmful in past reauthorization legislation; especially since he had the audacity, frankly, to use Huawei as an example, which he cannot cite a single line in the draft to which he refers that would have prohibited export financing to Huawei, and the bill before you does.

□ 1430

No. I am going to use my time to do as I have in the past: to support and defend the bank, one of the most important, least understood elements of our national manufacturing strategy, the Export-Import Bank.

It is vital to our national and local economies, especially manufacturers, farmers, and small businesses, but it has suffered badly under misguided attacks, such as that to which you were just treated. I have seen this damage firsthand, despite our ongoing attempts to fight them.

This year, I am pleased and proud that we finally have an opportunity to reverse that damage and reinvigorate and expand the Ex-Im.

I support the Export-Import Bank because we want to see more U.S. exports. The international market for goods and services is three times as large as our domestic economy, and that gap, by the way, is widening.

The American economy has not historically been export oriented, so targeting foreign markets and increasing exports holds untapped promise to raise living standards.

As I like to say, if we want to keep our middle class, we better sell into the world's growing middle class.

Maximizing exports will require a strong Export-Import Bank. Over the last many years, the committee has heard testimony and seen analysis that the private market will not maximize exports if left to its own devices.

Trade financing markets fail in predictable and repeated ways. The scale is too large for new exporters to access; the timeframes are too short for the largest, most expensive products; and there are some countries that private lenders simply will not lend into.

So without a robust official export credit agency to fill these gaps, we simply lose out on overseas sales, especially for small businesses and capital equipment makers and farmers.

Every country recognizes this fact, but the U.S. alone among major economies has failed to fully act on this knowledge.

If we want to maximize our exports, we need to stop the sabotage of our credit agency, the Ex-Im Bank, and enhance it. This is what this reauthorization bill does.

It does make several critical changes. It sets the bill up to succeed by increasing the spending cap and expanding the ability to use reinsurance to lay off risk, and setting up new authorities for the bank to go out and search for foreign buyers who it can match with U.S. suppliers, American jobs.

It attempts to move past some of the misinformation about the agency's purpose that has dogged the reauthorization fight the last many years by renaming it to focus on its sole purpose: financing and expanding exports of U.S.-made goods.

It preserves the requirement that goods must be made in the United States by U.S. workers in order to qualify for assistance from the agency. This is the strongest domestic content requirement in the world, and it reinforces that the core of Ex-Im's mission is supporting U.S. manufacturing jobs.

It continues Ex-Im's historical role in leading export credit agencies

around the world toward higher environmental standards, stricter pollution controls, and more concern for the effects of infrastructure projects in developing countries.

This is a legacy to be proud of and to build on, and I am glad to see that our environmental advocates and our export sector have come together to agree on the importance of this language.

It aligns Ex-Im more closely with U.S. foreign policy and anticorruption efforts. Ex-Im financing will now be barred if a foreign customer appears on any one of several bad actor lists maintained by various agencies of the U.S. Government.

No, Mr. Chair, it is not a restatement of current policy. It is an expansion of it, and they full well know it.

These targeted provisions allow Ex-Im to focus on maximizing U.S. sales to good customers while also increasing the leverage that our foreign policymakers have in encouraging foreign countries and corporations to clean up their act.

Finally, it makes it much faster and easier for Ex-Im to match financing terms with those foreign export credit agencies that subsidize financing in their country's exporters.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. HECK. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairwoman WATERS for yielding.

Mr. Chair, China, in particular, has used this tactic to crowd out U.S. manufacturers, and Ex-Im will finally have the tool it needs to counter this tactic.

I am proud of the work we have done on this bill. Building a stronger Export-Import Bank, if I may be personal for just one second, is one of the main reasons why I was asked and honored to become a member of the Financial Services Committee 7 years ago.

This is a bill that would achieve that mission for a decade to come, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, let me restate that, as I said in my opening statement, to be clear, the bill that Chairwoman WATERS and I filed, H.R. 3407, is a 7-year extension of the Export-Import Bank.

It is clear by my cosponsorship of that with Chairwoman WATERS that I support reauthorizing the Bank. And as I said in my opening statement, I support the Bank staying open through the continuing resolution or the appropriations vehicle, whatever it is that is going to become law. So I will restate that to both my colleagues so they can hear.

Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), the ranking member of the Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets Subcommittee.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Chair, I appreciate Mr. MCHENRY yielding to me, and

I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4863, the United States Export Finance Agency Act.

According to its charter, the mission of the Export-Import Bank is to "contribute to maintaining or increasing employment of United States workers" by subsidizing the export of U.S. goods and services to foreign markets.

Over the years, Congress has amended Ex-Im's charter to reflect numerous congressional interests regarding lending practices, transparency, and foreign policy objectives, so much so, that the Bank's charter has grown from four pages at its inception to more than 150 pages now, and with that expansion, we have seen the Bank expand its portfolio to a staggering \$135 billion.

Well, each reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank has afforded Congress the opportunity to revisit the charter and to work for reform and to modernize the Bank appropriately. However, this flawed partisan proposal that we have before us today fails to make any meaningful reforms to the Export-Import Bank.

Now, despite the claims that you are hearing across the aisle about the company not being able to do business with China and Russia, this simply isn't the fact.

In fact, I had an amendment, two amendments, that would have actually not allowed the bank to deal with state-owned enterprises in China and in Russia.

Now, why? Because of this: the human rights record in China is deplorable. We are seeing it play out today in Hong Kong, literally, right now.

We also know that we are battling the Belt and Road Initiative that has been a Chinese initiative that has gone around the world, and it has no business getting U.S. taxpayer dollars in support of it.

Well, this initiative allows the Bank to provide taxpayer financing to entities owned and controlled by the Chinese Government, including Chinese state-owned enterprises involved in military activities, human rights abuses, and this Belt and Road Initiative.

At a time when China is diverting massive subsidies to state-owned enterprises, specifically through the use of export subsidies, why would Congress authorize the use of taxpayer dollars to make the Chinese Communist Party's job easier? I am baffled by that.

Now, claims of the opposite can be repeated and they can be repeated in louder and louder voices, but that still doesn't make it true.

The simple fact is my amendment that was rejected by the other side of the aisle would have limited interaction with Chinese and Russian state-owned actors.

Well, we all know that the primary goal of the Export-Import Bank is to support American jobs through exports. However, any Ex-Im reauthorization that doesn't address the strategic threat to our national interests posed

by China's economic and military efforts is not in the best interests of American workers or jobs.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Chair, I will move quickly through this.

Yes, it is true, I have been a sharp critic of the Export-Import Bank. I have been accused of wanting to do nothing more than shut it down by the other side, as much was said to the ranking member.

However, I was also a part of a group trying to come up with a bipartisan agreement in 2012 and 2015, and I was willing to support the bipartisan bill that was introduced by the ranking member and the chair.

I wasn't necessarily happy with all the provisions, but I felt that there was sufficient and significant progress made in those much-needed reforms.

Well, unfortunately, this bipartisan agreement was abandoned by the other side. The bill that we have before us is a flawed bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I would like to remind the House that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) has 16 total exporters in his district, would support a value of \$52 million. I would hope that as he opposes this bill, he is reminded that between 2014 and 2020, his district received substantial support.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), a strong supporter of the Bank and the chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I thank Madam Chair for yielding. Indeed, I am a strong supporter of the Bank and I am also a strong supporter of the chairwoman.

I support this legislation because the Export Bank is not a traditional bank. Traditional banks take deposits. The Ex-Im Bank makes deposits.

Over the last 10 years, it has deposited 1.5 million jobs, American jobs; over the last 10 years, \$3.4 billion in the U.S. Treasury; over the last 10 years, \$255 billion to those who are exporting by way of financing these exports.

In the way of jobs, if we look at the State of Texas, we can see that from 2014 to 2019, it has assisted 91 minority-owned businesses, 14 percent of which are in my district; 467 small business exporters; 55 women-owned exporters. A total of 810 businesses have benefited from the Ex-Im Bank.

If you like diversity, you will love the Ex-Im Bank. It has within it an Office of Minority and Women Inclusion. It will have an Office of Territorial Exporting to help Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. territories.

I support the Ex-Im Bank because it not only makes good sense, it makes good dollars and cents.

This is a bill that we should support. If we didn't have the Ex-Im Bank, we

would invent it. Why reinvent the wheel when we have something that can roll out right now?

Mr. Chair, I support this bill.

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), the ranking member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to this bill, not because I believe the Export-Import Bank should not exist under any circumstances, but because I believe we can produce a better bill, a bill that would actually help America compete while holding other nations like China accountable in the global market.

I am concerned that the bill in its current form would actually enable China's malign activities to the detriment of U.S. national security.

Now, let me be clear. I supported the compromise bill that Chairwoman WATERS and Ranking Member McHENRY negotiated in June, and I compliment my friend, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) for his leadership on this. I recognize the value a reformed Ex-Im Bank can provide to U.S. businesses.

The new Ex-Im president and chairman, Kimberly Reed, has impressed me. She visited my district and made clear her commitment to helping U.S. exporters, including small businesses in Kentucky, compete in the global market. She also, importantly, committed to reforming the Bank to abandon Obama-era policies that discriminated against Ex-Im support of traditional fossil energy and related exports.

But the bill we are debating today cannot be fixed by a strong leader like Kimberly Reed. It is flawed, it is not the right answer, and we can and should do better.

Specifically, this bill does not go far enough to combat malign Chinese influence and China's aspirations to replace the United States as the pre-eminent global economic power.

□ 1445

The Communists in Beijing continue to steal our intellectual property and place their thumb on the scale of global economic competitiveness by propping up its economy through state-owned enterprises.

Additionally, we see rampant human rights abuses and violent quashing of freedom seekers in Hong Kong. Over the last 5 months, we have observed protestors in Hong Kong being shot, beaten, gassed, and arrested.

My amendment to this bill, which the Rules Committee did not make in order, would have made Ex-Im assistance to Chinese state-owned enterprises contingent on their commitment to upholding the Sino-British declaration, which established the "one country, two systems" principle that would allow Hong Kong to retain its capitalist system.

In his book "The Hundred-Year Marathon," former senior Defense Depart-

ment official Michael Pillsbury details China's strategy to supplant the United States as the world's dominant power by 2049, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic. He said, "Only recently have there been disturbing signs that a more militaristic China may be ascendant, which has caused some to question the wishful thinking that has prevailed for more than 40 years."

Unless we take a hard stand and a hard line against China, including through more powerful restrictions on the Ex-Im Bank's interactions with Chinese SOEs, we risk ceding our pre-eminence in a fair and free global market.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill, which will allow U.S. taxpayer funds to subsidize Chinese ascendancy and its Communist state-owned enterprises and enable China's theft of our intellectual property, its forced transfer of technology, and its blatant violation of human rights.

This bill could be better. The Export-Import Bank could help us combat Chinese growing imports. This bill doesn't do it.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I would like to again remind Mr. BARR that between 2014 and 2020, his State received \$10 million in total export value.

I would also like to remind this body that he did not support reauthorization in the past. He does not do it now. I don't know if there will ever be a good enough bill to have him and the ranking member support Export-Import.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA).

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Chair, first, I thank the gentlewoman from California, and my chairwoman, for her leadership in bringing this incredibly important bill to the floor.

Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in support of the Ex-Im Bank.

Mr. Chair, the Bank provides targeted credit and export support to our small businesses that need it most to stay competitive. We know that the Bank's programs work, and we should not abandon them.

I fully support the reauthorization. The Ex-Im Bank plays an irreplaceable role in promoting American exports and keeping small businesses competitive on the international market and helps in creating jobs for America, some 352,000 jobs.

Since 2014, the Bank has provided over \$450 million worth of export support value in my district alone in the Houston area. Among the 53 total exporters supported in my district, 39—well over half—are small businesses. In Texas, the Bank has supported \$12 billion in exports and 815 exporters, including 470 small businesses.

Along with the reauthorization of this bill, it also includes an Office of Women and Minority Inclusion. This is important because, in my district alone, seven out of the 53 businesses are minority-owned and four are female-owned.

Additionally, this bill includes commonsense environmental and community engagement standards that seek to make sure the Bank is helping meet our Paris climate accord commitments.

While these improvements to the Bank contained in the bill are important, I don't want to take away from the bottom-line fact, and that is it creates jobs.

This bill supports American manufacturers. This bill supports our exporting sector. This bill helps reduce our trade deficit. That is why I am calling on all of my colleagues to join me in passing this critical legislation.

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Chair, I thank my friend from North Carolina for yielding. I congratulate the ranking member and the chairwoman for trying to work together to produce a bipartisan bill that we can all support and demonstrate our keen interest in a long-term, bipartisan reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank, an important foreign policy tool for this Nation, not just in the situation with China, but generally.

To my friend from Washington who talked about Huawei a few minutes ago, it is not just state-owned enterprises that we are concerned about. It is not public companies in China we are concerned about, or private companies in China. We are concerned with anyone who has engaged in something that is going to challenge the national security of this country.

I would remind my friends on the other side that China's laws say: Any organization or citizen shall support, assist, and cooperate with the People's Republic of China intelligence effort. They shall provide all efforts truthfully and may not refuse.

So it is not just small companies or state-owned enterprises; it is all companies in China that we have that risk.

I offered an amendment that was turned down by the Rules Committee, ruled out of order by the majority, to try to tackle the issue of intellectual property, something we have dealt with in this country for 30 years. That was going to be an effort, I think, in this compromise bill that would have been so helpful, had we been able to successfully get it done.

I have been a longtime advocate for proceeding with care as it relates to foreign policy with China. There is no doubt that intellectual property is at the heart of that challenge, and the Bank has a role to play as it reviews financing activities in China for our businesses.

Nothing has been more pirated than computer software, music CDs, and Hollywood videos. All that has been taken by the People's Republic of China to the detriment of business in

America. It plagued President Clinton; it plagued President Bush 43; and it plagued President Obama.

Mr. Chair, let's work together on a bipartisan bill that we can all support.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, this is another Member on the opposite side of the aisle, the gentleman from Arkansas, who, when we were trying to get the Bank up and running, he voted against reauthorization. He is voting against it again today. I don't know what it would take to make these Members who have consistently opposed reauthorization to ever support Ex-Im.

I would like to remind him there are 10 exporters in his district for a total of \$43 million—that is a total value of export—between 2014 and 2020.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON).

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4863, the United States Export Finance Agency Act, which will reauthorize the Export-Import Bank for 10 years.

I am proud to cosponsor and support this bill for one simple reason: Businesses across Arizona looking to create great jobs and export their products across our international borders need certainty to succeed.

Main Street is still the backbone of my State's economy, and the Export-Import Bank is an essential tool to ensure they remain competitive in an increasingly competitive global market.

I want to highlight one business headquartered in Tempe in my district. First Solar focuses on securing the energy of the future by developing next-generation PV technology.

The company exports solar panel technology around the world and has benefited from nearly \$4 million in export financing from the Bank. First Solar is just one of the many environmentally friendly companies that benefit from the Export-Import Bank.

In Arizona, four out of five exporters supported by the Bank are small businesses. In the last 5 years alone, it has supported upward of \$2 billion in exports in my State.

Congress has a duty to reassert its role in U.S. trade policies as exporters continue to face challenges on all fronts. If we can't find common ground and reauthorize the Bank, we will be removing one of the most essential tools American companies have.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this important bill in order to provide certainty and to level the playing field for American businesses across the country.

Mr. Chair, I thank Chairwoman WATERS for leading this important effort.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, if I may inquire of the Chair how much time remains on both sides.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina has 9½ minutes remain-

ing. The gentlewoman from California has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I am pleased that the gentleman from Arizona just talked about the kind of support he has in his district. Let me remind the House that we have support from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Aerospace Industries Association, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO, International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, National Association of Manufacturers, Boeing, and Air Tractor, Inc. What you have here is business and labor have come together to support this most important bill.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD letters of support.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, October 28, 2019.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
*Chairwoman, Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*
Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY,
Ranking Member, Committee on Financial Services,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS AND RANKING MEMBER MCHENRY: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce thanks the committee for considering legislation to provide for long-term reauthorizations of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act ("TRIA") program and the Export-Import Bank of the United States ("Ex-Im"). The Chamber strongly supports the substitute amendment to H.R. 4634, the "Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2019." The Chamber also strongly supports the "United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019," and opposes all amendments that are intended to serve as "poison pills" which would prevent this legislation from viable consideration on the House floor or in the Senate.

H.R. 4634, THE "TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019"

Since its initial enactment in 2002, TRIA has served as a vital public-private risk sharing mechanism, ensuring that private terrorism risk insurance coverage remains commercially available and that the U.S. economy would more swiftly recover in the event of a terrorist attack.

The Chamber strongly supports the substitute amendment to H.R. 4634, the "Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2019," and applauds the leadership of Chairwoman Waters and Ranking Member McHenry in reaching this bipartisan deal which would provide a seven-year reauthorization of this important program while providing for a study on the evolving risks in cyberterrorism and the affordability and availability of TRIA coverage for places of worship.

THE "UNITED STATES EXPORT FINANCE AGENCY ACT OF 2019"

As the official U.S. export credit agency ("ECA"), Ex-Im's mission is to support domestic jobs by facilitating the export of goods or services when private sector lenders are unable or unwilling to provide financing. Foreign governments have established 113 ECAs of their own around the world. In 2018, China's two ECAs alone provided 130 times as much medium- and long-term export credit support as the Ex-Im Bank. Due to the extensive competition in this space, it is vital that Ex-Im be reauthorized to ensure that

U.S. businesses and workers are not deprived of a basic tool enjoyed by their competitors in every other country.

The Chamber strongly supports the "United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019." This legislation builds off of S. 2293, the "Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2019," which was introduced earlier this year with the bipartisan support of Senators Kevin Cramer and Kyrsten Sinema, and cosponsored by Senators Thom Tillis, Maria Cantwell, Roy Blunt, Patty Murray, Lindsey Graham, Chris Coons, Susan Collins and Maggie Hassan. This legislation would provide exporters with 10 years of much-needed certainty.

In May, the Senate confirmed three of Ex-Im's board members, establishing a quorum for the first time since 2015 and finally making the Bank fully functional after several years of being limited to only supporting transactions less than \$10 million. This bill would also establish an alternative procedure during any future lapses in the board's quorum to ensure that Ex-Im can continue to serve its vital role in supporting U.S. jobs.

U.S. exporters and the hundreds of thousands of jobs that they support need long-term certainty—simply extending the life of Ex-Im through short-term continuing resolutions is not enough. The Chamber strongly urges members of the Committee to vote in support of this long-term legislation and urges members to oppose the adoption of any "poison pill" amendments that are intended to prevent this legislation from viable consideration on the House floor or in the U.S. Senate.

The Chamber thanks you for your attention on these important issues and looks forward to working with you to ensure long-term reauthorizations of both of these important programs.

Sincerely,

NEIL L. BRADLEY,
Executive Vice President & Chief Policy Officer.

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
CONGRESSIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 11, 2019.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce strongly supports H.R. 4863, the "United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019," which would provide for a long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank ("Ex-Im"). The Chamber will consider including votes on this legislation—including votes on amendments—in our annual How They Voted scorecard.

As the official U.S. export credit agency ("ECA"), Ex-Im's mission is to support domestic jobs by facilitating the export of goods or services when private sector lenders are unable or unwilling to provide financing. Foreign governments have established 113 ECAs of their own around the world. In 2018, China's two ECAs alone provided 130 times as much medium- and long-term export credit support as the Ex-Im Bank. Due to the extensive competition in this space, it is vital that Ex-Im be reauthorized to ensure that U.S. businesses and workers are not deprived of a basic tool enjoyed by their competitors in every other country.

H.R. 4863 builds off of S. 2293, the "Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2019," which was introduced earlier this year with the bipartisan support of Senators Kevin Cramer and Kyrsten Sinema, and cosponsored by Senators Thom Tillis, Maria Cantwell, Roy Blunt, Patty Murray, Lindsey Graham, Chris Coons, Susan Collins and Maggie Hassan. Both of these pieces of legislation would provide 10 years of much needed certainty, establish an alternative procedure during any future lapses in the board's

quorum, and raise Ex-Im's lending authority to ensure that it can compete globally.

H.R. 4863 includes several additional provisions, including restrictions that would ensure that Ex-Im financing follows strict new rules to prevent financing for the Chinese army and intelligence services, sanctioned entities, and known violators of anti-bribery and intellectual property laws.

U.S. exporters and the hundreds of thousands of jobs that they support need long-term certainty—simply extending the life of Ex-Im through short-term continuing resolutions is not enough. The Chamber urges you to support H.R. 4863.

Sincerely,

JACK HOWARD.

AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION,

Arlington, VA, October 29, 2019.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,

Chairwoman, House Committee on Financial Services, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY,

Ranking Member, House Committee on Financial Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS AND RANKING MEMBER MCHENRY: On behalf of the nearly 340 member companies of the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), we urge you to reauthorize the Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank before the November 21 deadline. A fully functioning Ex-Im Bank is vital to aerospace and other industries.

The U.S. aerospace and defense industry supports more than 2.5 million American jobs, thousands of which have been supported by Ex-Im Bank financing solutions that facilitate the export of American goods and services. Moreover, the Bank is essential for businesses of all sizes, as more than 90 percent of the Bank's transactions in FY2019 directly supported American small businesses. This is done at no cost to the U.S. taxpayer. In fact, in 2014 (the last entire year the Bank was fully operational), the Bank paid \$1 billion into the U.S. Treasury, generated from the interest paid on loans and the fees from the Bank's foreign customers.

Ultimately, the Ex-Im Bank levels the playing field against foreign competitors in increasingly competitive international markets. Key competing nations view aerospace as critical for their economic growth and security interests and are increasing investments in their respective domestic aerospace industries. These countries are using their export credit agencies (ECAs) to increase foreign sales and thus gain advantage in the market. U.S. industries are up against more than 110 foreign ECAs in an increasingly competitive export market. Without the Bank, we're giving foreign powers the advantage—the Bank is a necessary equalizer.

We overwhelmingly support moving forward with Ex-Im legislation that will pass both the House and Senate. This legislation must include key principles, including long-term reauthorization, an increase in the authorization ceiling, and a quorum fix.

We look forward to working with you on Ex-Im reauthorization and ensuring that our industry remains economically competitive globally.

Sincerely,

TIM MCCLILES,

Vice President, Legislative Affairs, Aerospace Industries Association.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE

WORKERS,

Upper Marlboro, MD, October 28, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), the largest aero-

space manufacturing union in North America, I strongly urge you as a member of the House Financial Services Committee to support this vital legislation and vote "Yes" to advance the United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019. This legislation would create and sustain U.S. jobs in manufacturing and other strategic industries and improve the balance of trade between the U.S. and high export nations by reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank for the next ten years.

The Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im Bank) is one of the few U.S. institutions that actually supports U.S. exports and jobs by providing vital loan guarantees for the sale of U.S. goods and services to international markets. This legislation would rename the Ex-Im Bank to the United States Export Finance Agency, but its mission would remain the same, "to assist in financing the export of U.S. goods and services", enabling "large and small companies to turn export opportunities into real sales that help to maintain and create U.S. jobs and contribute to a stronger national economy." With the banks authorizing charter set to expire in November 2019, it is imperative that Congress work expeditiously to pass this Ex-Im Bank reauthorization legislation before the bank's charter lapses.

American jobs depend upon a fully functioning Ex-Im Bank with a fully staffed board of directors to provide vital financing for the export of U.S. made products. Under the Bank's current charter projects which require more than \$10 million in financing must be approved by the Ex-Im Bank board of directors. However, the lack of a quorum on the board in recent years has crippled the Ex-Im Bank's ability to support U.S. manufacturers and workers, particularly in the aerospace industry, one of the last sectors in which the U.S. enjoys a positive balance of trade with the rest of the world. According to the bank's most recent annual report, the Ex-Im Bank authorized only \$3.3 billion in export credit in FY 2018. This is down from \$20 billion in authorized export credit in FY 2014, which was the last year the bank was fully operational with a fully staffed board. Consequently, the bank estimates that it supported a mere 33,000 U.S. jobs in FY 2018, a fraction of the 164,000 American jobs that the bank supported in FY 2014 when it operated with a full quorum. Meanwhile, job producing export projects are being taken by foreign competitors. Our international competitors continue to support their companies through comprehensive industrial policies in addition to robust export financing agencies. China alone has three export credit agencies that dwarf what our Ex-Im Bank provides.

The proposed legislation not only reauthorizes the Ex-Im bank over the next ten years, but it includes important provisions to reform the bank's quorum rules which have severely limited the banks effectiveness in recent years. The bill provides for a process to seat a temporary board if a quorum cannot be reached over a 90 day period. In addition to these needed reforms to the quorum rules, this legislation would gradually increase the Ex-Im Bank's lending authority from \$135 billion to \$175 billion, allowing the bank to expand its portfolio of projects, increase U.S. exports, create additional U.S. jobs, and drive economic growth. For all of these reasons, I urge all members of the House Financial Services Committee to support this vitally important legislation and vote "Yes" in favor of passage of The United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019.

For more information, please contact IAM Legislative Director.

Thank you,

ROBERT MARTINEZ, JR.,

International President.

AFL-CIO,

Washington, DC, November 13, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I write to express our strong support for the "United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019" (H.R. 4863) scheduled for floor consideration this week.

A healthy Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im Bank) is pivotal to the creation and sustainability of U.S. jobs in manufacturing, as well as increasing U.S. exports, thereby improving the balance of trade between the U.S. and high export countries.

H.R. 4863 reauthorizes the Ex-Im Bank for the next ten years and would gradually increase the bank's lending authority by \$40 billion, resulting in an expansion of projects. Although the bill would rename the Ex-Im Bank as the "United States Export Finance Agency," its intended mission "to assist in financing the export of U.S. goods and services" would remain unchanged. The legislation also includes provisions that reform the Bank's quorum rules that have severely limited the Bank's viability in recent years.

The creation of U.S. jobs is essential to a strong economy, and with the Bank's authorizing charter set to expire in later this month, now is the time to pass this important piece of legislation. For the reasons stated above, we urge you to vote for the immediate passage of H.R. 4863.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SAMUEL,

Director,

Government Affairs.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS,

Washington, DC, November 12, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE), representing upwards of 90,000 workers, we urge you to vote to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank by passing H.R. 4863. "United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019." This legislation supports American jobs in strategic industries and sectors of the U.S. economy, helps domestic manufacturing compete with manufacturers in high export nations, and takes steps to maintain the Export-Import Bank's (EXIM) operations over the next ten years.

EXIM is a critical tool that promotes U.S. manufacturing exports, from the primary exporter down through the domestic supply chain and requires at least 85% domestic content for full financing support. Among the U.S. workers that have benefited from EXIM are IFPTE members working at Boeing, Spirit AeroSystems, and Triumph Composite Systems. EXIM's financing for commercial airplane exports not only supports high-paying jobs and strategic sectors of the economy but also helps reduce the U.S. trade deficit, and provides financing for diverse industries, including small- and medium-sized business, consumable and durable goods exporters, and services exporters. The Export-Import Bank also results in a reduction of our national debt, as it has proven itself to be a federal agency that added \$9.6 billion in revenue to our national budget since 1992.

Emerging national economies have aggressively expanded their export financing agencies and Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) nations continue their export credit support, making it critically important for Congress to respond by reauthorizing EXIM before its current authorization expires after November 21. China's two export credit agencies totaled \$39 billion in new medium- to long-term export credits in 2018, an amount greater than the next three countries' (Italy, Germany, and

South Korea) combined authorizations. By comparison, EXIM committed just \$300 million in medium- to long-term export credits for 2018 with all financial authorizations for the year totaling \$3.3 billion. EXIM's financial authorizations have ranked near the bottom of OECD nations and emerging national economies over the last three years due to EXIM lacking a quorum for its Board from mid-2015 to May 2019, leaving it unable to approve transactions exceeding \$10 million during that time. The three-year backlog of transactions in the EXIM pipeline totals \$40 billion and is estimated by EXIM to support 240,000 jobs.

IFPTE supports this legislation as well as the Senate bill sponsored by Senator Kevin Cramer, S. 2293, because it includes straightforward measures to reform EXIM's quorum rules so that EXIM's ability to support American exports and jobs cannot be limited by political gridlock, reauthorizes EXIM for ten years, and gradually increases EXIM's exposure cap from \$135 billion to \$175 billion over seven years. These provisions will create stability and room for EXIM's financing ability to grow its portfolio of projects, support U.S. exports and jobs, and drive economic growth.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote for the "United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019." Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of us or IFPTE legislative representative.

Sincerely,

PAUL SHEARON,
President.

MATTHEW BIGGS,
Secretary-Treasurer/
Legislative Director.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
MANUFACTURERS,

November 14, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Following strong growth and job creation over the past several years, manufacturers in America are now facing global economic headwinds and grappling with uncertainty in trade policy. If this uncertainty is allowed to persist, America will feel the consequences of reduced demand, production and employment in the manufacturing industry. That is why the National Association of Manufacturers urges you to act now to help reverse this trend by supporting H.R. 4863, the United States Export Finance Agency Act, which provides a long-term reauthorization of the U.S. Export-Import Bank that will enable manufacturers to export more of our products, invest more in our communities and hire more American workers.

H.R. 4863 will provide the tools that manufacturers need to compete in the global economy. More than 100 foreign export credit agencies around the world are actively helping their manufacturers win sales and jobs. Failing to reauthorize the bank is akin to unilateral disarmament. The Ex-Im Bank fills the gaps when the private sector is unable or unwilling to finance or provide other tools needed to participate in foreign projects or make export sales. Since 2000, the Ex-Im Bank has facilitated nearly \$450 billion in exports from thousands of U.S. companies with more than 90% of its transactions directly supporting small businesses and supported more than 2.5 million American jobs.

In the decade following the Great Recession, countries have prioritized exports, leading to a substantial increase in global export credit financing. China is the most aggressive nation, using export credit to expand its influence around the globe. Chinese programs are opaque and unregulated, with estimates that China provided more than \$500

billion in export credit in 2018, more support than all G7 export credit agencies combined.

To counter China and remain competitive, manufacturers in the United States need H.R. 4863. It includes a 10-year reauthorization, an increase in the authorization ceiling and measures to ensure that the agency's board of directors will remain fully functioning for the length of the reauthorization. The USEFAA also includes important reforms to prevent the misuse of Ex-Im Bank financing by entities connected to the Chinese People's Liberation Army or other sanctioned entities involved in corruption, intellectual property theft and other activities that threaten U.S. security. At the same time, this legislation will enable manufacturers in the United States to compete with China everywhere, outside and inside China.

The USEFAA is a win for American manufacturing workers. It will level the playing field, help manufacturers win sales and set an example of the values we are proud to represent on the global stage. Manufacturers urge your support for H.R. 4863 and ask that you reject amendments that would undermine this robust reauthorization and the ability of the agency to enable manufacturers to compete effectively around the world.

Sincerely,

JAY TIMMONS.

THE BOEING COMPANY,
Arlington, VA, October 28, 2019.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Chairwoman, House Committee on Financial
Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS, The Boeing Company values your commitment to American manufacturing and job growth. As you know well, American workers create some of the best products and services in the world. When we are able to compete on a level playing field, we are able to create good-paying jobs by selling those products around the globe.

We write today to express our strong support for your legislation, the United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019, which would provide a long-term reauthorization for the Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im).

A full, long-term reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank is critical to stabilizing and strengthening America's economic capability in this current, unstable global market. Manufacturers and businesses that invest in equipment and other building materials would be greatly empowered by the stability brought by your legislation's 10 year reauthorization of the Ex-Im charter.

We also strongly support the permanent fix to the quorum requirements for larger deals, as well as the increase in cap thresholds, bringing the policies of Ex-Im in line with the modern challenges our American workers and businesses face in the global marketplace today.

During the last eight years, Ex-Im has supported more than 1.4 million U.S. jobs. In 2018 alone, the Ex-Im Bank helped more than 2,100 small businesses export their products. These impressive data points don't include the countless other supply chain companies who do business with larger U.S. exporters who also use Ex-Im financing.

Ex-Im is a tremendous asset to American businesses. We support your leadership in authoring the United States Export Finance Agency Act and urge all members of the House Financial Services Committee to vote in favor of its passage.

Sincerely,

TIM KEATING,
Executive Vice President,
Government Operations, The
Boeing Company.

AIR TRACTOR INC.,

Olney, TX, October 28, 2019.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS, Chair,
Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY, Ranking Minority
Member,
House Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WATERS AND RANKING MEMBER MCHENRY: It is my understanding that your committee will consider mark up tomorrow of which one consideration is reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank (United States Export Finance Agency of 2019). I have communicated to you before on how important the Export-Import Bank ("Ex-Im") is to Air Tractor, a small business manufacturer and exporter. Ex-Im allows us to create and sustain jobs in rural north Texas. There is no substitute for Ex-Im and its products. Ex-Im is very important to small business and in my opinion, to all exporters large and small. Ex-Im means U.S. jobs.

I would urge swift and bipartisan action tomorrow to advance this legislation as currently proposed. The U.S. needs a robust and long-term reauthorization of Ex-Im.

If you have any questions of me, please contact me.

Sincerely,

DAVID ICKERT,
Treasurer and CFO.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN).

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairwoman WATERS and Representative HECK for this important legislation.

I am excited to stand here in support of the Export-Import Bank. It is critically important to my home State of Pennsylvania and, in particular, my home district of Montgomery County and Berks County.

With over 200 total exporters in Pennsylvania, which have contributed over \$4 billion in total export value from 2014 to 2019, the Export-Import Bank has helped businesses across the Commonwealth gain access to new markets, create jobs, and compete globally.

That is why I am pleased to be among the original cosponsors and supporters of H.R. 4863, the United States Export Finance Agency Act, which reauthorizes the Bank for 10 years and makes critical reforms to help businesses across our Nation.

In particular, this reauthorization bill increases the Bank's lending authority to \$175 billion, includes a quorum fix, and enhances the Bank's environmental practices. Importantly, it also establishes an Office of Minority and Women Inclusion and an Office of Territorial Exporting, two important provisions that will help diversify the Bank's activities and our global activities.

Finally, the bill has key endorsements, as the chairwoman has so eloquently listed, from various industry stakeholders, including labor and the business community.

Mr. Chair, I thank Chairwoman WATERS and Representative HECK for introducing this reauthorization bill, and I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. MCHEMRY. Mr. Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, it is my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished majority leader and a longtime supporter of Ex-Im.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairwoman for yielding.

And I thank Mr. MCHENRY for his work on the committee. Mr. Chair, I say to Mr. MCHENRY: There is still time to get well.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of this legislation. I have been the majority leader in years past, the minority whip in years past, and now again the majority leader. During all of those years, I have been a strong supporter of the Ex-Im Bank.

Mr. Cantor, who was the majority leader, and I worked together the last time we brought this bill to the floor for reauthorization. There were 42 Republicans, many of whom served on the Financial Services Committee, who signed a discharge petition, a Republican discharge petition, because the chairman of the committee refused to bring this bill to the floor.

□ 1500

Mr. Chair, this bill enjoys the support of the United States Chamber of Commerce, wide support among the business community throughout America, support of the labor movement—the AFL-CIO and labor unions—all over America, and the support of millions of workers who are producing products here in America.

I have an agenda. I call it Make It In America. This is critical to that because all of our competitors around the world have an agency similar to the Export-Import Bank that facilitates their products being sold in competition with ours.

If we fail to reauthorize this piece of legislation, and if we fail to effect the reforms that have been included in not only dealing with the amount of money that they are authorized to lend but also the fact that we will not be locked into the inability of either a President or a Senate to confirm members of the Ex-Im board, but we will be able to act.

This legislation, therefore, is better than we have done before.

I thank MAXINE WATERS for her untiring leadership on this issue, and I also congratulate my friend DENNY HECK, a member of the committee from Washington State who has been as tenacious and faithful in his support of ensuring the reauthorization when we had the discharge petition, and this time, as anybody in this House. I thank the gentleman, Mr. HECK, for his leadership on this issue.

When that bill was discharged, some of you may remember, even though the Republican leadership would not bring it to the floor, it had to be discharged. Forty-two Republicans signed the discharge petition, led by Mr. LUCAS and Mr. Fincher from Tennessee.

Mr. LUCAS is still here. I hope Mr. LUCAS will vote for this bill when he has the opportunity to do so one more time.

I had made the point with Mr. Cantor that I believed that the majority of Republicans would support the reauthorization. And, in fact, they did. The majority of Republicans, when the vote came, voted for the bill that had been refused by Mr. Hensarling to bring it to the floor.

So this is not as if it is some partisan piece of legislation. I would hope the Republicans would have the courage—although I see them too often marching in lockstep to their party principle rather than their own principle. I am disappointed with that, Mr. Chair, because this is a piece of legislation that will protect and create hundreds of thousands of jobs and because it will make us more competitive.

We make some of the best products in the world, period. But we need to be price competitive because people will be inclined to buy, perhaps, a less quality product because it is cheaper.

That is why the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is overwhelmingly in support of this. That is why the administration is in favor of reauthorizing the Ex-Im Bank.

They say they want it clean. The President was initially, during the course of his campaign, opposed to the Ex-Im Bank. Then he talked, frankly, to some people in manufacturing who said: Mr. President, if we don't have an Export-Import Bank, you said you want to create jobs, but you are going to lose jobs.

So he changed his mind. Then, unfortunately, he appointed somebody to head up the Ex-Im Bank who was totally against it, a guy named Scott Garrett from New Jersey. The good news is the Senate said, because it supports the Ex-Im Bank, they are not going to take Garrett, so his name was withdrawn.

Mr. Chair, I appreciate Chairwoman WATERS for bringing this to the floor. I urge every Member of this body to support it. Don't snatch partisanship from the jaws of bipartisanship every time you get the opportunity.

Let's try to reflect to the American people that business and labor are together, and, yes, even Democrats and Republicans, conservatives and liberals, are together because this is good for American jobs. It is good for people who want to make it in America.

That is what Ms. WATERS, the chair of the committee, has been arguing, and Mr. HECK, and GWEN MOORE, who chaired the subcommittee when we took it out last time, and others who have fought so hard for this bill.

Our economy depends on strong export growth, not just for large businesses, but small and medium-sized businesses in communities across the country. It is not just the exporter. It is all the secondary small businesses that provide products for those large exporters.

For this reason, the Export-Import Bank has traditionally had strong, bipartisan support. A majority of Republicans just a few years ago supported

this bill. Not this exact bill. This bill should have that kind of support, too.

There is not a single provision in this bill that those on the other side of the aisle can legitimately label a poison pill. That doesn't mean it is exactly like they want it. We don't always get everything we want. But the central part of this bill ought to be supported by every one of us.

The last time this came up, one Democrat voted against it. He is no longer with us—not because of his vote on this bill. But I point out to you that we are overwhelmingly for this bill. Business wants this bill.

Usually, you don't see the Democrats saying yes to business groups. This is for jobs for working Americans. That is why this bill has the strong and unified support of the business community.

I am disappointed, frankly, that Republicans have decided to make this bill partisan. Frankly, Mr. MCCARTHY was for this bill before he was against this bill—not this bill. He was for the Export-Import Bank before he was against it, if you look at the RECORD. He is going to vote against it this time.

Mr. SCALISE voted against it last time, as did Mr. MCCARTHY on the reauthorization that I just mentioned that was discharged out of committee, as did Mr. MCHENRY. All three of them opposed this bill in the past.

So it is not a question of these amendments. For whatever reasons, they are opposed to this bill. That is a shame. There is no reason for supporters of American exports on both sides of the aisle not to come together and support the Ex-Im Bank's reauthorization.

My hope is that what this House will do today is send a strong message of support for the Export-Import Bank. Tell the rest of the world we are going to compete. Tell the rest of the world we are going to compete on an even playing field. Tell the rest of the world we are going to support our exporting community.

Indeed, according to the National Association of Manufacturers, during the 4-year period from 2015 to 2019 when the Ex-Im Bank lacked a quorum needed to do its job properly, our country gained 80,000 fewer manufacturing jobs and lost \$119 billion in manufacturing output, all because we didn't fix the quorum, which is now fixed in this bill. Let me repeat that: 80,000 fewer manufacturing jobs and \$119 billion in lost output.

This fixes that. If you vote against this bill, you may be voting against \$119 billion—probably more because of inflation, maybe \$150 billion—to the good. Not government spending, increased output, increased economic activity, and increased jobs of 80,000, probably more.

Countries all around the world have export credit agencies, as I have said. In fact, China has three export credit agencies that provided more support in just 1 year than the Export-Import Bank has provided in its entire history.

What do you say by a “no” vote? We are going to retreat from that competition. We are not going to play. Who does that advantage? China. Who does that advantage? Every one of our other competitors. Who does that disadvantage? American workers.

Mr. Chair, we need to give our exporters a fair, fighting chance by providing export financing to American business. That is what this bill does.

It is not a partisan bill. It is not a Republican bill or a Democratic bill. Those of you who say you are probusiness and proworker and want to build jobs, that is why the President of the United States decided he is for reauthorization. He may not like a provision or two in this bill, but the administration says they are for reauthorizing this.

This gives you the opportunity to do that. Take it. This is not going to be a partisan bill for any of us. Take this opportunity to stand up as the majority of your colleagues did the last time this reauthorization came to the floor, and as they have done every time it has come to the floor.

Join me, my colleagues, in voting for American workers, American manufacturers, suppliers, subcontractors, little businesses, small businesses, and medium businesses. This is good for America. Vote “yes.”

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would assure my colleagues that when the President says that he is going to veto the bill, as he put out with a Statement of Administration Policy, he intends to veto this bill if it hits his desk. That is number one.

Two, the Senate majority leader says: “We are not going to pass the House bill.”

They also say they are going to take this up as a part of the CR, and I think that is important. We don’t want this Bank to lapse.

I would also commend for my colleagues that—it is a bit rich, a bit thick, because people voted for Ex-Im and against Ex-Im in the past, including Chairwoman WATERS, who voted against reauthorization in 2002. So times change, issues change, and our votes reflect those changes in time.

I would say that the majority leader, in his speech, does outline that he is a strong advocate for the Bank. He absolutely is. That is why I have great assurance when this bill passes or doesn’t pass that we will have an extension of the Bank, and we are going to have a functioning bank. It is important.

Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy, a great advocate for the Ex-Im Bank, to talk through his position on Ex-Im.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

I don’t want to fall into revisionist history. I was one of the Republicans

who signed the discharge petition against my own chairman and against my own leadership in 2014 and supported the Ex-Im Bank.

I would love to be here this afternoon to be supporting a bipartisan bill on reauthorizing the Ex-Im Bank. We had a bipartisan bill in June, and it wasn’t the Republicans who walked away from it. It was the Democratic majority that walked away from it. The bill was marked up on a party-line vote in the Financial Services Committee.

I think it is really important to note that we will reauthorize the Export-Import Bank in the appropriations process, and many of us support that. We do not want a lapse. But this bill is going to the Senate where it goes nowhere. And the administration has said they would veto it.

Let’s not pursue a partisan vehicle here. The Rules Committee had an opportunity to allow for some amendments that would have addressed some very important issues, including one from my colleague from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) that would have stopped China from stealing intellectual property. They chose to block consideration of those amendments.

Ex-Im reauthorization is now, unfortunately, tied to the appropriations process, and I think we all know that.

I want to reiterate that my fear is that we are needlessly moving forward with a party-line vote, or a mostly party-line vote, on something that has and should be bipartisan.

□ 1515

Finally, I want to address some comments made earlier by one of my colleagues expressing skepticism about the ranking member, Mr. MCHENRY’s willingness to back the reauthorization effort.

We all know that the ranking member reached a deal with the chairwoman in June on reauthorization, and, again, it was the Democratic majority that walked away from it, not the ranking member. I just want to make sure everybody understood that that was what happened.

Furthermore, the deal actually increased Ex-Im’s lending cap up to \$175 billion, something that I know our former chairman would have never done. So I think our ranking member has dealt in good faith through this whole process. I also think it is completely inaccurate that they didn’t deal in good faith.

Regardless of what happens today, I am hopeful that we will find a way to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, and I now know it is definitely tied to the appropriations process.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader, to respond to anything he would like to respond to.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, by the way, Mr. MCHENRY is my friend. He and I have a good

working relationship, and I appreciate that friendship. I regret that he is opposing this bill. I know there was an attempt to reach a bipartisan agreement.

In candor, I think everybody on this floor needs to know there were outside business concerns about that agreement, so it was not simply a partisan act. It was that those who see this as a job creator thought that some of the provisions that were put in the so-called compromise would be harmful to job creation and to the sale of exports across the sea.

But the reason I really rose—and I thank Madam Chairwoman for yielding—is to say, yes, the President said he was going to veto this; yes, the majority leader in the Senate said he is not going to bring things up. That is unfortunate, but the statement I made is accurate.

The President of the United States says he is for the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. That is a change in his position during the course of his campaign in 2016. It is a change because he was convinced that the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank is good for America, good for jobs, good for business, good for working men and women in this country. And so he has repaired, also, to partisanship.

There are no poison pills in here. There may be some things you wanted that are not in this bill; there may be some things in this bill that I would have liked that are not in this bill. But the central point of this is this reauthorizes the Bank.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman.

It takes care of the challenge that we had when there was no quorum, and the fact that we had no quorum was all about politics.

Don’t make this about politics as well. An estimate of 80,000 jobs, \$150 billion lost because we didn’t have a quorum. Let’s not twist in the wind.

This bill has 95 percent agreement. The gentleman who spoke before me said he voted for this last time. There is no change that, in my opinion, warrants a change in heart.

I know that there is some upset that the bipartisan bill that was agreed to didn’t fly, but it didn’t fly mostly because the outside came in and said: This will not help us; this will not affect the end that we want. That record ought to be clear, Mr. Chairman.

So the chairwoman worked on bringing a bill to the floor that will help. She has done that. I hope my colleagues will put their partisanship behind them, put protecting, frankly, their positioning in terms of negotiation behind them and vote for this bill.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina has 6 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from California has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chairman, I would commend for the House that, yes, there is an opportunity for bipartisanship. I think that will be on the CR to extend the Export-Import Bank. It is an important institution. At its height, it supported almost 2 percent of American exports. It is a small amount of global trade, but it is important. We want to make sure the Bank continues to function, but this is not the bill to do that. We will take care of that in another vehicle, and I am hopeful we can have a bipartisan vote there.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON), my colleague.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, we hear the President is for the extension, the Senate is for the extension. The problem is, they are not for this piece of legislation.

I think it is important to be able to note that the ranking member, once again, on the Committee on Financial Services had a deal in principle with the chair to be able to reauthorize the Bank, to be able to add strong protections against China's global interest. Unfortunately, that deal was pulled, and we are left with the bill that does not address these issues head-on.

In the committee's process, I offered an amendment to be able to combat China's Belt and Road Initiative that would prohibit Ex-Im's assistance to the Government of China unless otherwise authorized by the President of the United States.

China's envisioned the Belt and Road as an economic tool to be able to expand their influence and, in some cases, force countries to become overly reliant on financing from China.

The Belt and Road projects also raise a specter of infrastructure that could be used by China's military, even as China promotes international reach with the yuan and the potential displacement of the dollar.

With more than 60 countries potentially hosting Belt and Road projects and estimated total financing exceeding \$1 trillion, the Chinese Government's ambitions are massive and serious—and should be taken so.

The Obama administration actively attempted to be able to keep foreign countries from joining China in their Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank over concerns that the resources would support Beijing's geopolitical ambitions.

The bill on the floor today does nothing to be able to address these issues. If anything, the Belt and Road Initiative is even more worrying, and we ought to take a strong stance against it.

Further, according to the Council on Foreign Relations, China's Belt and Road Initiative is one of the main planks of China's statecraft under the current regime, and it is a key component of the Made in China 2025 economic development strategy.

And yet, my amendment, in process, was rejected in committee, and there is no trace of proactive restraint against the Belt and Road investments in the bill on the floor today.

It is completely nonsensical to have the Export-Import Bank offer U.S. taxpayer-backed subsidies to companies implementing projects that further Beijing's geopolitical ambitions.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK).

Mr. HECK. Mr. Chair, consistency is the hobgoblin of small minds, and nobody is ever going to accuse the other side of having a small mind, because I have been here just long enough to remember when they railed with righteous indignation to pass legislation even though the Obama administration had issued an SAP. Evidently, that is not a standard that applies today, but it applied then.

Listen, I have heard no objections to the content of the proposed legislation. What mostly I have heard is that we had a deal that fell apart and it is all our fault. That is pretty good revisionist history. It fell apart because it didn't have the votes.

And it wasn't just a question of what happened on the majority side. They know full well there were minority party Members who were not going to vote for it. There was bipartisan opposition, frankly, because of all the external stakeholder opposition, because it does not work.

What are the differences, the major differences? Basically, that other deal would have prohibited sale into countries—China, in particular—with state-owned enterprises.

What are those? All railroads, all utilities, all airlines. That is not the way we engage other countries and change their behavior.

Materially, factually wrong that we would subsidize the Chinese Communist Party. In fact, in the last 30 years, the Export-Import Bank has transferred up to \$10 billion into the U.S. Treasury.

Listen, I just wish people would have the courage of their convictions. The argument seems to be made, and I think it is a debate worth having, is should we kick China out of the World Trade Organization. That is really what is being said here. Let's have that debate.

Looking back, I think it is questionable that they were admitted without stronger accountability, and I think we need stronger accountability.

Mr. Chair, great irony, the bill before you has incredible advance progress over current law in terms of accountability with China. So, at the end of the day, here it is: revenue generating, job generating, American jobs. Vote "yes."

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, this is what we are trying to not fund for American taxpayers. We are having American taxpayer dollars go to subsidize Chinese companies to perpetrate

the violence that is happening in repression of the Chinese people and the folks in Hong Kong. This is what we are trying to stop, and their bill does nothing to stop this type of subsidization of our goods, our American tax dollars going into the harm that is perpetrated there.

So you can make a nice political case that you have done something, but in reality, in terms of legislative text, you don't do squat. And that is a huge problem. That is the reason why there is opposition over here.

I would also commend to my colleagues that every Republican voted for the bipartisan bill that I negotiated with Chairwoman WATERS in committee.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GONZALEZ).

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Chair, I thank Ranking Member MCHENRY for his leadership on this issue.

Let me start by saying that I fully support the Export-Import Bank and recognize the important role that the Bank plays in supporting businesses and jobs across my district and State.

This is my first time having the opportunity to vote on this and state that, and I want to state it emphatically.

I appreciate that the majority leader and Mr. HECK have articulated what specifically is at issue here. And what is at issue here is that outside groups have captured this bill and objected to every single provision, no matter how small, dealing with the People's Republic of China.

They objected, in particular, to an amendment that I offered that would require exporters receiving Ex-Im assistance to certify that they do not punish their employees for private communications on issues that China is so sensitive to, specifically, freedom in Hong Kong and human rights in Xinjiang and Tibet—not throwing China out of the WTO, though I am very, very happy to have a debate on that.

But that is not what this was about. This was about preventing our companies from censoring their own employees, domestic employees, on their own time, in the comfort of their own home.

Nothing in this amendment would have affected a company's policies in the workplace or its ability to manage business communications. But when employees are expressing themselves on their own time and if they want to stand by victims of oppression, an Ex-Im beneficiary wouldn't have been able to retaliate against them.

I was disheartened that the majority would not allow this body to debate and vote on this commonsense amendment that would have protected the free speech of American workers.

And a final point, because I have a feeling that somebody is about to read back to me what they believe they know about my district.

We have a wonderful system, and in our system of government, we represent our own districts. Okay? We

know our districts better than anybody else. That is why we are here.

On behalf of northeast Ohio, let me tell you, China has absolutely decimated our manufacturing sector, and I am proud to vote “no” on this bill.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina has 30 seconds remaining. The gentlewoman from California has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I am prepared to close. May I inquire if there are further speakers on the other side.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I am prepared to close.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, this is a failure of bipartisan policymaking, and this is a sad day.

I am not angry. I appreciate Chairwoman WATERS attempting to strike a bipartisan deal. In fact, we had a deal, and we filed that bill. It is H.R. 3407 that encouraged Members to sign the discharge petition so we can actually support something that was a bipartisan negotiation, not this bill before us today that doesn't take on the important work of banning Chinese state-owned enterprises from accessing our export credit agency. That is what this is about.

So I ask my colleagues to vote “no” on this very important measure of international export activities, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Earlier this year when the Ex-Im reauthorization was still in committee, we entered into good-faith negotiations with Ranking Member MCHENRY. Unfortunately, the China state-owned enterprise provision insisted on by the ranking member came up short and prevented us from reaching broad bipartisan support for the bill.

In fact, his China provision was roundly rejected in seven different votes in committee. This provision was voted down during markup because my colleagues realized that it would do more to harm U.S. exporters and U.S. jobs than help to counter against the very real problems faced by U.S. exporters competing with China.

There are a number of other provisions in Mr. MCHENRY's bill that are unnecessary, even burdensome, and aimed at diminishing the bank's ability to function. In fact, in many ways, rather than seeking to strengthen and improve the flexibility of the bank to meet the challenges faced by U.S. industry today, the provisions in this bill put forward by the ranking member consistently sought to further constrain the bank with unnecessary and, in many cases, new limits and restrictions.

What the Republicans don't say is that a bipartisan bill in the Senate was

introduced that had none of Mr. MCHENRY's problematic provisions. Then, last week, the President similarly said that he also supported a 10-year clean reauthorization, which is odd since the Republicans claimed he supported Mr. MCHENRY's hurdles for the Ex-Im Bank.

I continue to believe that this provision will hamper Ex-Im's ability to support U.S. exporters and American jobs.

Let me just wrap this up by saying that this is a significant bill that we have before this House. This is a bill that will correct the harm that has been done to our export agency. This is a bill that will create more jobs.

This is a bill that has the support of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, GE, Boeing, the AFL-CIO, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, the Business Roundtable, and North America's Building Trades Unions.

So, here we have a bill where we have people who oppose each other all the time and have come together because they know that it is in the best interests of our country. They know that they have put us in a position—those who have been voting against reauthorization—of being noncompetitive with China and other countries who like to see us in that weakened position.

This bill is going to bring us out of that weakened position. This is a bill that improves upon our ability to provide export financing. This is a bill that will create jobs.

This is a bill that recognizes that we are not manufacturing at the rate that we should be in this country. And we are not going to be in that position any more.

This is a bill that creates jobs in all of our districts. This is a bill that I would ask my Members to please support, and let's keep America moving forward with the export-import bill.

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

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-36 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as an original bill for purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

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

H.R. 4863

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 “United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.*
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.*
- Sec. 3. Renaming of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.*
- Sec. 4. Authorization period.*
- Sec. 5. Aggregate loan, guarantee, and insurance authority.*
- Sec. 6. Office of Minority and Women Inclusion.*
- Sec. 7. Support for United States territories.*
- Sec. 8. Alternative procedures during quorum lapse.*
- Sec. 9. Strengthening support for U.S. small businesses.*
- Sec. 10. Enhancing flexibility to respond to predatory export financing by China.*
- Sec. 11. Restriction on financing for certain entities.*
- Sec. 12. Prohibitions on financing for certain persons involved in sanctionable activities.*
- Sec. 13. Promoting renewable energy exports, environmental and social standards, and accountability.*
- Sec. 14. Reinsurance program.*
- Sec. 15. Information technology systems.*
- Sec. 16. Administratively determined pay.*

SEC. 3. RENAMING OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Export-Import Bank of the United States is hereby redesignated as the United States Export Finance Agency.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference to the Export-Import Bank of the United States in any law, rule, regulation, certificate, directive, instruction, or other official paper in force on the date of the enactment of this Act is deemed a reference to the United States Export Finance Agency.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION PERIOD.

Section 7 of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635f) is amended by striking “2019” and inserting “2029”.

SEC. 5. AGGREGATE LOAN, GUARANTEE, AND INSURANCE AUTHORITY.

Section 6(a)(2) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635e(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) APPLICABLE AMOUNT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘applicable amount’ means—

- “(A) \$145,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2020;*
- “(B) \$150,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;*
- “(C) \$155,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;*
- “(D) \$160,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;*
- “(E) \$165,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;*
- “(F) \$170,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; and*
- “(G) \$175,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029.”.*

SEC. 6. OFFICE OF MINORITY AND WOMEN INCLUSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(i) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635a(i)) is amended to read as follows:

“(i) OFFICE OF MINORITY AND WOMEN INCLUSION.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Agency shall establish an Office of Minority and Women Inclusion which shall be responsible for carrying out this subsection and all matters relating to diversity in management, employment, and business activities in accordance with such standards and requirements as the Director of the Office shall establish.

“(2) TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Agency shall ensure that, to the extent that the responsibilities described in paragraph (1) (or comparable responsibilities) were, as of the date of the enactment of this subsection, performed by another office of the Agency, the responsibilities shall be transferred to the Office.

“(3) DUTIES WITH RESPECT TO CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS.—The responsibilities described in paragraph (1) shall not include enforcement of statutes, regulations, or executive orders pertaining to civil rights, except that the Director of the Office shall coordinate with the President of the Agency, or the designee of the President of the Agency, regarding the design and implementation of any remedies resulting from violations of the statutes, regulations, or executive orders.

“(4) DIRECTOR.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office shall be appointed by, and shall report directly to, the President of the Agency. The position of Director of the Office shall be a career reserved position in the Senior Executive Service, as that position is defined in section 3132 of title 5, United States Code, or an equivalent designation.

“(B) DUTIES.—The Director shall—

“(i) develop standards for equal employment opportunity and the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the workforce and senior management of the Agency;

“(ii) develop standards for increased participation of minority-owned and women-owned businesses in the programs and contracts of the Agency, including standards for coordinating technical assistance to the businesses; and

“(iii) enhance the outreach activities of the Agency with respect to, and increase the total amount of loans, guarantees, and insurance provided by the Agency to support exports by socially and economically disadvantaged small business concerns (as defined in section 8(a)(4) of the Small Business Act) and small business concerns owned by women.

“(C) OTHER DUTIES.—The Director shall advise the President of the Agency on the impact of the policies of the Agency on minority-owned and women-owned businesses.

“(5) INCLUSION IN ALL LEVELS OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) CONTRACTS.—The Director of the Office shall develop and implement standards and procedures to ensure, to the maximum extent possible, the inclusion and utilization of minorities (as defined in section 1204(c) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1811 note)) and women, and minority- and women-owned businesses (as such terms are defined in section 21A(r)(4) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1441a(r)(4))) in all business and activities of the Agency at all levels, including in procurement, insurance, and all types of contracts. The processes established by the Agency for review and evaluation for contract proposals and to hire service providers shall include a component that gives consideration to the diversity of the applicant.

“(B) APPLICABILITY.—This paragraph shall apply to all contracts for services of any kind, including all contracts for all business and activities of the Agency, at all levels.

“(C) OUTREACH.—The Agency shall establish a minority outreach program to ensure the inclusion (to the maximum extent practicable) of contracts entered into with the enterprises of minorities and women and businesses owned by minorities and women, including financial institutions, investment banking firms, underwriters, accountants, brokers, and providers of legal services.

“(6) DIVERSITY IN AGENCY WORKFORCE.—The Agency shall take affirmative steps to seek diversity in its workforce at all levels of the Agency consistent with the demographic diversity of the United States, in a manner consistent with applicable law, including—

“(A) to the extent the Agency engages in recruitment efforts to fill vacancies—

“(i) recruiting at historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal colleges and universities, women's colleges, and colleges that typically serve majority minority populations; and

“(ii) recruiting at job fairs in urban communities, and placing employment advertisements

in print and digital media oriented toward women and people of color;

“(B) partnering with organizations that are focused on developing opportunities for minorities and women to place talented young minorities and women in industry internships, summer employment, and full-time positions; and

“(C) by use of any other mass media communications that the Director of the Office determines necessary.”.

(b) INCLUSION IN ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 8 of such Act (12 U.S.C. 635g) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) OFFICE OF MINORITY AND WOMEN INCLUSION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Agency shall include in its annual report to the Congress under subsection (a) a report from the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion regarding the actions taken by the Agency and the Office pursuant to section 3(i), which shall include—

“(A) a statement of the total amounts paid by the Agency to contractors since the most recent report under this subsection;

“(B) the percentage of the amounts described in subparagraph (A) that were paid to contractors as described in section 3(i)(5)(A);

“(C) the successes achieved and challenges faced by the Agency in operating minority and women outreach programs;

“(D) a description of the progress made by the Agency in supporting exports by minority-owned small business concerns and the progress made by the Agency in supporting small business concerns owned by women, including estimates of the amounts made available to finance exports directly by both categories of small business concerns, a comparison of these amounts with the amounts made available to all small business concerns, and a comparison of such amounts with the amounts so made available during the 2 preceding years;

“(E) the challenges the Agency may face in hiring qualified minority and women employees and contracting with qualified minority-owned and women-owned businesses; and

“(F) any other information, findings, conclusions, and recommendations for legislative or Agency action, as the Director of the Office deems appropriate.

“(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) MINORITY-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term ‘minority-owned small business concern’ has the meaning given the term ‘socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern’ under section 8(a)(4) of the Small Business Act.

“(B) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term ‘small business concern’ has the meaning given that term under section 3(a) of the Small Business Act.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8(f) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635g(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (4); and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (8) as paragraphs (4) through (7), respectively.

SEC. 7. SUPPORT FOR UNITED STATES TERRITORIES.

(a) CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL EXPORTING.—Section 3 of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(n) OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL EXPORTING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President of the Agency shall establish an Office of Territorial Exporting, the functions of which shall be to—

“(A) promote the export of goods and services from the territories;

“(B) conduct outreach, education, and disseminate information concerning export opportunities and the availability of Agency support for such activities; and

“(C) increase the total amount of loans, guarantees, and insurance provided by the Agency benefitting the territories.

“(2) STAFF.—The President of the Agency shall hire such staff as may be necessary to perform the functions of the Office, including—

“(A) at least 1 staffer responsible for liaising with Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands; and

“(B) at least 1 staffer responsible for liaising with the United States territories of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

“(3) DEFINITION OF TERRITORY.—In this Act, the term ‘territory’ means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.”.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 8 of such Act (12 U.S.C. 635g), as amended by section 6(b) of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(m) REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORIES.—The Agency shall include in its annual report to Congress under subsection (a) a report on the steps taken by the Agency in the period covered by the report to increase—

“(1) awareness of the Agency and its services in the territories; and

“(2) the provision of Agency support to export businesses in the territories.”.

SEC. 8. ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES DURING QUORUM LAPSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(c)(6) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635a(c)(6)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(A)” after “(6)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B)(i) If there is an insufficient number of directors to constitute a quorum under subparagraph (A) for 90 consecutive days during the term of a President of the United States, a temporary Board, consisting of the following members, shall act in the stead of the Board of Directors:

“(I) The United States Trade Representative,

“(II) The Secretary of the Treasury,

“(III) The Secretary of Commerce, and

“(IV) The members of the Board of Directors.

“(ii) If, at a meeting of the temporary Board—

“(I) a member referred to in clause (i)(IV) is present, the meeting shall be chaired by such a member, consistent with Agency bylaws; or

“(II) no such member is present, the meeting shall be chaired by the United States Trade Representative.

“(iii) A member described in subclause (I), (II), or (III) of clause (i) may delegate the authority of the member to vote on whether to authorize a transaction, whose value does not exceed \$100,000,000, to—

“(I) if the member is the United States Trade Representative, the Deputy United States Trade Representative; or

“(II) if the member is referred to in such subclause (II) or (III), the Deputy Secretary of the department referred to in the subclause.

“(iv) If the temporary Board consists of members of only 1 political party, the President of the United States shall, to the extent practicable, appoint to the temporary Board a qualified member of a different political party who occupies a position requiring nomination by the President, by and with the consent of the Senate.

“(v) The temporary board may not change or amend Agency policies, procedures, bylaws, or guidelines.

“(vi) The temporary Board shall expire at the end of the term of the President of the United States in office at the time the temporary Board was constituted or upon restoration of a quorum of the Board of Directors as defined in subparagraph (A).

“(vii) With respect to a transaction that equals or exceeds \$100,000,000, the Chairperson of the temporary Board shall ensure that the Agency complies with section 2(b)(3).”.

(b) TERMINATION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall have no force or effect after the 10-year period that begins with the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 9. STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR U.S. SMALL BUSINESSES.

(a) SMALL BUSINESS POLICY.—Section 2(b)(1) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12

U.S.C. 635(b)(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph (E)(i)(I) and inserting the following:

“(E)(i)(I) It is further the policy of the United States to encourage the participation of small business (including women-owned businesses, minority-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities, and businesses in rural areas) and start-up businesses in international commerce, and to educate such businesses about how to export goods using the United States Export Finance Agency.”

(b) OUTREACH.—

(1) PLAN.—Within 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the United States Export Finance Agency shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate a comprehensive outreach plan to ensure that small business owners are aware of the financing options available to them through the Agency. The plan shall include—

(A) input from the Small Business Administration and statewide small business coalitions with operations in rural, urban, and suburban regions;

(B) an emphasis on outreach to businesses owned by women, minorities, veterans, and persons with disabilities; and

(C) a proposed budget for carrying out the plan during fiscal years 2020 through 2029, that provides for the spending of at least \$1,000,000 annually for outreach to small businesses.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 2(b)(1)(E) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 635(b)(1)(E)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(xi) After consultation with the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Agency shall implement the outreach plan referred to in section 9(b)(1) of the United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019.”

(c) EXCLUSION OF UNUTILIZED INSURANCE AUTHORITY IN CALCULATING SMALL BUSINESS THRESHOLD.—Section 2(b)(1)(E)(v) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 635(b)(1)(E)(v)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “For the purpose of calculating the amounts of authority required under this clause, the Agency shall, with respect to insurance, exclude unutilized authorizations that terminated during the fiscal year.”

(d) INCREASE IN SMALL BUSINESS THRESHOLD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(b)(1)(E)(v) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 635(b)(1)(E)(v)) is amended by striking “25” and inserting “30”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on October 1, 2028.

SEC. 10. ENHANCING FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO PREDATORY EXPORT FINANCING BY CHINA.

(a) DEEMING RULE UNDER TIED AID CREDIT PROGRAM.—Section 10(b)(5)(B)(i)(III) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635i-3(b)(5)(B)(i)(III)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The requirement that there be credible evidence of a history of a foreign export credit agency making offers not subject to the Arrangement is deemed met in the case of exports likely to be supported by official financing from the People’s Republic of China, unless the Secretary of the Treasury has reported to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate that China is in substantial compliance with the Arrangement.”

(b) COLLABORATION WITH USDA ON EXPORT FINANCING PROGRAMS.—Section 13(1)(A) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 635i-7(1)(A)) is amended by inserting “, the Department of Agriculture,” before “and other Federal agencies”.

SEC. 11. RESTRICTION ON FINANCING FOR CERTAIN ENTITIES.

Section 2 of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) RESTRICTION ON FINANCING FOR CERTAIN ENTITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Board of Directors may not approve a transaction that is subject to approval by the Board with respect to the provision by the Agency of any guarantee, insurance, or extension of credit, or the participation by the Agency in any extension of credit for which the end user, obligor, or lender is described in paragraph (2).

“(2) PROHIBITED END USER, OBLIGOR, OR LENDER.—An end user, obligor, or lender is described in this paragraph if the end user, obligor, or lender is known to the Agency to be:

“(A) The People’s Liberation Army of the People’s Republic of China.

“(B) The Ministry of State Security of the People’s Republic of China.

“(C) Included on the Denied Persons List or the Entity List maintained by the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce.

“(D) Included on the Arms Export Control Act debarred list maintained by the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls of the Department of State.

“(E) Any person who has paid a criminal fine or penalty pursuant to a conviction or resolution or settlement agreement with the Department of Justice for a violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act in the preceding 3 years.

“(F) A person who, in the preceding 3 years, appeared on the Annual Intellectual Property Report to Congress by the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator in the Executive Office of the President, if the person was convicted in any court.

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) PERSON.—The term ‘person’ means an individual or entity.

“(B) ENTITY.—The term ‘entity’ means a partnership, association, trust, joint venture, corporation, group, subgroup, or other organization.”

SEC. 12. PROHIBITIONS ON FINANCING FOR CERTAIN PERSONS INVOLVED IN SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITIES.

Section 2 of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635), as amended by section 11 of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(m) PROHIBITIONS ON FINANCING FOR CERTAIN PERSONS INVOLVED IN SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Board of Directors of the Agency may not approve any transaction that is subject to approval by the Board with respect to the provision by the Agency of any guarantee, insurance, or extension of credit, or the participation by the Agency in any extension of credit, to a person in connection with the exportation of any good or service unless the person provides the certification described in paragraph (2).

“(2) CERTIFICATION DESCRIBED.—The certification described in this paragraph is a certification by a person who is an end user, obligor, or lender that neither the person nor any other person owned or controlled by the person engages in any activity in contravention of any United States law, regulation, or order applicable to the person concerning—

“(A) trade and economic sanctions, including an embargo;

“(B) the freezing or blocking of assets of designated persons; or

“(C) other restrictions on exports, imports, investment, payments, or other transactions targeted at particular persons or countries.

“(3) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—The certification described in paragraph (2) shall be made after reasonable due diligence and based on best knowledge and belief.”

SEC. 13. PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPORTS, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS, AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) OFFICE OF FINANCING FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENERGY STORAGE EXPORTS.—Section 2(b)(1)(C) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635(b)(1)(C)) is amended to read as follows:

“(C) OFFICE OF FINANCING FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENERGY STORAGE.—The President of the Agency shall establish an office whose functions shall be to promote the export of goods and services to be used in the development, production, and distribution of renewable energy resources, and energy efficiency and energy storage technologies, and disseminate information concerning export opportunities and the availability of Agency support for such activities, to increase the total amount of loans, guarantees, and insurance provided by the Agency to support exports related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy storage.”

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND PROCEDURES.—Section 11(a) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 635i-5(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the 2nd sentence, by inserting “, including to potentially impacted communities in the country in which the activity will be carried out, at least 60 days before the date of the vote,” before “and supplemental”;

(B) by inserting after the 2nd sentence the following: “The procedures shall include a requirement for an analysis of the environmental and social impacts, including worker impacts and anticipated health impacts and costs, of the proposed activity and of alternatives to the proposed activity, including mitigation measures, where appropriate.”; and

(C) in the 3rd sentence, by striking “The preceding sentence” and inserting “This paragraph”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (7) and inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) CONSULTATIONS WITH POTENTIALLY IMPACTED COMMUNITIES.—In any credit or common terms agreements to which the Agency is a party relating to a transaction described in paragraph (1), the Agency shall include a provision to ensure that robust consultations with potentially impacted communities in the country in which the activity will be carried out have been and will continue to be carried out throughout the project cycle.

“(3) ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES REVIEW.—By the end of 2020 and once at the end of each subsequent 3-year period, the Board of Directors of the Agency shall complete a review of the Environmental and Social Due Diligence Procedures and Guidelines ensuring that the procedures and guidelines incorporate requirements for project consideration that are consistent to limit greenhouse gas emissions and, to the maximum extent possible, to affirm that the Board operates consistently with the multilateral environmental agreements to which the United States is a party that are directly related to transactions in which the Agency is involved.

“(4) The Agency shall operate consistently with Annex VI of the Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits, as adopted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development as of January 2019.

“(5) The Agency shall make publicly available the estimated amounts of CO₂ emissions expected to be produced from pending projects that the Agency has designated as Category A and B projects and work with other export credit agencies to encourage them to do the same.

“(A) The Agency shall report CO₂ emissions associated with projects that the Agency has

designated as Category A and B fossil fuel projects in its annual report by product categories.

“(B) The Agency shall advocate within the OECD and other multilateral fora for the full reporting of CO₂ emissions associated with appropriate energy and non-energy projects including manufacturing and agriculture.

“(C) The Agency shall undertake periodic reviews with stakeholders to ensure that the Agency employs the most appropriate methodology of estimating and tracking the CO₂ emissions from Category A and B projects the Agency supports.

“(6) The Agency shall develop and maintain measures to provide increased financing support for evolving technologies that reduce CO₂ emissions.

“(A) The Agency shall develop and maintain measures to encourage foreign buyers to seek available, commercially viable technology to reduce the CO₂ footprint of projects.

“(B) The Agency shall develop and maintain initiatives to finance aspects of project development that reduce or mitigate CO₂ emissions, such as effective carbon capture and sequestration technology, while maintaining the competitiveness of United States exporters.

“(C) In coordination with the Department of the Treasury, the Agency shall advocate in international fora for the availability of financing incentives for low to net zero CO₂-emitting projects, a common methodology for evaluating and taking into account the social cost of carbon.

“(D) The Agency shall encourage export credit agencies and other relevant lending institutions to adopt similar CO₂ policies, including encouraging transparency and the involvement of stakeholders.”; and

(3) in paragraph (7) (as so redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection), by striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “this subsection”.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Section 11(c) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 6351–5(c)) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) INCLUSION IN ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Agency shall include in its annual report to Congress under section 8 a summary of its activities under subsections (a) and (b). The Board of Directors shall submit to the Congress a report, which shall be made publicly available on the Internet at the time of delivery—

“(1) that provides a detailed accounting of the methodology used to make greenhouse gas emissions project determinations; and

“(2) details the steps taken to ensure that the Environmental and Social Due Diligence Procedures and Guidelines of the Agency are consistent with—

“(A) reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and

“(B) operating consistently with the multilateral environmental agreements to which the United States is a party that are directly related to transactions in which the Agency is involved.”.

(d) FINANCING FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, AND ENERGY STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES.—Section 2(b)(1)(K) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 635(b)(1)(K)) is amended by inserting “, energy efficiency, and energy storage. It shall be a goal of the Bank to ensure that not less than 5 percent of the applicable amount (as defined in section 6(a)(2)) is made available each fiscal year for the financing of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy storage technology exports” before the period.

(e) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING AGENCY ACCOUNTABILITY.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the Board of Directors of the United States Export Finance Agency (in this section referred to as the “Agency”) should, after a public consultation process, establish a formal, transparent, and independent accountability mechanism to review, investigate, offer independent dispute resolution to resolve, and publicly report

on allegations by affected parties of any failure of the Agency to follow its own policies and procedures with regard to the environmental and social impacts of projects, and on situations where the Agency is alleged to have failed in ensuring the borrower is fulfilling its obligations in financing agreements with respect to the policies and procedures;

(2) the accountability mechanism should be able to provide advice to management on policies, procedures, guidelines, resources, and systems established to ensure adequate review and monitoring of the environmental and social impacts of projects;

(3) in carrying out its mandate, the confidentiality of sensitive business information should be respected, as appropriate, and, in consultation with potentially impacted communities, project sponsors, Agency management, and other relevant parties, a flexible process should be followed aimed primarily at correcting project failures and achieving better results on the ground;

(4) the accountability mechanism should be independent of the line operations of management, and report its findings and recommendations directly to the Board of Directors of the Agency and annually to the Congress;

(5) the annual report of the Agency should include a detailed accounting of the activities of the accountability mechanism for the year covered by the report and the remedial actions taken by the Agency in response to the findings of the accountability mechanism;

(6) in coordination with the accountability mechanism, the Agency and relevant parties should engage in proactive outreach to communities impacted or potentially impacted by Agency financing and activities to provide information on the existence and availability of the accountability mechanism;

(7) the President of the Agency should, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the Agency, and consistent with applicable law, through an open and competitive process, including solicitation of input from relevant stakeholders, appoint a director of the accountability mechanism, who would be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the mechanism, and a panel of not less than 3 experts, including the director, who would also serve as chair of the panel; and

(8) The accountability mechanism director and members of the panel should not have been employed by the Agency within the 5 years preceding their appointment, and should be ineligible from future employment at the Agency.

SEC. 14. REINSURANCE PROGRAM.

Section 51008 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (12 U.S.C. 635 note) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “PILOT”;

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “pilot”;

(3) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “\$1,000,000,000” and inserting “\$2,000,000,000”; and

(4) by striking subsections (c) through (e) and inserting the following:

“(c) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION IN REINSURANCE POOLS.—In implementing this section, the Agency shall, with respect to a reinsurance pool, pursue appropriate objectives to reduce risk and costs to the Agency, including by the following, to the extent practicable:

“(1) Ensuring a reasonable diversification of risks.

“(2) Including larger exposures where the possibility of default raises overall portfolio risk for the Agency.

“(3) Excluding transactions from the pool that are covered by first-loss protection.

“(4) Excluding transactions from the pool that are collateralized at a rate greater than standard market practice.

“(5) Diversifying reinsurance pools by industry and other appropriate factors.

“(6) Exploring different time periods of coverage.

“(7) Exploring both excess of loss structures on a per-borrower as well as an aggregate basis.

“(d) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and every 2 years thereafter through 2029, the Agency shall submit to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate a written report that contains an assessment of the use of the program carried out under subsection (a) since the most recent report under this subsection.

“(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any authority of the Agency described in section 2(a)(1) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945.”.

SEC. 15. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS.

Section 3(j) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635a(j)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking all that precedes subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), the Agency may use an amount equal to 1.25 percent of the surplus of the Agency during fiscal years 2020 through 2029 to—”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) LIMITATION.—The aggregate of the amounts used in accordance with paragraph (1) for fiscal years 2020 through 2029 shall not exceed \$40,000,000.”.

SEC. 16. ADMINISTRATIVELY DETERMINED PAY.

Section 3 of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635a), as amended by section 7(a) of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(o) COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES.—

“(1) RATES OF PAY.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Board of Directors of the Agency, consistent with standards established by the Director of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, may set and adjust rates of basic pay for employees and new hires of the Agency without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, except that no employee of the Agency may receive a rate of basic pay that exceeds the rate for level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5313 of such title.

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—The Board of Directors of the Agency may not apply paragraph (1) to more than 35 employees at any point in time. Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to apply to any position of a confidential or policy-determining character that is excepted from the competitive service under section 3302 of title 5, United States Code, (pursuant to schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations) or to any position that would otherwise be subject to section 5311 or 5376 of title 5, United States Code.”.

The CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in House Report 116–289.

Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MRS. TORRES OF CALIFORNIA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 116–289.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 16, line 3, strike “and”.

Page 16, after line 3, insert the following:

(C) an emphasis on outreach to businesses that export goods and services that are produced by Indian tribes and that are made, assembled, or otherwise derived on or from an Indian tribe's Indian land (as defined in section 2601(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 2501(2));

Page 16, line 4, strike “(C)” and insert “(D)”.

Page 17, after line 7, insert the following:

(e) REPORT ON ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING INDIAN TRIBES.—Section 8 of such Act (12 U.S.C. 635g), as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(n) REPORT ON ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING INDIAN TRIBES.—The Agency shall include in its annual report to Congress under subsection (a) a report on the steps taken by the Agency in the period covered by the report to increase—

“(1) awareness of the Agency and its services available to Indian tribes; and

“(2) the provision of Agency support to tribal export businesses.”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 695, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment would add language directing the U.S. Export Finance Agency to emphasize outreach to Tribal businesses, including Alaskan Native corporations, that export goods and services.

There is a long history of successful Federal economic development programs leaving—leaving—Indian Country behind.

Ensuring that Tribal businesses are aware of the services and resources that the agency provides is absolutely critical. Companies that increase their exports are able to raise wages, take on additional employees, and further invest in their communities.

Increased economic development in Indian Country means increased economic opportunity, which, in turn, means more self-determination for Tribes and a greater ability to take care of their people as sovereign nations.

The U.S. Export Finance Agency has proven to be an important tool in expanding U.S. exports and creating American jobs, but we need to ensure that it is a tool that benefits all Americans, including Native Americans. And that is exactly what this amendment does.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition, though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, Republicans unanimously voted to support the Waters-McHenry bipartisan bill to strengthen the bank and combat Chinese aggression but will not support this partisan bill.

And, while I am not opposed to the Torres amendment, I would simply note that there is a point where additional reporting requirements and other mandates can burden agencies to the point of diminishing returns.

I think it is important, though, that Ex-Im be focused on American businesses, especially those in need and that have great capacity like Tribal businesses do.

So, it is a good amendment. I support it.

What I would also mention to this body is that the negotiation on the Waters-McHenry bill took the small business mandate for the bank and raised it so that Ex-Im would make small businesses more of a priority for this reauthorization than it previously had been; and, instead, we have a bill before us today that delays that raise for 10 years, until the last year of the authorization of the bill before us.

I think this is a missed opportunity. It is bad for small business, bad for Tribal export businesses, which would qualify as a small business, most of them—almost all of them, in fact—under the purview of the Ex-Im Bank and the designation of Ex-Im Bank.

So that small business mandate shows that that was not a priority for the Democrats who wrote this bill. And that is a sad thing. It is a bad thing. It is not helpful to American business and not helpful to the bank.

Mr. Chair, I support the Torres amendment, the Torres-Cole amendment, commend the gentlewoman for offering it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for his support. There has been a lot of talk around China and zero talk around Indian Country.

All this amendment does is require the agency to conduct outreach—outreach—to Indian Country to ensure that Tribal export businesses benefit from the same services and resources we offer every other American business.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MRS. TORRES OF CALIFORNIA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 116-289.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 21, line 9, strike “or”.

Page 21, after line 9, insert the following:

“(C) sanctions relating to serious violations of human rights or free speech, including any sanctions—

“(i) imposed under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act;

“(ii) related to the efforts to the Chinese government to limit or punish demonstrations in Hong Kong;

“(iii) related to the political repression or detention of religious and ethnic minorities in China or Burma; or

“(iv) related to the gross violation of internationally recognized human rights (as defined in section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961) in China; or”.

Page 21, line 10, strike “(C)” and insert “(D)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 695, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the new Export Finance Agency works to help American businesses export their products and services, it is critical that we ensure that we are not enriching or empowering the bad actors, especially those involved in drug trafficking, corruption, or human rights violations.

We don't want to help those whose actions are contrary to our American values, and we certainly don't want to help those who act against our best interests.

That is why H.R. 4863 prohibits the Export Finance Agency from doing business with individuals who are subject to U.S. sanctions.

I have offered an amendment to further clarify that this prohibition also extends to individuals who are subject to sanctions related to human rights and violations of free speech. This is especially important given the growing challenges to free speech across the world, including in Hong Kong and in Xinjiang.

Government officials or other entities who are involved in the suppression of free speech should not benefit from the agency's investment, and all of us should agree to that.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I seek time in opposition, but I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, let me say this: Republicans unanimously voted to support the Waters-McHenry bipartisan deal in committee to strengthen and combat Chinese aggression, but we are not going to support this partisan bill that is before us.

This amendment, in my view, is a very simple one. It is a restatement of

existing law. You cannot do business with sanctioned individuals. American businesses cannot do business with sanctioned individuals or entities. It is American law.

So, if American businesses can't do business with sanctioned entities, what this amendment says is they also cannot get subsidized by the Ex-Im Bank to do that business that they can't do.

So, fine. I don't oppose the amendment, but what this looks like to me is cover to Democrats for gutting important national security provisions in the Waters-McHenry bipartisan Ex-Im reauthorization bill.

In that legislation, Republicans sought to restrict Ex-Im assistance for Chinese government-controlled entities in light of Beijing's suppression of freedom of speech, freedom in Hong Kong, its political repression of religious and ethnic minorities, and other actions inconsistent with our national interests.

Rather than support those provisions, Democrats have decided to parrot China, this China language, and, well, quite frankly, take Republicans' intellectual property here and talking points, if you will, and try to cover it. And that is what this amendment is.

So, American businesses cannot do business with sanctioned entities. What this says is that they also can't get Ex-Im financing for the business that they can't do.

Fine. Great. Fine. We will let it go. It is fine. But, news flash to anyone: You can't finance something that doesn't actually happen.

So this amendment, it is fine. It checks the box, covers a little political cover. I got it. It is fine. So we will just let it go, but that is really what this does. It is a political cover vote rather than actually anything of substance. So I will let it go. I will let it go by a voice vote.

But I think what will happen is that the Democrat majority will call a roll-call vote so their Members can show they have a vote to do something that gives them political cover. It is good. It is great. It is fine. But I am not going to participate in that charade.

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

Mrs. TORRES of California. I take issue with the ranking member questioning my hard work. I have spent every year since I came to Congress in 2015 working to address the issues of public corruption in Central America and throughout Latin America. So for this to come up now is, frankly, very disappointing.

My amendment, yes, does build on important provisions that are already in the bill, which prohibit extending credit to individuals who are subject to U.S. sanctions.

These provisions will protect the new agency, uphold American values, and protect our national security.

I urge my colleagues to find a way to see through this fog and understand that this is the right way to go about it. I hope they will support the bill and support my amendment.

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

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Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, let me state this: If you are a sanctioned individual or entity, under American law, American businesses cannot do business with them.

We have an amendment here that says they also can't get subsidized financing from Ex-Im to do that business that they are prevented from doing.

Okay, fine. I get this. It has language about human rights, but we already have that limitation in law, in fact. If we wanted to do something real and substantive when it comes to sanctioned individuals, we would have gone a step further, including the China provisions in the bipartisan Waters-McHenry bill.

All this does is restate existing law. It is not a good amendment. It is not a bad amendment. It is a political cover amendment. It is a sad thing that, instead of doing things of substance and having real impact, we are doing this. So, fine. Vote for it. Add it to the bill. It doesn't matter. The bill is not going to become law.

We are restating existing policy here, existing law. American businesses cannot do business with sanctioned entities. If they do, they become potentially sanctioned under American law. We have a provision of law already for this. Now you are saying Ex-Im can't finance something that can't happen. Okay, fine.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mrs. TORRES).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. FLORES

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 116-289.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment as the designee of Mr. BURGESS.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 21, strike line 17 and all that follows through page 30, line 9, and insert the following:

SEC. 13. PROMOTING AFFORDABLE ENERGY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, AND CLEAN ENERGY EXPORTS.

(a) OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CLEAN ENERGY EXPORTS.—Section 2(b)(1)(C) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635(b)(1)(C)) is amended to read as follows:

“(C) OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CLEAN ENERGY EXPORTS.—The President of

the Agency shall establish an office whose functions shall be to—

“(i) advise the Board of Directions on ways of promoting the export of goods and services to be used in the development, production, and distribution of energy efficiency and clean energy resources;

“(ii) disseminate information concerning export opportunities and the availability of Agency support for such activities; and

“(iii) act as a liaison between the Agency and the Department of Commerce and other appropriate departments and agencies of the Federal Government.”.

(b) AFFORDABLE ENERGY.—Section 11(a) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 635i-5(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3) and inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) AFFORDABILITY OF ENERGY CONSIDERATION.—The Agency shall establish procedures to consider, concurrently with compliance with the procedures established under paragraph (1), potential increases to energy prices resulting from the export of any good or service supported by the Agency.”; and

(2) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “this subsection”;

(B) by inserting “or energy affordability” after “environmental” the 1st place it appears; and

(C) by inserting “and energy affordability” after “environmental” the 2nd place it appears.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Section 11(c) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 635i-5(c)) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) INCLUSION IN ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Agency shall include in its annual report to Congress under section 8 a report on the following:

“(1) Whether the provision by the Agency of financing for the goods and services described in section 2(b)(1)(C)(i) have increased energy affordability in the countries to which the goods and services have been exported.

“(2) An estimate of any reductions in emissions (including emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, greenhouse gases, particulates, and lead) resulting from the provision by the Agency of financing for the goods and services referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection.”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 695, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, again, I am offering this amendment on behalf of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

This amendment requires the Export-Import Bank to take into consideration energy affordability, in addition to environmental impact, before approving transactions. It further requires the Export-Import Bank to report on how transactions impact the cost of energy in the importing country and the estimated emissions reductions caused by Bank-financed exports.

Clean energy sources from nonrenewable sources, such as hydrogen, nuclear, and natural gas, are just as important to lowering emissions as renewable energy. The bill, as written, only focuses on renewable energy sources, but we should also promote nonrenewable clean energy sources such as nuclear, hydrogen, and natural gas.

If emissions reductions are the goal, Federal policies must focus on total performance and not favor one technology over the other. In the developing world, affordable, clean energy will give people more opportunity for a better life when expensive alternatives are unaffordable.

I urge passage of this amendment to ensure that energy affordability, energy efficiency, and clean energy remain an important component of our export policy.

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

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I seek to claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise to strongly oppose the Burgess amendment and in support of the underlying bill, the United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019.

The science is really clear. The climate crisis is here, and we are already seeing its devastating impact. Despite the best efforts of the current administration to the contrary, the United States must be a global leader in acting to combat the climate crisis.

Leading in climate action will not only protect our future from the worst impacts of climate change but will make our Nation more competitive and enable U.S. companies and workers to own the clean energy technologies and jobs of tomorrow.

I was proud to work with all of my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee to introduce an amendment in markup that added strong environmental protections to this reauthorization.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 4863 provides important reforms to the Ex-Im Bank to ensure it is able to support America's exporters in the 21st century. Let me describe precisely what this amendment would eliminate.

It would eliminate a new office focused on supporting renewable energy-related exports so that we can make these products here in the United States and sell them around the world.

It would eliminate a new target that 5 percent of Ex-Im's financing goes to support renewable energy-related exports.

It would eliminate a requirement that the Ex-Im Bank consult with local communities to ensure that U.S.-financed projects are not causing harm.

It would eliminate a direction from Congress that the Ex-Im Bank establish an accountability mechanism to provide persons who may have been negatively affected by an Ex-Im project to find resolution.

And it would eliminate required disclosures of the estimated CO₂ emissions expected to be produced from Ex-Im supported projects.

Mr. Chairman, these provisions were carefully crafted by the committee to protect the environment and support American workers. However, all of

those environmental reforms would be eliminated by the Burgess amendment, harming our efforts to compete with China on new environmental technologies and undermining Ex-Im's efforts to responsibly finance projects around the world.

Why? Because of this theory about economics. Let me be very clear. Coal is dying right now for the same reason that clean energy is rising, because of economics.

Does it cost money to build new projects? You bet it does. Where I come from, that is called an investment, especially when you replace a 1950s technology with a high marginal operating cost with a new, modern technology that doesn't cost anything to operate.

Claiming economics in defense of blocking clean energy is foolish. It is irresponsible. It ain't leadership. It is cowardice. It is irresponsible.

This is the time we have to stand up and lead, and I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, with all due respect to my colleague, I don't think he understands my amendment.

Nuclear energy has zero emissions. Hydrogen has zero emissions. Natural gas has much-reduced emissions compared to coal.

The advantage of nuclear energy is it is always on. Renewable is not always on.

This is a chance to give the importing companies a chance to have clean energy, affordable energy, and to be able to advance their economies using U.S. know-how and technology, which leads in several of these areas.

I urge a "yea" vote for my amendment because it is the right thing to do if we really care about emissions reduction, affordability around the world, and being able to export the United States' leading technology and clean energy.

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

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS), the chairwoman of the committee.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I strongly oppose this amendment. This amendment undermines a carefully crafted compromise on environmental reforms, both in the underlying bill and developed by my good friend from Illinois.

It undermines U.S. leadership on growing more jobs in renewable energy, eliminates accountability at Ex-Im, and ends efforts to have Ex-Im consult with local communities on projects it supports.

I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, has the gentleman from Texas closed?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has relinquished his time.

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, the amendment under consideration has nothing to do with moving the Ex-Im forward. Instead, it eliminates needed reforms in the underlying bill to modernize the Bank and bring it into the 21st century. It takes this bill back toward the past rather than looking toward the future.

I urge all my colleagues to vote "no" on this misguided amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. MCADAMS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 116-289.

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 21, line 9, strike "or".

Page 21, after line 9, insert the following:

"(C) sanctions relating to the illegal trafficking of synthetic opioids, including any sanctions imposed pursuant to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act; or".

Page 21, line 10, strike "(C)" and insert "(D)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 695, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MCADAMS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Chair, my amendment builds on the work of the underlying bill, which has strong and smart prohibitions on financing to bad actors known to the U.S. Government, such as those violating U.S. laws related to trade and economic sanctions.

Specifically, my amendment ensures that the Export-Import Bank, renamed as the U.S. Export Finance Agency under the bill, prohibits any transaction to people involved in sanctionable activities related to the illegal trafficking of synthetic opioids, including any sanctions imposed pursuant to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act.

We know synthetic opioid trafficking is a problem, specifically coming from China, where they are the leading producer of fentanyl. We have taken bipartisan action in this Congress to put more pressure on China to stop opioid trafficking, which is fueling so many deaths and so much tragedy across our communities.

Earlier this year, we passed legislation introduced by my colleague from New York (Mr. ROSE), who is a cosponsor of this amendment, the Fentanyl Sanctions Act. That act would apply

pressure to the Chinese Government to honor their commitment to make all fentanyl illegal and to provide the United States with more tools and resources to go after illicit traffickers in China, Mexico, and other countries.

This amendment builds on that effort by ensuring those bad actors are not seeing the benefit of our export finance agency and that U.S. companies are not engaged in business with criminal enterprises abroad.

Mr. Chair, this is a commonsense amendment. We should not be doing business with bad actors, especially those that are poisoning our communities with synthetic opioids.

I urge adoption of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition, but I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Chair, first, let me say Republicans unanimously voted to support the Waters-McHenry bipartisan deal to strengthen the Export-Import Bank and combat Chinese aggression, but we will not support this partisan bill.

This is yet another do-nothing amendment offered by the Democrats so they can send out a press release claiming they care about national security or, in this case, the opioid crisis. In fact, it is a poison pill meant to counter an amendment that will be offered shortly.

“Amend and pretend” is going to be a running theme during this debate. Like another measure offered today by Mrs. TORRES, Mr. MCADAMS’ amendment would simply require Ex-Im users to self-certify that they are not breaking the law by violating opioid trafficking sanctions. This way, Democrats can claim that they don’t like opioids. See how it works? They push this bill. It means nothing. Criminals, of course, are going to say: No. Who, me? I wouldn’t violate the law.

The real opioid measure that we have before us today is being offered by me shortly. Mr. MCADAMS’ amendment would actually prevent Ex-Im assistance from going to foreign governments that significantly contribute to opioid trafficking if those governments fail to cooperate with U.S. antinarcotics efforts. That is a serious amendment. It prevents taxpayer-backed financing from going to governments that help to poison taxpayers. It is logical.

Unfortunately, my opioid trafficking amendment was so logical that Democrats opposed it in committee and have pledged to oppose it here on the floor shortly.

Again, this McAdams amendment is about a press release for Democrats, so amend and pretend it is today with the McAdams amendment.

□ 1600

I want to be clear that I do not oppose the amendment, but I am opposed

and disappointed that my Democratic colleagues have offered another amendment that is another stunt provision for this dead-end bill.

We had a bipartisan path forward, and Democrats are wasting floor time with this bill that will never be enacted to law.

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

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the chair of the House Financial Services Committee.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for offering this important amendment.

This amendment builds on the important work of the gentleman from New York on combating illegal opioids in this country. It ensures that those who are sanctioned because of their involvement in the illegal trade of opioids do not get access to Ex-Im assistance, including any sanctions imposed pursuant to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act.

I strongly support the gentleman’s amendment to strengthen this bill with respect to preventing the illegal trafficking of synthetic opioids and urge all my colleagues to do so.

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, as we will see shortly, to highlight the fact that this isn’t about getting the provision into law, I am confident a recorded vote will be requested because it is all theater. It is not meant to change the law in a substantive way; it is meant to provide cover.

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

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, the bill before us is a strong measure to support economic development and to support job creation throughout our country. The legislation improves the agency’s ability to support exports, and it supports small businesses in my home State of Utah. It is supported by businesses and labor, and it does this all at no expense to the taxpayer.

Miles Hansen, who is the president and CEO of the World Trade Center Utah, said that the Export-Import Bank plays an important role in supporting Utah’s economic growth and Utah’s companies’ ability to compete with countries such as China, Brazil, the U.K., and Germany: “Direct access to the Export Finance Agency’s finance and risk management programs provide Utah’s small businesses with critical tools for international growth.”

I agree with Mr. Hansen, and I am a strong supporter of the agency and the underlying bill, which strengthens and reauthorizes Ex-Im for 10 years.

My amendment is a commonsense addition to the bill to ensure that we are not doing business with opioid traffickers overseas. I urge adoption of the amendment, and I urge a “yes” vote on final passage.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MCADAMS).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. DAVIDSON OF OHIO

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 116-289.

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 33, after line 22, insert the following:
SEC. ____ PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENT THAT FAILS TO COOPERATE ON PREVENTING ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS.

Section 2 of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635), as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(n) PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENT THAT FAILS TO COOPERATE ON PREVENTING ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Agency may not authorize the provision of financial assistance for a lender, obligor, or end user that—

“(A) is a covered government; and

“(B) in the determination of the President of the United States, does not closely cooperate with the United States to prevent opioid trafficking.

“(2) WAIVER AUTHORITIES.—

“(A) PRESIDENT OF THE AGENCY.—The President of the Agency may waive paragraph (1) on reporting to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate that the financial assistance—

“(i) would enable exports directly by United States small business concerns; or

“(ii) is required for the export of humanitarian goods or services.

“(B) PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.—The President of the United States may waive paragraph (1) for not more than 1 year at a time on reporting to the committees specified in subparagraph (A) that the waiver is essential to the national interest of the United States, with a detailed explanation of the reasons therefor.

“(3) CLOSE COOPERATION.—For purposes of this subsection, a government shall be considered to be closely cooperating with the United States to prevent opioid trafficking if the government is doing 2 or more of the following:

“(A) Implementing substantial improvements in regulations involving the chemical and pharmaceutical production and export of illicit opioids.

“(B) Implementing substantial improvements in judicial regulations to combat transnational criminal organizations that traffic opioids.

“(C) Increasing efforts to prosecute foreign opioid traffickers.

“(D) Increasing intelligence sharing and law enforcement cooperation with the

United States with respect to opioid trafficking.

“(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) COVERED GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘covered government’ means—

“(i) the state and the government of China, the state and the government of Mexico, and the state and the government of any other country that, in the determination of the President of the United States, is a significant contributor to opioid trafficking, as well as any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of any of the foregoing;

“(ii) any entity owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by any of the foregoing, including any corporation, partnership, association, or other entity in which any of the foregoing owns a 50 percent or greater interest or a controlling interest, and any entity which is otherwise controlled by any of the foregoing;

“(iii) any person that is or has been acting or purporting to act, directly or indirectly, for or on behalf of any of the foregoing; and

“(iv) any other person which the Secretary of the Treasury determines is included in any of the foregoing.

“(B) OPIOID TRAFFICKING.—The term ‘opioid trafficking’ means any illicit activity—

“(i) to produce, manufacture, distribute, sell, or knowingly finance or transport—

“(I) synthetic opioids, including controlled substances that are synthetic opioids and listed chemicals that are synthetic opioids; or

“(II) active pharmaceutical ingredients or chemicals that are used in the production of controlled substances that are synthetic opioids;

“(ii) to attempt to carry out an activity described in paragraph (1); or

“(iii) to assist, abet, conspire, or collude with other persons to carry out such an activity.

“(5) REPORT REQUIRED.—If the Agency authorizes financial assistance for a lender, obligor, or end user that is a covered government and the authorization is not made pursuant to waiver authorities provide in paragraph (2), the President of the United States shall certify to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate that the covered government is closely cooperating with the United States, within the meaning of paragraph (3), with a description of the cooperation.”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 695, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to start off by saying that I wholeheartedly support reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. It is an important tool to help ensure American companies can stay competitive in foreign markets and can be used as an important national security tool in countering countries such as China.

Unfortunately, there are several commonsense reforms that I think could dramatically improve the agency but which are not being considered under this bill, which is why I am offering my amendment.

My amendment is modeled after the bipartisan Fentanyl Sanctions Act, in-

troduced in the House by MAX ROSE and cosponsored by our colleague from Arkansas, FRENCH HILL. In the Senate, the Senate minority leader, Democrat CHUCK SCHUMER, is the lead sponsor, joined by Republican Senator PAT TOOMEY and others.

Under the House and Senate fentanyl bills, the President could waive sanctions against foreign state-owned banks if a foreign government is closely cooperating with our efforts to prevent opioid trafficking.

This amendment's approach is similar. It simply says that the United States will oppose Ex-Im Bank assistance to a government and the entities it controls if the President determines that the government isn't cooperating with us to stop the flood of opioids into our country. China and Mexico, in particular, have been identified by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency as primary producers of these opioids.

This amendment is not targeting those who need assistance from the United States most; in fact, my amendment would provide a waiver where exports are needed to the government in question for the export of humanitarian goods or services. We want to help those who need assistance, but we must be doing all that we can do to confront the opioid epidemic that is wreaking havoc in the United States.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, opioids are the main driver of opioid deaths in America, with deaths linked to synthetic opioids, especially fentanyl, rising exponentially. Areas in southwest Ohio, where I represent, have some of the highest per capita opioid overdose deaths in the Nation.

And this is an epidemic impacting all our Nation's communities. In 2017 alone, 28,000 deaths in the United States involved synthetic opioids, and deaths have risen all across demographic groups in nearly half of U.S. States.

In short, this is a problem that touches all of us, and close cooperation with countries receiving Ex-Im assistance from the United States is essential.

If we care about stopping this epidemic, my amendment is a small but important step that we should all be able to agree on. I urge my colleagues to support its adoption.

I want to clarify that countries that have problems, like China or Mexico, don't need to completely eliminate their problem; what they do need to do is cooperate with the United States, and when they do, the Export-Import Bank can continue to function well where it was designed to function well.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. RUIZ). The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, this amendment demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding about what Ex-Im does and whom it benefits.

The beneficiaries of Ex-Im's assistance are U.S. exporters and the American workers they employ. It is in America's interest to have a fully functioning Ex-Im because it allows U.S. companies to compete in the global markets.

Mr. DAVIDSON's amendment would effectively ban using the Ex-Im Bank in China or Mexico to try to put pressure on Governments of Mexico and China to cooperate with the U.S. to stop the trafficking of synthetic opioids.

No one wants to support the trafficking of opioids, but Ex-Im is precisely the wrong agency to use to achieve foreign policy outcomes. If Mexico or China do not cooperate, those countries will not be harmed by this amendment; American companies and workers will be. The Mexican or Chinese Governments will simply buy products from another country that is more than willing to sell them exports.

If the goal is to fight the opioid crisis, we need to support programs like Ex-Im that are going to be creating good, well-paying jobs in every district all over the country and support small businesses that are the drivers of community investment and development.

And if we really want to put pressure on foreign governments to cooperate with the U.S. in preventing the trafficking of opioids, then we need to bolster our sanctions program, which can deny the bad actor to the largest economy in the world.

I understand Mr. DAVIDSON's strongly held desire to do something to address this opioid epidemic and to protect Ex-Im from being improperly accessed by criminal networks trafficking in synthetic opioids. That is why I strongly support Mr. MCADAMS' and Mr. ROSE's amendment to directly cut off Ex-Im financing from those criminal entities that violate sanctions dealing with illegal opioids, including violations of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act. Mr. ROSE also has legislation pending that would further broaden those who are sanctioned under U.S. law for illegal opioids.

Mr. DAVIDSON's concerns are understandable, but in practice, this amendment would limit the ability of Ex-Im to support U.S. jobs and small businesses, further exacerbating the conditions that have contributed to this opioid epidemic.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I would like to make the point that this amendment that I have offered has substance because it expects something for America's assistance.

At least some of my colleagues are consistent: They don't want the President of the United States, whoever

that is, to expect anything from a foreign power in exchange for American participation. They want nothing in return for our dollars, no condition on their behavior.

In fact, rather than trusting the United States of America to determine whether a country is cooperating with us on our efforts to stop synthetic opioids, they want to trust the people who may very well be using the system to create that market for their own benefit, self-certification.

I am sure the Sinaloa Cartel would certify that they don't participate in trafficking drugs, as well.

That is what the McAdams approach does. That is the version that our chairwoman has, unfortunately, chosen to support, and I believe it is the wrong path.

I encourage people to support this amendment if they are serious about trying to stop opioids and if they are serious about using the foreign policy tools, including trade, that the United States has to offer.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK)

Mr. HECK. Mr. Chairman, I understand the temptation to dabble in foreign affairs when it comes to Ex-Im reauthorization. We have seen a lot of that here today. But there is a reason why we have separate committees in the House: so that Members can develop expertise and apply that expertise. Financial services, simply put, is not the main repository of that kind of expertise, and it shows in this approach.

But let me be clear: No one here wants to support the trafficking of synthetic opioids, of course not. There is a right way and a wrong way to do it. This is the wrong way to do it.

And, in fact, if my friend, the author of this amendment, and I do consider him a friend—if you want to ensure that those who are sanctioned for dealing illegal opioids cannot use this Bank, vote in support; indeed, vote in support of the McAdams amendment. It is not theater. It is not cover. It is a strong amendment that is targeted and substantive and, in fact, is going to get at the very underlying problem without costing American jobs and without hurting American businesses.

So I urge you to join the Foreign Affairs Committee or support the efforts of the McAdams amendment.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, this misguided amendment is going to hurt American workers and American businesspersons. This is not the way to get at the issue the gentleman from Ohio is concerned about. He should be supporting the McAdams-Rose amendment if he wants to do that.

I urge all my colleagues to vote against this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. TLAIB

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 116-289.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 16, after line 8, insert the following:

(2) REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED REGIONS.—Section 8 of such Act (12 U.S.C. 635g), as amended by sections 6(b) and 7(b) of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(n) REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED REGIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Agency shall include in its annual report to Congress under subsection (a) a report on the steps taken by the Agency in the period covered by the report to increase—

“(A) awareness of the Agency and its services in economically disadvantaged regions; and

“(B) the provision of Agency support to export businesses in economically disadvantaged regions.

“(2) DEFINITION.—In paragraph (1), the term ‘economically disadvantaged region’ means a county or equivalent division of local government of a State in which, according to the most recently available data from the Bureau of the Census, 20 percent or more of the residents have an annual income that is at or below the poverty level.”.

Page 16, line 9, strike “(2)” and insert “(3)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 695, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would require that Ex-Im provide an annual report to the United States Congress on the agency's activity in economically disadvantaged areas and efforts that they are taking to support those areas.

Government must be about people first, so when we talk about economic opportunity, Mr. Chair, we must ensure that we are using every tool possible to uplift communities that are struggling like my district.

□ 1615

After the Great Recession of 2008, the country experienced an economic recovery from 2011 to 2015, but already vulnerable communities missed out on most of that growth and opportunity. There is no question that some communities suffer more and take longer to

recover, and sometimes it takes decades longer, but it shouldn't be this way.

There is evidence that adequate reporting and proper investment may be able to speed that pace of recovery for these kinds of communities.

According to the Economic Innovation Group, 52.3 million people, or 17 percent of the American population, experienced an average 6 percent drop in the number of adults working and a 6.3 percent average drop in the number of business establishments.

Specifically, Mr. Chair, workers and their families living in especially hard-hit communities face challenges such as unemployment that often arises from mass layoffs associated with declines in specific industries and businesses.

For communities like mine, 13 districts strong, the impact on employment and income can be extremely persistent.

Currently, Detroit is one of the five cities with the greatest number of people in distressed ZIP codes and it ranks number ten as the most distressed city in the United States of the country's 100 largest cities. Wayne County, Michigan, which I represent, ranks second in the Nation for inequality with job creation.

Addressing the economic and social costs associated with persistent localized economic distresses requires adequate reporting, as it is essential to addressing the causes and the costs of long-term economic distress for workers, their families, and the communities.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment to help ensure that we have the tools to uplift every community across the country like mine.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, let me say first that Republicans unanimously voted to support the Waters-McHenry bipartisan deal to strengthen the Bank and combat Chinese aggression, but we are not going to support this partisan bill here on the floor today.

This amendment is a fine one. This amendment, as with some other amendments that the Democrats are offering today that the Rules Committee made in order—as I understand it, they made in order 19 Democrat amendments and two Republican amendments, so that is quite a ratio, but I think there is a point where additional reporting requirements, as I said earlier, and other mandates can burden an agency to the point of diminishing returns.

If you want the Export-Import Bank to be effective, it is often better to advocate for initiatives within the Bank,

like the Waters-McHenry bill, and make the Bank focus on priorities.

This is one area, with opportunity zones, that we support in a bipartisan way to get investment in disadvantaged communities across the country. Those opportunity zones are a part of now tax law.

That standalone bill was a bipartisan one last Congress and the Congress before that had great consensus. So what the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) is advocating here matches up quite nicely with that to ensure that the Bank is focused on those same areas that have been historically disadvantaged or economically left behind.

Some of those areas are in my district, some are in her district, but they are throughout the country.

So, as I said, I do not oppose the amendment, I support the amendment, and I think it is important for the Bank to focus on important communities across the country, but especially those that are economically disadvantaged.

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Chair, I think it is really important, and I am glad the ranking member did mention the opportunity zones. One of the key controversies around opportunity zones right now is that out of the hundreds of opportunity zone census tracts that were chosen, five did not qualify under the poverty guidelines requirements for opportunity zones.

Reporting like this creates transparency and accountability, Mr. Chair, and that is why it is critically important that we don't make the mistake again to support these kinds of tax breaks and loans and opportunities through the Federal Government without any accountability and follow-through with the United States Congress annually. That is why it is critically important.

We are talking about five communities that should not have gotten the opportunity zone designation, including two in the city of Detroit that were promoted by billionaire Dan Gilbert. It should never have been designated. They didn't qualify, Mr. Chair.

That is why it is important that we have these kinds of amendments and requirements that the United States Congress can then proceed to create transparency.

I fully support, obviously, opportunities for development in communities that deserve it, especially representing the third poorest congressional district in the country. However, we cannot allow those political donors, like the billionaire Dan Gilbert, to pick and choose where those opportunity zones are designated.

However, we are talking about Ex-Im today, and let's do this right by supporting this kind of annual reporting to make sure that we are helping economically disadvantaged communities like ours to be able to, again, have accountability for the American people.

Again, I rise in support, as I hope my colleagues support me in rising in support of this amendment, again, to make sure that we do our due diligence as Members of Congress in making sure there are no other kind of scandalous controversies that we see now with the opportunity zones in our country.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would say, Mr. Chair, to my colleague from Michigan, under the opportunity zones provision of the tax bill we passed last year, governors designate those census tracts. So if the gentlewoman has a problem with the census tracts designated in Michigan, that is a problem with the Governor of Michigan, not the underlying important tax law.

Mr. Chair, I would also commend my colleague, this is her first term in Congress, two Congresses ago this was a bipartisan bill, it had wide bipartisan support, and we had a similar number of Republicans and Democrats support the opportunity zone legislation. And I think it is really important, powerful legislation, important law now that is going to have a strong impact on those economically disadvantaged communities, many in my district and those across the country. I think it is going to have a very positive effect over the long-term.

Mr. Chair, I would say again, I support this amendment, will not oppose, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Chair, again, I completely agree that that is the process. However, it is our responsibility, since we are the ones who created the bipartisan support of opportunity zones. However, it doesn't make it exempt from corruption, Mr. Chair, and that is exactly what is happening.

So then-Governor Snyder may have given his friend an advantage by not complying with the opportunity zone requirement that it be a poverty-stricken census tract, that it is within those guidelines. That did not happen.

So it is our due diligence, because we allowed the pathway for opportunity zones, to have accountability. And this amendment basically allows us to check in, Mr. Chair, and make sure that they are following those guidelines, and that is exactly what didn't happen with the opportunity zones. Just because they were bipartisan does not mean they were exempt from corruption, it is exempt from accountability.

Mr. Chair, I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will join me in having transparency and accountability. It is our responsibility. They are our tax dollars. They are our programs that we have to, again, hold accountable for those that take advantage by using the system and tainting the process.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. CASE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 116-289.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, line 8, after the 1st close parenthesis, insert “, which definition is deemed, for purposes of this subparagraph, to include American Indians, Native Hawaiians (as defined in section 103 of the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2902)), and Alaska Natives (defined as a member of any Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) that is based in the State of Alaska)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 695, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to confirm that Native Hawaiians and Alaska Natives are included for the purposes and considerations of the U.S. Export Finance Agency's new Office of Minority and Women Inclusion.

I am very proud to be joined in offering this amendment by my friend and colleague, the dean of this House, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

In reauthorizing the Ex-Im Bank of the United States, H.R. 4863 would create an Office of Minority and Women Inclusion for the new U.S. Export Finance Agency. This office would be responsible for engaging with minority-owned and women-owned businesses in the program, contracts and activities of the agency. This includes outreach to those businesses to ensure their awareness of the export assistance provided by the agency.

The laudable policy goal of this office is to increase access to export assistance and foster overall business for underrepresented communities.

However, H.R. 4863 currently uses references to section 1204(c) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, which defines “minority” as “any Black American, Native American, Hispanic American, or Asian American.”

Because of the unique statuses that Native Hawaiians and Alaska Natives have and the complexities of Federal law, the term “Native American” is not always understood to include Native Hawaiians and Alaska Natives.

My amendment is a simple clarification that for the purposes of the agency and its Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, those groups are included, as they are for many other comparable Federal programs.

Adopting this amendment ensures that Native Hawaiian-owned and Alaska Native-owned businesses will be

part of the agency's outreach efforts and have greater opportunity to benefit from the agency's export assistance.

In my home State of Hawaii, Native Hawaiian-owned businesses are an essential part of our economy, but this is also true in countless other communities throughout our country.

According to the 2012 Survey of Business Owners, there are almost 26,000 Native Hawaiian-owned businesses in the United States, employing over 20,000 people.

Improving outreach to Native Hawaiian-owned businesses by the agency provides these businesses the chance to grow and expand opportunities for the families and communities they support, not just in Hawaii, but across the country.

Native Hawaiian-owned businesses contribute to the economies of every single State and the District of Columbia. Nearly half of those businesses operate outside of Hawaii.

These statistics demonstrate the involvement of Native Hawaiian businesses in our business communities, but they also do not adequately give voice to the extent to which their businesses contribute to the overall empowerment of Native Hawaiian communities, nor do such numbers tell the story of the countless lives that have been improved and the communities strengthened as a result of their innovation and entrepreneurship.

Everything that I have said here today applies equally to Alaska Natives, as I am sure Mr. YOUNG would be quick to point out.

This amendment will ensure that the reauthorized agency will help Native Hawaiian-owned and Alaska Native-owned businesses pursue new business opportunities, support American jobs across the country, and sustain and enrich the communities they support, as will be the case for other minority- and women-owned businesses.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, let me say first, Republicans unanimously voted for the Waters-McHenry bipartisan deal to strengthen the Bank and combat Chinese aggression, but we are not going to support this partisan bill.

I would note that the amendment offered here clarifies the definition of minorities under the section of the bill that was a priority for the chair of our committee, Chairwoman WATERS, which is the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, which is referred to as OMWI.

I would just note that in this bill, the Democrats have prioritized OMWIs

over the global economic and national security threats posed by China and even Russia.

OMWIs are important. That is fine. We included that in the bipartisan bill, and that was part of the tradeoff of a bipartisan bill, including something that was a priority for Chairwoman WATERS, but also in that agreement were provisions that were tough on China. I thought it was a fair trade in order to get a bipartisan bill.

OMWIs and being tough on China are not mutually exclusive ideas, but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle felt that they needed to prioritize, and so they chose OMWIs as opposed to a rational stance against Chinese aggression or even Russian actions.

To the extent that Mr. CASE's amendment clarifies language that will have no impact and will not be enacted anyway, I don't oppose it.

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

□ 1630

Mr. CASE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate very much that, in the middle of the remarks of my colleague, I certainly heard and detected support for this amendment.

I appreciate my colleague in the minority recognizing the importance of minority- and women-owned businesses throughout our country and their contributions to our export community.

This is certainly consistent with my colleagues' earlier comments that they fully support the provisions of this bill that do, in fact, recognize that disadvantaged communities throughout our country often need extra assistance. As I said earlier, this is consistent very much with other Federal programs.

I would certainly, to the gentleman's comments about China, Russia, and other countries, emphasize that, in this particular area, the more American businesses that can participate in export-related activities throughout the world, the better we will all be in this country with respect to our relations with these other countries.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I would say to my colleague, yes, it is important that we have robust global trade. Ex-Im, at its height, at its strongest year, supported just shy of 2 percent of American exports.

I don't want to diminish a little less than 2 percent, but most export is done through the private sector without a government program like Ex-Im.

I would also say that, as a matter of our national interest, we shouldn't be subsidizing Chinese foreign policy with One Belt, One Road. We shouldn't be subsidizing their island-building in the Pacific. We shouldn't be subsidizing their actions in Hong Kong. That is what we negotiated with the Waters-McHenry bipartisan bill.

I am disappointed that we are not dealing with that policy. Instead, the majority decided to go the partisan route, which the Republican majority leader of the Senate has already said is dead on arrival. The President said he is going to veto this bill.

We could have gone a bipartisan route with a bipartisan outcome, but they chose a different route.

Look, the majority is the majority. They have the votes to go do what they want to do. But that means I don't need to vote for bad policy just to get along. That is why I tried to negotiate a good bill, and that is why we had a good bill.

Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. ROUDA). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. SPEIER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 116-289.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 22, line 7, after "efficiency" insert "(including battery electric vehicles, batteries for electric vehicles, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure)".

Page 22, line 12, after "energy efficiency" insert "(including battery electric vehicles, batteries for electric vehicles, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure)".

Page 27, line 17, after "energy efficiency" insert "(including battery electric vehicles, batteries for electric vehicles, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure)".

Page 27, line 21, after "energy efficiency" insert "(including battery electric vehicles, batteries for electric vehicles, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 695, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Chairman, I commend the chairwoman of the Financial Services Committee and the committee's efforts to support exports in renewable energy and energy-efficiency technology.

My amendment makes clear that when it comes to supporting domestic businesses exporting green energy technology, electric vehicles need to be near the top of that list. It quite simply states that "energy efficiency" includes electric vehicles as well as the batteries and the charging infrastructure needed to make them move.

Electric vehicles are good for the environment; they are good for the economy; and they are good for our national security. Zero-emission electric vehicles will help combat the climate crisis. Since transportation accounts

for 15 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, electric vehicles are critical for the future of clean energy.

Electric vehicles also present a huge opportunity for the U.S. economy. We now know that 4 million jobs in the auto industry are reliant on us continuing to build new innovation. We will lose hundreds of thousands of jobs if we don't recognize the importance of building more electric vehicles. The global market will be a strong growth sector, and letting the rest of the world beat us out will cost us mightily in economic prosperity and domestic manufacturing.

Though the United States was home to the first highway-ready all-electric car, the Tesla Roadster, Chinese competitors have outpaced us and are poised to dominate the market. China sells half of all electric vehicles in the world, while the United States sells a mere 10 percent.

The figures for domestic battery production are even more stark. China controls a whopping 75 percent of global battery capacity, 15 times more than our 5 percent. Because batteries will be the backbone of the 21st century economy, they are essential to our national security.

For a future of clean energy and a thriving automotive industry, I ask you to support this amendment. And I am proud to be soon introducing comprehensive legislation to incentivize electric vehicle use and production and stimulate American jobs.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank Congresswoman SPEIER for her leadership on climate issues in general and specifically on electric vehicles.

Mr. Chairman, we are suffering the climate crisis right now. In my home State of Michigan, climate change is changing our environment impacting the Great Lakes: record lake levels, algal blooms, and invasive species like Asian carp.

As Members of Congress, we have a duty to act on commonsense policies that support climate solutions, and this amendment is a good example of that.

I support this amendment because it will make explicit the Export-Import Bank's role in supporting clean energy in our domestic exports, especially electric vehicles, their components, and vehicle charging infrastructure.

As Congresswoman SPEIER said, China makes more electric vehicles than anybody else in the world. That doesn't have to be the case. We have to invest in policy that supports electric vehicles so that the U.S. can lead the future in transportation. This amendment would help to do that.

I come from Flint, Michigan, a community with a great auto history. But I have seen automotive jobs sent overseas over the years, and the livelihood of families I represent go right along with those jobs, because we have failed

to see the future. We have failed to see around the corner. We have failed to invest in the future and claim that future for ourselves.

This amendment will ensure one additional piece that makes sure that we have a claim on the future and that we can be the leader in electric vehicles. It is the right thing to do. I support the amendment, and I support the underlying legislation.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chairman, let me say first that Republicans unanimously voted in the Financial Services Committee to support the bipartisan bill that Chairwoman WATERS and I negotiated to strengthen the Bank and combat Chinese aggression, but we are not going to support this partisan bill on the floor today.

It does seem strange that the sponsor needs to spell out that energy storage, which already appears in the text, refers to batteries. I think it is a good thing, a fine thing, but energy storage is the broader terminology that we had discussed, in terms of the negotiations between Chairwoman WATERS and I.

We both share, as I do with the amendment sponsor, the need for more options in the marketplace, including better batteries for cars and for mobility purposes, for sure. So I would commend the sponsor's interest in electric vehicles and related infrastructure. I think it is a good thing. I think we have nice bipartisan support, actually growing support among Republicans, for some sensible policies that would have a positive impact on our environment and, at the same time, have more options in the marketplace for consumers so they can choose how they seek to power their homes, their cars, and their lives.

What Chairwoman WATERS and I negotiated is in H.R. 3407. That bill pushed Ex-Im to devote no less than 20 percent of its authority to technologies of tomorrow. This was a priority of mine, and that was in that bill that is not in the bill before us today. That is a huge missed opportunity. That included energy storage and energy-efficient technologies.

Those provisions, I think, would have had a really strong impact. I am saddened that Chairwoman WATERS rejected that, in terms of the bill that she filed and brought before us today.

The energy sources and technologies of tomorrow are going to have the most powerful impact on reducing carbon emissions, making sure that the globe is safe and sustainable for generations to come. It is those technological breakthroughs that we should prioritize, not just for carbon reduction, but for powering our economy.

I think there is opportunity for us to legislate in a bipartisan way. I commend Ms. SPEIER's amendment. Unfortunately, I don't think this bill is going to become law, so I don't think it is going to have the impact that we need. But I think, on separate legislation, I would like to work with the sponsor of this amendment on those technological breakthroughs that we have to have for our environment, for my children and the children and grandchildren of current Americans so they can have a safe and sustainable environment and have jobs at the same time. It is the technological breakthroughs that are going to take us there that I am so passionate about and that are so impactful.

Mr. Chairman, I commend the amendment sponsor, and I support its adoption.

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Chairman, I like the fact that we are speaking the same language. It is wonderful to have that opportunity. I look forward to working with the gentleman on the other side of the aisle on the legislation that I am about to introduce. We might see some bipartisan work here.

This is about green jobs. That is what this amendment is all about. We have to secure the jobs for the rest of this century in the auto industry, and we are not going to do it unless we move into electric vehicles.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Ms. SPEIER). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. RUIZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 116-289.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 33, after line 22, insert the following:
SEC. ____ AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES EXPORT FINANCE AGENCY TO USE 3 PERCENT OF ITS PROFITS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

Section 3 of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635a), as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(p) AUTHORITY TO USE PORTION OF AGENCY SURPLUS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

“(1) AUTHORITY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), in addition to any other amounts that the Agency may use to cover administrative expenses of the Agency, the Agency may use not more than 3 percent of the surplus (as defined in subsection (j)(2), without regard to subparagraph (B)(ii) of such subsection) of the Agency, for each fiscal year in the 5-year period beginning with the date of the enactment of this paragraph, to cover administrative expenses of the Agency.

“(B) USE FOR REGIONAL OFFICES.—Of the amount of the surplus which may be used as

provided in subparagraph (A), the Agency shall use at least $\frac{1}{3}$ to expand or establish regional offices of the Agency.

“(2) SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—The authority provided by paragraph (1) may be exercised only to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriations Acts.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 695, the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, I am offering my bill, the Increasing American Jobs and Exports Act, as an amendment to H.R. 4863.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment is simple. It will allow the Export-Import Bank to use up to 3 percent of its surplus profits per year for 5 years to open new regional offices. These additional offices will grow small businesses by assisting with their capital needs to increase their exporting capacity and job growth ability.

This bill will grow American jobs, increase exports of American goods, and strengthen our local and regional economies around the country.

The Export-Import Bank is important for our Nation. Over the last 10 years, it has supported more than 1.5 million jobs at absolutely no cost to the American taxpayer. The Bank has helped grow American jobs at no cost. It has even returned more than \$3.4 billion to the United States Treasury. The Export-Import Bank helps grow American jobs, grow small businesses, and grow our economy.

Trade and exports are important to my district and, specifically, to the Coachella Valley in the Inland Empire. The Inland Empire is one of the fastest growing economic regions in the United States and is a hub for international trade. The Riverside-San Bernardino region is 38th nationally in total export value and sixth in California in total export value. Let me remind everybody, California has the fifth-largest economy in the world.

□ 1645

The Riverside-San Bernardino Counties region is home to 6,200 exporters, as well as \$10 billion worth of exported products.

More specifically, exports are important to my district; and within Coachella Valley agriculture, there are \$500 million worth of fruits, nuts, vegetables, and melons, and all are top California exports. They are exported to more than 50 countries.

I want this success repeated across my district and the entire Nation. The problem, however, is that the closest Export-Import regional finance office is more than a 2-hour drive away, in San Diego. That office serves businesses in four California counties and even three States: Montana, Wyoming, and Arizona.

Small business owners who have the product, the vision, and the ability to

expand their businesses deserve to have local and regional access to export financing services.

The potential for more American jobs and more American exports is there. We just have to unlock it. Regional finance offices help small businesses and small farms succeed where private capital cannot.

Most of the farm businesses in my district are small. Seventy-five percent are fewer than 50 acres in size. Last year, the Export-Import Bank financed \$1.1 billion worth of agricultural products, and 81 percent of those were small businesses.

With more regional offices, we can continue to grow American exports and jobs and help small businesses compete. I urge support of my amendment and the Increasing American Jobs and Exports Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, and I am opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment not because its goals are necessarily objectionable. The gentleman is right to focus on exports, especially given the economy of his district and his State, and his State's and district's importance to the Nation and the national economy.

The reason why I am opposed to it is because it doesn't appear based on any empirical study of Ex-Im resource needs and may hinder the Bank from working effectively.

To start, the amendment would allow up to 3 percent of Ex-Im's surplus to be used for administrative expenses, on top of the resources that it already has. I am unaware of any concerns by Ex-Im that it is unable to cover its administrative expenses, currently.

Traditionally, excess funds from the Bank's surplus are supposed to go back to the Treasury, where it can reduce the deficit, something that both Republicans and Democrats have long supported and, I hope, will continue to support.

In addition, the amendment seems to only provide for this during half of the reauthorization period. So what happens in the second half of Ex-Im Bank's reauthorization under the bill, and would it leave Ex-Im without recourse to the funds? We need to consider this carefully.

Finally, the amendment would require that at least one-third of the new surplus funds devoted to administrative expenses be used to expand regional finance centers. Regional finance centers are fine, but what is the budgetary need?

Mr. Chair, I think a little more work needs to be done. We didn't have this discussion during the markup or in the single hearing we had about Ex-Im, and since the one-third requirement in the amendment would fluctuate from year

to year, it is divorced from Ex-Im's actual assessment of needs for its regional operations.

There are a couple of technical issues here. I appreciate the gentleman for offering the amendment and his interest in serving his constituents, but for these reasons I have outlined, I am opposed to the amendment.

Since I am in opposition, I do believe I have the right to close and am willing to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, I just want to clarify something, that the \$3.4 billion surplus goes to the U.S. Treasury. My bill will not take one-third of that, only up to the 3 percent that would be available for regions that would like to have a regional finance office near them.

For example, in North Carolina, which my esteemed colleague is from, his constituents have to drive all the way to south Florida, to Miami, to get services from the Export-Import Bank. So it is in my constituents' interest, and it is the interest of my colleague's that a regional office is financed closer to his State so that his businesses can acquire the capital necessary to increase jobs and increase exports.

In fact, there is data to show that the cluster of businesses that benefit, by far, are those that are near the surrounding regional offices. So it is common sense to assume that, if you open an office near the region, more businesses will benefit and you will have created more jobs with more exports.

I want to thank Chairwoman WATERS for her work on this important legislation and for her support for my amendment. The Export-Import Bank has been a success story and can continue to grow. Today's legislation will further that success.

The Bank supports American jobs, while also returning money to taxpayers year after year. My amendment would not cost the taxpayer a single dime. My amendment would grow jobs and businesses by exporting American goods.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, the Increasing American Jobs and Exports Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

On this amendment, in 1 year, this would be hundreds of millions of dollars, and, in other years, it would be zero. So to finance these regional finance centers, you probably want to have more stable funding than that fluctuation.

That is the technical problem, in my view, on this, not that these regional finance centers are a bad idea. They are not a bad idea. In fact, I think it is important that Ex-Im focuses on small businesses and does more outreach with small businesses.

The bill that I negotiated with Chairwoman WATERS actually raises the small business mandate. This bill fails to do it until the 10th year. That focus

on small businesses would require Ex-Im to deploy their resources more effectively across the country. That is something Chairwoman WATERS and I agreed to, on that need for greater outreach from just a couple of urban centers where they are currently planted, as has been said.

So while I support the laudatory goal of this, the functionality of it is not workable. I would like the Bank to actually work. Of course, that is not part of the debate that I would actually have that view, but I actually do want the Bank to work and be effective for American businesses. It is really just the technical problem of how the gentleman allocates the resources here, and that is why I oppose it.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

The amendment was agreed to.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VEASEY) having assumed the chair, Mr. ROUDA, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4863) to promote the competitiveness of the United States, to reform and reauthorize the United States Export Finance Agency, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

CONGRATULATING FORT WORTH'S NORTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL FOR MAKING IT TO THE STATE HIGH SCHOOL PLAYOFFS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a high school in the district that I represent, North Side High School. They are also known as the Steers, and for the past couple of decades, this school has excelled in sports like cross country, soccer, baseball, and volleyball, but not under the Friday night lights of Texas in football.

However, for the first time in 40 years, the football team has made it to the State high school playoffs, and if you are from Texas, you know that that is a really, really big deal.

The school has a population of around 1,800 students, and 95 percent are Latino. North Side High School is hoping to dispel the myth that the community can't succeed on the grid-iron.

I want to congratulate Principal Antonio Martinez and Coach Joseph Turner—who was given the job 5 years ago despite having zero head coaching experience—and all of the football players on the Steers team for their historic accomplishment. They are really a prime example of hard work and dedication and how far it can take you.

I hope that this will not be the last time the Steers make the playoffs. This has been just a great story for the entire Fort Worth Independent School District.

Tomorrow night, on Friday, go Steers.

HOPE FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly announce the introduction of a bipartisan bill to combat human trafficking, the HOPE for Victims of Human Trafficking Act.

Too often, trafficking victims are forced to do things that they would never choose to do, and sometimes they are forced by their captors to break the law. This bill creates a legal presumption which states that human trafficking victims who commit a covered offense while being trafficked are presumed to have committed that offense under coercion unless the prosecution can prove otherwise.

Consequently, this bill will stop many unjust convictions human trafficking victims face, which will then better allow them to find employment, seek additional education, and recover from their trauma.

I am proud to reintroduce this bill with my friend Representative ALCEE HASTINGS.

On behalf of the many human trafficking groups that supported the bill, including Shared Hope International, Rights4Girls, Selah Freedom, and others, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, too.

THOUGHT EXPERIMENT IN GLOBAL WARMING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROUDA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, this is something we try to do every couple of weeks is come here and actually, typically, our opening board here is we are talking about what are the headwinds to our society, what are the headwinds to our country, particularly over the next 30 years.

The reality of it is—and we will get to that. We have it on some of the boards that come a little bit later. They talk about our economic promises: Social Security, Medicare, certain healthcare entitlements. The fact of the matter is they consume every incremental dollar. We will get to that.

But one of the reasons I am actually starting with this board here is, this week, I believe the Democrats actually held what they call a Member Day with the global warming or environmental change committee. Forgive me for getting the name wrong.

We weren't able to be there because we had Jay Powell and other people here this week. But we wanted to come here and actually start to share with our brothers and sisters in this body some of the amazing technology that is here that I don't know how to get individuals in this body who care about the environment to start to understand.

We are living in the time of miracles. We all saw last week, MIT had a major breakthrough in ambient carbon capture; right? Okay. So the frustration is that I will hear people get behind these microphones and talk about how much they care about global warming, how much they care about greenhouse gases, how much they care, and then they don't spend time reading miracles that are happening in the technology.

This is technology that just came out in a paper from MIT. They crashed the cost of yanking carbon directly out of the air.

□ 1700

It is negative carbon capture. It is ambient. It is basically, if you have a generation source, let's say you are a concrete plant, a power generation—this and that—you could actually be using this. It uses shockingly little electricity.

They basically came up with this concept of: Let's run these plates. Let's actually put nanotubes on it. We will run a certain low voltage through these plates, and it will catch the carbon in the air.

And it doesn't matter. The technology doesn't care whether you are at 1 part per 400 million or heavy carbon. It is just an example of how technology is about to provide us a revolution on how we protect our environment. And it is here.

How do we actually, as policymakers, incentivize these technology breakthroughs to happen, and how do we get these technology breakthroughs to become part of our society?

It is not enough to come up here and virtue signal, coming up behind these microphones, telling us all how much you care and then not to understand.

The revolution of technology is here, that if you actually care about carbon in the environment and its effects on global warming, guess what? You have just had a major, major breakthrough, because can the U.S. stop China from building its—what?—33 coal-fired plants that are going up right now that basically have no carbon capture? This type of technology becomes part of the solution.

I wish I could get our brothers and sisters here to stop being sort of, shall we say, antiscience and be willing to keep up with the incredible progress we are making in environmental science.

So this is a big deal for anyone who is watching, anyone who is listening, anyone who actually cares. Please, grab your phone. Let's Google "MIT ambient carbon capture." Look at the graphics. They have a great little video of how it works, a simple explanation of how it works. This is a big deal.

What a lot of folks here don't remember is, a year ago, the Republicans actually did something we call the Q45 tax credit. And we have been waiting for the Treasury Department to finish all the rules and the regs, but the concept was: You are an energy producer. If you would capture your carbon, we will give you a tax credit. If you take that carbon and then sequester it someplace or turned it into other uses, we will give you another credit.

Now, all of a sudden, we have the cost breakthrough of capturing that carbon. It is from a pure math standpoint. This isn't Republican or Democrat. This should be hope and optimism that, once again, sort of the Malthusians in this place who thought the only way we could ever accomplish these things is crashing, just crashing our economy, the end of use of hydrocarbons. They are wrong.

We are going to walk through some more of this, and you will see how this will ultimately tie together, at least, I hope you will.

So this is an example of the facility in the current state of technology. This is a facility that I believe is going up in Canada right now. I believe the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and others are investing in it. This is sort of an active type of carbon capture. They thought they could get down to \$100 a ton, and we were all giddy about this. The previous board may cut this price in half.

This is a big deal, when we just had not an incremental improvement, but a major, major, major improvement in what you call ambient air capture. It is functionally mining the air and pulling carbon out of it.

So let's actually now think about facilities like this. This facility is up and running outside Houston. It is a natural gas power plant, and it doesn't have a smokestack. They created something—and I always screw this up. I believe it is the Allam cycle.

This engineer had this idea for, apparently, decades, this concept saying: Okay. We burn the natural gas; we heat steam; we take the steam; we turn the turbines. Why not just blow up the natural gas, send the carbon from that, smash it into the turbines, spin the turbines, and then capture the CO₂ on the other side?

It works. It is up and running today, and, apparently, it is incredibly efficient. They are raising money. I think they are going to dramatically increase the size, but it is natural gas generation—no smokestack—and it works.

And guess what happens? On the other end, they capture all the CO₂, and they use it for enhanced oil recovery. They can sequester it in concrete and other places or just stick it back into the ground. But we know how to do this because it is not a theory. It is running today.

How much discussion, how much praise, how much interest do we get on this from our brothers and sisters here who claim to care about the environ-

ment, the fact that we have had the engineering breakthrough? Because it doesn't sort of fit the commanding control craziness that has become our environmental discussion here that we must shut down any uses of these fossil fuels, of these hydrocarbons.

Many of us are just trying to say: I need you to open up your hearts and your minds to science and the math. We can demonstrate we can actually use our energy and do it in a way where we capture the very thing you were most concerned about. It is here. It is not theory. It is here. Let's have just a little moment of joy that science, once again, ran faster than at least we thought it would.

So the other thing, also, to walk through, and I do this one just because I am fascinated—and I have the microphone. Earlier this year, we had a major breakthrough in, I believe, technically, it is referred to as synthetic biology.

Does everyone remember their high school biology class where we basically learned, hey, you are a plant cell? And since time immemorial, plant cells actually have an inherent inefficiency. They really, really want that carbon molecule so they can grow a sugar, and the plant can grow. And then sometimes the plant cell, though, doesn't end up getting that carbon molecule. It ends up grabbing an oxygen. And now it has to spend all this time and energy purging that.

I believe it is the University of Illinois and a couple Federal agencies that have been playing with this for awhile. Because the original thought was: Could we do some tweaking of plant biology so it would create a greater carbon synch?

Somewhere in that research, they hit the holy grail, and that holy grail is they can now make that plant always grab the carbon molecule, so the plant grows 40 percent more efficiently.

Well, think about, first, what does that mean to society? What does that mean to the world? Well, it means we will probably feed the world for the next couple hundred years.

It also means you need 40 percent less land, 40 percent less water, 40 percent less food, 40 percent less fertilizer.

It also means it is going to be disruptive to the value of farmland; it is going to be disruptive to agricultural pricing; it is probably going to be disruptive to agricultural credit.

But it is here. It is technology. It is coming.

It also means, all of a sudden, if you are someone who particularly likes biofuels, with this type of synthetic biology, did you just change the pricing structures?

This is coming. The technology has already succeeded in tobacco crops. We use tobacco because that was the first one we knew the genome of, and I believe now they are experimenting in a number of row crops.

But, once again, there is an incredible disruption coming to the world

brought by U.S. scientists that actually change everything.

And now I need you to think more creatively. First, just the thought experiment.

World agriculture is said to produce 2.2 times the greenhouse gases of every car on Earth. Okay. If you are using crops that had this technology associated with it so they grew 40 percent more efficient, using these crops would equal removing every car off the face of the Earth and its greenhouse gases. You just have to be willing to eat something that technically is a GMO, but the math equals removing every car off the face of the Earth.

So, once again, the science is here. We have had this amazing breakthrough. It is the United States leading the way.

But also, this technology can be used for growing forests, changing the grass in your ball fields, these other things. It is here. We did it. And yet I see no one else coming behind these microphones to talk about the optimism.

If you care about the environment, embrace, learn, listen, read, study, understand the scientific breakthroughs that are here that make a difference.

I do this one just as a continuation of the thought experiment: How many of you live in a community? How many of those of us here in D.C. live in a community where you are not allowed to have a plastic straw? How many plastic straws are in the ocean from North America? Functionally, none. It is virtue signaling. It is theater. We do this to feel better that we care.

But if you actually cared, it turns out the math will set you free. The math says 90 percent of the plastic in the ocean comes from 10 rivers: 8 in Asia, 2 in Africa.

If you actually care about plastic in the ocean, stop the virtue signaling about straws that are in D.C., that are never going to actually be in the ocean, and start caring about the 90 percent of the plastic that comes from 10 rivers. And we know where they are.

Change foreign policy. Change our environmental age. Change our technical assistance. Go to those 10 rivers. Change it, and then remove 90 percent of the plastic from the ocean instead of just talking about it or having this charity group or this NGO or raising money off the issues and having no actual effect.

If you actually care, do something. Don't engage in the political theater that makes you puff up your chest and sound like you actually care. Help us. Those of us on the Republican side, we are working on trying to change those foreign aids, the technical aids, the technical assistance to do this. Help us do it.

This shouldn't be Republican. It shouldn't be Democrat. It is technology. We know where the plastic in the ocean comes from. We have ideas on how to add a value to this plastic so it is collected, so it never ends up in those rivers. Go to the source where

the problem is. Stop the crazy virtue signaling about straws in your community and help us go where 90 percent of the plastic in the ocean comes from.

And I know I may be sounding a bit sarcastic, but I am frustrated. We have been actually sort of demonstrating this one for a year, and I still can't get many of my brothers and sisters on the left to say: Oh, God, that is right. It is math. We know where it is. Let's go get it.

It makes no sense to me. Is it we are going to take away a talking point, a theatrical point? Help us actually make—I love scuba diving. Before I got this job, I used to actually get to spend some time doing it.

Help us. Take credit for it. We just want the right thing to happen, but it is not virtue signaling. It is actually going to where the problem actually is.

So let's actually make a circle and see if I can tie this in to what it means to our future.

This is one of the things I have come to this floor on for years, because we are having the wrong discussion here. We as a country are buried in debt, and the debt is going to get dramatically bigger.

First, we need to pull out our calculators—for those who actually own calculators here on Capitol Hill—and have a moment of honesty.

The debt is substantially driven by our demographics. It is not Republican or Democrat; it is just what we are.

We have 74 million of us who are baby boomers. Congress did not pay attention that there were 74 million of us who were going to turn 65 one day and step into our earned entitlements.

So if you look at this chart right now, 1965, you see the red area, it is 34 percent. That is what mandatory spending was. That was everything from entitlements you get, you earned. You earned your Social Security. You earned your Medicare. You earned your veterans benefits.

There are some you get because you are part of a Tribal group or some you get because you fell under a certain income.

Today, it is now crossing over 70 percent of all of our spending is on formula. When we stand on this floor and vote for appropriations, we don't even vote on that red portion, that 70-plus percent of our spending. We don't even vote on it. It is a formula.

And then what is remaining? Half of it is defense. You see that little blue area over there? That is the defense.

You see there the green? That is all we really have.

And if you actually look at what we call discretionary, nondefense discretionary, it has been substantially flat for the last 10 years. It is just math.

So if I come to you and say Social Security, Medicare, healthcare entitlements, just the growth from those over the next 5 years, just the growth will equal the spending of the Defense Department. Let's double it. Hey, every 10 years, we will add two full Defense De-

partments. And that is just the growth of Social Security, Medicare, healthcare entitlements.

We know where the problem is, but it is terrifying for elected officials to speak about it, talk about it, even think about it, because you have to explain something. It is hard, but it is manageable if we do everything.

And the very last board I am going to show is, once again, our sort of holistic approach of, if we pull all the levers, we have done the math, we think we can keep it at 95 percent of debt to GDP, this isn't the absurd untruthful conversations that we are going to pay off the debt, because every day 10,300 of us turn 65. We need to deal with the truth about the math.

And the math isn't Republican or Democrat. It is math.

□ 1715

So, first off, the number one pillar we have to engage in—because it makes everything else possible—is a robust, a powerful, strong economic growth, the robustness of the economy, the participation in the labor force.

We must do everything possible, whether it be changes in the Tax Code, whether it be changes in trade, whether it be changes in going to smart, crowd-sourced type of technology-based regulation. We must grow. Growth is moral.

Because, if we don't grow, you can't make any of the other math work. And this is the reality.

So, how many of my brothers and sisters came behind these microphones when we did tax reform and told us the world was coming to an end—except for the fact that we, just last month, got the revenues. Excuse me. They are called receipts. Total receipts into the Federal Government: turns out to be the highest ever. We grew over 5 percent in our receipts in a post tax reform world.

We had a parade of economists from the left come and tell us this could not happen, but it happened. How about that parade of economists from the left who came to us and told us we were going to force ourselves into a recession? It didn't happen.

How about those who said, hey, you guys can never get back into the 60-plus, 61, 62, 63 percent labor force participation, but it has happened.

You could never have a society with more jobs than available workers, but it has happened.

You could never possibly see, like we did in 2018, unmarried women with no partner at home having a 7.6 percent rise in their incomes, but it happened.

You could never cut the poverty rate a full half a percent in a single year, but we did it.

You would think things like that would bring joy in this body, joy across the country. We have an economy that is working. We had Jay Powell here yesterday, the Federal Reserve chairman, talking about we are in a sweet spot. It is working. The most stable

economy in modern times. The healthiest labor market in modern times. The best employment situation in modern times.

The debates we should be having behind these microphones should be about how not to screw it up, how to understand what is working and do more of it.

Because, you remember the previous slide that talked about the growth of debt, where our allocations go? If we grow the economy, it gives us a fighting chance. Now, we still have to do a bunch of other things.

And this is back to the ultimate point. I have been trying to argue now for multiple years: There is a path where we don't have to be buried in a financial collapse as a society because we built up stunning amounts of debt. And I know some don't want to hear it, but it is the math.

We believe we have built the math that we could kiss up against 95 percent of debt to GDP and hold it through the baby boomers.

I have a 4-year-old little girl. She deserves to live in an America that works, that grows, that provides opportunities. Remember, we are in a world right now where, if we can keep up this level of growth, about every 30, 35 years the standard of living doubles. Or we go back to the bad old days of just a couple of years ago where the GDP growth was so slow and so fat, the standard of living was only going to double about every 70 years.

So, how do we do this? I just walked through, first, our financial levers that are solely responsible for us in this room. We own the levers. We own the levers of tax policy that grow the economy. We own the levers of immigration policy that goes to a talent-based system, that maximizes economic growth. We own the levers with the administration on smart regulations. We own the levers, ultimately, on trade agreements that are fair and grow our economy.

But we have to do other things. We have to change many of our social entitlement structures to incentivize work. If you are on Social Security disability, don't create a cliff; create a glide path so you are incentivized to be in the labor force. Because, think about it. When the models were done after we did tax reform, the fragility—the smart economists kept coming to us saying: Our capital stock. Will there be enough money to finance the growth?

It turns out, there is. We did it. Americans are saving. Some of that is demographics. Some of it is substantially because of tax reform.

It turns out, repatriation, we had—what was the report?—\$140 billion more come back than we expected. And it turns out, because we have a healthy economy, capital is coming in from all over the world. So we have the capital to invest and grow.

But the other fragility was labor, available workers. What a great problem to have, but we need to think of

every lever we have in society, everything from dealing with the opioid crisis to incentives to participate in the labor force.

Come to Phoenix, Arizona. We have a homeless shelter. There is an organization there called St. Joseph The Worker. It is a 100-year-old-plus Catholic charity. You walk in the door, and they will show you—they have a stack of job opportunities for the most disaffected of our society, people who are trying to get on their program, trying to deal with mental health demons and substance abuse demons and those things. But they are there.

There should be joy that there is such a labor shortage that our brothers and sisters in the business community are willing to take a risk on our brothers and sisters who are living in a homeless shelter. That part, we have proven, works.

How do we expand participation in the labor force? How do we also, now, incentivize the other end? If you are healthy, if you are fit, if you are sharp, if you just want to, do we actually start to say: Well, you are 72 years old. You want to work. We are going to start adding certain levels of taxes. We are going to start taking away parts of your Social Security. We are going to tax these benefits because you are out there working.

Just the opposite. We want as much of our society to stay in the labor force. And if you want to and you are older, let's redesign some of these incentives to stay in the labor force.

Our millennial males that we still have a math problem entering the labor force and the other end of the age curve—let's fix it. Those are policies. Is that Republican or Democrat? It is just rational policy to keep the economy growing.

The other one that I come to the floor constantly and speak about is the disruption of technology that is about to crash the price of healthcare. And this is one of those moments I seem to succeed in offending everyone, so maybe it is the right thing.

The ACA, ObamaCare—let's have a moment of truth and reality about it. It was substantially a finance mechanism. It was about who got subsidized, who had to pay.

Our Republican alternative, well-meaning, had a number of kickers, a number of incentives in it, but it wasn't about who got subsidized and who had to pay; it was substantially about who had to pay and who got subsidized.

This body needs to stop having the absurd conversation about the financing part of healthcare and start thinking about what we do to crash the actual delivery price.

It turns out there is a revolution of technology out there, the thing you can blow into that can actually tell you you have the flu. It can bounce off your phone, check your medical records, and then order antivirals. Except for, the problem is, that tech-

nology is illegal under the way our laws are written today.

There is a revolution coming. The other side of the spectrum is drugs like the single-shot cure for hemophilia. You saw that we think we now have the cure for sickle cell anemia. On cystic fibrosis, it looks like we think we may have the drug that stabilizes it. We know we have the drug that stabilizes ALS.

They are all going to be really expensive. These are miracles in the biologic pharmaceutical world. We need to now work on a financing mechanism for the distribution of these pharmaceuticals that cure our brothers and sisters with chronic conditions. Because, remember, 5 percent of our population with chronic conditions is the majority of our healthcare spending.

And we are about to start curing a number of them, because a few years ago the Republicans in this body, we passed the Cures Act, and it is working.

And my terror is the left is moving a bill called H.R. 3. It made it through the Ways and Means Committee, and it breaks my heart because they are about to screw up the very incentives that have created these miracles, that are about to start curing individuals with these chronic conditions.

Understand, if we could get our act together, if we could actually start to understand the technology disruption that is here, we can start to crash the price of healthcare, instead of having the absurd debate of who should get subsidized and who should have to pay.

Is that Republican or Democrat? It is just technology.

But when you work in an environment where rage is the actual commodity of exchange, how do you ever actually get to solutions?

And then the last one, which will be the most difficult one, is we have to have an honest conversation of what to do in the actual incentives, are there things we could do in the incentives of staying healthy, of how you deliver Medicare and Medicare part A and B and D, the incentives there.

Could we actually create some incentives for Social Security that, if you wanted to work longer, you get spiffs and those things?

But, if we do those five things, we can make the math work that we as a society, we as a country do not have to fall off the debt cliff. And it is the hardest thing you can imagine for a body that is completely calcified in its inability to actually do anything of value. Because it would require owning a calculator; it would require thinking; it would require some creativity; and it would require doing everything at one time to make the math work.

You can't just do one of these things, walk away, and pretend you did something. It all has a synergistic feed because the labor force participation needs the strong economy; the strong economy needs the investments for the technology; the technology disruption

needs the strong labor force to grab those who may have been rotated in the economy. It all has to work together.

My heartbreak as I come behind this microphone and the reason I am here is to save this country and save it from that huge monster that is our debt, because I have the world's greatest little 4-year-old girl, and I am going to find a way to fix this for my country, but also for my daughter.

I have been coming behind this microphone now with this for over a year. We have meeting after meeting after meeting after meeting on the fact that there is a path. It requires being willing to accept disruption in technology. It requires being able to actually drop some of the crazy ideology and actually use a calculator on the math on the things that actually grow the economy.

And the ideology of rage has blinded us from, I think, in many ways, doing the right thing for working men and women, for my little girl, for this country.

And I don't care if you are on the right or the left; you should be having your soul ripped out because we are now—we have been here, what, 10-plus months, and we have squandered almost every day we have been here because we know the path we have to go down, yet, in many ways, all we have done is make it worse.

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

IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, these are interesting times, and I build more respect for my friend from Arizona every time I hear him speak. I am very grateful for his presence and his efforts.

At this point I would like to address this ongoing issue, ongoing for only about 3 years, because it was immediately upon President Trump being elected President that we immediately started hearing all of the saber-rattling that we have got to impeach this guy, he is not qualified, he is crazy, he has committed crimes.

And we have been hearing for nearly 3 years; there is no question, there is lots of direct evidence, President Trump has committed crimes, a lot more than you might think; in fact, a lot more than circumstantial evidence. Oh, it is overwhelming.

We have heard from so many people for nearly 3 years—well, actually, over 3 years now—over 3 years.

Then we get down to it. The great hope was the man that I believe did more damage to the FBI than all of the FBI directors for the last 50 years, a guy named Mueller.

□ 1730

He ran off thousands and thousands of years of our best FBI experience. Apparently, he just wanted yes-people. He didn't want people who had enough experience to tell him when he was on the wrong track.

He said he had no reason to apologize when he destroyed the lives of innocent people. And yet, that is the person who was put in charge of this investigation.

What did he do? He went out and hired over a dozen people who absolutely despise Donald Trump, put them to work trying to destroy our sitting President. They harassed him and his family, business associates, people in the administration, threatened their families, threatened them.

Even after all that, after virtually 2 years, nearly 2 years of investigation by the Mueller cabal, they had nothing. They had nothing. I think Mueller would have been happy to keep investigating and using up millions and millions of taxpayer dollars, tens of millions, as he had been doing. Fortunately, his investigation came to an end.

After thousands of witnesses, they had nothing. No Russia collusion. A hoax is what it turned out to be.

When it was clear there was no Russia collusion—of course, it is not a crime to collude. It is a crime to conspire.

There was no Russian conspiracy between anybody with the Trump campaign and the Russians. But it is very clear, the Russians, what they really wanted, for people who have really dug into this, they wanted and what they always want, always have wanted, back when it was the Soviet Union, they want to divide America. They want to destroy this Republic.

Unfortunately, they found allies, willing or otherwise, here in this country, to take absolute lies that were created, were spun up, were twisted—had the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act court, the FISA court, manipulated fraud upon the FISA court, which has exposed to me, as a former judge and chief justice, that since we have seen nothing from the FISA court of outrage, as a good judge should have when they realized there has been a fraud upon the court, nothing, which tells me we either need to totally get rid of the FISA court or we need to have some dramatic changes.

We certainly need to change the FISA judges themselves because either they were unwilling and unknowing accomplices with the fraud upon the court, or they knew what was going on and he or she, or they, were proud to play a part in trying to destroy the Trump campaign and the Trump Presidency.

I think it is interesting, this call between President Trump and President Zelensky, July 25, I mean, when so many people—we find out now so many people were on the call, including at least four stenographers taking down every word.

I mean, I have been in courts for my whole adult life, and you might have a stenographer miss a word here and there. They are amazing. They hardly ever make mistakes. But if you have four stenographers sitting on a call, you are not going to have four stenographers miss anything when they consult each other and work together. That is just not going to happen.

I had one of the best court reporters in the world, and, you know, there was a mistake now and then.

You put four people like that together, like we are taking down the President and President Zelensky's call, and they don't make mistakes.

But it had to send shivers up the spines of anybody in our intelligence community that had worked with Ukrainians, Russians, former MI-6, Italians, Australians to try to destroy President Trump. It had to send shivers up their spine. It had to get them very concerned.

Oh, my gosh. This President is going to close in on us because this new President, we understand he is honest. That is what we keep hearing, that he wants to end corruption in Ukraine.

This whole body, I think there were maybe 10 or 12 or so that didn't vote for the bill in 2014 that talks about Russia, I mean—not Russia, but Ukrainian corruption, and how we need to push them to end that corruption. So, I mean, everybody on this floor basically knows. And I think the “no” votes were based on some other reason, not on a desire not to end corruption. We all had the same goal, just concerns about different parts.

The fact is, people know. There has been a lot of corruption. It sounds like President Zelensky wants to end it. You put that with a President who doesn't mind rattling cages and trying to drain the swamp and trying to change the way we do things for the better, and of course, it offends those whether they say they are part of the deep state or not. It is the people that work here that have never been elected here but think they run this country, and those in embassies who, beyond what they are assigned to do, they think they run foreign policy. We have gotten a taste of that through these hearings and through these witnesses and through their testimony.

The star witness yesterday, Mr. Taylor, I don't impugn his military service, but I know if he had been the kind of gossipmonger in the Army or at West Point that he has turned into at the State Department, he sure wouldn't have gone very far. His next OER in the Army would have destroyed his career. In West Point, he would have gotten the lowest peer review ratings. He would not have done very well at all.

This is, apparently, a different Mr. Taylor than the one that went through West Point and served honorably and well in the Army.

But as Ambassador Sondland testified, and our friend JIM JORDAN read

yesterday, Ambassador Taylor recalls, and this is Sondland's testimony, that Tim Morrison told Ambassador Taylor that Sondland “told Mr. Morrison that I conveyed this message to Yermak on September 1, 2019, in connection with Vice President PENCE's visit to Warsaw and a meeting with President Zelensky.”

Astounding. That is where Mr. Taylor says he got his clear understanding of what had happened.

If you look at his testimony, you get a real sense of how this honorable serving military member, fine graduate of West Point, has been tainted over the years.

You look at his testimony, first of all, he says something like—he answered a question. He had never seen aid conditioned on political interests. And yet, what he probably had in his mind is he had never seen aid conditioned on something he disagreed with.

Most of our aid is conditioned on something. If it is not, we need to find it and get conditions on it.

As I have said ever since I have been here, you don't have to pay people to hate you. They will do it for free. And yet, our country continues to pay dictators that hate us.

That stuff ought to be stopped. It ought to be conditioned on making those countries less corrupt. That is what this House has tried to do on both sides of the aisle, in prior years, to end corruption in Ukraine.

But you get a sense of things when—this is his testimony, at page 11, Mr. Taylor's. Let's see. “The first summary of the July 25 Trump-Zelensky call that I heard from anybody inside the U.S. Government was during a phone call I had with Tim Morrison, Dr. Hill's recent replacement at the NSC, on July 28.”

That is what Ambassador Sondland was apparently talking about. He got that from Tim Morrison, who conveyed a message that Yermak got from Ambassador Sondland about Vice President PENCE's visit to Warsaw and meeting with President Zelensky.

He goes on, and his next statement, next paragraph: “By August, I was becoming more concerned.”

Yeah, Mr. Taylor was becoming concerned because he had heard fourth-hand the President wanted to end some corruption in Ukraine that was affecting the United States election.

I thought that is what everybody here wanted to do. That is what we have been hearing from the leftwing, or many call it the mainstream, but the leftwing, alt-left media. They have been saying, oh, how horrible.

Well, here you have a President trying to do something about it, and Mr. Taylor, the wonderful, honorably serving Army man, is now concerned because of the fourth-hand account he got about what the President did.

Now, we are told: Oh, by the way, I heard about a staffer who overheard a conversation between the Ambassador and the President, and he mentioned

the interviews, had some question about the interviews, maybe how they were going.

Oh, my goodness. The investigation, wanted to know how it was going. Gee, how horrible that we had a President who wanted to know about corruption in Ukraine that was affecting the United States.

Then we get down—and I think this tells us a great deal about their star witness, until his staffer, who was eavesdropping and heard a conversation, we are told, when Mr. Taylor says, “A formal U.S. request to the Ukrainians to conduct an investigation based on violations of their own law struck me as improper.”

Well, my understanding was the President wants to know about corruption in Ukraine that may have violated American law, our laws, work with our U.S. Attorney General to try to get to the bottom of not Ukraine, per se, but Ukrainians’ effort to affect our election.

That offends these deep staters in the State Department, these people that don’t like a President that doesn’t see things exactly like they do. How dare this President come in and want to exert his foreign policy that he got elected to put in place. He doesn’t understand. We are the ones that run things.

You see it here. He says that “struck me as improper.” I am the judge, the purveyor of what is right or not in my realm.

You find that in a number of people in the State Department. We run things.

Of course, they come in and testify. “I have worked for this many Presidents, carried out their foreign policy.” Then we find out that what means. “I carry out their foreign policy as long as they do what I tell them. Or I ignore them and carry out what I know is much better.” You get that sense.

He goes on: “And I recommended to Ambassador Volker we ‘stay clear’” because I, Mr. Taylor, know much better than the elected President. I know better than the Attorney General.

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I know better than all of these clowns who are elected or have been confirmed by the Senate. Who are they to go around what I think?

And he goes on: “To find out the legal aspects of the question, however, I gave him,” the Ambassador, “the name of a deputy assistant attorney general, whom I thought would be the proper point of contact for seeking a U.S. request for a foreign investigation.”

How dare President Trump try to go around the way I, Mr. Taylor, think that foreign affairs ought to be handled and the way corruption ought to be addressed when it affects the United States? How dare he? I am the one who knows these things, not this clown President.

I mean, it is pretty clear what was in his mind, and it needs to stop.

And I would just suggest, if we have a vote to send this matter of impeachment, actually impeach this President for violating the sense of propriety of somebody who is so deep in the state and in the intel that they don’t like somebody coming in trying to drain the swamp, if that is what they want to impeach this President over, trying to end corruption in Ukraine that affects our election, well, then, the Senate, I know some have said, “Oh, we are not going to have a vote on that,” well, I imagine they probably will, and they are going to need to have a trial.

In looking back and researching this again, you know, there are no rules of evidence for impeachment; there are no rules of procedure. The Constitution provides for it, the impeachment trial in the Senate. But as I understand it, the Senate may have even gone to the Old Senate Chamber to have a session out from under C-SPAN cameras to work out the rules of evidence and procedure, limit time, limit witnesses, how questions are asked, all that. They have to come up with that every impeachment, a new set of rules.

I would point to Article III, Section 3 for a little bit of guidance here.

Article III, Section 3 talks about treason, and President Trump is not guilty of any treason. He is not being accused of treason, except from people who are suffering from PTSD. That is President Trump stress disorder. But otherwise, there will be no charge of treason against this President, because it didn’t happen.

But it is such an important issue when you talk about removing a duly elected President for the first time in our history. And there is a rule on treason. It is in the Constitution: “No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act.” That means direct evidence, no hearsay, two people who actually witnessed this despicable act.

I would submit to the Senate that removing a President properly duly elected for the first time in our history, even after there were Ukrainians and Russians trying to help the Democrats to keep him from being elected—he still won, got a huge majority of the electoral college votes. This would be every bit as serious as charging someone with treason. The Senate ought to set a rule that says: We have got to have two direct witnesses to whatever they are saying he did wrong. We are not going to take hearsay to remove a President for the first time.

I would suggest that if the Senate would do that, they won’t even have to worry about setting time deadlines, witness deadlines. Just put that requirement on, and it will be a very short trial because there are no direct witnesses of any allegation that would rise to the level of what is being accused here.

MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN TREATED UNFAIRLY

Mr. GOHMERT. Now I want to turn quickly to the issue of some of our

United States military personnel who have been unfairly treated, people who saw it as their patriotic duty to sign up and serve this country, risk their lives and limbs and their life as a family member to serve this country.

Greater love hath no one, Jesus told us, that they would be willing to lay down their lives for their friends, and that is what these people do.

My group, my 4 years on Active Duty, we were never sent to combat, but we have, currently, a Secretary of the Department of Defense who is trying to stop efforts and came out and publicly—basically threatened the President, don’t you dare try to right what you think are wrongs in people who I would tell you have been railroaded by a broken military justice system.

The reason Congress created the UCMJ, where military members don’t even get all the rights that we give to terrorists, to foreign terrorists illegally in our country—we don’t give our military as many rights as they have.

The reason we had to shortcut, or Congress did, back when the UCMJ was passed was because both sides of the aisle understood that, when you are in a combat theater, you don’t have time to go back and have a thorough investigation, gather up all the forensic evidence and then come back and have a nice jury trial in America. You have got to deal with it quickly and then get back on the battlefield.

And yet what we have seen over and over, when the military chooses for political expedience or political correctness purposes or when they want to satisfy a terrible leader like Maliki was in Iraq who created all kinds of trouble for that country, we would send a Vice President over to stand by him and say we are going to get these guys, or tell Karzai, a corrupt family in Afghanistan, oh, yes, we are going to prosecute our guys who, turned out, killed people who created IEDs that killed Americans, people who were Taliban trying to kill Americans, and yet we have hung some of our own people out to dry.

So we have a letter, a bunch of us do. It should go out in the morning, I guess, to the Defense Secretary, and, you know, I put the words in there myself that I think, if he doesn’t realize that there needs to be some corrections within military justice so we don’t keep sending innocent people defending our country, defending their brothers and sisters on the battlefield, if we don’t stop sending them to prison and bring them back to America for a trial, don’t allow the defendant to bring witnesses back from the combat theater, oh, no, but the CID and our officials will make deals with Taliban or with people in Iraq who want to destroy our country and us, if they will come over and say terrible things about our military member, we will put them in prison, and we will give them visas.

And that happened with Sergeant Derrick Miller. We got a whole bunch of people.

Clint Lorance, hoping that the President will act. Apparently got slowed down by the Defense Secretary jumping in.

John Hatley, a first sergeant, two bronze stars, He should have gotten a silver star, but that was apparently pulled as a recommendation.

Michael Behenna, Corey Claggett, we have got a whole bunch of folks, and we have a Congressional Justice for Warriors Caucus here that is working on this.

And we have got a guy who recognized a Taliban member from the day before when he had his AK-47 and grabbed him in the middle of our U.S. Army camp in Afghanistan and starts questioning him, and he starts lying through the interpreter: Oh, I was here to fix electrical. Oh, no, I was here to fix plumbing.

And that sergeant pulled his gun and demanded answers. The guy grabs for the gun and, in the struggle, the Taliban member was shot. That sergeant was brought back to America. The translator, who they told separate stories—I mean, they told separate stories, but it was the same story told separately.

Yet, after the CID got through promising or somebody promising this guy that had been trying to get a visa into America and turned down every time: If you will come to America and testify that the Taliban member never grabbed his gun, then we will give you and your family visas; you will probably be able to get citizenship.

Oh, okay, then that is my story now, he never tried to grab the gun.

And you threaten another witness who was there, he is going to prison if you don't turn around and change what you have said from the very beginning without any influence from Sergeant Miller, and you put the guy in prison for premeditated murder?

You don't have the weapon? Oh, no, you don't let him have the weapon. You don't have it examined so that it can show that the fingerprints of the Taliban member were on that gun, he did try to grab it. And he is sentenced for premeditated murder for the rest of his life.

Well, we got that turned around. We got it paroled, and thank God we did. He is one of the finest people I have ever known, Sergeant Derrick Miller here, working for me now, and he is working for our caucus.

We have a system that is broken, and we need to fix it. And if our Secretary of Defense doesn't recognize that, he needs to go, and we need to take the money that we have allowed them to use to drag people back to America, away from the combat field, away from injuries that have combat experience, we need to put them on trial in a civil Federal court and let them have all the rights and privileges they should have as American citizens.

If you are not going to do it in the combat theater the proper way with the proper investigation, let's bring

them back. Use your money from defense. Use that not in courts-martial but here in the United States in a civil court, and that will solve the problem.

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

RECOGNIZING SALEM MEDICAL CENTER

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today I want to acknowledge the Salem Medical Center, as they recently celebrated 100 years of service to the south Jersey community.

The medical center has been a staple of the area since its creation and has evolved over time to meet the changing needs of Salem County.

Salem Medical Center offers cutting-edge hospital services and a wide array of outpatient programs to ensure the people of south Jersey have access to the healthcare they need. The center has also been expanding in recent years, thus providing patients with more advanced technology and higher quality care.

I want to thank the Salem Medical Center for their reliable service to south Jersey for the past 100 years and hope they continue to flourish in Salem County for 100 more. Their nurses, their doctors, their technicians, all of their employees are our heroes. May God bless them.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, November 15, 2019, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

2942. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a letter reporting a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of Agriculture, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); Public Law 110-161, Sec. 1517(b); (121 Stat. 2285); to the Committee on Appropriations.

2943. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a letter reporting a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); Public Law 110-161, Sec. 1517(b); (121 Stat. 2285); to the Committee on Appropriations.

2944. A letter from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2018 Antideficiency Act Reports Compilation, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; Public Law 97-258; (96 Stat. 926) and 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); Public Law 110-161, Sec. 1517(b); (121 Stat. 2285); to the Committee on Appropriations.

2945. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insur-

ance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Resolution Plans Required (RIN: 3064-AE93) received November 7, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2946. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Changes to Applicability Thresholds for Regulatory Capital and Liquidity Requirements (RIN: 3064-AE96) received November 7, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2947. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a final report: ANC 8C Misappropriated Funds, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 455(d); (87 Stat. 803); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2948. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's Semiannual Report to Congress from the Office of the Inspector General; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

2949. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting The Department's determination on a petition filed on behalf of workers at the Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 7384(c)(2); Public Law 106-398, Sec. 1 (as amended by Public Law 108-375, Sec. 3166(b)(1)); (118 Stat. 2188); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2950. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition filed on behalf of workers at the West Valley Demonstration Project in West Valley, New York, to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 7384(c)(2); Public Law 106-398, Sec. 1 (as amended by Public Law 108-375, Sec. 3166(b)(1)); (118 Stat. 2188); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2951. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Registration Fee Requirement for Petitioners Seeking To File H-1B Petitions on Behalf of Cap Subject Aliens [CIS No.: 2652-19; DHS Docket No.: USCIS-2019-0006] (RIN: 1615-AC36) received November 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2952. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aeronautics (Formerly Known as Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0520; Product Identifier 2019-NM-046-AD; Amendment 39-19770; AD 2019-21-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 7, 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.

2953. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0724; Product Identifier 2019-NM-134-AD; Amendment 39-19773; AD 2019-21-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 7, 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.

2954. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0718; Product Identifier 2019-NM-128-AD; Amendment 39-19771; AD 2019-21-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 7, 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.

2955. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0522; Product Identifier 2019-NM-082-AD; Amendment 39-19737; AD 2019-19-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 7, 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. DEFAZIO: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 2247. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for programs and activities to protect the water quality of Puget Sound, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-290). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. DEFAZIO: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 4275. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-291). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SPANO (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. WALTZ):

H.R. 5080. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a rebuttable presumption that certain Federal offenses were induced by coercion if a defendant was the victim of trafficking when such offense was committed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. WRIGHT (for himself, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. PENCE, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 5081. A bill to require the Attorney General to establish a grant program to assist with the medical expenses of qualified working dogs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COLLINS (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr.

LOUDERMILK, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. PENCE, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia):

H.R. 5082. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax benefits for investments in gigabit opportunity zones; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. GAETZ):

H.R. 5083. A bill to provide that, in the event that the Secretary of the Treasury estimates that the debt ceiling will be reached, the Secretary is required to issue GDP-linked bonds to pay the principal and interest on the public debt and the President is authorized to request the rescission of certain unobligated balances and sell certain mortgage-related assets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, the Budget, and Rules, 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. MEEKS (for himself and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 5084. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the submission by issuers of data relating to diversity and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself and Mr. NORMAN):

H.R. 5085. A bill to remove the discretionary inflator from the baseline and to provide that the salaries of Members of a House of Congress will be held in escrow if that House has not agreed to a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CHENEY (for herself, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BUDD, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. TURNER, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. MITCHELL):

H.R. 5086. A bill to terminate certain waivers of sanctions with respect to Iran issued in connection with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, the Judiciary, and Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CLAY:

H.R. 5087. A bill to require non-Federal prison, correctional, and detention facilities holding Federal prisoners or detainees under a contract with the Federal Government to make the same information available to the public that Federal prisons and correctional facilities are required to make available; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 5088. A bill to make exclusive the authority of the Federal Government to regu-

late the labeling of products made in the United States and introduced in interstate or foreign commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. FLETCHER (for herself and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 5089. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for alternative fuels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5090. A bill to require the Administrator of General Services to issue regulations allowing the leasing of certain space for preventive health fitness programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 5091. A bill to establish a community wildfire defense grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5092. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to States to establish a comprehensive school career counseling framework; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 5093. A bill to amend the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 to provide for the treatment of proceeds from seized or forfeited assets in connection with certain third-party land use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 5094. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to credit applicable medical facilities accounts at the West Los Angeles Campus of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Los Angeles, California with revenues received pursuant to the use of easements at the Campus; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. YOUNG):

H.R. 5095. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to delist certain endangered species and threatened species; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Mr. FORTENBERRY):

H.R. 5096. A bill to improve passenger vessel security and safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NADLER, Ms. TLAB, Mr. CISNEROS, and Ms. ESCOBAR):

H.R. 5097. A bill to require greater notification to the public regarding product recalls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NORCROSS (for himself and Mr. KIM):

H.R. 5098. A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to transitional services for separating members of the Armed Forces and educational assistance under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on

Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5099. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to submit to Congress a plan to ensure that the executive branch of Government has a full workforce composed of qualified employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 5100. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to remove nonnative plant species that contribute to drought conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 5101. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the financing of the Superfund; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. RICHMOND):

H.R. 5102. A bill to designate public colleges and universities that provide research, data, and recommendations on physical and biological science, social science, economic analysis, policy analysis, risk analysis, monitoring, predicting, and planning for sea-level rise and associated coastal flooding and shoreline erosion as National Centers of Excellence in Coastal Resilience Research and Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PETERSON (for himself and Mr. TIPTON):

H.R. 5103. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the floor on the area wage index under the inpatient prospective payment system to certain sole community hospitals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 5104. A bill to ensure full labor protections for graduate student workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. CASE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 5105. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to respond to requests for information from Members of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. CASE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 5106. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow airports to impose an access restriction for certain hours, to assess certain penalties against air carriers or aircraft operators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 5107. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a program at San Francisco International Airport for purposes of soundproofing residential buildings in surrounding communities; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 5108. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to continue processing the proposed SFO NIITE Departure Southbound Transition and the OAK HUSSH Departure Southbound Transition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. CASE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 5109. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to expand the priorities of the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration in develop plans and policy for the use of the navigable airspace; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. CASE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 5110. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to ensure representatives of aviation roundtables may participate in the NextGen performance-based navigation implementation process of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. CASE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 5111. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to notify the public of proposed new Performance Based Navigation Implementation Process flight procedures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 5112. A bill to establish that no Federal statute is intended to preempt a cause of action against an airport maintained in any State small claims or superior court by any individual or city within 5 miles of an airport when an action is brought for noise or nuisance caused by ground-based noise in violation of a State statute as specified, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 5113. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to reform the renewable fuel program under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. SIMPSON):

H. Con. Res. 73. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that public health professionals should be commended for their dedication and service to the United

States on Public Health Thank You Day, November 25, 2019; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. CASE, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. STANTON, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. ROUDA):

H. Con. Res. 74. Concurrent resolution encouraging the Architect of the Capitol to transition to the exclusive use of electricity derived from renewable energy sources to power the United States Capitol Complex by 2032; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma (for herself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. BRINDISI, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. CASE, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington):

H. Res. 698. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the importance of assisting justice-involved veterans; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H. Res. 699. A resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Poland; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. CHENEY:

H. Res. 700. A resolution supporting the designation of December 10, 2019, as "Wyoming Women's Suffrage Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. TAKANO):

H. Res. 701. A resolution expressing support for policies that maintain a robust, fully-funded and staffed Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs and do not jeopardize care for veterans by moving essential resources to the for-profit private sector; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on 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. PRESSLEY:

H. Res. 702. A resolution recognizing that the United States has a moral obligation to meet its foundational promise of guaranteed justice for all; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. BERA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. COURTNEY):

H. Res. 703. A resolution supporting the designation of the week beginning November 11, 2019, as "National Apprenticeship Week"; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. SHALALA (for herself and Mr. ADERHOLT):

H. Res. 704. A resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Month

and National Adoption Day by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children waiting for adoption, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CROW, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. KIM, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. SHERRILL):

H. Res. 705. A resolution recognizing the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. SPANO:
H.R. 5080.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. WRIGHT:
H.R. 5081.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:
H.R. 5082.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:
H.R. 5083.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MEEKS:
H.R. 5084.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Commerce Clause

By Mr. BIGGS:
H.R. 5085.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. CHENEY:
H.R. 5086.
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. CLAY:
H.R. 5087.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COOK:
H.R. 5088.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. FLETCHER:
H.R. 5089.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8
“lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.”

By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5090.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
The Congress shall have Power * * * To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:
H.R. 5091.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Impost 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. LANGEVIN:
H.R. 5092.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:
H.R. 5093.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:
H.R. 5094.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:
H.R. 5095.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to 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, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Thus, Congress has the authority not only to increase taxes, but also, to reduce taxes to promote the general welfare of the United States of America and her citizens. Additionally, Congress has the Constitutional authority to regulate commerce among the States and with Indian Tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Ms. MATSUI:
H.R. 5096.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. MENG:
H.R. 5097.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

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By Mr. NORCROSS:
H.R. 5098.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. NORTON:
H.R. 5099.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN:
H.R. 5100.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. PALLONE:
H.R. 5101.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the Constitution
By Mr. PANETTA:
H.R. 5102.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 18
By Mr. PETERSON:
H.R. 5103.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. POCAN:
H.R. 5104.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:
H.R. 5105.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:
H.R. 5106.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:
H.R. 5107.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:
H.R. 5108.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:
H.R. 5109.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:
H.R. 5110.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:
H.R. 5111.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:
H.R. 5112.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WELCH:
H.R. 5113.
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..

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 20: Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. DUNN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. LONG, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. KELLER.
H.R. 94: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 103: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 451: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 566: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 573: Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 712: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 784: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. DUNN, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. LONG, and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
H.R. 798: Mr. GRIFFITH.
H.R. 803: Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 808: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 877: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 895: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 935: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 961: Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 1019: Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 1027: Mr. WILLIAMS.
H.R. 1034: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 1042: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1043: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 1055: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 1099: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 1139: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 1154: Mr. STIVERS and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 1161: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 1257: Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina.
H.R. 1345: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 1349: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
H.R. 1379: Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 1380: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 1397: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
H.R. 1398: Mr. PENCE, Mr. BABIN, Mr. COOK, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. GIBBS, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 1440: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 1488: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 1531: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 1597: Ms. DEAN, Mr. MAST, Mr. CORREA, and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 1601: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
H.R. 1605: Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 1682: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 1691: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 1695: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. LONG, Mr. CORREA, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 1707: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 1754: Mr. CASTEN of Illinois and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 1766: Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 1783: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1786: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 1816: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 1819: Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 1854: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 1869: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.
H.R. 1896: Mr. LAMB.
H.R. 1981: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 2001: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. EVANS, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. KIND, and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 2075: Mr. COOK.
H.R. 2096: Ms. MENG and Mr. KIM.
H.R. 2111: Ms. ESCOBAR.
H.R. 2148: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 2178: Mr. TRONE and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 2179: Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. WATKINS.
H.R. 2200: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. VELA, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 2208: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 2222: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. MAST, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 2234: Mr. SCALISE.
H.R. 2242: Ms. PLASKETT.
H.R. 2315: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 2321: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 2382: Mr. UPTON, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. WILLIAMS.
H.R. 2398: Mr. LAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 2435: Mr. TONKO and Mr. GOLDEN.
H.R. 2441: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 2501: Mr. COX of California.
H.R. 2599: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 2653: Mr. KIND and Mr. MCADAMS.
H.R. 2655: Mr. ABRAHAM.
H.R. 2702: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 2727: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H.R. 2733: Mr. FULCHER.
H.R. 2747: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2767: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 2771: Mr. MITCHELL and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
H.R. 2788: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 2825: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 2856: Mr. ROY.
H.R. 2895: Mr. WELCH, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 2896: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 2907: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2913: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2985: Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. BERA, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 2986: Mr. KIM.
H.R. 3010: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 3048: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 3072: Mr. WATKINS.
H.R. 3077: Mr. MOOLENAAR and Mr. YOUNG.
H.R. 3100: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3114: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 3157: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3162: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
H.R. 3252: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 3265: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 3306: Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 3328: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 3366: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 3441: Mr. MALINOWSKI and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 3446: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 3452: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 3456: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
H.R. 3463: Mr. CUELLAR and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 3466: Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 3495: Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PALAZZO, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. HECK, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. WRIGHT.
H.R. 3524: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 3555: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 3564: Mr. GAETZ.
H.R. 3584: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 3702: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 3708: Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 3735: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 3778: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 3817: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 3884: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3894: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 3896: Mr. VEASEY, Mr. KILDEE, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 3961: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 3962: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 3973: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. SIRES, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 4028: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 4056: Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RYAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4069: Mr. COMER.
H.R. 4077: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 4092: Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 4096: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4107: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 4153: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
H.R. 4193: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.
H.R. 4194: Ms. CRAIG, Mr. EMMER, and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 4228: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio and Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 4229: Mr. WELCH and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 4236: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 4243: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 4248: Mr. KELLER.
H.R. 4252: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 4259: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4280: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 4327: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4337: Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 4343: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 4348: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 4349: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 4371: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 4397: Mr. KIM.
H.R. 4436: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 4492: Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee.
H.R. 4499: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 4508: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 4526: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 4592: Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee.
H.R. 4615: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 4650: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 4659: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H.R. 4671: Mr. MALINOWSKI.
H.R. 4684: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 4694: Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 4698: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4704: Mr. LAMB, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 4722: Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 4748: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 4752: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 4753: Mr. MAST and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.
H.R. 4782: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 4856: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 4864: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 4872: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 4881: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. WRIGHT, and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 4894: Ms. NORTON and Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 4899: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 4900: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 4901: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 4903: Mr. COLE and Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 4913: Mr. BUDD, Mr. TONKO, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 4920: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.
H.R. 4934: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 4935: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 4946: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 4965: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 4968: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 4984: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 4989: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 4996: Mr. WALDEN and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 5002: Mr. COHEN and Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.
H.R. 5018: Mr. WRIGHT.
H.R. 5019: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 5034: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5036: Mr. HECK and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 5045: Mr. SOTO and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 5052: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 5060: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 5066: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 5068: Ms. JAYAPAL and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.J. Res. 78: Mr. BUDD, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr.

MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. COLE, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mr. BACON.

H. Con. Res. 10: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. AGUILAR.

H. Res. 109: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H. Res. 189: Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. LAMB, and Mr. DOGGETT.

H. Res. 219: Mr. HURD of Texas.

H. Res. 255: Mr. LAMB.

H. Res. 277: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.

H. Res. 349: Mr. COHEN.

H. Res. 517: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H. Res. 678: Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BYRNE, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MAST, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BIGGS, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H. Res. 688: Mr. ENGEL and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H. Res. 692: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H. Res. 697: Mrs. WAGNER.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

63. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Benton County, Oregon, Board of Commissioners, relative to Resolution No. R2019-027, urging the United States Congress to Enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs.



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

No. 182

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.

Eternal Father, the source of light and life, we praise Your Holy Name. Because of You, we live and move and have our being. Remind us that we are not adequate for our daily task without Your strength and abiding presence.

Lord, empower our Senators this day to think clearly, speak wisely, and live faithfully. May they strive to do their best and then leave the results to You.

Eternal God, we are trusting You to fulfill Your purposes for our Nation and world.

We pray in Your powerful 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, a 5-year decline in farm income, retaliatory tariffs on U.S. ag commodities, disrupted renewable biofuel policies, devastating natural disasters, and now shortages of LP gas needed to dry harvested grain add to the growing burdens weighing heavily on the minds of Iowans and American farmers.

Mounting pressure to pay the bills, to get the crops out, and to make ends meet can be overwhelming. We have lately expressed lots of worries and pressures that come from the increase in farm bankruptcies and the increase in rural and farm suicides.

There are many uncertainties in farming that are beyond human control, but there are other areas where Congress can help. As a farmer and as a Senator representing the No. 1 agricultural State, I am fighting to build mental health resources—as an example, there is the Grassley-Tester bill to help preempt suicides—to uphold the RFS by fighting with the EPA, and to pass the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

These are issues that are tops on the minds of Iowans and not just the farmers.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, while our Senate Democratic colleagues continue blocking this body from considering funding for our Armed Forces, the Senate has taken advantage of the time to confirm more of President Trump's well-qualified nominees for Federal service, as well as the judiciary.

Yesterday, we confirmed Chad Wolf to serve at the Department of Homeland Security. Following President Trump's decision to designate him Acting Secretary, he is now heading up the Department.

I want to take a moment to thank the outgoing Acting DHS Secretary, Kevin McAleenan. His tenure leading the Department of Homeland Security capped off a distinguished career in

public service, including nearly two decades rising through the ranks of the Customs and Border Patrol.

His leadership at DHS saw significant progress in mitigating major aspects of our border security and humanitarian crisis, a strong focus on cyber security, and hard work to strengthen the Department all across the board. So I thank the outgoing Acting Secretary for his years in public service and, particularly, for his leadership in this recent chapter.

Now, today, we will vote on the confirmation of Steven Menashi to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Menashi won majority support on the Judiciary Committee on the basis of strong academic and legal qualifications—degrees from Dartmouth and Stanford, clerkships on the appellate level and the Supreme Court, and experience in both teaching and practicing law.

I would urge all of our colleagues to vote to confirm this impressive nominee this afternoon.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, as my colleagues know, I have no qualms about spending floor time on the personnel business. Our Democratic colleagues have made it necessary by subjecting this President's nominees to unprecedented, systematic delays and obstruction. The majority has been willing to do things the hard way. We are giving the American people the government they voted for, as chosen by the President they elected.

My Republican colleagues and I wish that we could also be spending floor time on productive, bipartisan legislation that the American people need to actually become law. We want to pass the USMCA and the 176,000 new American jobs it would create, but Speaker PELOSI continues to block it. The far left objects to their passing anything—anything—that the President likes.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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We want to pass a conference report for the NDAA, critical legislation for our national defense. Congress has passed a bipartisan NDAA every single year since 1961. Now it is another casualty of the impeachment obsession.

House Democrats steamrolled Republicans in order to pass a wholly partisan bill. I believe this may be the first time ever that either Chamber has passed a purely partisan NDAA. Now they are stalling the conference committee and jeopardizing the whole process.

We want to pass the defense funding bill that our Democratic colleagues have now filibustered twice so that our servicemembers and commanders get what they need. Back in the summer, the Republican and Democratic leaders in the House and Senate all agreed and all signed onto an agreement with President Trump—a bicameral, bipartisan agreement. Everybody signed it. We brokered this deal to make sure the appropriations process did not—did not—get bogged down with bickering over policy issues. We all agreed to keep poison pills out so that government funding could move forward.

But just a few months later, our Democratic colleagues are now insisting on exactly the kinds of poison pills they foreswore when they signed onto the agreement this summer. They are holding up funding for our men and women in uniform because they disagree with the President's views on border security. They want to chip away at the exact Presidential authorities that they specifically agreed not to be touched. Let me say that again. They want to chip away at the exact Presidential authorities that they specifically agreed not to be touched. In short, my friends in Democratic leadership smelled an opportunity to pick a political fight.

Our servicemembers need their funding. American workers and small businesses need their new trade deal. Our Armed Forces need the authorizing legislation that has been a bipartisan slam dunk every year for almost 60 years—60 years.

We cannot cease all legislation just because Democrats would rather fight with the President. We will not neglect the business of the American people just because a House committee is holding some public hearing. If they are going to keep plowing ahead with their impeachment obsession, they cannot abdicate their basic government responsibilities at the very same time.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, now, on another matter, last Tuesday was election day in dozens of States and localities, including in my home State of Kentucky. There was one important aspect of election day that didn't get much attention. Unlike in 2016, last week's elections were not marred to the same extent by foreign

interference from our Nation's adversaries, and neither were the 2018 mid-term elections last year.

As of now, there are no reports of foreign intrusion into voter records and no reports of significant and successful disinformation efforts on social media or anywhere else. By any reasonable standard and by all available evidence, the past two elections have gone a whole lot more smoothly than back in 2016.

Now, this wasn't for lack of trying. Russia and our other adversaries have tried for decades to interfere in our politics and to undermine the competence of the American people in our democracy, and they will not likely let up anytime soon. This fight is nowhere near over. But make no mistake, our defenses are a whole lot stronger.

A massive coordinated effort to confront this threat has brought together the Congress, the Trump administration, all 50 States, the private sector, and more than 2,000 local jurisdictions. We have worked to address the weaknesses Russia sought to exploit during the Obama administration and have proactively strengthened our defenses.

Last week, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Defense, the Acting Homeland Security Secretary, the acting DNI, and the heads of the FBI, the NSA, the U.S. Cyber Command, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency issued a statement. Here is what it said:

Election security is a top priority. . . . In an unprecedented level of coordination, the U.S. government is working with all 50 states and U.S. territories, local officials, and private sector partners to identify threats, broadly share information, and protect the democratic process.

Now, I know my colleagues already know about these significant efforts thanks to the groundwork laid by the Intelligence Committee's painstaking investigation. We know about it because we have provided \$380 million to help modernize State election systems. Back in September, I cosponsored an amendment in committee that will bring the total to more than \$600 million.

We know about the progress because we have had a bipartisan, all-Members briefing from administration experts. Senators literally broke into applause in appreciation for what the administration was doing to protect our election. The story is not finished. The crucial work continues, but the progress is undeniable.

No longer is threat intelligence siloed within the Federal Government. This administration has moved to share vital information systematically with everyone, from States and localities to social media companies. No longer is interference cost-free for adversaries. The administration has sanctioned and prosecuted Russians engaged in election interference and issued an Executive order that paves the way for additional sanctions on those who seek to interfere.

The Department of Homeland Security now runs a National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center—a physical war room of sorts—on election day for sharing information and coordinating action. That is along with an online platform that 200 jurisdictions reportedly tapped into last week.

Long before election day, this administration was connecting with all 50 States and more than 2,000 localities to deploy new cyber security tools, new training for election workers, and to provide threat alerts, and the list goes on and on.

Our adversaries are still at the door, but for two election days in a row now, we have benefitted from stronger defenses. Progress like this should earn bipartisan applause. Like I said, behind closed doors, it did, but in public our Democratic colleagues have not loudly cheered the successes. Instead, they are trying to use the very serious issue of election security to repackage their long-held liberal view that Washington, DC, needs far more power over elections.

Look, nobody really believes that all the partisan proposals from Speaker PELOSI and company are some kind of tailored response to Russian meddling, not when they transparently serve the same goals the Democrats have wanted since way before 2016.

For goodness' sake, the New York Times was editorializing for federalizing elections right after election day 2012, even when they liked the outcome. That was the same election cycle, by the way, in which President Obama mocked—mocked—his Republican opponent for being too tough on Russia.

So let's not mistake these long-held liberal policy goals as some new, targeted response to Russian meddling. Election security is too important to become a Trojan horse for ideological goals that Democrats have wanted for many years.

We need to continue the serious work that Federal, State, and local officials are engaging in every day—work that is already yielding results—and we need to stay vigilant because our adversaries will not stop.

So I want to salute the Federal, State, and local professionals who helped make last week an apparent election security success. I urge Senate Democrats to stop blocking a bipartisan appropriations process so that we can secure hundreds of millions of dollars more for the folks out there on the frontlines.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Steven J. Menashi, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Mr. McCONNELL. 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. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, last month, we lost Kay Hagan after a long illness.

Kay was always a fighter, starting with her days in the North Carolina State Legislature and continuing to when she answered the call of serving the Senate during the perilous days of the great recession. Kay was the right person to fight for North Carolina when she was needed the most.

She came from a family who knows service and sacrifice. Her uncle was Lawton Chiles, a Korean war veteran and former Representative, Senator, and Governor of Florida. Her father and brother served in the Navy. Her father-in-law was a major general in the Marine Corps. Her husband is a Vietnam veteran who used his GI bill to pay for law school. When Kay talked about veterans' issues, she spoke from the heart.

Kay was born into politics. As a young girl, she was putting bumper stickers on cars for her uncle. Her father won an election to become mayor of Lakeland, FL. While interning for her uncle, Kay learned about the ups and downs of Congress, literally. She operated the Senators-only elevator in this building.

North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt first encouraged Kay to run for office when she served as his Guilford County campaign chairman. In 1998, she unseated a Republican incumbent and won a seat in the North Carolina State Senate. For 10 years, Kay Hagan earned a reputation as a commonsense hard worker, interested in results, not partisan fighting. As cochair of the State budget committee, she increased the State's rainy day fund and balanced five straight budgets. She helped make record investments in education, raised the pay for teachers, and increased the minimum wage.

She was one of the most versatile women in her State. She juggled Girl Scout events, winning reelection four times, raising her growing family, and

serving as a Sunday school teacher and a Presbyterian Church elder.

In 2008, Kay ran for and won a U.S. Senate seat, becoming the Senate's first female Democratic Senator. With her family's military background, it surprised no one that Kay fought hard in the Senate for military families and veterans. When she heard about 9-year-old Janey Ensminger—daughter of a retired marine—passing away from leukemia because of contaminated water on the base of Camp Lejeune, she worked to pass the Janey Ensminger Act to help those affected receive healthcare.

Kay also introduced a bill that was close to my heart. It would ban for-profit colleges from using the phrase "GI bill" in their aggressive marketing efforts aimed at separating veterans and servicemembers from their hard-earned education benefits.

Kay was fearless with her voting. She made the toughest votes count, knowing the consequences to her own career. As long as it helped people of North Carolina and the United States, she was always a crucial partner. The Affordable Care Act and the 2009 economic stimulus package were politically difficult for many, but Kay stepped up and supported them. She was brave to the highest degree. Historians will remember that bravery. She stepped up when America needed her. Today, because of it, America is stronger and better.

We will all remember Kay Hagan for her friendship and that we had the privilege to call her a friend and colleague.

She is survived by her husband Chip, her three children—Jeanette Hagan, Tilden Hagan, Carrie Hagan Stewart—her father Joe P. Ruthven, two brothers, and five grandchildren.

It was my honor to serve with Kay Hagan and to memorialize her service to North Carolina and the United States in this statement today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, November is National Adoption Month. Later this morning, I will be spending time with a family I nominated to receive an Angels in Adoption Award this year. The Angels in Adoption Program is designed to bring recognition to individuals and organizations who are, in the words of the program, "making extraordinary contributions to adoption, permanency, and child welfare."

Angels in Adoption is a program in the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, and each year Members of Congress are invited to nominate an individual or family to receive an Angels in Adoption Award. I have been making these nominations for more than a decade now. It has been a privilege and an inspiration to meet South Dakota families who have opened their hearts and homes to children in need.

This year, I nominated Mike and Kim Adams, fellow residents of Sioux Falls,

SD. Mike and Kim have a tremendous heart for children. They have five biological children, but as they learned more about the plight of children in poverty, they were drawn to adoption.

God put the country of Ethiopia on their hearts in a particular way. In 2008, they adopted a daughter from Ethiopia—Eva. Within a few years, they had adopted three more children—Selena and Amanuel from Ethiopia and Shakira from Uganda—making them a family of 11. The story doesn't end there. Seeing the poorest of the poor in Ethiopia deeply moved them, and in addition to adoption, they sought ways to help communities stuck in poverty.

The needs of children were particularly close to their hearts. In 2013, Mike and Kim agreed to take over two schools in Ethiopia when the agency running them was forced to pull out of the country. The Adams family formed the Adams Thermal Foundation to support the schools. Today the foundation supports more than 1,000 students in two schools in Ethiopia. The schools' mission is to serve children most in need—those who might otherwise miss out on the opportunity for an education. In addition to academic instructions, schools provide other resources in an effort to alleviate some of the effects of poverty and to make it easier for the children to stay in school.

To name one example, at the end of last year, the foundation completed a project to provide a permanent source of clean water to its school in Ottoro, Ethiopia, as well as to seven local villages. In addition to providing essential health and sanitation benefits, the new pipeline also frees children from the hours-long task of fetching water for their families, meaning more children can attend school.

In learning Mike and Kim's story, I was struck by how love multiplies and expands. Mike and Kim's willingness to open their hearts has led not only to four children finding a forever home but to hope and opportunity for hundreds more. I feel privileged to have learned their story and to be able to nominate them for an Angels in Adoption Award this year.

National Adoption Month is a chance to honor all those who, like the Adams, chose to welcome a child in need of a home. Sadly, not every child is born into a safe and loving home. Some are born to parents who are unable to take care of them. Some lose their parents to war, accident, or illness, and, tragically, some are born to parents who refuse to take care of them or actively seek to damage the great gift in their care.

Thankfully, there are parents out there eager to receive these children. Across our country, there are countless parents whose homes and hearts are already prepared to welcome a child in need. They may not yet know the names of their future sons or daughters, but they are ready and waiting to meet them.

National Adoption Month is a good time to rededicate ourselves to caring for children in need and helping them find loving families to receive them.

In the gospel of Mark, Jesus says, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me."

There are few actions more worthy of admiration than a decision to welcome a child in need and to create for that child a secure and loving home.

I am so grateful for all of the generous families across this country who have opened their hearts and found sons and daughters through adoption. I am also thankful for all of the birth mothers who have chosen adoption for their children to give them better lives in loving families.

I am honored to recognize the Adams family today for their embrace of their own adopted children, as well as everything they have done to make life better for children in Ethiopia.

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 Democratic leader is recognized.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, for the past few weeks, including this morning, the Republican leader has amazingly accused the Democrats of being uninterested in making progress for the American people because we are so distracted by the impeachment inquiry into President Trump. It is a ludicrous charge, not the least because Leader McConnell has shuttered the Senate when it comes to legislative business.

The House has passed over 250 bills that Leader McConnell has taken no action on here in the Senate. Leader McConnell proudly called himself the Grim Reaper and blocked just about everything that came through the House long before impeachment was even being talked about. So this idea that impeachment is blocking us from doing things belies Senator McConnell's record. Let me repeat it. The House has passed 250 bills, and Senator McConnell has taken no action on them from January forward.

There are lots of these bills we could have put on the floor this week, but there has been not a one. The Republicans just block and block. They block legislation to protect Americans with preexisting conditions, to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, and even to secure our elections from foreign interference.

A few minutes ago, I heard Leader McConnell say that everything was fine with the elections and that we don't need any more legislation. Go talk to the election officials around

the States. The States are the ones that have the say. The bottom line is they think we need to do more, and the experts think we need to do more. Only Leader McConnell doesn't. Again, he is blocking that. If Russia interferes in 2020—and I hope it will not—all eyes will be on the Republican leader, who has repeatedly prevented us from moving forward on bipartisan legislation to make our elections safer.

To show another example of the legislative graveyard, in a few minutes, the two Senators from Connecticut—MURPHY and BLUMENTHAL—will be moving forward on bipartisan background checks, H.R. 8. It is overwhelmingly supported by the American people. Senator MURPHY and Senator BLUMENTHAL will ask for unanimous consent, and the Republicans will object. So, while the Republican leader accuses the Democrats of being too distracted to make progress, he has turned the Senate into a legislative graveyard, where we hardly ever vote on legislation, where we hardly ever have an open amendment process, where we hardly ever debate major issues. This is despite commitments that have been made by the Republican leader in the past. At one point, he said—and I am sure my colleagues from Connecticut will point this out—yes, we ought to do something on background checks. Yet nothing has happened—nothing.

You don't even have to ask me. My friend the Republican Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. TOOMEY, said something last week that caught my attention. He and I may not agree on much, but here is what he said: "Our Democratic colleagues have frequently criticized the Republican leadership and Republican majority for not legislating. Sometimes they have a point." Those are his words, not mine.

I was here on the floor yesterday with the senior Senator from Texas, and we talked about how the Senate might go about trying to lower the costs of prescription drugs. I disagreed with the Senator's unanimous consent request, as it was too narrow a rifle shot. We need to do a whole lot more. Yet we agreed we could work through the issues if the Republican leader would only allow a debate on the floor whereby both sides could offer amendments and receive votes. We Democrats very much want to vote on legislation that would maintain protections for the people who have preexisting conditions. We Democrats very much want to have a vote on allowing Medicare to negotiate with the drug companies to dramatically lower drug prices. Let's have a debate on all of these. Who is stopping that? It is not the Democrats. It is the Republican leader.

The fact of the matter is, the kinds of open debates for which we wish and the American people wish have not happened in Leader McConnell's legislative graveyard. The man who proudly called himself the Grim Reaper goes far too far in accusing the Democrats

of stifling progress. Instead, he should take a hard look in the mirror.

IMPEACHMENT

Madam President, in the House impeachment inquiry into President Trump, public hearings began yesterday with the testimony of George Kent and William Taylor.

Ambassador Taylor, who is a career public servant and a war hero who has long served Presidents of both parties, provided a startling new revelation—that his aide overheard a conversation between President Trump and Ambassador Sondland, during which the President made clear he cared more about Ukraine's investigating the Bidens than he did about helping Ukraine. The aide is reportedly set to appear before the House for a deposition later this week, and Mr. Sondland is set to appear before the Intelligence Committee for a public hearing next week.

All Senators will have an obligation to seek and review the full facts that will be developed by this inquiry to be able to render impartial justice. However, some of my Republican friends in the Senate have said they are not even paying attention to the hearings in the House. The distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary—a former House manager of an impeachment case, who, at the time, repeatedly urged Senators not to make up their minds before the case was in—recently said that he has made up his mind, that there is nothing there. This is before a single bit of evidence has been presented in the Senate. Alice in Wonderland: First is the verdict, then the trial. That is not becoming for the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

While my Republican colleagues may not have been paying attention, I have been paying attention, and my Democratic colleagues in the Senate, who know they might have to act as judges and jurors in this case, are paying attention. America is also paying attention. The evidence we all heard from Mr. Taylor and Mr. Kent has cast a troubling portrait of a President who is trying to use the powers of his office for personal political gain. As the public hearings continue, we have a responsibility here in the Senate not to prejudge the case but to examine the evidence impartially. At the very least, Senators should be paying attention.

NOMINATION OF STEVEN J. MENASHI

Madam President, the Senate will vote today on the confirmation of Steven J. Menashi to serve on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

In all my time in this body, Mr. Menashi has been one of the most contemptible nominees to have come before the Senate. He would be a disgrace to the seat once held by the great Thurgood Marshall.

While sitting before the Committee on the Judiciary, Menashi refused to answer simple questions. He showed a breathtaking contempt for Senators on both sides of the aisle. His record on

race, women's equality, LGBTQ rights, and the rights of immigrants should be disqualifying. At the Department of Education, he helped to cook up an illegal scheme to use the Social Security data of students who had been swindled by for-profit colleges in order to deny them debt relief. A judge ruled this scheme violated Federal privacy laws.

At the very least, a candidate for a judgeship should show respect for the law. That is the lowest possible bar. A judge is supposed to revere the law, uphold it, and apply it with an even hand. How can anyone trust Mr. Menashi to come even close to doing that? Mr. Menashi is a textbook example of someone who does not deserve to sit on the Federal bench, particularly with a lifetime appointment.

My Republican colleagues, in my view, have rubberstamped too many of these extreme, unqualified nominees—nominees, in Mr. Menashi's case, who have been almost craven, but on few occasions, a small group has stood up and said: Enough. This is too far.

Well, my colleagues, if there were ever anyone who was too far, it is Menashi. There is no reason President Trump couldn't find a more suitable nominee for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. I urge my Republican colleagues to do the right thing today and reject the Menashi nomination.

TAX RETURNS

On tax returns, yesterday a Federal appeals court ruled that Congress can seek 8 years of the President's tax returns. No doubt, the President will appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court in an effort to keep hidden what the President has been hiding for as long as he has been in public life—his tax returns.

Why the President has engaged in such an astounding breach of transparency is still unknown.

President Trump, what are you hiding?

The DC Circuit's decision—an 8-to-3 ruling—was clearly the correct legal result. It should be upheld.

FARMERS AND VETERANS

Last but not least, on farmers and veterans, President Trump has long fashioned himself a champion of everyday Americans—workers, farmers, veterans. This week has been a grim reminder that despite the President's promises, almost every week his administration undermines the very people he claims to champion.

Take our veterans whose service we commemorated earlier this week on Veterans Day. The Department of Veterans Affairs decided in 2017 to help Vietnam-era veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange by expanding the list of diseases that were eligible for health benefits to include bladder cancer, hypertension, Parkinson's-like symptoms, and hypothyroidism.

There are tens of thousands of veterans whose lives would be changed by this decision. It was the right decision based on research done by the VA. Unfortunately, it was recently revealed

that OMB Director and Acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney blocked funding for these new health benefits because of what it would cost. Think about that. Mick Mulvaney, who thought adding \$1.5 trillion to our deficit was an acceptable cost for tax cuts to the rich, believes the cost of health benefits for sick veterans is just too high. So wrong. So wrong. It is shameful that Mulvaney could actually be in the position he is.

The next time the President claims to be a champion for our Nation's veterans, the American people should remember what he is doing here—denying benefits to men and women who were in our Armed Forces, exposed to Agent Orange, and are now sick. It is too expensive to help them but not too expensive to give tax cuts to the wealthiest of Americans. Shame on the administration, shame on Mulvaney, and shame on President Trump.

What about our farmers? It is no secret that America's farmers have struggled as a result of President Trump's trade policies and retaliatory tariffs from other countries. The administration even created a new program through USDA to help offset the losses farmers were facing.

Well, now it turns out that the Trump administration has grossly mishandled that program. A report by the Democratic minority on the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, led by its ranking member, Senator STABENOW, revealed that the lion's share of Federal aid has gone to large agricultural conglomerates scattered across the South, not to small family farms in the Midwest who have suffered the most. Ninety-five percent of the largest per-acre payments have gone to Southern States, while the lowest payments have disproportionately gone to the farmers who are suffering in the Midwest. The administration lifted the limits on aid to row crops but kept the limits for other crops, meaning that more aid has gone into the pockets of the largest and wealthiest farms in America. The report even showed that tens of millions of dollars have gone to foreign-owned entities, including a beef factory in Brazil.

President Trump has claimed to look after our farmers, and he has claimed to look after our veterans, but he has instead turned his back on them. More and more Americans—farmers, veterans, others—are starting to notice.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from Washington.

H.R. 8

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I want to thank Senators MURPHY and BLUMENTHAL for their tremendous leadership that we are here on the floor today to speak about.

I come today not just as a Member of the Senate representing my home State of Washington but as a former educator, as a mother, and as a grand-

mother devastated by how the gun violence epidemic is tearing apart our families and ravaging our communities in every State.

I am furious at Republican leaders who continue to stand by and do nothing while more and more lives are lost, just as I was after Newtown, Parkland, Sutherland Springs, and Marysville in my home State of Washington. I could go on.

We don't have to continue this cycle of violence, heartbreak, and inaction, and we are here today to emphasize that there is action we can take right now because earlier this year, the House passed H.R. 8—meaningful, bipartisan gun safety legislation—to address this terrible crisis through universal background checks and other popular reforms. But in the 260 days since H.R. 8 passed the House, it has languished here in the Senate despite repeated calls from myself and my Democratic colleagues for a vote.

That is why 58 days ago, following the tragic events at El Paso, Dayton, and Midland, I joined my Senate Democratic colleagues here on the floor to try to break the cycle and demand that we address the scourge of gun violence in this country by taking a vote here in the Senate on H.R. 8, which would install universal background checks—a policy that, by the way, is supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans.

In the face of Republican apathy, people across the country raised their voices even louder, demanding action to end the endless wave of gun tragedy, so much so that after this summer's string of horrors, President Trump bowed to public pressure and made a commitment to finally act to address the gun violence epidemic.

After months and years of inaction and far, far too many lives lost, it was the first sliver of hope in a long while—that the President and Senate Republicans would finally put the safety of our families over their allegiance to the NRA and do something substantive about ending this Nation's gun violence epidemic, working with Democrats toward commonsense reforms to end gun violence and keep people safe.

Now, more than 2 months later, President Trump has betrayed his pledge to address this tragic epidemic as if the past summer never even happened. Once again, he has chosen to abdicate his responsibility to keep our families and our communities safe and has broken yet another promise he made to the American people, kowtowing to the NRA and its unpopular, hard-right agenda to stymie commonsense gun reform as soon as mass shootings were out of the headlines.

Well, I can assure you, Senate Democrats and I are going to keep fighting for commonsense gun safety reforms, like universal background checks, even when gun violence isn't making a headline that day, because while President Trump continues carrying water for the NRA and Senate Republicans continue hiding behind President Trump,

Democrats here understand that Congress has a duty to act to protect lives, and that the President's cowardice absolutely should not set Congress's agenda.

While President Trump's backtracking on this serious issue is disgraceful, I ask my Republican colleagues to remember that we are not beholden to the President or to the gun lobby and that we do not need President Trump's permission to vote on bills or to act to save lives.

In fact, in States across the country, we have been able to take on the gun lobby and make meaningful progress to address this crisis.

In my home State of Washington, we have closed background check loopholes, and we have enacted extreme risk protection orders. We were able to accomplish those things because of the advocacy of groups like Moms Demand Action across my State, the Washington State Alliance for Gun Responsibility, Everytown for Gun Safety, March for Our Lives, and so many more, as well as the dedicated volunteers and activists behind those organizations, the brave people who have been out making their voices heard and putting pressure on lawmakers to do their jobs to end this senseless epidemic, people like Jane Weiss, who lives in Mill Creek, WA. After she tragically lost her niece to gun violence, Jane joined the fight to pass lifesaving legislation in Washington State by putting pressure on her State lawmakers and won.

There are people like Jane all across the country who are speaking up and fighting back, even when it means reliving some of the hardest moments of their lives, in order to prevent others from suffering as much as they have. That is hard and brave work to do, but there is absolutely nothing hard or brave about simply having a vote on bipartisan, House-passed legislation to ensure universal background checks. To the contrary, it is the height of cowardice not to hold that vote while families across the country wonder which movie theater or shopping mall or synagogue or mosque or church or community space is next and while students spend their time in school on active shooter drills while they should be learning. Unfortunately, cowardice is what we are seeing from far too many Republicans here in the Senate and in the White House when it comes to protecting families from this scourge of gun violence.

I want to be clear. I hope my Republican colleagues allow this legislation to pass today, but if they don't, for Jane and so many others, Senate Democrats are going to keep shining a spotlight on the inaction on gun violence here in the Senate and the broken promises coming out of the White House. We are going to keep making the case, building support, and we will not give up until this is done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 8

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, as Senator MURRAY noted, 100 people die from gunshot wounds every single day. We can't go 24 hours without news of another mass shooting somewhere in America. My kids and millions of others hide in corners of their classrooms or in their bathrooms preparing for a mass shooting at their school, and this body does nothing about it.

The good news is, we have a piece of legislation that enjoys 95 percent support in the American public and will undoubtedly make an enormous impact on gun violence rates in this country.

I will give more extensive remarks after I make this unanimous consent request, but my request will be that the Senate immediately take up H.R. 8, the universal background checks bill which was passed in a bipartisan way in the House of Representatives and which has received no action, no debate here in the U.S. Senate since that time.

As in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 29, H.R. 8; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Mississippi.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, legislation that would affect the rights of American citizens under the Second Amendment should not be fast-tracked by the Senate. Efforts to criminalize otherwise lawful conduct with firearms by law-abiding gun owners should not be exempt from consideration by the appropriate committee of jurisdiction. It should not be exempt from debate on the Senate floor.

If this so-called commonsense, bipartisan legislation was indeed crafted with strong bipartisan input, it shouldn't have any problems advancing by regular order.

Many questions about this legislation need to be answered before it is forced upon law-abiding gun owners. If I wanted to give my best friend's son or grandson my hunting rifle, would we first have to appear before a licensed gun dealer and go through a lengthy and potentially expensive background check? This is my understanding. We have many questions like this.

My constituents would like to have an opportunity to weigh in on measures like these, which is why we can't fast-track legislation that affects America's Second Amendment rights.

I object to this unanimous consent.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I appreciate the good-faith objection from my friend from Mississippi, but the good

news that I can convey to her is that my Republican Senate friends who want to have some impact into the consideration of the future of American gun laws have ample opportunity to do that because they are in the majority.

Senate Republicans control the Judiciary Committee. Senator MCCONNELL can decide to bring any measure to the floor. If the concern is that there hasn't been enough Republican input into the question of whether criminals or terrorists or people who are seriously mentally ill get guns, then, convene a discussion on this, bring a debate to the floor, have a process in the Judiciary Committee. Don't just stay silent. It doesn't pass the straight-face test to come down here and say: Well, we can't take up H.R. 8, despite the fact it has 90 percent public approval because we haven't had input on it. You are in the majority. You have the ability to pass legislation that you support and that Democrats can support as well.

The idea that we are just going to sit here and twiddle our thumbs week after week as 100 people are killed by guns through suicides and homicides and accidental shootings is an abdication of our basic responsibility as U.S. Senators. There is nothing that matters more to our constituents than their physical safety.

There are kids who are walking to school in cities in every single State in this Nation who fear for their lives, whose brain chemistry is changed by the trauma they go through because of that fear for their safety, and they can't learn, they can't cope, and they can't build strong relationships.

My kids go through active shooter drills at school because they, in fact, expect that someday someone will walk through their doors and start firing a military-style assault weapon in one of their classrooms.

I get it that there is a difference of opinion on exactly how we should expand background checks. I understand that maybe my Republican colleagues don't want to support H.R. 8. But you are in the majority. You have the ability to lead a conversation that can find that common ground on expanding background checks.

I am not going to accept this argument that we can't bring H.R. 8 to the floor because we have some concerns about it. I can't get a piece of legislation to the floor any other way than to offer this motion.

The American public is not going to accept silence from this body week after week, month after month, in the face of this epidemic carnage that is happening across this country. Parents know their kids aren't safe, and they expect us to act.

The President's Attorney General said the other day that we made some progress on the issue of background checks over the summer, but now we have the impeachment proceedings, and so that stops all of this discussion.

That is not true. The impeachment proceedings right now are in the House of Representatives. The discussion on the future of a background checks bill was in the Senate. It was happening between myself and Senator MANCHIN and Senator TOOMEY. We are still at the table, ready to negotiate a compromise version of the Background Check Expansion Act. We, frankly, have lots of time on our hands in the Senate because we are not doing anything other than approving an appointee here, a judge there. We have plenty of time. We have plenty of bandwidth in the Senate to negotiate with the White House over a universal background checks bill.

You can't say that we can't take up H.R. 8 because we haven't had input. Republicans are in charge. You have the ability to have as much input as you want. The White House can't say the impeachment is stopping a debate on background checks from happening. I am ready to talk. Senator TOOMEY is ready to talk. Senator MANCHIN is ready to talk.

We have evidence from this summer about how important universal background checks are. On the last day of August, a gunman fled from police in Odessa, TX. He hijacked a U.S. Postal Service van. He killed its driver and then randomly fired on people as he drove through the streets. During his shooting spree, the gunman killed seven people and wounded over 20 others—a reign of terror throughout the streets of this Texas town.

The current background checks law worked as it was intended to work. The shooter tried to buy a gun in January 2014, but he was denied. Why? Because he had been found to be so seriously mentally ill when he was committed to an inpatient institution that his name was placed on the list of individuals who were prohibited from buying weapons.

The problem is, Texas doesn't have universal background checks, meaning that it was as easy as pie for the shooter, after he got denied a gun purchase at a brick-and-mortar store, to just go find a private seller who would sell him a military-style weapon without a background check. In this case, it resulted in 20 people getting hurt and seven people being wounded—this easy way to find loopholes through the Nation's background check system. But that happens every single day. Every single day, somebody buys a gun at a gun show or online or through a private sale because that is the way they can get a gun without having to go through a background check.

I am deeply troubled. I am profoundly aggrieved by my body's reluctance to even take up a conversation about the future of gun policy in this country. I wish there wasn't an objection. I wish we had an opportunity to be able to discuss the future of background checks and the future of our gun laws on the Senate floor. Our constituents expect us to have that debate.

This will not be the last time we come down to the floor to try to force a debate, to force a conversation in this body so that we can find bipartisan consensus on an issue that enjoys 95 percent public support, 80 percent support from gun owners, and 70 percent support from NRA members. There is almost nothing else that is less controversial in America today than the issue of universal background checks, and we will continue to press that case on behalf of the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, we ought to be aggrieved, we ought to be angry, and we ought to be furious—not just frustrated but furious—at this sad, even pathetic, objection to moving forward with a bill that is supported by 95 percent of the American people. The simple fact is that our Senate colleagues have been talking to us in good faith, not only about a background checks bill but also about emergency risk protection orders, because we know there is no single solution, no panacea, and that emergency risk protection orders are the other side of the coin to background checks.

Last week, the Washington Post reported that President Trump has given up on passing lifesaving gun violence legislation. The reason is fierce lobby by the NRA.

Let's face the stark truth here. The objection on the floor today is not the result of any lack of clarity about the need for background check legislation. It is the result, purely and simply, of the President saying no.

We need to do our job. We have continued talks, in fact, with members of the White House staff after the impeachment proceedings began. My hope is that the Washington Post article is untrue. I believe it, certainly, in no way forestalls or prevents these discussions from continuing. I think there is a reason to hope, but it will take courage and strength to do it.

The President said yesterday that he was too busy doing his job meeting with the President of Turkey—an individual who has potentially enabled war crimes in northern Syria. If he wasn't too busy to do that kind of meeting, he shouldn't be too busy to do gun violence prevention.

The fact is that the stakes are simply too high for there to be delay, and 36,000 Americans are killed every year, or more. That is 100 every day. Gun deaths are, in fact, rising, not declining.

The trends are absolutely alarming and appalling, and we are complicit in these deaths if we fail to act. As I speak on the floor right now, there is a school shooting in Santa Clarita, CA. How can we turn the other way? How can we refuse to see that shooting in realtime, demanding our attention, requiring our action? We are complicit if we fail to act. It is not just a political

responsibility. It is a moral imperative. The unconscionable loss of life is our responsibility.

This problem is one that we can solve. We may not be able to prevent all the deaths that occur—all 100 every day in America—but we can save lives. Our goal has to be to save as many lives as quickly as possible.

I have been hopeful for the first time in a long time, as I have talked with my colleague Senator GRAHAM. He and I have worked together conscientiously and closely on "extreme risk protection order" legislation. There have been a series of encouraging conversations with the White House, and all seemed to be proceeding well, until there was a report of the President talking to Wayne LaPierre of the NRA. Apparently, it takes only a phone call—or a couple of them—with the NRA to turn around the White House and stop the progress we have been making and throw out the window all the good work we have done.

Over these past several months, Senator GRAHAM, the White House, and my office have made important strides on emergency risk protection. We know that they work. They enjoy broad popular support. At least 70 percent of the American people support some type of "extreme risk protection" legislation, including two-thirds of Republicans and 60 percent of gun owners.

States like Connecticut, which was the first to adopt them, have shown they have a palpable, tangible, measurable effect. They are a crucial tool for law enforcement. The full implementation of Connecticut's "emergency risk protection order" law was associated with a mere 14-percent decline in firearm suicide rates, and the passages of Indiana's law in 2005 is associated with a 7.5-percent decline in the firearm suicide rate.

We know these laws work. In the 17 jurisdictions that have passed them, there has been a decline in suicides and homicides and domestic violence shootings. We can save lives. We can put together a measure that combines background checks, emergency risk protection orders, and other sensible steps. We can work through this body. The objection that we are bringing it to the floor precipitously is absolutely ridiculous. There is no reason we have to give up now and throw away all our work simply because the House is doing something unrelated, on impeachment.

There has been too much good work as well by groups doing the grassroots task of mobilizing public support—Moms Demand Action, Students Demand Action, and all of the groups that have rallied around for gun safety. In Connecticut, the Newtown Action Alliance, Connecticut Against Gun Violence, and Sandy Hook Promise show us the way.

In the last election, gun violence was on the ballot. Gun violence prevention won. That is the reason the House has passed H.R. 8. That is the reason why

we should do it here. History will judge my Republican colleagues harshly if they fail that, and the voters will judge them even more immediately equally harshly.

The NRA is imploding. Its vice-like grip should be crumbling in this body. They may have the ear of the President, but they should not have the ear of my Republican colleagues.

To the President, I say: The NRA is telling the American public they own you and that all they have to do is snap their fingers, and you fall into line. Prove them wrong. All you need to do is take the final steps on this legislation. Give us a green light. Tell us that we can move forward and that you will sign this bill.

To the majority leader I say, whether or not the President gives us that green light, we need to do our job. Please do your job. Let us have this vote.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 2423

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 72, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 72) directing the Clerk of the House to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2423.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and that the motion 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 concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 72) was agreed to.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, unfortunately, this Congress has been defined by previously unprecedented political antics. Things that used to be far above the political fray are now getting roiled in controversy.

One example is yesterday, when the minority leader blocked the bipartisan bill that I introduced to reduce drug prices—a bill that received unanimous support in the Judiciary Committee. I recognize my friend from Connecticut Senator BLUMENTHAL, who is the chief Democratic cosponsor of that bill.

I think the most egregious example of politicalization of things that used

to be nonpartisan has to be the politicalization of the Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA. For 25 years, this program has supported survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault through a range of critical programs and resources.

As a longtime victims' rights advocate myself, I am a proud supporter of the Violence Against Women Act, and I have consistently fought not only to continue it but to strengthen it as well.

I think there is more we can and should do to support victims, and I know folks on the other side of the aisle feel the same way. It is safe to say, though, that we have had our fair share of disagreements on how exactly to accomplish that.

Earlier this year, our Democratic colleagues allowed VAWA to get caught in the crosshairs of a funding debate when they insisted we should not fund this vital program because it is overdue for updates. This is a rash move, to be sure. It lines up with the "my way or the highway" legislative strategy sometimes deployed by our friends on the other side, but that hasn't stopped my Republican colleagues, led by Senator JONI ERNST from Iowa, from pursuing a compromise.

For many months now, Senator ERNST has been working with DIANNE FEINSTEIN, the Senator from California, to find ways to make improvements that both sides can agree on. That is the way things get done around here: You try to build consensus, and maybe you don't get everything you want, but if you can get 80 percent of what you want, you ought to take it and run.

Last week, unfortunately, Democrats walked away from the negotiating table when it came to the Violence Against Women Act. Rather than continuing the discussions with people of opposing views, they took the easy way out and simply walked away and introduced their own partisan reauthorization—one they know has no chance of passing.

Just like the version that passed the House earlier this year, this is a messaging document, worth no more than the paper it is written on. It is not going to reauthorize VAWA or make the program better, and it is not going to support victims because it stands no chance of becoming law.

I am truly disappointed that our Democratic colleagues, once again, have chosen to play politics rather than deliver real results, this time for the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Despite the games being played here, my Republican colleagues and I are working to put in the hard work it takes to actually accomplish something and legislate.

Senator ERNST said she will soon be introducing a good-faith proposal that actually has the chance to become law. It is not a partisan document. It really

is a return to where we used to be, where the Violence Against Women Act enjoyed broad support on both sides of the aisle and was truly not just bipartisan but nonpartisan. It is a shame that something as urgent and undeniably important as combating domestic violence and sexual assault has somehow fallen prey to Washington, DC, politics.

I hope our colleagues will reconsider and return to the negotiating table so we can reach a compromise and finally reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

E-CIGARETTES

Mr. President, on another matter, in recent months, there has been a lot of coverage in the news and in social media about the health consequences of e-cigarette use. The "e" stands for electronic—electronic cigarette use.

We have seen alarming headlines about vaping-related illnesses that have led to severe health consequences and dozens of deaths. I find it particularly concerning that an increased number of children in middle school and in high school are using these products, even though it is inconsistent with the law. It is against the law.

The National Youth Tobacco Survey estimates that more than 5 million middle and high school students currently use e-cigarettes, up from 3.6 million last year. Five million middle and high school children are using this product that the law says they should not be using.

Folks at home are certainly dealing with the fallout. Last year, 19 percent of Texas high school students had used an e-cigarette in the last 30 days, and news reports lead me to believe the number has done nothing but go up.

Certainly, there are negative health consequences associated with it. A teen in Michigan was recently hospitalized, as my colleague from Michigan well knows. He was recently hospitalized after vaping and then had to have an incredibly rare double lung transplant because of the damage done to the lungs.

This is causing alarm for parents, for educators, for health professionals, and just about everybody else who has heard about it. It certainly caught my attention.

Yesterday the HELP Committee—the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee—in the Senate held a hearing to look into the government's lackluster response to these public health concerns. I am seriously concerned with how, compared to traditional cigarettes, this industry is able to evade countless government regulations, especially through online sales.

Consumers are able to purchase traditional cigarettes online, but there are clear guardrails in place to prevent minors from using online purchases to skirt the age restrictions.

At the time of delivery, if you buy cigarettes online, you have to sign and show an ID proving your age. That just

makes sense to me. You have to show ID when you purchase cigarettes at a gas station or convenience store, and buying them online should be no different, but in the case of e-cigarettes, it is different. Anyone, no matter how old or how young, could go online and buy e-cigarettes and have them delivered to your front door, no questions asked.

You better believe underage kids are taking advantage of that loophole. A recent survey found that about one-third of underage e-cigarette users bought them online.

What people need to understand is that e-cigarettes are essentially a nicotine delivery device. Nicotine, of course, is an addictive drug, so it is not as if there aren't negative health consequences. Even if they are not smoking tobacco, if they use e-cigarettes, there are true risks to the health of these young people.

Now, while an adult, I believe, ought to be able to do things that maybe negatively impact their health, I think we have an obligation to protect children, particularly those who are making bad decisions, before they are prepared to understand what the consequences really are.

So while it is important for us to understand the health impact of these devices and have serious conversations with our own children about the risks, we should do something to prevent children from getting their hands on e-cigarettes in the first place.

I have introduced a bill with Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator VAN HOLLEN that prevents the online sale of e-cigarettes to minors using the same safeguards that stop them from being able to use regular cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products on the internet. The law is the same with regard to who can legally purchase them, so we ought to have the procedures in place that prevent underage smokers from buying cigarettes online without a signature and without an identification card proving their age. We ought to have the same procedures in place for e-cigarettes.

This bill, thankfully, has broad bipartisan support, with one-quarter of all Senators serving as cosponsors, and it has recently passed the House by a voice vote.

When we talk about passing consensus legislation in the Senate, this is about as easy as it comes. I hope we can bring this legislation to the Senate floor soon so we can prevent the next generation from using legal loopholes to get their hands on e-cigarettes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

VA MISSION ACT

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, this week, America is paying tribute to more than 19 million people in our country and a half million people in Michigan who show us every day what service is all about.

America's veterans have served in many ways and on many different

fronts. However, I think they all have a couple of things in common.

The first is that they love our Nation so much that they are willing to put their lives on the line for our Constitution, our democracy, our values, and our ideals for our country. The second is that they understand that patriotism is a lot more than a feeling of pride. Instead, it is a way of life.

Veterans don't finish their military service, hang up their uniforms, go home, never to be heard from again. Instead, these are the people around us who take a good look at their community, their State, our country, see what needs to be done, and step up.

Not all of us have what it takes to serve in our Armed Forces. Yet all of us do have the ability to follow the example of those who have served us, see a need, and raise our hands. Imagine how much better off our Nation would be if we all had that same dedication to give something back.

As we have been celebrating Veterans Day this week, we should all remember that when American men and women sign up to serve in our armed services, they really sign a blank check to our country—a check that could include everything, including losing their life. When our Nation accepts that check, we need to make sure we are holding up our end of the bargain.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration is failing to provide veterans with the benefits they have earned, especially when it comes to healthcare.

Congress passed the VA MISSION Act last year to improve veterans' access to healthcare and to expand benefits to caregivers, which is so important. Yet the VA missed the October deadline—missed the October deadline—to include Vietnam and Korean war veterans in the expansion.

The VA has kicked eligible veterans out of the caregiver program without explaining why. Meanwhile, more than 60,000 veterans who received emergency care at non-VA facilities in 2017 are still waiting for the VA to pay their medical bills.

Perhaps worst of all, this administration turned their backs on more than 80,000 Vietnam-era veterans who developed illnesses because of toxic exposure to Agent Orange. We have known for a long time that Agent Orange exposure has caused many serious health issues.

In fact, I first started working on this issue regarding Agent Orange and fighting for our veterans when I was in the Michigan State legislature, trying to get the Federal Government to recognize and provide VA health coverage for these illnesses. Over the years, some things have changed and improved, but it has been way, way too slow.

Veterans who have been suffering for years were offered hope in 2017 when then-Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin added bladder cancer, underactive thyroid, high blood pressure, and Parkinson's-like symptoms to the list of diseases eligible for Agent Or-

ange benefits without going through a lot of bureaucracy in order to get their healthcare coverage. He did so at the urging of the National Academy of Medicine based on the science—medical science—of the connection.

Unfortunately, veterans with these conditions are still waiting. This was back in 2017. They are still waiting to get that healthcare, and that is because the Office of Management and Budget Director, Mick Mulvaney, quietly ignored the science and rejected the coverage expansion. Why? We now know, through emails that have been made public, that he thought it was too costly.

Really? Let me remind you that these veterans each signed a blank check to our Nation. For veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange, the check they signed is in the amount of their health and well-being.

A number of colleagues in this Chamber, led by Senator TESTER and Senator BROWN, whom I see on the floor, have repeatedly asked the VA to explain the delay in coverage. Their questions, over and over again, have gone unanswered.

We only now know what really happened when a veteran trying to get help, trying to get treatment, finally filed a FOIA request—Freedom of Information Act request—to get information about who was holding it up and what was going on. Just recently, we have found out that the Office of Management and Budget—that Mick Mulvaney blocked the care because he thought it was going to cost too much.

It is now November of 2019, and Vietnam veterans are still not getting treatment for these diseases. Yesterday, my friend Senator BROWN from Ohio requested unanimous consent on his resolution, which I am pleased to be a cosponsor of, that expands the diseases covered by the VA for Agent Orange exposure. It would fix this and say to the OMB Director: We want to make sure we are keeping our end of the bargain for our Vietnam vets who were exposed to Agent Orange.

Once again, Leader MCCONNELL and Republicans chose to stand with the Trump administration and Mick Mulvaney to stop veterans from getting this critical healthcare coverage. I was amazed to actually hear the objection include the words, "It costs too much."

It is not enough to praise our veterans with words. We do that all the time, especially around the 11th of November. Praise doesn't pay the medical bills. Praise doesn't give a veteran a healthy life, a job, a home, or opportunities.

This administration, Congress, and our country must keep each and every promise our country has made to those who have served, period. Each and every one of them signed that blank check to our country.

Leader MCCONNELL, it is time to hold up our country's end of the bargain.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I thank Senator STABENOW. She is exactly right. A couple of times, she used the term “blank check.” When people join the Army, people become marines, people go off to a service academy, and people enlist in the National Guard, essentially they sign a blank check cashed by all of us who care so much about protecting our country.

Senator STABENOW has been, with Senator TESTER, one of the real leaders on this. You know, it used to be, many years ago, when it became clearer that veteran after veteran after veteran—young veterans in those days, 20 years ago, not that far removed from Vietnam—were coming down with these illnesses, Congress decided bipartisanship, almost unanimously, that rather than make every single veteran, every soldier, every marine, and every sailor prove to the government, prove to the VA that they should be eligible for healthcare coverage based on the illness they got because of Agent Orange—Congress decided that we shouldn’t make every single person go through proving this—through that process. So what did we do? We made a list of illnesses that typically come from exposure to Agent Orange, and any veteran who was sick from one of these illnesses, no questions asked, got healthcare. That is what we did. That was then.

Today, in this time when I hear my colleagues who sit over here—I don’t want to make this partisan, but it has become that because it is President Trump, Vice President PENCE, and Senator MCCONNELL who say no to this. We have the Secretary of the VA, appointed by the President of the United States, President Trump—the Secretary of the VA came up with these four additional illnesses around which there is scientific consensus saying that these illnesses are caused by Agent Orange, and individual veterans shouldn’t have to, one at a time, prove that they got sick, that they got this kind of Parkinson’s or they had bladder cancer based on Agent Orange. We ought to just accept that. That is how we serve those who served us.

But do you know what Senator MCCONNELL does? You know, his office is down the hall, as my colleagues know. Senator MCCONNELL apparently says that we should do tax cuts for rich people, but we can’t afford to spend a few billion dollars. It is a lot of money, but these are our people, and these are people who served in Southeast Asia mostly in the 1960s and 1970s.

Senator MCCONNELL wants to turn his back on them. President Trump turns his back on them. The new Secretary of the VA, appointed by President Trump, turns his back on these soldiers. There are 80,000 of them. Does President Trump just want to wait till all 80,000 are dead, and then we will not have to worry about this anymore? Or do we serve those who served us?

Every time I think about this, I just can’t believe that the President of the United States, who didn’t serve—I didn’t either. I understand that. But you know, because I didn’t serve in Vietnam and I am just slightly on the young side of this generation, because I didn’t serve, maybe I should work a little harder, as a member of the Veterans’ Committee, to make sure the people who did serve are taken care of.

This President, who didn’t serve—I don’t judge him for that. No matter what he said, I don’t judge him for that. But maybe he ought to work a little harder, not just making speeches about how much he loves veterans but actually coming to the table and telling Senator MCCONNELL: Quit blocking our attempts to take care of these 80,000 veterans. It is just outrageous.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of my remarks be placed at a different point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING DETECTIVE JORGE “GEORGE” DEL RIO

Mr. President, I rise to honor a dedicated Ohio public servant, Detective George Del Rio. For three decades, Detective Del Rio served his community in Dayton with honor and integrity.

On November 4, a few days ago, he was working as part of a local DEA drug task force, and he made the ultimate sacrifice to keep his fellow Ohioans safe. He laid down his life while doing his job. He was working with fellow Dayton officers to protect the people he was sworn to serve in Miami Valley.

In the days since his passing, we have heard story after story after story of Detective Del Rio’s service to his community and to his family.

As he was hospitalized, officers from around Miami Valley packed the hospital hallways and parking lots to show their support and their respect for Detective Del Rio and his wife Kathy and their children and grandchildren.

Detective Del Rio was beloved by friends and colleagues. He was devoted to his family. He was kind. He was funny. He was fair. He was a good cop even while spending his days undertaking dangerous work, often undercover.

Detective Del Rio’s career is a reminder of the contributions that immigrants make to our great country and to my State. He came to this country as a child from Mexico. His decades of teamwork as part of the Dayton Police Department and the DEA saved lives and changed lives. He embodied the Dayton PD’s motto of “Honor through service and service with honor.”

Chief Richard Biehl—whom I have gotten to know on a number of occasions because of the tragedies of the shooting and the tornado and the KKK’s attempted rally in Dayton—said that Detective Del Rio had an impact regionally, nationally, and internationally. His legacy will live on through the many lives he touched, and, not

surprisingly, he continues to serve through his wishes to be an organ donor.

In times of tragedy, Ohioans always rise to the occasion. We have witnessed an outpouring of community support in the days since Detective Del Rio was taken from us. While no gesture, of course, can ever repay him or Kathy and his children and grandchildren for their sacrifice, today we honor this hero’s memory, and we lift up the entire Dayton community.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Mr. CARDIN. “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.” Most Americans believe that the Equal Rights Amendment is part of our Constitution today, but it is not.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg stated:

Every Constitution written since the end of World War II includes a provision that men and women are citizens of equal stature. Ours does not.

The State of Maryland has a provision very similar to that in its State constitution. Many of our States have acted on the Equal Rights Amendment, but, as Justice Scalia said, “Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn’t.”

We need to pass the Equal Rights Amendment in the Constitution of the United States for many reasons. The most basic reason is that it provides additional protection against discrimination against women. It has a higher standard to prevent discrimination. It shows America’s leadership globally on human rights.

In 1972, Congress started the process by passing the Equal Rights Amendment. We passed it in 1972. Now, of course, it requires 38 States to ratify it before it can become law. To date, 37 States have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. We are one short of accomplishing our objective of putting the Equal Rights Amendment at long last in the Constitution of the United States. But there is an additional potential hurdle; that is, when Congress passed the resolution in 1972, it put a 7-year time limit for the States to act. They extended that to 10 years. This is strictly a provision that is discretionary to Congress. Article V of the Constitution puts no limit on the time for ratification of a constitutional amendment proposed by Congress for the States to ratify. In fact, the 27th Amendment was ratified in 1992. That

deals with congressional pay raises. It was first proposed in 1789 to be part of the Bill of Rights, and over 200 years later, it was ratified. So there is no time limit in the Constitution for the ratification of a constitutional amendment.

To remove any doubt, Congress should extend the time, as it did once before. In order to accomplish that, I joined with Senator MURKOWSKI, the Senator from Alaska, in a bipartisan effort on S. Res. 6 that removes the deadline, the time limit on the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an op-ed piece written by Senator MURKOWSKI and myself in regard to why we need to get that resolution passed.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 25, 2019]

IT'S TIME TO FINALLY PASS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

(By Lisa Murkowski and Ben Cardin)

Lisa Murkowski, a Republican, represents Alaska in the Senate. Ben Cardin, a Democrat, represents Maryland in the Senate.

Men and women should be treated equally under the law. It seems pretty basic, right?

As we approach the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, it comes as a shock to so many that the U.S. Constitution does not guarantee women the same rights and protections as men.

We come from different ends of the political spectrum, but we agree that this needs to change. Women compose a majority of the American population but continue to be underrepresented in government, elected office, the courts and business world. A level playing field should not be a euphemism but rather a reality for women (and men) from Anchorage to Annapolis and everywhere in between.

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

This is the full substance of the Equal Rights Amendment. It's a little less than a tweet, but it will make a positive difference in the lives of millions of women.

Why is this still necessary? During a 2011 interview, Justice Antonin Scalia summed up the need for an Equal Rights Amendment. He said: "Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't."

On the other side of the spectrum, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg laid out the rationale for the ERA in simple terms: "Every constitution written since the end of World War II includes a provision that men and women are citizens of equal stature. Ours does not."

Why has it taken this long? Per the Constitution, an amendment must be ratified by three-fourths of the states to be enacted. While most amendments are put forward without a time limit, this one came with a seven-year deadline. The original was extended to 10 years, but still, only 35 states had ratified the ERA by 1982.

While the clock stood frozen at the federal level, today, nearly half of the states—including Maryland and Alaska—have a version of the ERA written into their constitutions. Gender-based equality represents the present-day views of the vast majority of people across the United States, and is the spirit that underpins our bipartisan legislation.

The deadline passed in 1982, so isn't this effort futile? Not at all.

Nationally, momentum began to shift about two years ago, as women across the country began to raise their voices again in calls for solidarity and equality. The ERA had never gone away, but the #MeToo movement gave it a jolt of energy and a new spotlight for inequalities in U.S. law.

In March 2017, 45 years to the day after Congress overwhelmingly approved the ERA, Nevada became the 36th state to ratify the amendment. And then, in May 2018, Illinois became the 37th.

What had for years been referred to as a three-state plan—working to have Congress remove the ratification deadline so that three more states could ratify the ERA, and it would become enshrined in our constitution—had suddenly become a one-state plan.

Earlier this month, Virginia started the ratification process in their state legislature. Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Utah could also become state No. 38. Congress can do its part by explicitly removing the deadline it once set.

Article V of the Constitution contains no time limits for ratification of amendments. The states finally ratified the 27th Amendment in 1992 regarding congressional pay raises more than 200 years after Congress proposed it in 1789 as part of the Bill of Rights.

The original deadline for ERA ratification was not in the amendment itself but only in the text of the joint resolution proposing the amendment. This is to say the amendment itself has no arbitrary deadline attached.

Whether on purpose or not, Congress handcuffed itself at the time it passed the ERA. But this Congress can and should easily amend that language to remove the deadline for ratification.

We are proud to work together on a bipartisan basis to move this essential legislation over the finish line and finally make the ERA part of the Constitution—guaranteeing equality under the law for women.

Women should not be held back or provided less opportunity, respect or protections under the law because of their gender. This is not a partisan issue but one of universal human rights. Gender equality should be an explicit, basic principle of our society.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, on November 13, the House Judiciary Committee took up a very similar resolution, H.J. Res. 79 by Representative JACKIE SPEIER, and it has now been reported out favorably. So we now have moving through the House of Representatives a resolution that would remove this time limit that was imposed in the 1970s on the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

What I am imploring upon my colleagues is, we are very close to getting this done. We know there was a change in leadership in Virginia. Virginia could very well be the 38th State. But let's remove the ambiguity as to a time limit.

We will celebrate in this Congress the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, the women's suffrage amendment that passed in 1920. Why did it take so long for women to have the right to vote? Well, people are asking: Why is it taking so long to put the Equal Rights Amendment into the Constitution of the United States?

We have a plan to get this done by passing the resolution I talked about, the 38th State to ratify it, and that at long last, the United States will provide the leadership on universal human rights by placing the Equal Rights Amendment in our Constitution.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTHCARE

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, as President Trump and the Senate Republicans continue to press forward with their relentless attacks on families' healthcare, the Democrats are going to continue to make clear just what is at stake by lifting up stories of patients and families across the country, starting with Natasha from my home State of Washington.

Because of a diagnosis she received when she was young, Natasha had long believed she could not conceive, so she and her partner were particularly surprised last year to get the news that she was pregnant. With that unexpected news, came all sorts of questions, including whether they could handle the cost of things like maternity care, postpartum care, and newborn care. Fortunately, Natasha's family had coverage through Medicaid, so all of the medical costs she had been so concerned about were completely covered. Instead of worrying about how they would pay for the healthcare she needed, she and her partner were able to focus on getting ready to welcome the newest addition to their family.

Natasha's story shows why families across the country are so worried as the Republicans continue down the damaging path they have been on for years. Since day No. 1 of the Trump administration, the Republicans have been working to raise families' healthcare costs, take away their coverage, and make healthcare lower quality.

In the Senate, the Republicans have stood with President Trump as he has tried to implement draconian caps on Medicaid through his Trumpcare bill and has proposed budgets that slash funding for Medicaid. They have also stood by as President Trump has implemented a gag rule on title X-funded clinics—jeopardizing reproductive healthcare for millions of patients. The Republicans are also opposing the Democrats' efforts to lower skyrocketing prescription drug prices by

allowing Medicare to negotiate on behalf of patients and to reverse President Trump's steps to promote junk insurance plans that do not protect patients with preexisting conditions and do increase families' healthcare costs.

The Republicans are even cheerleading a partisan lawsuit that will be catastrophic to families across the country. We could get a ruling on this lawsuit any day now. If the Republicans get their way, protections for the over 100 million people in this country with preexisting conditions could be thrown out the window. Millions of families who are covered through the exchanges and Medicaid expansion could be thrown off of their healthcare, and young adults could be kicked off of their parents' plans before they turn 26. Patients could also be stuck paying tens of thousands of dollars for their care as caps on their out-of-pocket costs are eliminated, as caps on their lifetime and annual benefits come back—even for those, by the way, who are covered through their employers' plans—and as essential benefits that make sure their coverage includes things like prescription drugs and emergency care go away.

For patients like Natasha, the Republicans' healthcare agenda would be a disaster. Not only would it gut Medicaid, which helped her to get the help she needed, but if the Republicans succeed in this lawsuit, insurance companies could discriminate against patients like her for having preexisting conditions, including, by the way, being pregnant, and insurance companies could choose not to cover essential health benefits like maternity care.

The junk plans President Trump is already promoting leave patients facing similar problems today. In fact, as part of their application process, many of those junk plans ask patients whether they are pregnant or are planning to become pregnant. That is because these junk plans are already allowed to deny coverage, exclude benefits, or charge higher premiums for patients with preexisting conditions.

The Republicans' approach to patients' healthcare—making it more expensive, harder to get, and lower quality—is clearly designed to work for big insurance companies, not for people like Natasha. Her story is one of many. In fact, it is one of tens of millions. There are so many other families across the country who are seeing their well-being being put at risk by the Republicans' harmful healthcare agenda. Yet we have seen before what can happen when people share their stories, when we lift those stories up, and when we put faces or names to the people the Republicans could hurt with their policies. When the Republicans tried to jam through their Trumpcare bill, we stopped it because people across the country fought back, and they spoke up.

As President Trump and the Republicans continue using every tool they can to try and undermine families'

healthcare, the Democrats are going to be here to continue to remind our colleagues on the other side of the aisle that everything we do and don't do in the Capitol has real consequences for real families, especially when it comes to issues like healthcare, which every family has to deal with.

Whether it is losing coverage right as you finally have the chance to start a family or whether it is being rejected because you have a preexisting condition, we are going to continue lifting up those voices who aren't on the Senate floor, and we are going to continue making clear what the GOP's healthcare plan would actually mean to people's lives. This isn't a matter of politics for families; it is a matter of life and death, and we aren't going to let the Republicans forget it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

NOMINATION OF STEVEN J. MENASHI

Mr. REED. Madam President, I have serious philosophical disagreements with many of the judicial nominees put forth by this administration, but I believe Mr. Menashi is especially unfit to serve on the Federal bench. His record indicates an inability to serve as a fair and impartial judge. And so I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reject his nomination to a lifetime appointment on the bench.

Steven Menashi's public record demonstrates a deep contempt for a wide spectrum of Americans, and particularly some of the most vulnerable amongst us. In his own writings and as editor in chief of the *Dartmouth Review*, he has directly expressed or condoned disturbing views on issues such as LGBT rights, racism, and student aid.

Even if we were to cast these sentiments aside, Mr. Menashi's recent work in the Trump administration provides ample evidence that he is unfit for a lifetime appointment to the bench. Consider his performance as acting general counsel at the Department of Education. Mr. Menashi oversaw the rollback of regulations designed to protect students and taxpayers from predatory for-profit institutions of higher education.

More egregiously, Mr. Menashi wrote the memo outlining the administration's scheme to provide only partial debt relief to students defrauded by for-profit colleges—a scheme that a Federal judge ruled violated Federal privacy laws. Under this scheme, the Department of Education used data that was collected to hold institutions accountable for providing education leading to gainful employment to further punish their victims. The Department has still failed to comply with the court's orders, resulting in the Secretary of Education being held in contempt.

Mr. Menashi supervised the legal work on the administration's proposal to rewrite the rules dealing with sexual assault and sexual harassment on col-

lege campuses. The administration's own analysis concluded that the new rules would dramatically reduce the number of sexual assault investigations.

Mr. Menashi worked on the rule rolling back efforts to address disparities in the discipline of students of color and those with disabilities. In March, a Federal court ruled that the Department had engaged in an illegal delay and had acted arbitrarily and capriciously.

During Mr. Menashi's time at the Department of Education, the administration argued that it was appropriate to use Federal education funds to purchase guns for schools.

Also consider Mr. Menashi's time as a White House counsel where he helped Stephen Miller in crafting some of the administration's most draconian immigration policies. While he was an advisor, the White House cut refugee admissions to a historic low, effectively banned asylum for refugees traveling through Mexico, and threatened to end birthright citizenship.

His views and work experience call into question how his personal biases would color his rulings, and whether he has the judicial temperament and political independence necessary to serve on the Federal bench. This is not the kind of legal judgment that deserves a lifetime appointment to the Federal judiciary.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

While the Senate has spent considerable time and hours on Mr. Menashi's nomination, one can't help but notice the fact that the majority leader seems to scrupulously avoid calling up votes on legislation that would help working Americans and working families.

I hear from my Rhode Island constituents every day about countless pressing issues that the Senate should be debating and voting on. We could be considering an infrastructure bill that would provide robust investment to enable the rebuilding of our crumbling roads, bridges, schools, and other critical infrastructure. We could be working to increase Pell grants and lower the cost of college.

I think every Member of this body would agree that another vital issue that we hear often from our constituents about is the need to address skyrocketing prescription drug costs. According to Families USA, nearly 3 in 10 American adults—nearly 80 million people—have not taken required medicine due to its costs. In fact, addressing prescription drug costs alone would go a long way toward bringing down healthcare costs overall.

There are dozens of proposals from Senators on both sides of the aisle that would help to address this issue. Yet Republican leadership has refused to allow any debate on prescription drug prices or on healthcare costs more broadly this year. Something I, and many of my colleagues, have proposed numerous times would be to require Medicare to negotiate drug prices with

the drug companies to ensure seniors and taxpayers get the best price. The Department of Veterans Affairs already does this. While there is no silver bullet in solving rising drug costs, this would be a commonsense first step in the right direction.

There are also more than 250 bills passed by the House that Majority Leader McCONNELL refuses to bring up and that have been left in the legislative graveyard. Let me repeat that. More than 250 bills are awaiting action here in the Senate. The House is doing its part to look out for the people's business, and the Senate should follow suit.

These include the Enhanced Background Checks Act, which would expand the national firearms background check system to include virtually all gun transfers, and block the illegal sales that currently happen through gun shows and private transfers. They include the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which is the primary law to provide services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. They include the American Dream and Promise Act, which would provide a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients, TPS holders, and those with DED. That's Deferred Enforced Departure.

Furthermore, Republicans continue to block Democratic-led efforts to pass commonsense election security legislation. This is despite warning after warning from our intelligence and national security agencies that Russia undertook an unprecedented effort to interfere in our 2016 elections and that the Russians are actively working to do it again in 2020.

Instead of elevating someone with an extreme record like Mr. Menashi to one of the highest courts in the land, we should be debating and voting on legislation that will protect healthcare, expand educational opportunity, secure our elections, fully fund the census, and prevent gun and domestic violence—in addition to many, many other important priorities.

The majority has refused to allow the Senate to vote on and address the pressing issues that Americans care about. And this body is failing to get its appropriations work done on time. So I urge the majority leader to end this partisan paralysis and let the Senate get to work on issues that can improve the lives of Rhode Islanders and all Americans.

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.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam 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 REQUEST—S. 1573

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, as in legislative session, I ask unani-

mous consent that the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1573 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, reserving the right to object, while we very much appreciate what Senator DUCKWORTH is trying to accomplish, I must object to the request for unanimous consent.

The bill has only one cosponsor and has not gone through regular order, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee has not considered the policy implications of the legislation, and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs that I chair has not been given an opportunity to understand the budgetary impacts the bill would have.

This legislation would be a significant policy change for VA and would reduce revenue to VA medical centers by eliminating certain copayments. Policy changes such as this should be thoughtfully considered through full committees before being considered by the full Senate.

I look forward to working with Senator DUCKWORTH to see if we can get this resolved, but based on these facts, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I am disappointed that the majority has objected to passing our bipartisan legislation.

Every Senator should support a simple fix to assure veterans enrolled in the VA system can obtain preventive medications without out-of-pocket costs.

All Americans deserve access to the best healthcare possible, especially the veterans who signed up to defend our Nation. Yet, because of this objection, our veterans will continue to pay more for essential preventive medications compared to every other insured American.

One of the Affordable Care Act's critical patient protections was prohibiting insurance companies and other health systems, including the Department of Defense's own TRICARE, from charging copayments for drugs that are designated as preventive by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

The ACA recognized that preventing serious illness, such as heart disease and breast cancer, may help avoid complex and costly medical treatments down the line.

Most importantly, preventive medicine may also increase patient survival odds. That is why the ACA required every insurer to cover preventive medications at no additional cost to enrollees.

The time has come to expand this vital patient protection to cover veterans enrolled in VA healthcare. Congress has the power to stop veterans from being the only insured Americans who are charged copays and out-of-pocket fees for essential drugs and potentially lifesaving preventive health medication. This includes everything from critical vaccinations to common medications such as aspirin to lower the risk of heart disease and more advanced drugs such as tamoxifen inhibitors to lower the risk of breast cancer.

The question is simply, Does the Senate majority in this Congress have the will to exercise this power to swiftly fix the problem?

Unfortunately, today's objection provided a disappointing answer. I hope the majority will reconsider its opposition to passing the bipartisan Veterans Preventive Health Coverage Fairness Act by unanimous consent.

I am confident that a Democratic House majority would act swiftly to pass S. 1573 if we can get this commonsense bill to that Chamber. After all, I am confident that if asked, the majority of Americans—if not all Americans—would agree it is simply wrong to force veterans to pay more for essential preventive medications that are critically important to heart disease and building bone density.

This should not be controversial. It is certainly viewed as a commonsense legislative update by the veterans community.

That is why my bipartisan bill has been endorsed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Making sure veterans enrolled in the VA system can obtain preventive medications without paying out of pocket should be something every Senator can agree on.

Senate Democrats certainly share this conviction. That is why every Member of the Democratic caucus agreed to pass the bipartisan Veterans Preventive Health Coverage Fairness Act right now.

Unfortunately, today's objection proves that not every Member of the Republican conference shares this conviction.

With deep disappointment, 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, this week across this country, we celebrated Veterans Day. Veterans Day in

Colorado and across the country means a lot of different things to so many people across our Nation, but one thing it has always stood for is a day of thanks to share and celebrate the men and women in our families and our communities who have done so much for our country so that it continues to be the greatest Nation on the face of this Earth.

In Colorado, we celebrated with parades, parties, charity fundraisers, races and marathons, and events all over the Centennial State to recognize the work of our veterans and the sacrifice of our veterans and their families. Admission to all of our State parks was free so veterans and their families could enjoy the land they have defended.

In Colorado Springs, where we have a number of veterans and Active-Duty military members, three of the largest school districts didn't take the day off for Veterans Day but, instead, they held veteran appreciation events, breakfasts and lunches with local veterans, invited special speakers, wrote letters to men and women who have served, and had other opportunities for students to learn about the sacrifices our veterans have made for our country.

We in Colorado—we in this country take great pride in our veterans and our veteran community. In Colorado, our six military bases, including the U.S. Air Force Academy, all play a critical role in defending our Nation and keeping the world a safer place. Colorado is home to more than 400,000 veterans who have bravely served our country.

Earlier this year, I was fortunate enough to meet more than 100 Colorado heroes as part of the High Plains Honor Flight, a tradition that has been carried on for a number of years. It is an incredible tradition every year—bringing Colorado veterans to our Nation's Capital, touring the war memorials, and taking the opportunity to meet these veterans, look them in the eye, shake their hands, and say thank you.

I could spend all week talking on the floor about Colorado's veterans and their incredible acts of service, but if you get the chance, I hope you will visit Pueblo, CO. The Home of Heroes Medal of Honor Memorial is in Pueblo, CO. The memorial pays tribute to more than 3,400 people who have received our country's highest award for military valor.

Outside the memorial, there are four statues, one for each of Pueblo's Medal of Honor recipients.

One of these men, Lt. Raymond G. Murphy, was a U.S. marine who was serving in Korea in 1953. After a failed raid with heavy casualties, Lieutenant Murphy organized and led his platoon in a heroic rescue effort to save his fellow marines. Providing cover and driving back the enemy, he rescued his fellow men who were under intense enemy fire. He sustained numerous wounds but refused treatment until everyone

else had been treated. Lieutenant Murphy stayed on the battlefield until every marine was accounted for.

When President Eisenhower presented Murphy with the Medal of Honor, he was quoted as saying:

"What is it about the water out there in Pueblo? All you guys turn out to be heroes!"

That is our Pueblo, CO. Whatever it is, there must be a lot of it in Colorado's water.

U.S. Army CPT Florent Groberg—another Coloradan—was based out of Fort Carson. He received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in Afghanistan. In 2012, his patrol was ambushed by an individual wearing a suicide vest. Captain Groberg rushed to the individual and grabbed him, driving him away from his fellow troops and down to the ground. The bomber's vest exploded, severely wounding Captain Groberg. He miraculously survived the blast, and his heroic actions and selflessness saved many of his patrol members' lives. His actions were certainly extraordinary, and they showed the character of the men and women who serve. They would do anything to protect those they love.

I am also reminded of a Coloradan I have had the honor of working with and meeting over the last several years. Two years ago, in fact, I had a Veterans Day experience I will never forget with another veteran who refused to give up on his fellow brothers and sisters in arms. I was visiting Donald Stratton, who was a seaman 1st class on the USS *Arizona* when the Japanese launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Mr. Stratton was one of the last five remaining survivors stationed on the USS *Arizona*. Since that time 2 years ago, we have lost Lauren Bruner. There are even fewer today than there were.

He told me how a young sailor named Joseph George disregarded the orders to abandon ship in order to save his life and the other sailors. Joseph George never received a medal for his actions, and Donald Stratton didn't think that was fair. It didn't sit well. Mr. Stratton and I and his family worked together to finally convince the Navy to honor Joe George, to give this hero the recognition he deserves.

Donald Stratton's story sticks with me because he had already fought one war for his country, and then he had to spend another 16 years fighting government bureaucracy in order to honor the man who saved his life and the lives of others. It is a reminder that our veterans need our help and our support to receive the recognition and the care they continue to deserve.

All of the stories I have shared and the individuals I have talked about are extraordinary, but there are so many other—countless acts of heroism. Every single person in our armed services today is extraordinary. Every day, they perform heroic acts of service and make sacrifices that may not make the national news or the front page of newspapers, but we shouldn't lose sight

of the fact that they sacrifice for our country every day. They have put their bodies and their minds through vigorous training, boot camps, and deployments. They have given up valuable time with their loved ones. They are away from home for months at a time, if not longer. There are the holidays they will never get back and the important milestones they have missed with their families as they placed their civilian lives on hold to serve our country. And too many people return with wounds of war, both physical and mental. All of these sacrifices and their willingness to place their lives on the line for the country they love add up to a debt we can never repay—never pay back.

I hope that the Veterans Day celebration this week serves as a reminder that it is our responsibility to take care of those who have taken care of us. We owe it to our Nation's veterans to ensure that they can receive the best possible care and that they have the tools and support necessary to navigate civilian life.

The Senate and the House have taken great steps to improve the lives of veterans and the care they receive, but we can always do more, and we must do more. We must do more and never give up. We can do better than the status quo.

For veterans living in rural areas like the Western Slope or Eastern Plains of Colorado, long drive times and a shortage of doctors and nurses at the VA facilities make it difficult to receive the care we promised. There has never been a fight too dangerous or a task too difficult for these men and women who have served our country, and that is the approach we need to take. We have to be in this fight to make sure we approach veterans' care with the same commitment and find creative solutions to ease the transition to civilian life, to make sure they have the care they need, and to make sure we have enough physicians and nurses and doctors in these places to provide the best possible care.

Earlier this year, I introduced my VA Readiness Initiative, which is a comprehensive package of improvements and reforms to ensure we are following through on every one of these promises to veterans. The VA Readiness Initiative focuses on four pillars to support veterans: expanding access to services, encouraging innovation, VA accountability, and empowering transitioning servicemembers.

It introduces more oversight and more transparency and accountability at VA facilities to eliminate fraud and increase the quality of care.

In order to ease the transition to civilian life, it enhances programs that help veterans start small businesses and train for future careers in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields.

It promotes innovative approaches to suicide prevention, which is a heart-breaking problem in the veteran community.

In Colorado, we are losing one of our own nearly every 7 hours to suicide. In recent years, we have lost more veterans to suicide than we lost in combat. Think about that. We have lost more veterans to suicide than we have lost in combat. In Colorado, we lose roughly 200 veterans a year to suicide.

I am working with my colleague Senator TAMMY BALDWIN from Wisconsin to designate 9-8-8 as a national suicide hotline that veterans and anyone else in crisis can call when they need help. Veterans answered our call when we needed them; we need to answer their call when they need us.

When somebody is suffering from a heart attack or a medical emergency, a crisis, we all know to call 9-1-1, but how many people know a number to call if they find themselves in a time of mental health crisis? Is there a 10-digit hotline? Yes, there is. How many people can know that and know that now off the top of their heads? How many people can tell a friend in need what that hotline number is? Let's simplify it. Let's make it a three-digit number like 9-1-1 for health crisis emergencies. Let's make sure we have 9-8-8 for mental health needs.

The current suicide hotline number is 10 digits long. This is an easy-to-remember hotline—9-8-8—to connect people in crisis with professional help. When a veteran is in need, a phone call is made, and they will receive specialized care for veterans. Press 1 to be directed to the veterans support line, where they can receive mental health support specific to the unique needs of our veterans.

I also hope every veteran in Colorado will look to our offices—my office in Colorado and my colleagues' offices—Senator BENNET and others—if there is anything we can do to help. Oftentimes, too many people don't know about the services that can help them.

Thanks to the outpouring of veterans who contact my office each and every year, we were able to help open the VA Medical Center in Aurora, CO, last year. It was long overdue but essential to their care and to making sure we have the finest medical care for Coloradans.

Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON from Georgia, chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee—somebody who is stepping down from this Chamber at the end of the year, and we will miss him greatly—was instrumental in making this happen and will be greatly missed when he leaves. JOHNNY is a true statesman and a champion for our veterans. We in Colorado are grateful for his work to make sure that the VA hospital in Aurora is the crown jewel of our support system in our State for veterans.

November is also Military Family Appreciation Month. I certainly want to express my gratitude to the military families who share the burden of service. This is not just an individual effort; it is indeed a family effort. When one member of the family serves, the entire family serves.

We all know this can be a difficult time of the year. The holidays are coming up for troops and their families. As all of us celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and other traditions in our families, I hope each one of our prayers will go to a military family in need, heroes who are placing their dreams on hold to protect the American dream.

To everyone who has served this country, thank you for the sacrifice you have all made, and know that our Nation is grateful. It is because of the commitment you bring that we can continue to live in a nation with unlimited opportunities, a nation founded in liberty and rooted in the principles that inspire hope and optimism around the world.

To every veteran, thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you have done in service to our beloved country. May God bless you, and may God bless this great United States of America as you continue to serve and as we continue to serve you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. YOUNG). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, Monday was Veterans Day, and it gave us all the opportunity to come together as Republicans and Democrats and Independents alike to express our immense gratitude to our veterans for putting on the uniform of the United States on behalf of our great country and on behalf of all of us.

I just listened to my colleague from Colorado talk about our cherished veterans and their service. He is a champion for our veterans. He is absolutely right—our veterans need to be at the front of the line for healthcare and getting access to the best care possible. That hasn't always been the case. We have made some improvements in the last few years, and those are now being implemented. They are not perfect, but thankfully it is much better. I heard that over Veterans Day.

He also talked about our families. The families of veterans also make sacrifices, and sometimes we forget that. In the last several years, as the up-tempo has been a little higher and families have had to sacrifice even more, we are particularly grateful for those families.

The Presiding Officer today is one of our veterans in the Chamber. As a marine, he has served our country with distinction, and we appreciate him and all the other veterans here in the Senate.

In my home State of Ohio, we have 850,000 veterans, roughly. It makes us a State that is particularly proud. We are a State that has produced some of the great American fighting men and women heroes, from Ulysses S. Grant to Neil Armstrong.

When I go to veterans' events, I am just inspired and overwhelmed by the families and the veterans I get to meet.

On Veterans Day, I was in Blue Ash, OH, at a memorial that has been set

aside for our veterans. It was a wonderful day in Blue Ash, but every day of the year this memorial park is there, and it is beautiful. It commemorates veterans from every single war. There are 11 soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who are representing each of the conflicts America has been engaged in, all the way from the American Revolution to the heroes of the Global War on Terror. Behind a description of each of those conflicts is a separate statue of a fighting man or woman. Most importantly to me, on Monday, on the other side of those statues, were the veterans. They were there from every conflict—from World War II and right up to those soldiers who have recently come back from Afghanistan.

Today, as we are here on the floor talking about our great veterans, there are soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen on Active Duty in places all around the world, including in Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

After this event in Blue Ash, OH, I then went to Columbus, OH, and had the opportunity to go to the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. This is a new, spectacular museum outside of Columbus, OH. It is something we are very proud of in Ohio. I took the lead in the Senate to try to be sure that we had the national designation. We have that now. It is the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. It was funded almost entirely with private sector dollars. Over \$75 million was raised just from the private sector in the Columbus-Central Ohio area. President Trump signed the legislation into law last year to designate it as the national memorial.

It is a beautiful way to pay tribute to our veterans, mostly by stories. You walk in, and there are story boards about different veterans' experiences. The facility itself is inspiring—one of the finest architectural designs, we are told, in the country the year it was built.

When I went around and thanked veterans at this memorial, I heard the same thing I heard in Blue Ash and that I hear every time I thank a veteran, which is more or less this: Thank you for your service. The response being: I was just doing my job. I was just doing my duty.

Duty. I am the son of a World War II veteran and the grandson of a World War I veteran. "Duty" is a word I heard a lot growing up and "service" and "honor." For our country today, those words are very important to remember.

Our veterans have played a key role in ensuring we have the freedoms we too often take for granted, but also there is a culture around veterans that we need to hear more and more of today, and we need to be sure more of our young people are hearing, which is this notion that service beyond self is important; that duty, honor, and sacrifice are part of the fundamental values of our country.

The fact that we have had such support for our veterans, to me, ought also

to be translated into support for those who are on Active Duty, because when I talk to our veterans about their concerns—yes, they talk about healthcare or disability and other issues that my office helps veterans with every day, and we are proud to do that—what they also tell me is that they want to be sure we are taking care of the troops. They want to be sure we are honoring our veterans by ensuring that the men and women in uniform today, who are out on the frontlines for all of us, are getting the support they need from the U.S. Congress.

Unfortunately, we are letting them down right now, whether it is with the National Defense Authorization Act—which is still in conference, which normally is a bipartisan bill that gets done quickly and that establishes the framework for how we provide readiness and how we provide the right weapons, being sure our soldiers, marines, airmen, and sailors have the very best—but, secondly, we are not even providing the funding bill this year.

We have tried. We have brought it to the floor of the Senate, and we have asked for a vote on it. We have not been able to get that vote. So right now we are operating on what is called a continuing resolution, which is not good for the military.

I was at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station last week, which is a reserve unit in Ohio that provides airlift capability and a spray mission for our military. They have about 1,500 airmen support people and pilots there. They are very worried about the continuing resolution and its impact. They can't plan for training exercises. They can't plan for upgrades in their equipment to keep the cutting-edge technology they want to have for the safety of their pilots and the crews.

I also heard, of course, a lot about the possibility of a government shutdown and how devastating that would be for our military. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is in Ohio. That is their top concern.

Unfortunately, I will tell you that although our highest priority here in the Senate ought to be ensuring that at a minimum our troops have what they need, we haven't done that this year.

I would urge my colleagues on both sides: Let's figure out how to do what we typically do here, which is, if we can't agree on everything in the spending bills, let's at least agree on providing this funding for our troops.

By the way, it is particularly important this year because in that funding is a pay raise for the troops that they need badly. It is very important for Ohio.

I said earlier that we are one of those States that is proud of all the veterans who live there and all of the people from Ohio who have stood up and served their country, but we are also proud of our military facilities. Defense spending now accounts for 66,000 direct jobs in Ohio, more than \$4 billion in salaries, and more than \$14 bil-

lion of positive economic impact spread out over our 88 counties in Ohio.

We have some great facilities. I mentioned Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Youngstown Air Reserve Station. We also have the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Lima, OH, which is the place where we make our tanks. During the Obama administration, that facility was nearly shut down. A bunch of us led the fight, and I led the fight here in the Senate to keep it open. Thank goodness we did. Today, we need it. We need to be producing these tanks. We need to push back against the threats that we see. Our Army wants these vehicles—armored vehicles—including Strykers and tanks. We are very proud of that facility in Ohio. We want to be sure that we have the funding for it so we can move forward. In this appropriations bill there is funding for new tanks and new Stryker vehicles.

At the spray facility I talked about at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station, they need new airplanes. They need to have upgrades. Right now they need to be sure that the funding we have in this appropriations bill goes through because it actually enables them to construct a gate for the facility that is safe. The homeland security folks have told them that their current gate does not protect the base properly. So we have funding in this legislation to be able to do that.

I remain concerned that we are not coming together, as we do for our veterans, for our Active Duty.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have repeatedly blocked these procedural motions to move the bill forward, but their disagreements seem to be more with broader issues—how we are going to fund other issues, maybe including the wall on the southwest border—from what they say. Let's deal with that bill separately, but let's not take it out on our troops. Let's not make our troops a pawn in these political fights.

The funding bill we have was drafted on a bipartisan basis. It also is bicameral, in the sense that the House bill for Defense appropriations this year is very similar to the Senate bill.

The United States and the defense framework we have built over the years with our allies is under siege in places like Iran, China, North Korea, Turkey, and Russia. While we fight over funding our defense this year, their arsenals—those countries' arsenals—continue to grow.

I have heard from every branch of the military on this. Again, they all say the same thing: Failing to pass this funding agreement and defaulting to a continuing resolution—God forbid we go to a government shutdown, but even a continuing resolution where the funding wouldn't increase—negatively affects their ability to carry out their missions.

For the Army, by the way, that means delaying procurement of critical equipment, like their Next Generation

Combat Vehicle and land-based hypersonic missiles. But it also means more than 4,000 military family and single-soldier dwellings would not be awarded to servicemembers, and that nearly 300 military housing units in desperate need of repair will not get the upkeep they need.

For the Navy, they tell me failing to pass the appropriations bill will mean delaying the start of 3 dozen new critical military construction projects, and it creates a nearly \$2 billion shortfall for research and development, among other things. By the way, that includes holding research into artificial intelligence development, or AI development, which is critical right now. China is making great strides in that area. We have to be sure we are more than keeping up.

For the Air Force, they tell me this funding is necessary to field the new F-15EX fighter plane, to maintain and improve, of course, the F-35 fleet, and to help recruit and train new pilots to operate these state-of-the-art aircraft.

In Ohio, a CR would negatively impact our operations at Wright-Patterson and the critical work we do for our Nation at NASIC, which is a counter-intelligence operation, among other things.

Again, failing to pass the agreement will also keep us from moving forward with the across-the-board 3.1-percent pay increase for our troops, which is key to ensuring they are fairly compensated for their hard work and the sacrifices we have talked about today. It would be the largest pay raise in a decade, and they shouldn't be prevented from getting it because of our political differences here on other issues.

Anyone who has read the Constitution will tell you that the very first stated purpose of the Federal Government is to "provide for the common defense." That is our fundamental responsibility here. If we can't put aside these partisan disagreements and reach an agreement to fund our Armed Forces, we are failing to carry out those duties.

I hope it doesn't come to that. I hope politics can be put aside, and we can agree soon to give our men and women in uniform the comprehensive support they need, because when you meet veterans, as I did on Veterans Day across our State, you can't help but wonder where they would be if they didn't have the funding they needed when they were out there putting their lives on the line for all of us.

Again, to honor our veterans, we also have to honor our Active Duty. It is critical to our men and women in uniform, and it is critical to our national security.

I yield back.

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.

REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to recount the life of a colleague who recently passed away, Senator Kay Hagan from the State of North Carolina. I wish I didn't have to stand here to talk about her in the past tense. So many people who have served in the Senate with Kay Hagan, so many staff people across the Senate—and, in the context of both Members and staff, I would say both parties—recall serving with her fondly and also were very saddened by her passing.

It is very difficult to encapsulate someone's personality or their life in a few short remarks, but you could not have met Kay Hagan even for a short period of time or worked with her even for a short period of time without being captivated by her spirit, her energy, and her optimism, not only about her life but about work. You could also be captivated by her ability to connect with people and to demonstrate the kind of uncommon decency that we don't see enough of in politics and even public service. We are going to miss that energy, that optimism, and that decency. We are also going to miss her commitment to public service, even when she was not an elected public official.

My remarks today will not in any way encapsulate her whole life or her life of service, but I will try to provide some reflections.

One thing you knew about Kay Hagan when she got to the Senate was that she was very clear about the people she represented in the State from which she came. If you were in a short conversation with her or a long conversation—even a 30-second conversation—you were likely to hear the two words, “North Carolina,” if not once in a short conversation, several times.

She was so proud of her State and so proud of the opportunities she had to represent the people of North Carolina. She, of course, understood her work and was faithful to the basic obligation to represent the Nation as well. She was fiercely loyal to and always concerned about the people of North Carolina.

She was a fierce advocate for working people in North Carolina and around the country. She also happened to serve at a time when the Senate was considering and then, ultimately, took a vote on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. At that time, it was a long debate and a lot of contention, obviously, and there still is on healthcare. But Kay Hagan was very clear about where she stood.

We happened to serve as members of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, known by the acronym HELP—one of the two committees in the Senate that considered healthcare. Both the HELP Committee and the Finance Committee had fierce debate about and then, ultimately, votes on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Here is what Senator Kay Hagan said when the HELP Committee approved

similar or, I should say, related legislation, which at that time was called the Affordable Health Choices Act. That was the original healthcare bill that went through that committee, the HELP Committee. It ultimately changed when it was considered by the Finance Committee and then by the whole Senate, and the changes were made in negotiation and deliberation with the House.

But here is what she said. I guess this would have been sometime in 2009. She talked about this one particular healthcare bill as it stood at that moment. She said:

Our bill also ensures that a pre-existing condition will not prevent you from getting coverage. This compromise package focuses on prevention and wellness, which will keep our nation healthier and save taxpayers' money in the long run. I will continue working with my colleagues to get reform legislation to the President that stabilizes costs, expands coverage and improves the quality of care for all Americans.

That is what Senator Kay Hagan said at the time. Of course, we are still wrestling with a lot of those issues. She was predicting, in a sense, some of our future debates.

Kay Hagan wanted to get things done for the people she represented and really for the American people. One of the areas where she demonstrated that commitment to leadership and that commitment to getting things done was in the area of children's issues. In that same committee, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, she was the chair of the Subcommittee on Children and Families. Later, I was able to follow in her footsteps.

That was so emblematic of Kay Hagan's service not to be concerned just about what is right in front of us—the issue of the day or the issue of the moment, as important as those issues are—but always thinking about what comes next, always focusing on the future, thinking about the future, and not just in a compassionate way, as it relates to children, but in a very strategic way. Kay Hagan knew that investing in our children was essential for building the economy of the future and having the kind of country we say we want to have.

So Kay Hagan was ahead of her time in that regard, focusing on America's future, which meant focusing on America's children—whether it was financial literacy and the curriculum for middle and high school students or whether it was from her earliest days in the Senate—to improve the lives of children in any way that she could.

When I think about Kay Hagan, I think of not just a Senator, not just a colleague and a friend, but a public servant, someone who cared very deeply about service. I have often quoted the inscription on a building in which I worked in the State capital of Pennsylvania—Harrisburg. It is called the Finance Building, and I served in that building for 10 years and worked in that building for 10 years. The inscrip-

tion on that building about public service is very simple. It says: “All public service is a trust given in faith and accepted in honor.” That is what it says in that inscription. It is a great summation of what public service must be about and what an election must be about, that public service is a trust that is given to one person, given to a group of people, and that trust must be honored by the service that you render.

Here is another way of saying it by a predecessor of Kay Hagan, in a sense, because she was a Member of the Senate and, at the time, a real pioneer for women in the Senate. Margaret Chase Smith once said:

Public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation.

That is what Senator Margaret Chase Smith once said, and I think Kay Hagan's service was totally consistent with that sentiment, that public service is more than just doing a job honestly and efficiently, as Senator Smith said at the time. It must be a complete dedication to the people in the Nation. Kay Hagan demonstrated that in her life and in her work.

I have joined so many Members of the Senate in expressing condolence and also commendation for the good work that she did. I express condolence, of course, to her family. I speak on behalf of my wife Terese and many people here in the Senate who served with Kay to offer condolence to Kay's husband Chip and to her three children—Jeanette, Tilden, and Carrie—and Kay's five grandchildren. We are thinking of them today and all these days since her passing, and we pray that she will rest in peace. I express again how much we will miss Kay Hagan not only in the Senate but also because of the person she was. God bless you, Kay.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that unless there is objection, the 1:45 p.m. vote be held now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

All postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Menashi nomination?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The bill clerk will call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), 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 51, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 356 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blackburn	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Roberts
Braun	Hoeven	Romney
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schatz
Brown	Hirono	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	

NOT VOTING—8

Bennet	Jones	Sanders
Booker	Klobuchar	Warren
Harris	Rounds	

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 actions.

The majority leader.

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. 487.

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 Robert J. Luck, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

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 Robert J. Luck, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Rick Scott, Steve Daines, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham, John Hoeven, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, John Thune, John Cornyn, Deb Fischer, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, John Boozman, Tim Scott, 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. 488.

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 Barbara Lagoa, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

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 Barbara Lagoa, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Rick Scott, Steve Daines, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham, John Hoeven, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, John Thune, John Cornyn, Deb Fischer, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, John Boozman, Tim Scott, 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. 454.

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 Adrian Zuckerman, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Romania.

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 Adrian Zuckerman, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Romania.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Pat Roberts, James M. Inhofe, Chuck Grassley, Richard C. Shelby, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn, Cory Gardner, James Lankford, Mike Braun, John Hoeven, Roy Blunt, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, John Thune.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls 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.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFRICA

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, this past weekend, I was the first Senator in a really long time to fly into Somalia's notoriously dangerous capital city. I will tell you, at first glance, it looks like things in Mogadishu have gotten back to normal. But the situation on the ground, after you fly in and get out of the plane and you get on the ground, you see it is really quite a different story.

There is a reason why our recollection of Somali history focuses on the Black Hawk Down incident—the terrible Battle of Mogadishu—and then-

President Bill Clinton's decision to evacuate American troops from the Horn of Africa.

Somalia's legacy is rooted in years of violence that overwhelmed the world's most elite military forces, froze the economy, and left the Somali people very much alone in the world—at least until 9/11, when Western powers were forced to focus on multiple fronts in the War on Terror.

I was fortunate enough last weekend to visit our Djibouti-based troops at Camp Lemonnier. Our base there was established in the wake of 9/11, and since then, has expanded to support AFRICOM's mission in the Horn of Africa. Their leadership is committed to not repeating the mistakes of the past. They have developed the best unmanned aerial system force in the world.

It is amazing what they are doing with these UAVs. Between that program and our impressive intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, the military has stepped up their ability to keep our troops safer in the world's most volatile theater.

I was pleased to know that the 101st Airborne out of Fort Campbell—which is located in Montgomery County, TN, and also there on the Kentucky border—are supporting the vital post-Benghazi East Africa Response Force mission and that the Nashville-based 118th Air Wing unit of the Tennessee Air National Guard plays a vital role in regional security operations.

It brought home to me the point of why we have to get the NDAA finished, why we have to get these resources to our men and women in uniform who are fighting every day and need 21st-century warfare in order to keep us safe.

The work they are doing there—and of course I can't say exactly what it is that they are doing—should make us all really humbled and grateful for those who choose to serve.

Our mission in Africa is changing. Things are shifting a little bit. As we urge our local partners in Africa to take ownership over their own security, the chattering class is at it again and what we will hear from people is: Well, I think we have done enough for Africa. Don't you think we have given enough?

My response this week to those who have made that statement has been: No, we have not done enough. We have invested more than a decades' worth of time, money, and manpower. We have lost men, lost ground, regained that ground, expanded our abilities, and have achieved moderate regional stability. But most importantly, we have confirmed the Horn of Africa is still a geopolitical powder keg.

The same forces that swept the Horn into anarchy in the 1990s and allowed terrorism to metastasize in the 2000s are now triggering instability all across that continent.

For a long time, Somalia managed to limp along as a failed state because a

traditional government has never acted as their main arbiter. Powerful clans decided for themselves who would control territory and resources, and the clans are still very evident in that country. The victors, in turn, weaponized access to clean water, food, and healthcare in order to keep citizens in line.

Violent extremist organizations like al-Shabaab, ISIS, and factions of al-Qaida have been watching, and now they are employing the same tactics to destabilize existing governments in and beyond the Horn, in northeast Nigeria, and in the Sahel and the Lake Chad regions of West Africa.

We may have eradicated the physical caliphate, but mom-and-pop terror shops are thriving. What is more, the digital caliphate is alive and well, and it will take more than ground forces to wipe it out.

Many of my colleagues may be tempted to assume that these insurgent hotbeds have lowered Africa's stock in the eyes of global powers, but we shouldn't be fooled about that in this era of great power competition. It is going to sound mighty familiar to all of us, but China and, to a lesser extent, Russia are doing all they can to actually buy their way into strategic dominance. This is some of what we heard and what we learned this week. For example, China has made inroads by agreeing to hold 80 percent of the government of Djibouti's debt. Think about that. China has gone to this country and they have said: Look, we will hold this debt for you, 80 percent of it.

In turn, Djibouti has accommodated China's first overseas military outpost and granted them access to crucial shipping lanes. They have also bought into China's Smart City Program, those all-seeing cameras that I encountered at every intersection at Djibouti City. In other words, the Chinese must feel like they have struck gold. They have a huge port going in. They are helping to turn this into an intermodal transit system with a port, with a railway. By the way, we are going to put these cameras up to help you keep your community safe. And what is China doing? China is collecting all that data. They are scanning all of these faces. They are watching everything that comes into these ports and are monitoring everything that goes on the rails.

China is doing this not only with Djibouti but with other countries in Africa. They are trying to secure this coastline in Africa for themselves to expand their reach.

For 12 years, the United States and our partners have worked together to bring stability to the Horn of Africa. The State Department and USAID have laid the groundwork for education, for health development, institution building, and permanent democratic transition. Yet the region remains vulnerable. Our role is going to change because, yes, we look at it as great power

competition through the military. But we also look at the way China and Russia are pushing into their economic sectors. Great power competition is not just playing out in the Indo-Pacific or in Eastern Europe; it is playing out right now on the African Continent. Instead of playing defense, as we do in other theaters, we have the opportunity to be on offense when it comes to Africa.

If we decide that now we have had enough, these threats—from the military, that sector, and from the economic sector—will degrade American influence and will threaten the homeland and will imperil the delicate and completely reversible balance that we have fought so hard to gain. Our Nation's security cannot afford to give ground, to cede ground, on the Continent of Africa.

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. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise to talk about something that is really important, I think not only to our Nation and our planet but to me and my family personally.

As cochair and cofounder, along with Senator JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas, of the Senate Recycling Caucus, I am proud to stand side by side with all the Members of our caucus on the matter of recycling and its importance.

Today Senator BOOZMAN and I have introduced a resolution to commemorate tomorrow, November 15, as America Recycles Day. I would say that every day should be America Recycles Day. For a lot of our families, that is what it is. I don't have any idea how many millions or tens of millions of families recycle every day, but it is a lot of people, and we need even more.

For more than two decades, communities across our country have come together on November 15, and they do so to observe America Recycles Day and to celebrate their commitment to recycling.

First, I want to thank all of those who have worked hard to make America Recycles Day a success for all of these years. I have been a huge advocate of recycling for the past 50 years. I first recycled, I think, when I was a lieutenant JG in the Navy stationed in Moffett Field in California, which is close to Palo Alto. I took my recyclables to a warehouse there in Palo Alto and have never stopped. I don't go to the one in Palo Alto anymore, but we recycle all over Delaware. Frankly, when I go around the country, I recycle. I recycled on the train this morning, somewhere around Baltimore, coming down from Wilmington.

I really welcomed the opportunity to collaborate—I want to say more than a decade ago—with Senator Olympia Snowe of Maine. Together, we helped create the Senate Recycling Caucus in 2006. Since the retirement of Senator Snowe 6 years ago, I have been fortunate enough to have as my running mate and cochair Senator BOOZMAN of Arkansas.

In this year alone, our caucus has held four briefings to learn more about the current state of recycling in this country and to discuss ways in which the Federal Government might play an even more important role in encouraging additional recycling in the years to come.

The State and local governments are heavily involved in recycling, and there is a huge role for them—I say this as former Governor—a huge and important role for State and local governments to be involved in this, but there are also opportunities for the Federal Government to play a constructive role. We are doing that, and hopefully we will be able to do that even better in the days to come.

My sister and I were born in a coal mining town in West Virginia. We grew up later on in Virginia, where I was a Boy Scout and a Civil Air Patrol cadet. In scouting, we were taught to “leave no trace.” When we were hunting or fishing, my dad, a big hunter and fisherman, used to say basically to leave no trace behind so no one would actually know we were there. I think that admonition is one that has stuck with me throughout my life.

I believe we have a moral obligation to be devoted stewards of our environment and our planet and to leave our planet in even better shape than we found it.

Lately, I have been thinking about another quote. This one I really like is from Martin Luther King that a lot of people have heard. It goes something like this: “Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve.” This call to service reminds me of recycling because almost anyone can help better protect our environment by reducing the waste we produce, and we can do that, in part, by recycling.

I have a chart here that indicates just some of the things I recycled of late. This is not a green Ford Explorer. I bought my wife a car—actually, she bought it years and years ago, probably 15 years ago. We call it the Ford “exploder.” It never exploded. It was a great car. She used it for 9 or 8 years or so and passed it down to our son, Christopher. He used it for a couple of years and passed it down to Ben, who used it for about 3 years. Finally, it just gave up the ghost. I took it one day to a place where they recycled cars. I drove in. They put it on a huge machine that actually weighed it. I think of—you know, you get on a scale to weigh yourself. Well, this was like a scale for vehicles, including our Ford Explorer. They wrote out a check literally before I left to actually pay, I think \$900, for

recycling the Explorer. People do that every day in Delaware and other places as well.

We have a waste facility in our State of Delaware, and one of the things they oversee is recycling. About every month, from spring to the fall, they hold recycling events. A lot of times they are in school parking lots, maybe high school parking lots. They do them on Saturdays.

One Saturday I called ahead, and I asked: Do you guys recycle dehumidifiers? We had a dehumidifier. It was about 20 years old. It had been in our basement forever. They said: Yes, we do that—which is great, and we checked on paints, paint thinners, oil-based paints, and stuff. They said: We are doing hazardous materials recycling. So I took several cans of paint thinners.

We had all these outdoor lights from our house over the years that kind of died out on us, and I didn’t know what to do with them. Sure enough, they took these household lights, as well as all kinds of cords and everything, paints and stuff.

Every Monday in my neighborhood, we have big canisters outside where we can recycle all kinds of things. I always had water bottles in there and other kinds of cans and so forth, newspapers, you name it—actually, compost too. If you actually add up what we put in our big recycling bin every Monday for pickup, you look at what we put in our compost in our backyard, and you compare that to the actual amount of trash that is picked up at our house on Thursdays, there are many times more recyclables and compostables than there is actually trash.

We like to do that where I live. Hopefully, we will learn from other communities and States, and hopefully they will learn from us.

One of the reasons I love recycling so much flows from my belief that all of us can do our part to preserve limited resources and reduce landfill input, while at the same time helping our environment and creating jobs.

Mine is a little State. I tell people, even today, that we are the 49th largest State. That means only Rhode Island is smaller than us. We are about 100 miles long and 50 miles wide, so recycling is particularly important. We just doesn’t have a lot of space for landfills. We have about 1 million people, and it is just a matter of having enough space. That space limitation is actually what prompted Delaware to pass the Universal Recycling Law in 2010. It requires that all waste haulers who provide residential trash collection also have to provide for the collection of recyclables. Think about that. That was the law we passed about 9 years ago, I think under the leadership of either Governor Markell or Governor Minner. We started a little bit of recycling. We started getting serious about it when I was Governor. They really ramped it up in the last decade, which is wonderful.

Since the law’s passage, the First State—that is Delaware, if you didn’t know—has continued to recycle somewhere around 40 percent of all of our waste, most recently recycling a little bit more than 43 percent in 2017.

I have a friend who, when you ask him how he is doing, he sometimes replies: Compared to what? Well, compared to more than a decade ago, in 2006, the First State diverted about half as much—23 percent of our waste from landfills. So we pretty much doubled that over the last 10 years. Hopefully, we will come close to doubling it again in the years to come.

Today the recycling industry faces unprecedented challenges, especially with respect to plastics. The United States used to ship a lot of our recyclables, as you know, to China, but beginning in 2017, China decided to ban 24 types of what are called scrap imports and deployed strict contamination requirements for the scraps they will accept. They didn’t want to have glass mixed up with metals, mixed up with plastic and paper. They are looking to reduce contamination like that, and they made their rules a whole lot stricter in that regard.

Now, because of the policies China implemented in March of this year, local governments and municipalities are facing an uphill challenge to keep their recycling programs alive. According to the EPA, the United States recycles less than 22 percent of our discarded materials, which makes me feel better in Delaware because we are like twice the national average now.

According to a peer-reviewed study published in 2017, more than 90 percent of plastic has never been recycled. Let me say that again. According to a peer-reviewed study published in 2017—2 years ago—more than 90 percent of plastic has never been recycled. That means we have only recycled about 9 percent of our plastic around the world. Of the 8.3 billion metric tons of plastic produced, 6.3 billion tons—that is about three-fourths of all that is produced—becomes waste. The rest gets recycled; the lion’s share of it does not. Most of it ends up in landfills, and too much of it, unfortunately, ends up in our oceans and environment.

I have a couple of our colleagues on the Environment and Public Works Committee. The Presiding Officer is one of them, and we have Senator BOOZMAN. The three of us are all members on the committee. I think Senator DAN SULLIVAN from Alaska and Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE—a Republican and a Democrat—have been working hard, along with TOM UDALL from New Mexico, who is on the Commerce Committee, to try to address some of these plastic contaminations.

If we continue down this path, the world economic forum predicts that we are on track to have plastic pollution in our oceans outweigh the fish in our world’s ocean by 2050. Let that sink in for just a minute. By 2050, if we continue on the track we are on, we are

going to end up having more plastic pollution by weight than fish in our world's oceans. That is not a good thing.

Last time I checked, Delaware is blessed with more five-star beaches than any other State in America. If we don't begin to change our recycling habits, the waves that grace our pristine beaches will be better known for washing up plastic waste than giving surfers those big waves to ride.

Almost every year I participate in something called Delaware's Annual Coastal Cleanup, along with thousands of people. We start down at Fenwick Island—right in the southernmost part of Delaware, a great beach town, and right north of the Ocean City, MD, line—to clean up our beaches and our waterfronts, from the Delaware and Maryland line all the way up almost to Pennsylvania in the north.

While we are still waiting for the numbers from this year, last year, in 2018, my fellow volunteers and I—thousands of us—together collected 2.7 tons of waste, including plastic water bottles, straws, takeout containers, tires, and you name it. This was from just one weekend of work along 70 miles of coastline.

Sadly, those 2.7 tons of trash collected last year in Delaware pale in comparison to what we are seeing around the world. Our 2.7 tons of trash is like the tip of the iceberg, compared to all the rest of this washing up in places around the world.

I think we might have one more chart. Some of you have also heard of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which now covers a surface area on the Earth 250 times larger than my whole State of Delaware and contains a whopping 80,000 tons of trash. Here it is. Can you imagine? Look at all that trash.

It is out in the Pacific Ocean, and I would like to say that it is getting smaller. I don't think it is, but it needs to, and we need to be a part of that in making some progress.

As we celebrate America Recycles Day tomorrow, I just want to encourage you to join Senator BOOZMAN and join our colleagues and their constituents and join us in looking for new ways to dramatically increase recycling in our country and around the world. We need solutions that are a win-win for our economy on the one hand and for our environment on the other hand. I believe recycling is one of those win-win solutions.

By the way, you may be surprised to learn that recycling and manufacturing industries are beneficial for our economy, accounting for more than 750,000 jobs and approximately \$6.7 billion in tax revenues. That reminds me of one of my favorite sayings: "It is possible to do good and to do well at the same time." It is possible to clean up our planet and make the planet safer and create jobs and economic opportunities.

It is not a Hobson's choice. It is not one or the other. We can do both. I be-

lieve that if we work hard, we work together, and we work to leverage points of consensus rather than points of disagreement, we will continue to make progress. Recycling is something that I think every American can do to make a difference.

I once read somewhere how many aluminum cans we drink and use and consume. It could be tea, it could be soda, it could be milk or variety of waters, but if people just would recycle their aluminum cans, it would have a terrific effect on, believe it or not, carbon dioxide. It is put up in the air. So that affects climate change as well.

There are a lot of good effects. Recycling is something that every American can do to make a difference. I would ask you to start today. If you have already gotten started, figure out how to do better. On America Recycles Day, our children and our grandchildren will be glad that we did it in the years to come.

Again, I am grateful to be here today with my dedicated cochair, my compadre, Senator BOOZMAN. I thank him for his leadership and for providing, with our staff, great ideas to make this particular America Recycles Day an even bigger and better thing than before.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I thank Senator CARPER and his staff and my staff for the tremendous job that they have done in recent years in really trying to educate, through the caucus, the rest of the staff and Members as to the importance of recycling. As a result of their efforts, it really is making a big difference.

We hear a lot about Republicans and Democrats not getting along on this and that, not getting anything done, and I think this is a great example of something that is very, very important. It is not glamorous, but it is things like this that really can make a huge difference, as Senator CARPER alluded to. We appreciate him and appreciate his friendship.

Well, tomorrow, November 15, is America Recycles Day. So we are asking Americans to join us as we come together and reaffirm the importance and the benefits of recycling on this occasion. We all know that recycling is a commonsense way for us to be responsible stewards of our environment. Recycling also strengthens our economy and creates hundreds of thousands of well-paying jobs throughout our country. This is something that I believe everyone can agree is truly a win-win situation.

Most Americans are familiar with traditional recycling efforts at their city and county levels, which encourage citizens to recycle household goods or business goods, such as paper, soda cans, and bottles. However, recycling is much broader than these common practices. Recycling is a \$200 billion industry in our country, and it entails much, much more than just traditional municipal recycling programs.

My State of Arkansas is home to many examples of companies that are contributing to a robust and growing commercial recycling industry. I will give you an example.

Nucor, a leading steel producer located in Blytheville, AR, has the capacity to recycle 6 million tons of steel per year—6 million tons—and over 27 million tons nationwide, making it North America's largest recycler. Nucor has also taken its efforts a step further by teaming with local recycling facilities to help tackle some of the biggest challenges associated with the practice in rural communities.

Nucor donated a recycled cardboard baler to Abilities Unlimited, a local nonprofit that runs a nearby recycling facility. This investment has proven mutually beneficial to Nucor and to the community. This facility now provides an outlet for the steel company and community members to recycle in a much more cost-effective manner.

In fact, Nucor plants in Arkansas have the capability to recycle about 60 tons of cardboard annually thanks to this baler. More than 195 tons of cardboard, 21 tons of paper, and 71 tons of mixed plastics have been recycled through this partnership.

Another industry leader leading the way is Walmart. As the world's largest retailer, Walmart has put recycling front and center by raising its packaging standards to include more recycled content and to eliminate specific nonrecyclable packaging materials by 2020. Earlier this year, Walmart announced its intention to achieve 100 percent recyclable, reusable, or industrially compostable packaging by 2025. Its leadership in this arena will help to create more demand for recycled content and open the door for other companies to follow suit.

Lastly, I want to highlight the recycling accomplishments of Bryce Corporation, a trailblazer in flexible packaging. This is the packaging commonly used for chips, juice pouches, pet food, lawn and garden materials, cleaning supplies, and many other products. Bryce employs about 750 people at its Searcy facility and has achieved an environmental footprint that the Central Arkansas community can be very proud of.

At this location alone, Bryce has maintained a 98-percent landfill-free status and has supported the circular economy by recycling over 15 million pounds of plastics each year. The material recycled from this facility is repurposed into other products, ranging from plastic pallets to automotive parts. Bryce Corporation's innovative efforts are a sterling example of recycling done right, and I am grateful for the example it has set for the rest of the country.

Our country has certainly faced its fair share of recycling woes and setbacks, but I have always maintained that in adversity lies opportunity. I believe there is much to be learned from

the meaningful work that these companies are doing in Arkansas, and I commend them on leading on the issue.

The United States has the ability now to improve its waste management and recycling infrastructure and better leverage the economic and environmental benefits of recycling.

I look forward to continue my work with my cochair of the Recycling Caucus, Senator CARPER. Again, I thank him and his staff and my staff, who are doing such a tremendous job, and the other members of the caucus who develop meaningful, long-term solutions that address the challenges facing the industry.

I encourage all Americans to use America Recycles Day as an opportunity to reflect on the critical importance of recycling and to consider what we can do to support our environment through our own individual efforts.

Mr. CARPER. Would the Senator yield for a moment?

Mr. BOOZMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARPER. Thank you for sharing with us the terrific ideas of what businesses around Arkansas and the country are doing to recycle. They do it for a variety of reasons. It is the right thing to do, and a lot of them are committed to being good environmental stewards. It can also be to their economic advantage. Instead of having to pay to have stuff being carted away to a landfill, the ability to recycle materials is, I think, desirable.

We used to have a big Chrysler plant in Delaware, in Newark, close to the University of Delaware and close to the Maryland line. The plant was about 60 years old, and in the middle of the great recession, Chrysler went into bankruptcy, and we lost that plant. It closed, and about 3,000 jobs were gone. We had a GM plant as well about 15 miles from there, just outside of Wilmington, and the same thing happened. About 3,000 jobs were gone, which was just really, really tough.

Having said that—in your words again, in adversity lies opportunity—the folks at the University of Delaware called me. After Chrysler had gone into bankruptcy, they announced that they were selling the plant. They were looking to sell it, and the folks at the University of Delaware and the president of the university, Pat Harker, called me and said: Do you think the Chrysler people might be interested in selling that plant to the university?

It was just about a half mile south of the University of Delaware in Newark.

I called the people at Chrysler and said: You may have an interested buyer here.

They ended up coming to an agreement on the terms of the purchase, and that old Chrysler plant has been recycled. The plant was largely taken down—not entirely, but largely taken down. The money that the University of Delaware earned and generated from the sale of the recyclables—the construction stuff that the plant was made out of—more than paid for taking down and leveling the plant.

Now the University of Delaware has a site of several hundred acres, and they are redeveloping that as a science, technology, and manufacturing facility with a lot of tenants and more to come. So there really is opportunity in adversity.

The other thing I would say is that we got some shredding machines. I had a picture up there of an old shredding machine, and we bought a new one not long ago. So we ended up with a lot of shredded paper. As it turns out, the weekly recyclers, when they come through our neighborhood and collect, they are happy to take the paper, but they don't want to take the shredded paper. What they said that we ought to do is to put it in our compost.

My wife came up with this idea of composting 10 years ago. Somebody was nice enough to build a 4-by-6 and about 3-feet high bin and then lined it with materials, and we put grass in it, recyclables, leaves, and we ended up with this great mulch. We have, I think, taken what a lot of people have seen as waste product and ended up actually turning it into something to make our lawn and our trees and our shrubs even healthier.

It is all good. I am just thrilled to be on the floor with my friend and to be able to thank those who are recycling and remind others, if you are not, that you are missing out on the fun. Come and join us. You will be glad you did.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I think you make a great point in the sense that we do things for the right reasons. That is so important. Also, it is important, too, that not only can we do it for the right reasons and benefit our environment, but it also can be cost-effective to our businesses.

A good example of that is Walmart. Several years ago, they wanted to reduce their fuel cost and then also reduce the harm in the sense of the landfills and things like that. They looked and saw that on their trucks, the limiting factor was not weight. It was bulk. You know how you go to the store and you buy something and it has got this huge box or whatever and it has got the little bitty product in it. They said, you know, we don't need to be doing that.

So they told their vendors that they would like to go in that direction, and to their credit, the vendors cooperated. As a result, they were able to put more products on the truck, thus reducing fuel costs—again benefiting the economy—and having less bulk for consumers to deal with eventually. That was putting less pressure on the environment because, you know, some people don't do a good job of recycling.

These things can be so good for not only doing the right thing but also improving the bottom line and making sure that we really are putting less pressure on the environment.

We appreciate your leadership. You have been doing this for a long time, as Governor and now as Senator, helping to put these things together. We very much appreciate it.

Mr. CARPER. If the gentleman would yield the floor for a moment, I said earlier in my remarks, to paraphrase it again, that it is possible to do good and do well at the same time. It really is. I am just happy that more and more people are doing that.

While we are having this conversation, I just want to mention that when we showed up at the recycling event at Glasgow High School last Saturday afternoon, they took a bunch of our stuff to recycle—papers, bottles, cans, paint thinners, a dehumidifier, and all kinds of stuff. One thing they wouldn't take was our Styrofoam. We have one place in Delaware—and we are not a big State; 100 miles long and 50 miles wide—we have one place in Delaware that will take Styrofoam.

What I would love to do in the months to come and in the new year is for us to start on recycling projects and focus on that because it is not a problem only in Delaware; there are a lot of places where it is hard to recycle Styrofoam. We can try to figure it out. Maybe somebody around the world or somebody in other States has figured this out and they are doing it. We need to learn from them, find out what works, and do more of that. In my State, we have a hard time dealing with it.

Mr. BOOZMAN. We look forward to having a robust bunch of programs.

It is so important to educate people on what is recyclable because not everyone knows. Different things are recyclable from one area to another area. So we need education on that, and that will make it much more efficient, with people putting in the correct things.

So we have some obstacles to overcome, but the good news is, there are people working together, and we are moving in the right direction.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I think I will yield back the time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CRAMER. 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.

REDUCING PANDEMIC RISK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we do not have to be reminded of the more than

50 million lives lost in the 1918 influenza pandemic or the many thousands lost in the SARS, Ebola, MERS, and other recent infectious disease outbreaks to recognize that far more must be done to reduce the risk of catastrophic pandemics. Rather than waiting until disease outbreaks occur, then scrambling at great expense for 2 or 3 years or however long it takes to develop a vaccine while countless people die, we need to act proactively. It is worth noting that tens of millions of people have died, and we still lack a vaccine against HIV.

Viral threats will continue to emerge at a rapidly accelerating pace in response to expanding global populations in the least developed countries, international travel, and human encroachment into wildlife habitat. And we know that the vast majority of emerging viruses, like HIV, are zoonotic—infectious diseases that can spread between animals and humans.

In an effort to strengthen global capacity for detection and discovery of zoonotic viruses, the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, initiated the PREDICT project in 2009. Its goal was to identify new emerging viruses with pandemic potential and improve predictive modeling to better focus surveillance, data collection, and analytics to reduce the risk of animal viruses spilling over and spreading in human populations. Through the collection and analysis of wildlife samples in areas of the world most at risk for zoonotic disease, PREDICT was able to discover disease pathogens at their source, rather than waiting for human infection.

Over the past decade and through its work in more than 30 countries, PREDICT has identified hundreds of viruses and has estimated that there are more than 1.6 million unknown viral disease species in mammalian and avian populations, of which an estimated 600,000 to 850,000 have the potential to infect humans. PREDICT has proven the feasibility of a global, systematic viral discovery program and paved the way for continued progress toward a more proactive approach to reducing pandemic risk.

As the PREDICT project comes to an end next year, USAID is exploring ways to build on its successful analytical and modeling work and is in the process of designing the next phase of programming to continue this critical effort. It is my hope that others in the international community will use the lessons learned and techniques proven from PREDICT to inform their own efforts.

Currently, the international community often targets global health investments on infrastructure, institutions, and human resources. While that approach works to strengthen public health systems and to tackle existing diseases, reducing the risk of future pandemics will require a substantially different approach. As the PREDICT project has shown, there are ways to

use data, research, and technology to proactively identify viral threats. Using existing health science and technology to continue to fill the knowledge gap for unknown viruses will save precious lives and dollars in the future.

Thanks to the work of USAID, we have a strong basis of knowledge on which to expand this critical research. While the large pool of viral threats lying dormant in animals has not changed, human interaction with wildlife has. In this increasingly globalized and densely populated world, where it is easier than ever for zoonotic diseases to rapidly spread across regions and continents, it is essential that the international community focus on finding innovative ways to reduce pandemic risk.

One approach is through a global viral discovery effort, in which countries share data on previously unknown viruses, which will transform the fight against pandemic threats from a reactive to a proactive undertaking. This is not a technological challenge; it is matter of political will and resources. It will require commitments from governments around the world to collect and share data on previously unknown viruses. While I recognize that is easier said than done, better equipping humanity to protect itself against catastrophic pandemics is an investment we cannot afford not to make.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SKIRACK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermont, the Green Mountain State, is filled with outdoor enthusiasts: people who ski, snowboard, mountain bike, hike, and do so much more. Outdoor enthusiasts who live in Chittenden County or who have visited the area are likely to have perused the walls, shelves, and aisles of the Skirack in Burlington, VT. Today I want to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Skirack, a small business that has become a staple of downtown Burlington.

Just a few blocks from its present location at the corner of Main and Pine Streets in downtown Burlington, the Skirack first opened its doors on November 22, 1969, driven by the vision of a group of University of Vermont students. The founders of the Skirack—Karen George, Zandy Wheeler, Spike Clayton, and John George-Wheeler—opened the shop with one goal in mind: to provide the finest outdoor goods and services. Over the next 50 years, their store has equipped Vermonters and visitors to our State with the essentials as they face the elements and reach new heights, both literal and figurative.

Vermont has a proud and prominent legacy of outdoor recreation. Vermonters, or those who visit, can cross country ski, swim in Lake Champlain, mountain bike, or go on a trek through any of Vermont's magnificent forest trails. Contrary to the store's name, the Skirack has been

Vermonters' one-stop shop for all of their outdoor recreational needs, regardless of the season.

Since its inception, the Skirack has been the recipient of numerous honors and accolades. The store has been named the Snowsports Retailer of the Year and Nordic Retailer by Ski Industries of America. But recognition of the Skirack goes far beyond their snow sport inventory. For 5 years in a row, from 2013 through 2017, it was named one of America's best bike shops by the National Bicycle Dealers Association and in 2018 was named one of the 20 Best Running Shops in America by Gear Patrol.

The Skirack has gone through many changes throughout its 50 years of operation. In 1974, Karen, Zandy, Spike, and John moved the Skirack from its small shop on Center Street to where it is currently located on Main Street in downtown Burlington. Over time, they were able to double the size of their store by expanding to the building next door. Then, in May 2011, they began a special partnership with Patagonia and opened a second store, Patagonia Burlington. And today, the Skirack employs more than 80 Vermonters.

Vermont's economy depends on small businesses like the Skirack. Over the years, those small businesses have become the backbone of Vermont's economy. In 2018, the more than 77,000 small businesses made up 99 percent of Vermont businesses—99 percent. In Vermont, almost 60 percent of employees, over 158,000 Vermonters, are employed by a small business. I am proud that small businesses such as The Skirack, have not only been able to not only survive but thrive.

With the holiday season approaching, it is important for Americans across the country to visit their hometown Main Street stores as they shop for friends and family. Holiday sales represent 20 percent of average annual sales across most industries and 30 percent or more for some businesses.

Marcelle and I congratulate Karen, Zandy, Spike, and John on an incredible 50 years of operations at the Skirack. We wish them all the best of luck, and we hope for 50 more strong years.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to speak up for those who serve our country all around the world, courageously, selflessly, with great sacrifice. I rise on behalf of our diplomatic corps, our Foreign Service Officers, civil servants, and State Department personnel. I rise on behalf of patriotic Americans serving our country on the front lines of war zones and devastating conflicts, in countries with oppressive governments and societies hostile to our own.

Our national security is stronger because of them. American people are safer because of them. Our children's futures will be more secure, more prosperous, because of them. And because

of them and their hard work and sacrifice, our grandchildren may know a world with less pain, less strife, less conflict. And yet they have come under attack, simply for serving their country.

This week, three State Department witnesses are testifying during the House of Representatives' impeachment hearings on the Trump-Ukraine scandal. These individuals have, in many cases, spent their entire careers serving our Nation with distinction, on behalf of both Republican and Democratic administrations. Some have even worn the uniform of the U.S. Armed Forces.

These men and women are not partisans. They are patriots, patriots who put our country first. And for putting country first, for being willing to tell the truth, they have come under attack—not by a foreign regime bristling at their efforts to promote democracy, not by oligarchs and criminals who fear their effectiveness—though that has happened as well.

No. They have come under attack in our own country, by our own President, by the head of our government that they so bravely and selflessly serve. It pains me, and so I am standing before you today to speak up on their behalf, on behalf of each voice that has come forward in this time of need and tumult for our country. This is a time when we need truth—truth above party, truth above political loyalties and expediency, truth above self-interest. These diplomats, these professionals, these proud public servants are putting the country before themselves—if only this President could do the same, if only he—just once—could put the interests of others ahead of his own.

But frankly, I am not the one who should be standing up on behalf of our diplomatic corps, nor should it be only the Democrats on the Foreign Relations Committee. There is a job post that actually entails standing up for the men and women of our State Department each and every day. The job is called Secretary of State. It is a job held by Secretary Mike Pompeo. Yet under Secretary Pompeo's watch, the dedicated Americans who serve in the State Department have been thrown to the wolves.

Our Secretary of State should be the No. 1 defender of our diplomatic corps. He should come forward and tell the American people what he saw, what he heard, and what he did about it. He should defend the officials who serve in his own Department. And he could start by uttering just one word of support for Ambassador Taylor, Deputy Assistant Secretary Kent, and Ambassador Yovanovitch. But he has had plenty of time for that. We have seen very clearly where he stands.

So instead, I, along with my Democratic colleagues on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, are calling on other senior officials at the State Department to step up and do the right

thing. This week, we sent a letter to the Deputy Secretary of State, John Sullivan, and the Undersecretary for Management, Brian Bulatao, calling on them to do what Pompeo has not: to publicly support the brave officials who are putting their careers, their reputations, and terribly, even their personal finances on the line—all to serve their country. I hope that they do, even in the face of vicious and unfounded attacks unleashed by the President, his allies, and those who refuse to stand up for the truth.

Some have been called “disloyal,” “unpatriotic,” and “Never Trumpers.” In fact, yesterday morning, as State officials were about to begin testifying, the President tweeted, in all caps, “NEVER TRUMPERS!” These false attacks misunderstand the entire premise of public service. To be a career public servant means to work every day on behalf of the public, our government, our country, our Constitution, to check politics at the door. To argue otherwise demonstrates this President's warped view of how our government works. Our career Federal employees do not serve him. They serve our country. They serve the American people.

The only “loyalty” they pledge is loyalty to the oath they take to uphold our Constitution. In coming forward, in speaking the truth, in raising concerns about events that trouble them as guardians of our national security, they are carrying out an act of selfless patriotism and love of country that that this President is incapable of understanding, let alone doing himself.

I hope that some of our other senior officials will step forward and show just a sliver of the backbone that these individuals have shown. I hope they will do the right thing. I hope they will issue statements of public support for officials courageously coming before Congress and commit to protecting them from retribution or reprisal.

Our State Department employees deserve commendation, not retaliation. They deserve our thanks, not our scorn. Above all else, they deserve leaders who will defend them, not desert them when it matters most.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAST GREEN VALLEY

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor as it celebrates 25 years of protection and preservation of this environmentally sensitive, pristine area.

Originally designated as the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor, the valley was officially designated as a critical natural resource by President Clinton on November 2, 1994. Twenty years later, it was officially renamed The Last Green Valley.

For a quarter of a century, The Last Green Valley advocates have worked to care for the corridor through nonprofit stewardship. Overall, the valley comprises a 1,100-square-mile area, which ranges from eastern Connecticut to south-central Massachusetts. One of the most notable aspects of the valley is its rural characteristics despite its proximity to three of New England's largest urban areas. Among its 707,000 acres, 77 percent of this range is farmland and forest.

The Last Green Valley's designation as a national heritage corridor by Congress acknowledges its status as a unique national resource. Included in this designation are 26 towns in Connecticut and 9 in Massachusetts. The underdeveloped, green area so close to many large urban spaces makes it a point of special ecological interest and a great environmental asset to Connecticut and the nation.

Dedicated to preserving the natural beauty and resources of New England from development and despoilment, The Last Green Valley sets a positive example of environmental conservation and protection. I applaud its accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating The Last Green Valley on 25 years of excellence.●

RECOGNIZING K. NEAL TRUCK AND BUS CENTER

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I name K. Neal Truck and Bus Center the United States Senate Small Business of the Week.

K. Neal Truck and Bus Center is a family-owned business based in Hyattsville, MD. Following a decades-long career in the grocery business, Stephen Neal purchased a trucking business and renamed it after his son, Korey Neal.

Together, the father-son team has turned K. Neal into the second largest minority-owned truck and bus supplier in the country, with more than \$100 million in annual revenue and just under 100 employees.

On the Senate Small Business Committee, we often speak of small businesses as drivers of economic growth and innovation, but they are often also pillars in their communities, and K. Neal is no exception.

I had the privilege of meeting with Stephen, Korey, and several K. Neal executives last month, and I was impressed by the company's commitment to empowering all its employees and investing in its community.

Half of the executives at K. Neal are women, and for the past 5 years, the company has partnered with the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation to train workers from underserved communities to become diesel technicians. I am proud to share that 14 individuals have completed the program, and 8 of them are currently employed by the company. The company also voluntarily banned

the box for returning citizens convicted of nonviolent crimes.

Thanks to K. Neal's history of business success and commitment to investing in their community and their neighbors, the U.S. Black Chambers of Commerce presented its 2019 Emerging Leaders & Influencers Award to the company.

I applaud Stephen and Korey for building a successful company and using their company to make a positive difference in the lives of so many. They have truly made Prince George's proud.●

TRIBUTE TO TONY HARBAUGH

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Sherriff Tony Harbaugh of Custer County for his tremendous impact on the State of Montana.

In early October, Sheriff Harbaugh was awarded the Montana Board of Crime Control Lifetime Achievement Award at the 12th Annual Montana Crime Prevention Conference in Billings.

Harbaugh began his career at the Custer County Sheriff's Office in 1978 as the only jailer. He was then officially sworn in as a deputy with the sheriff's office in May of 1979. Harbaugh quickly climbed the ranks and was officially elected as Custer County Sherriff in 1986, holding that title until today.

Throughout his long career in law enforcement, Harbaugh has served in a number of leadership positions in law enforcement. Currently, Harbaugh is the Montana law enforcement representative on the Western States Sheriff's Board, chairman of the Peace Officers Standards and Training Council, chairman of the Eastern Montana Drug Task Force, and is the National Sheriffs liaison for Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association.

It is my honor to recognize Sherriff Harbaugh for his extraordinary dedication to public service and public safety. His role as leader in the law enforcement community has made Montana a better place to live, and I am grateful for his selfless service to the Custer community and Montanans statewide.●

RECOGNIZING CRITICAL POWER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. However, in honor of Veterans Day on November 11, this month I will honor a veteran-owned small business for each of the 10 days the Senate is in legislative session. The personal sacrifices made by America's veterans have protected the very freedoms and values that give each of us and our children the ability to achieve

the American dream. The skills veterans learn as members of the military are invaluable and undoubtedly contribute to Idaho's flourishing veteran business community. I am proud of the sacrifices veterans have made to protect our country and that they are choosing Idaho to call home when they complete their service in the military.

As your United States Senator from the great State of Idaho, it is my pleasure to recognize Critical Power Products and Services in Post Falls as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 14, 2019. Critical Power is owned and operated by U.S. Army veteran Will Alt. The company is a proven leader in backup power and cooling system recycling and redistribution. The company serves customers who want to dispose of and purchase backup diesel and natural gas generators, air-handling equipment, uninterrupted power supply systems, power distribution units, chillers, cooling towers, and raised access floors. The company provides its services to small regional firms as well as international Fortune 500 companies across all sectors.

Alt opened Critical Power Products and Services in Post Falls in 2018. Alt served in the U.S. Army for 5 years, which included multiple overseas tours attached to a multinational special operation team. Critical Power attributes much of its success to Alt's time serving our Nation, stating "it ingrained professionalism, discipline, and dedication into his work ethic that is second to none." The company employs several veterans and even has a Fallen Soldiers Memorial in front of their 18,000 square foot Post Falls facility.

Congratulations to Will Alt and all of the employees at Critical Power Products and Services for being selected as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 14, 2019. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

REMEMBERING DR. WILLIAM "ED" KOIS

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise on behalf of the New Hampshire congressional delegation—Senator MAGGIE HASSAN, Congresswoman ANN McLANE KUSTER, and Congressman CHRIS PAPPAS—to pay tribute to Dr. William "Ed" Kojs, a passionate and caring provider at the Manchester Veterans Affairs Medical Center, whose life was tragically cut short in July of this year. Dr. Kojs was relentless in making sure that each patient coming through the hospital doors received the best medical care possible. He was often described, especially by the many veterans he served, as the quintessential "patient's doctor."

Dr. Kojs began his work at the Manchester VAMC in 2012 after two-and-half decades of private practice in Nashua, NH. He specialized in physiatry, a branch of medicine de-

voted to the treatment of medical conditions affecting the brain, spinal cord, nerves, and joints. His expertise made him a natural fit for the Manchester VAMC's Spinal Cord Clinic, and he began to treat many veterans whose mobility and well-being were impacted by spinal cord injury or dysfunction. Dr. Kojs sought to provide a standard of care consistent with the core values of the Veteran's Administration—integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect, and excellence—and his own strong moral compass.

This fierce devotion to his principles compelled Dr. Kojs to lead a team of 11 whistleblowers alleging inadequate care at the Manchester VAMC. Although soft-spoken among friends and colleagues, he became a powerful voice and a public face in the effort to expose substandard treatment and demand better care for America's veterans. The advocacy of Dr. Kojs and his colleagues caught the attention of the Boston Globe Spotlight investigative team, which published a story in July 2017 that directed public attention to the shortcomings at the Manchester VAMC. It prompted a top-to-bottom review that delivered needed changes and improvements at the site.

As with any whistleblower complaint, Dr. Kojs undertook significant risk in bringing these subjects to light. Yet, with an uncompromising spirit that many attribute to his amateur boxer father, he was willing to sacrifice his livelihood if it meant that veterans would receive the care they need and deserve. And he was eager to sit down with hospital administration and work with them to develop policies that fulfill that promise. His efforts benefited countless men and women in the Granite State and across the country.

Dr. Kojs is survived by his wife of 29 years, Pamela Greenley, as well as many loving family members, treasured colleagues, and cherished friends. Ms. Greenley will be on hand next week to accept the First Amendment Award on her husband's behalf from the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications. This distinction honors Granite Staters who go above-and-beyond in their use of the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. We join the Loeb School, as well as the Boston Globe Spotlight team, in saluting the work and the life of a deserving recipient, Dr. William "Ed" Kojs.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:27 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 499. An act to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the treatment of certain surviving spouses under the definition of small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

H.R. 1615. An act to transfer the responsibility of verifying small business concerns

owned and controlled by veterans or service-disabled veterans to the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1663. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the Federal charter for the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association.

H.R. 1773. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition and other material to win the war, that were referred to as "Rosie the Riveter", in recognition of the contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations.

H.R. 3537. An act to amend the Small Business Act to codify the Boots to Business Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3661. An act to support entrepreneurs serving in the National Guard and Reserve, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3734. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to report on access to credit for small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to report on the veterans interagency task force, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4258. An act to authorize the Marshal of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court Police to protect the Justices, employees, and official guests of the Supreme Court outside of the Supreme Court grounds, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 72. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2423.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 499. An act to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the treatment of certain surviving spouses under the definition of small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1615. An act to transfer the responsibility of verifying small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans or service-disabled veterans to the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1663. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the Federal charter for the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1773. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition and other material to win the war, that were referred to as "Rosie the Riveter", in recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3537. An act to amend the Small Business Act to codify the Boots to Business Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 3661. An act to support entrepreneurs serving in the National Guard and Reserve,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 3734. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to report on access to credit for small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to report on the veterans interagency task force, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

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 Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2855. A bill to require the Secretary to conduct a study and issue a report on the affordability of insulin; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. COONS):

S. 2856. A bill to establish the Office of Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Programs within the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2857. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to count military and veterans education benefits as Federal educational assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2858. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to establish an advisory board focused on creating opportunities for women in the trucking industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 2859. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the designation of general surgery shortage areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2860. A bill to repeal changes made by health care reform laws to the Medicare exception to the prohibition on certain physician referrals for hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2861. A bill to amend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to clarify the prohibition on the use of certain Federal funds for lobbying, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2862. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to remove nonnative plant species that contribute to drought conditions, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2863. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the eligibility criteria for E visas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2864. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on information sharing between the Department of Veterans Affairs and designated relatives and friends of veterans regarding the assistance and benefits available to the veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2865. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit smoking on the premises of any facility of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2866. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow private activity bonds to be used for qualified broadband projects and to provide for tax credit payments to issuers of tax-exempt bonds used to finance broadband infrastructure projects; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2867. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an investment credit for qualified broadband projects; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MCSALLY:

S. 2868. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that veterans may attend pre-apprenticeship programs using certain educational assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2869. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for extensions of detention of certain aliens ordered removed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2870. A bill to limit the use of solitary confinement and other forms of restrictive housing in immigration detention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2871. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income payments under the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program and certain amounts received under the Indian Health Professions Scholarships Program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2872. A bill to amend title III of the Social Security Act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 2873. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to reform the renewable fuel program under

that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2874. A bill to terminate certain waivers of sanctions with respect to Iran issued in connection with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2875. A bill to amend the Smith River National Recreation Area Act to include certain additions to the Smith River National Recreation Area, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain wild rivers in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. WARREN)):

S. 2876. A bill to provide economic empowerment opportunities in the United States through the modernization of public housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MORAN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2877. A bill to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 2878. A bill to limit the use of facial recognition technology by Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 421. A resolution congratulating Seattle Sounders FC on winning the 2019 Major League Soccer Cup; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. Res. 422. A resolution recognizing November 15, 2019, as "America Recycles Day" and expressing the sense of the Senate that recycling promotes a healthy economy and responsible environmental stewardship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. REED):

S. Res. 423. A resolution recognizing November 2019 as "National Homeless Children and Youth Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. Res. 424. A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Colorado Farm Bureau Federation and celebrating the long history of the Colorado Farm Bureau Federation representing the farmers and ranchers of Colorado; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. INHOFE, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 425. A resolution designating October 2019 as "National Down Syndrome Awareness Month" and supporting the goals and ideals of National Down Syndrome Awareness Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. Res. 426. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Members of Congress should substitute teach at least 1 day per year in a public school to gain firsthand knowledge on how to address the prevailing challenges facing educators and how to remove obstacles to learning for students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 427. A resolution recognizing the historical, cultural, and religious significance of Sikh Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 283

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 283, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and utilization of, bone mass measurement benefits under part B of the Medicare program by establishing a minimum payment amount under such part for bone mass measurement.

S. 460

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 460, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 479, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 610

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 642

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 642, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Rodrick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 696

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 696, a bill to designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the National Nurse for Public Health.

S. 750

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Louisiana

(Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 753

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 753, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 877

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

S. 880

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 880, a bill to provide outreach and reporting on comprehensive Alzheimer's disease care planning services furnished under the Medicare program.

S. 901

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to support individuals with younger onset Alzheimer's disease.

S. 962

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 962, a bill to provide funding for federally qualified health centers and the National Health Service Corps.

S. 1280

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1280, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to notify individuals approaching Medicare eligibility, to simplify and modernize the eligibility enrollment process, and for other purposes.

S. 1476

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1476, a bill to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals disabled by Huntington's disease.

S. 1622

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances.

S. 1657

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S.

1657, a bill to provide assistance to combat the escalating burden of Lyme disease and other tick and vector-borne diseases and disorders.

S. 1728

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) 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. 1810

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1810, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk, and for other purposes.

S. 1822

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1822, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules relating to the collection of data with respect to the availability of broadband services, and for other purposes.

S. 1838

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1838, a bill to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

S. 1907

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1907, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for school meals, and for other purposes.

S. 1941

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1941, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1982, a bill to improve efforts to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 2059

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2059, a bill to provide a civil remedy for individuals harmed by sanctuary jurisdiction policies, and for other purposes.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator

from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2160, a bill to require carbon monoxide alarms in certain federally assisted housing, and for other purposes.

S. 2321

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2321, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Negro Leagues baseball.

S. 2394

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2394, a bill to require certain reports and briefings to Congress relating to the expiration of the New START Treaty, and for other purposes.

S. 2451

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2451, a bill to amend chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, to allow suit against the United States for injuries and deaths of members of the Armed Forces caused by improper medical care, and for other purposes.

S. 2599

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 2599, a bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to provide assistance to manage farmer and rancher stress and for the mental health of individuals in rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 2627

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2627, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with civil claim awards.

S. 2628

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2628, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove a limitation on an individual's eligibility for medical assistance under the State Medicaid plan while the individual is in custody pending disposition of charges.

S. 2671

At the request of Mr. COONS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2671, a bill to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives by investing in effective violence reduction initiatives.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2680, a bill to impose sanctions with

respect to foreign support for Palestinian terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 2695

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2695, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide for the defense of United States agriculture and food through the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, and for other purposes.

S. 2739

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2739, a bill to provide for the effective use of immigration detainees to enhance public safety.

S. 2741

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2741, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 2805

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 2805, a bill to improve transit-oriented development financing, and for other purposes.

S. 2850

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2850, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. RES. 98

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 98, a resolution establishing the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program for the placement in offices of Senators of children, spouses, and siblings of members of the Armed Forces who are hostile casualties or who have died from a training-related injury.

S. RES. 409

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added

as cosponsors of S. Res. 409, a resolution requesting information on Turkey's human rights practices in Syria pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 411

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 411, a resolution affirming that States maintain primacy for the regulation of hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas production on State and private lands, that the President has no authority to declare a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing on State and private lands, and that the President should not attempt to declare a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing on Federal lands (including the Outer Continental Shelf) or lands held in trust for an Indian Tribe, unless the moratorium is authorized by an Act of Congress.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2865. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit smoking on the premises of any facility of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' 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. 2865

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

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON SMOKING IN FACILITIES OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

(a) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1715 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§1715. Prohibition on smoking in facilities of the Veterans Health Administration

“(a) PROHIBITION.—No person (including any veteran, patient, resident, employee of the Department, contractor, or visitor) may smoke on the premises of any facility of the Veterans Health Administration.

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘facility of the Veterans Health Administration’ means any land or building (including any medical center, nursing home, domiciliary facility, outpatient clinic, or center that provides readjustment counseling) that is—

“(A) under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

“(B) under the control of the Veterans Health Administration; and

“(C) not under the control of the General Services Administration.

“(2) The term ‘smoke’ includes—

“(A) the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and any other combustion or heating of tobacco; and

“(B) the use of any electronic nicotine delivery system, including electronic or e-cigarettes, vape pens, and e-cigars.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter II of chapter 17 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1715 and inserting the following new item:

“1715. Prohibition on smoking in facilities of the Veterans Health Administration.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 526 of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-585; 38 U.S.C. 1715 note) is repealed.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2870. A bill to limit the use of solitary confinement and other forms of restrictive housing in immigration detention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. 2870

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Restricting Solitary Confinement in Immigration Detention Act of 2019”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Solitary confinement reforms.

Sec. 4. Reassessment of detained alien mental health.

Sec. 5. Oversight responsibilities.

Sec. 6. Rulemaking.

Sec. 7. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 8. Effective date.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION.—The term “administrative segregation” means a nonpunitive form of solitary confinement that removes a detained alien from the general population of a detention center or other facility in which the alien is being detained for—

(A) investigative, protective, or preventative reasons because of a substantial and immediate threat to the safety or security of the detained alien, other detained aliens, staff, or the public; or

(B) temporary administrative reasons.

(2) APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF CARE.—The term “appropriate level of care” means the appropriate treatment setting for mental health care that a detained alien with mental illness requires, which may include outpatient care, emergency or crisis services, day treatment, supported residential housing, infirm care, or inpatient psychiatric hospitalization services.

(3) INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.—The term “intellectual disability” means a significant mental impairment characterized by significant limitations in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior.

(4) MULTIDISCIPLINARY STAFF COMMITTEE.—The term “multidisciplinary staff committee” means a committee—

(A) composed of staff at the facility at which a detained alien resides who are responsible for reviewing the initial placement of the alien in solitary confinement and any extensions of time in solitary confinement; and

(B) that includes—

(i) not fewer than 1 licensed mental health professional;

(ii) not fewer than 1 medical professional; and

(iii) not fewer than 1 member of the leadership of the facility.

(5) PROTECTION CASE.—The term “protection case” means a detained alien who, by the request of the alien or through a staff determination, requires protection.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(7) SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS.—The term “serious mental illness” means—

(A) a finding by a qualified mental health professional that the detained alien is at serious risk of substantially deteriorating mentally or emotionally while confined in solitary confinement, or already has so deteriorated while confined in solitary confinement, such that diversion or removal is deemed to be clinically appropriate by a qualified mental health professional; or

(B) a current or recent diagnosis by a qualified mental health professional of 1 or more of the following disorders described in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders:

(i) Schizophrenia or another psychotic disorder.

(ii) Major depressive disorder.

(iii) Any type of bipolar disorder.

(iv) A neurodevelopmental disorder, dementia or other cognitive disorder.

(v) Any disorder commonly characterized by breaks with reality or perceptions of reality.

(vi) Any type of anxiety disorders.

(vii) Trauma or stressor related disorder.

(viii) Severe personality disorders.

(8) SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.—The term “solitary confinement” means confinement characterized by substantial isolation in a cell, whether alone or with other detained aliens, including administrative segregation and disciplinary segregation.

(9) SUBSTANTIAL AND IMMEDIATE THREAT.—The term “substantial and immediate threat” means any set of circumstances that require immediate action in order to combat a significant threat to the safety of a detained alien, other detained aliens, staff, or the public.

(10) U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT FACILITY.—The term “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility” means—

(A) a detention facility owned and administered by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; or

(B) a Federal, State, local, or private facility that has contracted (directly or indirectly) with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain aliens in Federal custody, including a U.S. Marshals facility that houses alien detainees, and regardless of any time limits that exist for the duration of the detention in such a facility.

SEC. 3. SOLITARY CONFINEMENT REFORMS.

(a) USE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A detained alien may not be placed in solitary confinement within a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility unless such confinement—

(A) is limited to the briefest term and the least restrictive conditions practicable, including not fewer than 4 hours of out-of-cell time every day;

(B) is consistent with the rationale for placement and with the progress achieved by the detained alien;

(C) allows the detained alien to participate in meaningful programming opportunities and privileges that are similar to those available in the general population as practicable, either individually or in a classroom setting;

(D) allows the detained alien to have as much meaningful interaction with others, such as other detained aliens, counsel, visitors, clergy, or licensed mental health professionals, as practicable; and

(E) complies with the provisions of this section.

(2) **SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS ON ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION AND DISCIPLINARY SEGREGATION.**—The Secretary—

(A) shall limit administrative segregation in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities—

(i) to situations in which such segregation is necessary to control a substantial and immediate threat that cannot be addressed through alternative housing; and

(ii) to a duration of not more than 14 consecutive days, and not more than 14 days in a 21-day period, unless—

(I) the detained alien is considered a protection case and requests to remain in administrative segregation under paragraph (3)(B)(i); or

(II) to address the continued existence of a substantial and immediate threat, a multidisciplinary staff committee approves a temporary extension, which—

(aa) shall be in writing and include a thorough explanation of the reasons for which the extension is warranted, including any factors weighing against the extension;

(bb) shall be reviewed—

(AA) by the multidisciplinary staff committee every 3 days during the period of the extension, in order to confirm the continued existence of the substantial and immediate threat;

(BB) by the appropriate Enforcement and Removal Operations Field Office Director within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement after the initial extension and every 7 days thereafter during the period of the extension, in order to review the findings of the multidisciplinary staff committee and determine whether such extensions are permissible;

(CC) by a subcommittee of the Detention Monitoring Council within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which shall be chaired by the Custody Management Division and shall include representatives from Enforcement and Removal Operations Field Operations, the Health Service Corps, the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, the Office of Professional Responsibility, the Office of Acquisition Management, and the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, after any extension is approved by an Enforcement and Removal Operations Field Office Director; and

(cc) shall include additional out of cell time, socialization, and programming opportunities for the detained alien, so that each detained alien placed in solitary confinement for more than 14 days is given not fewer than 4 hours of out of cell time each day; and

(B) may not permit the use of solitary confinement as a form of discipline.

(3) **PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.**—The Secretary—

(A) shall establish policies to ensure that an alien who is considered a protection case, upon the request of the alien, is transferred to a safer alternative, such as—

(i) an alternative general population unit in the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility;

(ii) an alternative U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility; or

(iii) an alternative to detention; and

(B) may not place a detained alien who is considered to be a protection case in solitary confinement due to the status of the alien as a protection case unless—

(i) the alien requests to be placed in solitary confinement, in which case, at the request of the alien to be released from solitary confinement, the alien shall be transferred to a safer alternative, such as—

(I) an alternative general population unit;

(II) an alternative U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility; or

(III) an alternative to detention; or

(ii) such confinement is limited to—

(I) not more than 5 days of administrative segregation; and

(II) is necessary to protect the alien during preparation for transfer to a safer alternative, such as 1 of the alternatives described in subclauses (I) through (III) of clause (i).

(4) **VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.**—A U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility may not place a detained alien in solitary confinement if—

(A) the detained alien is younger than 18 years of age, unless—

(i) such confinement is a temporary response to the behavior of the detained alien, which poses a substantial and immediate threat;

(ii) all other options to de-escalate the situation have been exhausted, including less restrictive techniques such as—

(I) penalizing the detained alien through loss of privileges;

(II) speaking with the detained alien in an attempt to de-escalate the situation; and

(III) providing an appropriate level of care through a licensed mental health professional;

(iii) such confinement is limited to—

(I) 3 hours after the detained alien is placed in solitary confinement, if the alien poses a substantial and immediate threat to others; or

(II) 30 minutes after the detained alien is placed in solitary confinement, if the alien poses a substantial and immediate threat only to his self or her self; and

(iv) if, after the applicable maximum period of confinement under subclause (I) or (II) of clause (iii) has expired, the detained alien continues to pose a substantial and immediate threat described in that subclause—

(I) the detained alien shall be transferred to another facility or internal location where services can be provided to the alien without relying on solitary confinement; or

(II) if a qualified mental health professional believes the level of crisis service needed is not currently available, a staff member of the facility shall initiate a referral to a location that can meet the needs of the detained alien;

(B) the detained alien has a serious mental illness, has an intellectual disability, has a physical disability that a licensed medical professional determines is likely to be exacerbated by placement in solitary confinement or that solitary confinement is clinically contraindicated, is pregnant, or is in the first 8 weeks of the post-partum recovery period after giving birth, or has been determined by a licensed mental health professional to likely be significantly adversely affected by placement in solitary confinement, unless—

(i) the detained alien poses a substantial and immediate threat;

(ii) all other options to de-escalate the situation have been exhausted, including less restrictive techniques such as—

(I) penalizing the detained alien through loss of privileges;

(II) speaking with the detained alien in an attempt to de-escalate the situation; and

(III) providing an appropriate level of care through a licensed mental health professional;

(iii) such confinement is limited to the briefest term and the least restrictive conditions practicable, including access to medical and mental health treatment;

(iv) such confinement is reviewed by a multidisciplinary staff committee for appropriateness every 24 hours; and

(v) as soon as practicable, but not later than 5 days after such confinement begins, the detained alien is diverted, upon release from solitary confinement, to a general population unit, a mental health treatment program described in subsection (b)(2), or an alternative to detention;

(C) the detained alien is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (as defined in section 115.5 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation), intersex (as defined in section 115.5 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation), or gender nonconforming (as defined in section 115.5 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation), if such placement is based (in whole or in part) on such identification or status;

(D) the alien is HIV positive, if the placement is based (in whole or in part) on the HIV positive status of the alien;

(E) the placement is based (in whole or in part) on the alien's race, religion, or nationality; or

(F) the placement is based (in whole or in part) on a detained alien's report of an incident of abuse or misconduct, a detained alien's decision to engage in a hunger strike, or any other form of retaliation against a detained alien, unless the alien has been classified as a protection case under paragraph (3).

(5) **ACCESS TO COUNSEL.**—Aliens placed in solitary confinement shall be offered access to counsel to the same extent that detained aliens in the general population are offered access to counsel.

(6) **RIGHT TO REVIEW PLACEMENT IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.**—The Secretary shall ensure that each alien placed in solitary confinement has access to—

(A) written and verbal notice provided in a language that the alien understands that thoroughly details the basis for placement or continued placement in solitary confinement not later than 6 hours after the beginning of such placement, including—

(i) thorough documentation explaining why such confinement is permissible and necessary under this subsection; and

(ii) if an exception under paragraph (2)(A)(ii), (3)(B), (4)(A), or (4)(B) is used to justify placement in solitary confinement, thorough documentation explaining why such an exception applies;

(B) a timely, thorough, and continuous review process that—

(i) occurs not fewer than 3 days after placement in solitary confinement, and thereafter at least on a weekly basis, unless required more frequently under this section;

(ii) includes private, face-to-face interviews with a multidisciplinary staff committee; and

(iii) examines whether—

(I) placement in solitary confinement was and remains necessary;

(II) the conditions of confinement comply with this section; and

(III) any exception under paragraph (2)(A)(ii), (3)(B), (4)(A), or (4)(B) used to justify placement in solitary confinement was and remains warranted;

(C) a process to appeal the initial placement or continued placement of the detained alien in solitary confinement;

(D) prompt and timely written notice of the appeal procedures; and

(E) copies of all documents, files, and records relating to the detained alien's placement in solitary confinement, unless such documents contain contraband, classified information, or sensitive security-related information.

(b) MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALIENS IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.—

(1) **MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING.**—Not later than 6 hours after a detained alien is placed in solitary confinement in a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility, the alien shall receive a comprehensive, face-to-face mental health evaluation by a licensed mental health professional in a confidential setting.

(2) **MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT PROGRAM.**—A detained alien diagnosed with a serious mental illness after an evaluation under paragraph (1)—

(A) may not be placed in solitary confinement under subsection (a)(4)(B); and

(B) shall receive an appropriate level of care to address the detained alien's mental health needs.

(3) **CONTINUING EVALUATIONS.**—After each 7-day period during which a detained alien is held in continuous placement in solitary confinement—

(A) a licensed mental health professional shall conduct a comprehensive, face-to-face, out-of-cell mental health evaluation of the alien in a confidential setting; and

(B) the Secretary shall adjust the placement of the alien in accordance with this subsection.

(c) TRAINING FOR DETENTION CENTER STAFF.—

(1) **TRAINING.**—All employees of a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility who interact with aliens on a regular basis shall be required to complete training in—

(A) recognizing the symptoms of mental illness;

(B) the potential risks and side effects of psychiatric medications;

(C) de-escalation techniques for safely managing individuals with mental illness;

(D) the consequences of untreated mental illness;

(E) the long- and short-term psychological effects of solitary confinement; and

(F) de-escalation and communication techniques to divert detained aliens from situations that may lead to the alien being placed in solitary confinement.

(2) **NOTIFICATION TO MEDICAL STAFF.**—An employee of a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility shall immediately notify a member of the facility's medical or mental health staff if the employee—

(A) observes a detained alien with signs of mental illness, unless such employee has knowledge that the alien's signs of mental illness have previously been reported; or

(B) observes a detained alien with signs of a mental health crisis;

(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) **DAILY TRACKING OF USE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.**—Each U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility shall submit a daily report to the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement that identifies, for the applicable day—

(A) any detained aliens who were placed in solitary confinement, including—

(i) the rationale behind each such placement; and

(ii) whether any exception under subsection (a) used to justify placement in solitary confinement or increased restrictive conditions in solitary confinement was applied;

(B) the continued detention of any aliens in solitary confinement, including—

(i) the number of days such aliens have been detained in solitary confinement; and

(ii) an explanation of the application of any exception under subsection (a) used to justify an adjustment to the alien's time or conditions in solitary confinement; and

(C) the release of any detained aliens from solitary confinement.

(2) **PUBLICATION OF USE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.**—Without revealing personally identifiable information, the Secretary shall publish online weekly updates regarding—

(A) the number of aliens in solitary confinement at each U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility; and

(B) any instances in which a facility has placed a detained alien in solitary confinement for more than 15 days.

(3) INTERNAL REVIEW OF DATA.—

(A) **WEEKLY REVIEWS.**—The appropriate Enforcement and Removal Operations Field Office Director within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall—

(i) on a weekly basis, review the daily reports from each U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility under his or her jurisdiction to ensure that each facility is in compliance with this Act;

(ii) report any instances in which a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility failed to comply, or is suspected of failing to comply, with this Act to the subcommittee established under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii)(II)(bb)(CC) for review; and

(iii) direct a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility that failed to comply, or is suspected of failing to comply, with this Act to immediately address any such failures to comply, including by immediately removing a detained alien from solitary confinement if the alien's placement or continued detention in solitary confinement was not in compliance with this Act.

(B) **MONTHLY REPORTS.**—The subcommittee established under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii)(II)(bb)(CC) shall—

(i) promptly review any reports received pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii); and

(ii) submit monthly reports to the full Detention Monitoring Council and the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement that identify areas of concern regarding particular cases or facilities that warrant further examination.

SEC. 4. REASSESSMENT OF DETAINED ALIEN MENTAL HEALTH.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) assemble a team of licensed mental health professionals, which may include licensed mental health professionals who are not employed by the Department of Homeland Security, to conduct a comprehensive mental health reevaluation for each alien held in solitary confinement for more than 14 days (as of the date of enactment of this Act), including a confidential, face-to-face, out-of-cell interview by a licensed mental health professional; and

(2) adjust the placement of each alien in accordance with this Act.

SEC. 5. OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 705 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 345) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **IMMIGRATION DETENTION.**—

“(1) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this subsection, the term ‘U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility’ has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Restricting Solitary Confinement in Immigration Detention Act of 2019.

“(2) **INTERNAL REPORTING.**—The Secretary shall ensure that each U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility provides multiple internal ways for aliens and others to promptly report violations of section 3 of the Restricting Solitary Confinement in Immi-

gration Detention Act of 2019 to the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including—

“(A) not less than 2 procedures for aliens and others to report violations of section 3 of such Act to an entity or office that is not part of the facility, and that is able to receive and immediately forward reports to the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, allowing the alien to remain anonymous upon request; and

“(B) not less than 2 procedures for aliens and others to report violations of section 3 of such Act to the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in a confidential manner, allowing the alien to remain anonymous upon request.

“(3) **NOTICE TO DETAINEES.**—The Secretary shall ensure that each U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility provides aliens with—

“(A) notice of how to report violations of section 4 of the Restricting Solitary Confinement in Immigration Detention Act of 2019 in accordance with paragraph (2), including—

“(i) notice prominently posted in the living and common areas of each such facility;

“(ii) individual notice to aliens at initial intake into a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility, when transferred to a new facility, and when placed in solitary confinement;

“(iii) notice to aliens with disabilities in accessible formats; and

“(iv) written or verbal notice in a language the alien understands; and

“(B) notice of permissible practices related to solitary confinement in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities, including the requirements under section 3 of such Act.

“(4) **ACCESS.**—The Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties—

“(A) shall have unrestricted access to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities;

“(B) shall be able to review documents, request and review information, and speak privately with aliens, contractors, volunteers, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility staff.

“(5) **ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT USE IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION.**—

“(A) **OBJECTIVES.**—Not later than 90 days after the last day of each fiscal year, the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties shall submit an assessment to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that analyzes the use of solitary confinement in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities during such fiscal year.

“(B) **DATA.**—Each assessment submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include aggregated and disaggregated data reported by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities, to be provided by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties not later than 30 days after the last day of each fiscal year, including—

“(i) the policies and regulations of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, including—

“(I) any changes in policies and regulations, for determining which aliens are placed in solitary confinement; and

“(II) a detailed description of the conditions and restrictions of solitary confinement;

“(ii) the number of aliens in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities who were housed in solitary confinement for any period and the percentage of all aliens who

spent at least some time in solitary confinement during the reporting period;

“(iii) the demographics of all aliens housed in solitary confinement, including race, ethnicity, religion, age, and gender;

“(iv) the policies and regulations of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities, including any updates in policies and regulations, for subsequent reviews or appeals of the placement of a detained alien into or out of solitary confinement;

“(v) the number of reviews of and challenges to the placement of a detained alien in solitary confinement during the reporting period and the number of reviews or appeals that directly resulted in a change of placement;

“(vi) a detailed description of the conditions and restrictions for solitary confinement, including the number of hours spent in isolation and the percentage of time these conditions involve 2 aliens celled together in solitary confinement;

“(vii) the mean and median length of stay in solitary confinement, based on all individuals released from solitary confinement during the reporting period, and any maximum length of stay during the reporting period;

“(viii) the cost for each form of solitary confinement described in subparagraph (A) in use during the reporting period, including as compared with the average daily cost of housing a detained alien in the general population;

“(ix) the policies for mental health screening, mental health treatment, and subsequent mental health reviews for all detained aliens, including any update to the policies, and any additional screening, treatment, and monitoring for detained aliens in solitary confinement;

“(x) a statement of the types of mental health staff that conducted mental health assessments for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities during the reporting period, a description of the different positions in the mental health staff of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities, and the number of part- and full-time psychologists and psychiatrists employed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities during the reporting period;

“(xi) data on mental health and medical indicators for all detained aliens in solitary confinement, including—

“(I) the number of aliens requiring medication for mental health conditions;

“(II) the number diagnosed with an intellectual disability;

“(III) the number diagnosed with serious mental illness;

“(IV) the number of suicides;

“(V) the number of attempted suicides and number of aliens placed on suicide watch;

“(VI) the number of instances of self-harm committed by aliens;

“(VII) the number of aliens with physical disabilities, including blind, deaf, and mobility-impaired aliens; and

“(VIII) the number of instances of forced feeding of aliens;

“(xii) any instances in which an Enforcement and Removal Operations Field Office Director reported that a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in his or her jurisdiction failed to comply with or was suspected of failing to comply with the Restricting Solitary Confinement in Immigration Detention Act of 2019; and

“(xiii) any other relevant data.

“(C) CONTENT.—Each assessment submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

“(i) an analysis of the data provided under subparagraph (B);

“(ii) recommendations for reform offered to the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs

Enforcement and the Secretary under paragraph (6); and

“(iii) the response from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department to such recommendations for reform.

“(D) AUTHORITY ON FINAL REPORT.—Each assessment submitted under subparagraph (A) may be reviewed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Secretary before submission, but the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties has final authority on the text and release of the assessment.

“(6) REGULAR MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY AND THE DIRECTOR OF U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT.—The Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties shall meet regularly with the Secretary and the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—

“(A) to identify problems with the solitary confinement policies and practices in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities, including overuse of solitary confinement; and

“(B) to present recommendations for such administrative action as may be appropriate to resolve problems relating to solitary confinement policies and practices in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities.”.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than December 31 of each year, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall issue a report analyzing—

(1) the use of solitary confinement in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities; and

(2) the Department's compliance with this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. 6. RULEMAKING.

The Secretary and the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall prescribe rules, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as otherwise provided, this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date that is 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 421—CONGRATULATING SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC ON WINNING THE 2019 MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER CUP

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 421

Whereas, on November 10, 2019, Seattle Sounders FC won the 2019 Major League Soccer Cup;

Whereas that win on November 10, 2019, is the second Major League Soccer championship won by Seattle Sounders FC in the 11 years that Seattle Sounders FC has been in Major League Soccer;

Whereas Seattle Sounders FC beat the Toronto Football Club 3-1 in the 2019 Major League Soccer Cup;

Whereas Seattle Sounders FC—

(1) dominated the competition in the regular season, with 16 wins and 10 losses;

(2) qualified for the Major League Soccer Cup Playoffs for an unprecedented 11th straight season; and

(3) earned the number 2 seed in the Major League Soccer Western Conference;

Whereas Seattle Sounders FC plays home games at CenturyLink Field in Seattle, Washington, and, on November 10, 2019, 69,274 Seattle Sounders FC fans from across the State of Washington packed CenturyLink Field and set the record for the largest crowd at a sporting event in the 17-year history of the stadium;

Whereas the 2019 roster of Seattle Sounders FC players includes—

- (1) Saad Abdul-Salaam;
- (2) Xavier Arreaga;
- (3) Will Bruin;
- (4) Handwalla Bwana;
- (5) Jonathan Campbell;
- (6) Emanuel Cecchini;
- (7) Jordy Delem;
- (8) Justin Dhillon;
- (9) Stefan Frei;
- (10) Bheem Goyal;
- (11) Jovain Jones;
- (12) Kim Kee-hee;
- (13) Kelvin Leerdam;
- (14) Danny Leyva;
- (15) Nicolás Lodeiro;
- (16) Chad Marshall;
- (17) Bryan Meredith;
- (18) Jordan Morris;
- (19) Trey Muse;
- (20) Alfonso Ocampo-Chavez;
- (21) Víctor Rodríguez;
- (22) Cristian Roldan;
- (23) Alex Roldan;
- (24) Raúl Ruidiaz;
- (25) Harry Shipp;
- (26) Luis Silva;
- (27) Brad Smith;
- (28) Gustav Svensson;
- (29) Nouhou; and
- (30) Román Torres;

Whereas Seattle Sounders FC defender Kelvin Leerdam scored the first goal in the 57th minute of the championship game;

Whereas Seattle Sounders FC midfielder Víctor Rodríguez—

(1) scored the second goal in the 76th minute; and

(2) received the 2019 Major League Soccer Cup Most Valuable Player award;

Whereas Seattle Sounders FC forward Raúl Ruidiaz scored the third and final goal in the 90th minute;

Whereas Seattle Sounders FC forward Jordan Morris—

(1) scored a career-high 13 goals and a career-high 8 assists throughout the 2019 season; and

(2) received the 2019 Major League Soccer Comeback Player of the Year award after suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in 2018;

Whereas Seattle Sounders FC Head Coach Brian Schmetzer won his second Major League Soccer Cup;

Whereas the 2019 Seattle Sounders FC coaching and technical staff includes—

- (1) Head Coach Brian Schmetzer;
- (2) Assistant Coach Gonzalo Pineda;
- (3) Assistant Coach Djimi Traore;
- (4) Assistant Coach Preki;
- (5) Club Director of Goalkeeping Tom Dutra;
- (6) General Manager and President of Soccer Garth Lagerwey; and
- (7) Vice President of Soccer Chris Henderson;

Whereas the owners of Seattle Sounders FC, Adrian Hanauer, Drew Carey, Jody Allen, and Peter Tomozawa, and the 11 families that joined the ownership contingent in 2019, have built a culture of success and contributed greatly to Seattle, Washington, and the surrounding region through philanthropy;

Whereas Seattle Sounders FC has exhibited dedication to positive social impacts by strengthening communities through the RAVE Foundation partnership with organizations in Seattle, Washington, and the surrounding region; and

Whereas the dedication and hard work of Seattle Sounders FC has inspired and empowered girls, boys, women, and men of all ages: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes Seattle Sounders FC for winning the 2019 Major League Soccer Cup;

(2) applauds the people of Seattle, Washington, and the surrounding region for their enthusiastic support of Seattle Sounders FC;

(3) supports equity in men's and women's professional sports; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to Seattle Sounders FC Head Coach Brian Schmetzer, Assistant Coach Gonzalo Pineda, Assistant Coach Djimi Traore, Assistant Coach Preki, Club Director of Goalkeeping Tom Dutra, General Manager and President of Soccer Garth Lagerwey, Vice President of Soccer Chris Henderson, and the existing ownership contingent of Adrian Hanauer, Drew Carey, Jody Allen, and Peter Tomozawa and the 11 families who shall be mentioned by name below:

(A) Terry Myerson and Katie Myerson.

(B) Russell Wilson and Ciara.

(C) Benjamin Haggerty "Macklemore" and Tricia Davis.

(D) Satya Nadella and Anu Nadella.

(E) Amy Hood and Max Kleinman.

(F) Joe Belfiore and Kristina Belfiore.

(G) Soma Somasegar and Akila Somasegar.

(H) Chee Chew and Christine Chew.

(I) David Nathanson and Sabina Nathanson.

(J) Brian McAndrews and Elise Holschuh.

(K) Mark Agne and Tomoko Agne.

SENATE RESOLUTION 422—RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 15, 2019, AS "AMERICA RECYCLES DAY" AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT RECYCLING PROMOTES A HEALTHY ECONOMY AND RESPONSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 422

Whereas recycling is among the top actions that people in the United States can do to improve the environment and the economy of the United States;

Whereas, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, in the United States, only 21.4 percent of recyclable waste is recycled;

Whereas, in the United States, recycling is an industry valued at approximately \$200,000,000,000;

Whereas diverting 75 percent of waste in the United States from landfilling and incineration to recycling by 2030 would result in the creation of approximately 2,300,000 recycling jobs, nearly 2 times the number of recycling jobs that existed in the United States in 2008;

Whereas the 2016 Recycling Economic Information Report by the Environmental Protection Agency found, using 2007 as a base year, that recycling and reuse activities—

(1) accounted for approximately 757,000 jobs, 0.52 percent of all jobs in the United States;

(2) produced approximately \$36,600,000,000 in wages, 0.62 percent of total wages paid in the United States; and

(3) produced approximately \$6,700,000,000 in tax revenue, 0.90 percent of total tax revenue in the United States;

Whereas recycling conserves natural resources and fresh water;

Whereas recycling prevents waste and discarded materials from ending up in oceans and waterways and harming water and wildlife;

Whereas, in 2015, approximately 67,800,000 tons of municipal solid waste were recycled, in contrast with 137,700,000 tons of municipal solid waste that were landfilled; and

Whereas, with respect to the 67,800,000 tons of municipal solid waste that were recycled, paper and paperboard accounted for 67 percent, metals accounted for 12 percent, and glass, plastic, and wood accounted for between 4 and 5 percent: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes November 15, 2019, as "America Recycles Day";

(2) acknowledges that recycling benefits and strengthens the economy, environment, and communities of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to be cognizant of their environmental footprint and to incorporate additional recycling practices into their daily lives.

SENATE RESOLUTION 423—RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 2019 AS "NATIONAL HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 423

Whereas, in the United States, public schools identified approximately 1,300,000 homeless children and youth during the 2016–2017 school year;

Whereas an estimated 1,200,000 children younger than 6 years of age in 2014 and approximately 4,200,000 youth and young adults in 2017 experienced homelessness, with many such youth and young adults staying on couches, in motels, in shelters, or outside;

Whereas infants who are homeless are at a higher risk for developing certain illnesses and health conditions, homeless families are more likely to experience involvement in the child welfare system, and homeless children are more likely to experience difficulty with school attendance;

Whereas a recent survey found that more than 1 in 3 high school students experiencing homelessness had attempted suicide, and nearly 1 in 4 high school students experiencing homelessness had experienced dating violence;

Whereas individuals without a high school degree or general educational development certificate (GED) are more than 3 times more likely to report homelessness than their peers, making lack of education the leading risk factor for homelessness;

Whereas, in 2016, the high school graduation rate for homeless students was 64 percent, compared to 77 percent for low-income students and 84.6 percent for all students;

Whereas the rate of youth homelessness is the same in rural, suburban, and urban areas;

Whereas 29 percent of unaccompanied homeless youth between 13 and 25 years of age have spent time in foster care, compared to approximately 6 percent of all children;

Whereas homelessness among children and youth is a complex issue that often co-occurs with deep poverty, low education and employment levels, substance misuse and abuse, mental illness, lack of affordable housing, and family conflict; and

Whereas awareness of child and youth homelessness must be heightened to encourage greater support for effective programs to help children and youth overcome homelessness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the efforts of businesses, organizations, educators, and volunteers dedicated to meeting the needs of homeless children and youth;

(2) applauds the initiatives of businesses, organizations, educators, and volunteers that—

(A) use time and resources to raise awareness of child and youth homelessness, the causes of such homelessness, and potential solutions; and

(B) work to prevent homelessness among children and youth;

(3) recognizes November 2019 as "National Homeless Children and Youth Awareness Month"; and

(4) encourages those businesses, organizations, educators, and volunteers to continue to intensify their efforts to address homelessness among children and youth during November 2019.

SENATE RESOLUTION 424—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLORADO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION AND CELEBRATING THE LONG HISTORY OF THE COLORADO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION REPRESENTING THE FARMERS AND RANCHERS OF COLORADO

Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 424

Whereas, on March 22, 1919, a group of 10 local counties and farmers met to form what was termed a "Farm Bureau", with the goal of "making the business of farming more profitable and the community a better place to live";

Whereas W.G. Jamison, the first president of the Colorado Farm Bureau Federation, helped to lead a grassroots organization of farmers that represent all agricultural producers across the State of Colorado;

Whereas the Colorado Farm Bureau Federation, with a State farm bureau, 45 county farm bureaus, and 23,000 member families, is 1 of the largest farmer-led organizations in the State of Colorado;

Whereas the mission of the Colorado Farm Bureau Federation is "to promote and protect the future of agriculture and rural values";

Whereas the Colorado Farm Bureau Federation fulfills that mission—

(1) by representing farm and ranch families united for the purpose of formulating action to support rural communities;

(2) by improving agricultural production, economic opportunity, leadership development, and public policy; and

(3) by promoting the well-being of the people of the State of Colorado;

Whereas the Colorado Farm Bureau Federation has represented the interests of

farmers with respect to the consideration and enactment of all major legislation impacting farmers since the founding of the Colorado Farm Bureau Federation; and

Whereas the Colorado Farm Bureau Federation plays a vital role in promoting the well-being of the people of Colorado—

(1) by analyzing the problems faced by farm and ranch families; and

(2) by formulating action to achieve the goals of farm and ranch families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Colorado Farm Bureau Federation;

(2) recognizes the Colorado Farm Bureau Federation for 100 years of promoting farm and ranch interests for the benefit of the people of the State of Colorado; and

(3) applauds the Colorado Farm Bureau Federation for its past, present, and future efforts to advocate for farm interests that are critical to the State of Colorado.

SENATE RESOLUTION 425—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH” AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. INHOFE, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 425

Whereas 1 in every 691 babies born in the United States has Down syndrome;

Whereas Down syndrome affects people of all ages, races, and economic levels and is the most frequently occurring chromosomal abnormality;

Whereas the life expectancy of people with Down syndrome has increased dramatically in recent decades, from 25 years of age in 1983 to 60 years of age in 2019;

Whereas people with Down syndrome attend school, work, participate in decisions that affect them, have meaningful relationships, can vote, and contribute to society in many ways;

Whereas advancements in education, medical care, and research and advocacy, and positive support from family, friends, and the community enable people with Down syndrome to live healthy and fulfilling lives;

Whereas parents of babies and children with Down syndrome should receive the education and support they need to understand the condition and acquire new hope for the future of their children;

Whereas there are lifespan and health care disparities for minorities, such as African Americans with Down syndrome, that should be understood and addressed;

Whereas people with Down syndrome have a dramatically different health profile than other individuals, as people with Down syndrome are predisposed to develop major diseases (such as autoimmune disorders, leukemia, and Alzheimer's disease) and may be protected from other major diseases (such as solid tumor cancers, certain heart attacks, and stroke);

Whereas advancing research and medical care for people with Down syndrome can not only increase life expectancy and improve health outcomes for this unique population, but also holds great promise for treating and perhaps curing life-threatening diseases affecting millions of other people in the United States;

Whereas people with Down syndrome should have access to health care providers

who have easy access to updated, evidence-based medical care guidelines for children and adults with the condition;

Whereas, on October 8, 2008, the Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act (Public Law 110-374; 122 Stat. 4051) was enacted to increase referrals to providers of key support services for mothers who have received a positive prenatal diagnosis for Down syndrome or a positive diagnosis for other prenatally or postnatally diagnosed conditions;

Whereas promoting the acceptance and inclusion of individuals born with Down syndrome, a genetic condition, will help those individuals achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives;

Whereas, on September 28, 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed a joint resolution (Public Law 98-437; 98 Stat. 1683) proclaiming October 1984 as “National Down's Syndrome Month”, and similar resolutions were enacted annually through 1989; and

Whereas the inherent dignity and worth of people with Down syndrome, the valuable contributions of people with Down syndrome as promoters of well-being and diversity within their communities, and the importance of the individual freedom and independence of people with Down syndrome should be recognized: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2019 as “National Down Syndrome Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Down Syndrome Awareness Month;

(3) celebrates the significant contributions that people with Down syndrome make to their families, their communities, and the United States;

(4) is committed to promoting the health, well-being, and inherent dignity of all children and adults with Down syndrome;

(5) supports the advancement of scientific and medical research on Down syndrome at the National Institutes of Health, including through the INCLUDE project, focused on improving health outcomes for people with the condition; and

(6) encourages awareness and education regarding Down syndrome, including for new and expectant parents.

SENATE RESOLUTION 426—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SHOULD SUBSTITUTE TEACH AT LEAST 1 DAY PER YEAR IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO GAIN FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO ADDRESS THE PREVAILING CHALLENGES FACING EDUCATORS AND HOW TO REMOVE OBSTACLES TO LEARNING FOR STUDENTS

Mr. KENNEDY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 426

Whereas teachers play a critical role in shaping the minds and lives of children;

Whereas there are projected to be 3,200,000 full-time public school teachers in 2020;

Whereas approximately 200,000 teachers leave the profession each year;

Whereas in the 115th Congress, there were more than 2 times as many Members of Congress that had backgrounds in public service or politics than Members of Congress that had backgrounds in education; and

Whereas Members of Congress should be on the ground in public schools to understand

the challenges that educators and students face, including challenges relating to—

(1) a growing shortage of teachers;

(2) issues of teacher pay;

(3) a lack of resources in both urban and rural areas;

(4) teacher preparedness;

(5) chronic absenteeism among students;

(6) poverty; and

(7) parental involvement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contributions of teachers to the United States;

(2) thanks teachers for their service; and

(3) recommends that each Member of Congress spend at least 1 day per year serving as a substitute teacher in a public school.

SENATE RESOLUTION 427—RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE OF SIKH AMERICANS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 427

Whereas Sikhs have been living in the United States for more than 120 years, and during the early 20th century, thousands of Sikh Americans worked on farms, in lumber mills and mines, and on the Oregon, Pacific, and Eastern Railroad;

Whereas Sikhs in the United States and around the world live the values and ideals of equality, service, and devotion to God first preached by the first of the ten living gurus and the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak;

Whereas the devotion of Guru Nanak to spiritual matters led him to embark on a 24-year spiritual journey throughout South Asia and to places outside South Asia, including Tibet, Baghdad, and Mecca;

Whereas Guru Nanak was the first of the ten living gurus whose wisdom is now contained in the Guru Granth Sahib, and the teachings of Guru Nanak became the basis of Sikhism;

Whereas 2019 is the year of the 550th birthday of Guru Nanak, and Guru Nanak's Gurpurab, which is one of the most important dates in the Sikh calendar, is celebrated across the United States and worldwide;

Whereas Vaisakhi, which is one of the most historically significant days of the year for Sikhs, is celebrated every April;

Whereas Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world, and there are more than 25,000,000 Sikhs worldwide and more than 750,000 Sikh Americans;

Whereas Sikh men and women have notably contributed to the society of the United States since their arrival in the United States in the late 1800s;

Whereas Sikh Americans pursue diverse professions that add to the social, cultural, and economic vibrancy of the United States, including by serving as members of the Armed Forces and making significant contributions in the fields of agriculture, information technology, small business, hospitality, trucking, medicine, and technology;

Whereas Sikh Americans, such as Bhagat Singh Thind, served in the Armed Forces during World War I and World War II;

Whereas the first Asian-American Member of Congress, Dalip Singh Saund, was a Sikh American elected to office in 1957;

Whereas Gurbir Singh Grewal became the first Sikh-American State attorney general

in the history of the United States when he was confirmed by the State Legislature of New Jersey on January 16, 2018;

Whereas Lieutenant Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal was the first observant Sikh to serve in the Harris County Sheriff's Office and was one of the first observant Sikhs in the State of Texas to receive a policy accommodation to practice his religion while serving as a police officer, and on Friday, September 27, 2019, in Houston, Texas, Lieutenant Dhaliwal was killed by gunfire while serving in the line of duty;

Whereas Sikh-American women, such as Grammy-winning artist Sratam Kaur, Officer Gursoach Kaur of the New York City Police Department, and Professor Supreet Kaur of the University of California, Berkeley, continue to make diverse contributions to the United States;

Whereas the inventor of fiber optics, Dr. Narinder Kapany, and the largest peach grower in the United States, Didar Singh Bains, are Sikh Americans;

Whereas Sikh Americans distinguish themselves by fostering respect among all people through faith and service;

Whereas the Senate is committed to educating citizens about the religions of the world, the value of religious diversity, tolerance grounded in the principles of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, a culture of mutual understanding, and the importance of reducing violence; and

Whereas the Senate seeks to further the diversity of its community and afford all residents the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared experiences of Sikh Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historical, cultural, and religious significance of the 550th birthday of Guru Nanak;

(2) recognizes that the teachings of Guru Nanak on equality and service have inspired millions of people and can serve as an inspiration for people of all faiths;

(3) recognizes the invaluable contributions and sacrifices made by Sikh Americans;

(4) recognizes the discrimination that Sikh Americans have faced in the United States and around the world; and

(5) expresses its respect for all Sikhs who practice their faith.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 14, 2019, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Dan R. Brouillette, of Texas, to be Secretary of Energy.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of

the Senate on Thursday, November 14, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Peter Gaynor, of Rhode Island, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 14, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Lawrence VanDyke, of Nevada, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Philip M. Halpern, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Bernard Maurice Jones II, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, and Barbara Bailey Jongbloed, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 14, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 14, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 14, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following five interns in my office be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the year: Madison Malin, Chris Brown, Britt Jacovich, Devon Bradley, and Alanna Van Nostrand.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WHITE HORSE HILL NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE DESIGNATION ACT

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, Sullys Hill is a national game preserve that is located entirely within the Spirit Lake Nation in North Dakota. I have a bill, S. 2099, that I want to ask to be voted on shortly. If enacted, my bill would change the game preserve's name from "Sullys Hill" to the English translation of its traditional Dakota name, "White Horse Hill."

The name change has the full support of the Spirit Lake Nation and all of the leadership of the local, State, and national government in North Dakota, including the entire North Dakota con-

gressional delegation: my colleague, Senator HOEVEN, chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee, and Congressman KELLY ARMSTRONG, who has an identical bill introduced in the House.

In 1904, the game preserve was named after GEN Alfred Sully. Unfortunately, General Sully gained notoriety by committing several massacres of Native Americans, most notably on September 3, 1863, in the Dakota Territory. As reprisal for the Dakota conflict of 1862, his troops destroyed a village of over 500 teepees that lodged the Yankton, Dakota, and Lakota people, killing hundreds of Native Americans. Many of the descendants of his victims live on the very Tribal lands that surround this hill.

With the issues that our Federal Government is dealing with today, changing the name of a game preserve in North Dakota may seem like a small matter, but let me assure you, Mr. President and colleagues, this is no small matter to the people of the Spirit Lake Nation. I am sorry it has taken us so long to correct this wrong. It has taken us over 100 years to correct this mistake.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 223, S. 2099.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2099) to redesignate the Sullys Hill National Game Preserve in the State of North Dakota as the White Horse Hill National Game Preserve.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2099) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2099

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 "White Horse Hill National Game Preserve Designation Act".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF WHITE HORSE HILL NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE, NORTH DAKOTA.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The first section of the Act of March 3, 1931 (46 Stat. 1509, chapter 439; 16 U.S.C. 674a), is amended by striking "Sullys Hill National Game Preserve" and inserting "White Horse Hill National Game Preserve".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2 of the Act of March 3, 1931 (46 Stat. 1509, chapter 439; 16 U.S.C. 674b), is amended by striking "Sullys Hill National Game Preserve" and inserting "White Horse Hill National Game Preserve".

(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other

record of the United States to the Sullys Hill National Game Preserve shall be considered to be a reference to the "White Horse Hill National Game Preserve".

Mr. CRAMER. Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

ONDCP TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3889 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3889) to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 to make technical corrections.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3889) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE SHOULD ISSUE A COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP SERIES HONORING WOMEN VETERANS OF THE ARMED FORCES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 415 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 415) expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States

Postal Service should issue a commemorative postage stamp series honoring women veterans of the Armed Forces and that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp series be issued.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 415) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 7, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 550TH BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SACRIFICES MADE BY SIKHS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 393 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 393) recognizing the historical, cultural, and religious significance of the 550th birthday of Guru Nanak and the contributions and sacrifices made by Sikhs of the United States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 393) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of October 31, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 422, S. Res. 423, S. Res. 424, and S. Res. 425.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 422, S. Res. 423, S. Res. 424, and S. Res. 425) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, November 18; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Luck nomination; finally, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 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 4:01 p.m., adjourned until Monday, November 18, 2019, at 3 p.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate November 14, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

STEVEN J. MENASHI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KRISTIN SHAPIRO

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Kristin A. Shapiro, who is leaving the House to join the Office of Legal Counsel at the United States Department of Justice. Ms. Shapiro has served in the Office of General Counsel for nearly three years as an Assistant General Counsel and has provided frequent and invaluable legal advice and representation to the House community, particularly in connection with federal court litigation involving issues of great institutional importance.

Ms. Shapiro provided extensive advice and litigation expertise to several Committees, including the Committees on Armed Services, Appropriations, and Budget, in connection with the House's litigation regarding the funding for wall construction on the Southern border. In addition, Ms. Shapiro provided litigation assistance to both the Committee on Ways and Means and the Joint Committee on Taxation regarding the application of the Freedom of Information Act to Congressional records. As the Chairperson of the Committee on House Administration, I know firsthand that our Members and House staff also came to rely on Ms. Shapiro's expertise and guidance, particularly in connection with how the use of social media platforms by Members intersects with the First Amendment.

Ms. Shapiro has played a very significant role in safeguarding the legal and institutional interests of the House of Representatives. She has served the House with great distinction, and we know she will continue to serve our Nation with that same level of distinction at the Department of Justice. I know that I speak for all of my colleagues on the Committee on House Administration, and the entire House community, in thanking Ms. Shapiro for her devoted service, and extend to her our very best wishes for continued success.

RECOGNIZING HERBERT COGLEY FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CON- GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM- MENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Herbert Cogley of Clancy for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and community.

Mr. Cogley served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam as a combat engineer with the 101st Airborne Division. He received multiple com-

mendations during his time, including the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal.

Following his return home, Mr. Cogley helped build the VFW Hall in his hometown of Jordan, Montana. He continues to be a part of the VFW through volunteering and performing with the Honor Guard at veteran funerals. Over the years, he has also been involved in Habitat for Humanity, coordinating the building of several homes in Helena. In addition, Mr. Cogley volunteers with the Montana Military Museum at Fort Harrison and helps build displays.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Herbert Cogley for his service to his country and community.

HONORING THE DENMARK FAMILY AND RAISING AWARENESS OF PHELAN-McDERMID SYNDROME

HON. MAX ROSE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Denmark family of Staten Island for their hard work to raise awareness of Phelan-McDermid syndrome. Back home in New York, we recognized their efforts on October 22, which Governor Cuomo proclaimed "Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Awareness Day" in the state, and now I ask my colleagues to join me in giving them the same recognition here in the House.

Drew Denmark suffers from Phelan-McDermid Syndrome, as well as Autism. In many cases, including Drew's, individuals struggling with this disease are non-verbal and are afflicted with cognitive disabilities. Phelan-McDermid is often misdiagnosed as another ailment, resulting in this syndrome being very under-diagnosed.

After Drew's diagnosis, the Denmark family got to work ensuring that Phelan-McDermid Syndrome received the recognition it deserves, in hopes that more families will now be able to receive a proper diagnosis. I am honored to have walked with Drew and his family a few of weeks ago at the Autism Speaks Staten Island Walk and am proud to be on Team Drew each and every day.

As more and more patients struggling with this disease receive accurate diagnoses of Phelan-McDermid Syndrome and families are able get their loved ones the care they need, they will in no small part have the Denmark family to thank for it.

This family embodies what it means to be Staten Islanders and New Yorkers: when we want change to happen, we go out and fight for it. So, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring Drew and the rest of the Denmark family for the courage, and tenacity they have displayed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TOTAL RECALL ACT OF 2019

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Total Recall Act of 2019, which would require businesses to strengthen and streamline notifications for product recalls to consumers.

Every year, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recalls at least 400 products, but due to poor notification practices by manufacturers and producers, the average response rate of consumers for most recalls is only between 4 and 18 percent. Consumers are purchasing or failing to stop using products because they are unaware of recall notifications.

As a mom myself, I know that parents cannot be expected to check the CPSC website every time they purchase a product for their families. If a company sells a dangerous item, that company should be expected to market the recall as aggressively as they marketed the sale of the product.

That is why I am introducing the Total Recall Act, legislation which will implement much needed reforms to increase the effectiveness of products recalled by the CPSC. This bill will increase requirements for companies to post recall notices on their websites and social media, and require or encourage companies to use parts of the original marketing budgets of the product in question on notifying consumers of the recall.

The numbers don't lie; if consumers are not participating in recalls, then companies need to work harder to let their consumers know about any dangers that they face from continued use of these products. Companies know how to market products, it is time for them to apply those same skills to marketing recalls.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud NCAA football on the 150th anniversary of their first collegiate game.

On November 6, 1869, Rutgers College (now Rutgers University) went on to defeat the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) by a score of 6-4. Football was nothing like today's game. It used a rugby-type ball on a 110-yard field. A touchdown was worth four points and the games had two 45-minute halves with a running clock.

The University of Colorado Buffaloes are rich in football history. The CU Buffs began

• 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.

their collegiate football program on November 15, 1890 and have played at Folsom Field since 1924. In 1990, CU won the National Championship and currently has all-time record of 697–479–36.

I extend my deepest congratulations to NCAA football on their 150th anniversary. Go Buffs.

HONORING VIVECA LOHR

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Viveca Lohr for her 33 years of service to Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula, including 32 years as Executive Director. The 20th Congressional District of California appreciates Viveca Lohr's dedication to her community on the central coast of California and the great efforts she has made to serve seniors and disabled adults on the Monterey Peninsula.

Viveca Lohr began her work with Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula in November of 1986 and quickly became a leader in the organization, rising to Assistant Executive Director in May of 1987 and Executive Director in November of 1987. Ms. Lohr now oversees the day-to-day operations of this critically important organization that strives to promote the well-being and independence of clients on the Monterey Peninsula by providing home-delivered meals, welfare checks, and group meals. During her 32 years as Executive Director, Ms. Lohr has overseen the Meals on Wheels Home Delivered Meals Program as it has grown to deliver over 190,000 meals annually to more than 500 homebound clients who cannot shop or cook for themselves.

Viveca Lohr has worked with a tireless team of staff, Board Members, and volunteers who make this critical service possible. Through generous donations and fundraising events in the community on the Central Coast, programs can be administered to guarantee the continued health and well-being of individuals who may not otherwise be able to remain independent without Meals on Wheels. The program not only serves food and conversation to its clients, but also provides more than 20,000 hours of exercise, health, and enrichment classes at its headquarters, the Sally Griffin Learning Center, to promote and maintain healthy aging. This facility is named after the Meals on Wheels program's dedicated founder, Sally Judd Griffin.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating and thanking Viveca Lohr for her 33 years of service and leadership on the central coast of California. Her tireless commitment to improving the lives of seniors and disabled adults in California's 20th Congressional District will not be forgotten, and her legacy in the community will certainly be long lasting. On behalf of Central Coast residents, I thank Ms. Lohr for her contribution to our community and wish her a long and healthy retirement.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF GORDON SCOTT BRACE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Gordon Scott Brace and his service to the House.

Many dedicated public servants work behind the scenes to support the vital work of this body and our work as Members. That is true for what may be the most significant charge we have: casting our vote here on the floor on behalf of our constituents.

Mr. Brace helped make that possible. During his 17 years with the Office of the Clerk as a senior systems engineer, Mr. Brace was primarily responsible for maintaining all aspects of the Electronic Voting System (EVS). Whenever the House was in session, Mr. Brace made certain that the EVS was in full working order, manually checking all 54 voting stations, the tally clerk station, electronic display board, and the EVS equipment in the cloakrooms.

To put this in perspective, during Mr. Brace's tenure the House completed more than 12,300 roll call votes. Considering the individual vote of each Member of the House on each of those roll call votes, Mr. Brace played a central role on a team with the responsibility to track more than 5,350,500 individual votes. Every single one of those votes had to be tracked swiftly, accurately, and without doubt. Moreover, every one of those votes represents a small, but important, part of our nation's history.

Mr. Brace is remembered fondly by his co-workers and friends here in the House not just for his technical skills, but for his kindness and generosity. I know I speak on behalf of his co-workers and my colleagues in honoring his memory and his important contributions to the operations of the House. Our thoughts are with his wife, Kristin, sons Wyatt and Dillon, and all of his loved ones.

RECOGNIZING ROLAND HEATON FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CON- GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM- MENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Roland Heaton of Townsend for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and dedication to the community.

Mr. Heaton served in the U.S. Army as a maintenance technician in Vietnam and Japan. He received multiple commendations for his service, including the Good Conduct Medal and the Vietnam Campaign award.

Mr. Heaton's heart to serve lead him to create a project that generates funding to assist the community's first responders with the purchase of non-budget equipment. This allows them to better serve the community. Since it was created, it has raised over \$15,000 to purchase the needed equipment. Additionally,

Mr. Heaton serves on the board of the county food bank and volunteers there regularly.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Roland Heaton for his service and dedication.

RECOGNIZING TREE CITY USA DESIGNATIONS

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize eight cities in Texas' Third Congressional District who have received this year's Tree City USA designation by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Allen, Fairview, Frisco, McKinney, Murphy, Plano, Prosper, and Wylie—all located within Collin County—have proven they care about ensuring the environment around them is thriving and full of life.

These Collin County cities understand that trees serve an integral purpose in our community, including improved health, clean air and water, and a positive impact on businesses and homes in the area. Not only are these communities dedicated to providing necessary municipal tree care, but they are encouraging their residents to do the same. I commend these cities for their investments in green infrastructure and for creating a lasting and positive impact for generations to come.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representative to join me in congratulating these eight communities on their efforts to maintain healthy and green environments in their neighborhoods.

LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT FOR H.R. 1595, THE SAFE BANKING ACT

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, I include in the Record the following letters of endorsement for H.R. 1595, the SAFE Banking Act, which passed the House on September 25, 2019.

NATIONAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION,

March 26, 2019.

*House Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.*

The National Cannabis Industry Association (NCIA), the largest and oldest national trade association dedicated to protecting state-legal cannabis businesses, defending state laws, and advancing federal policy reforms, would like to offer its support of H.R. 1595, the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2019. On behalf of our members, we thank the committee and Chairwoman Waters for the opportunity to markup this legislation and further discuss providing fair access to banking and financial services for state-licensed cannabis cultivators, processors, and retailers throughout the country.

Founded in 2010, NCIA represents nearly 2,000 member-businesses and tens of thousands of cannabis professionals committed to replacing criminal marijuana markets with a responsible and regulated cannabis industry.

Currently, our industry supports hundreds of thousands of jobs, tens of millions in tax revenue, and billions in economic activity. In 2017, the five states that had taxed and regulated adult-use sales (Alaska, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington) collected more than \$790 million in state tax revenue that year. However, per current federal law, cannabis remains a Schedule 1 drug under the Controlled Substances Act. This blocks state-licensed cannabis business and firms providing ancillary products or services to the industry from accessing banking services, forcing them to operate in an all-cash environment. This situation not only creates an unnecessary public safety risk, it poses an undue burden on state and local tax and licensing authorities, which are forced to take large cash payments. These taxes and licensing fees fund the enforcement of state marijuana laws as well as school construction, drug education activities, and infrastructure programs.

In order to operate safely and successfully, businesses must have access to traditional financial services. For the cannabis industry, which conducts hundreds of millions of dollars in transactions across the majority of U.S. states, the lack of access to financial services creates public safety hazards, including an increased chance of becoming a target for robberies, loss of economic opportunity, and inability to retain workforce talent. Restricting financial services to licensed cannabis businesses also prevents the elimination of illicit businesses currently operating in the grey and black markets. The SAFE Banking Act of 2019 would offer not only safe harbor for financial institutions that choose to service cannabis related businesses, but would also provide much needed clarity and direction from the federal government.

After nearly a decade of significant regulatory changes at the state level, now is the time to pass the SAFE Banking Act of 2019. Ending the conflict between state and federal cannabis laws will promote a sound and robust financial system that best supports the economic growth and job creation driven by the growing number of state-licensed cannabis businesses across the country.

Sincerely,

AARON SMITH,
Executive Director & Founder.

NATIONAL CANNABIS ROUNDTABLE,
September 25, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: The National Cannabis Roundtable (NCR) is proud to offer its strong support for H.R. 1595, the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019 (SAFE). The passage of SAFE represents a clear, common sense solution to one of the biggest challenges for one of the fastest growing industries in America.

The National Cannabis Roundtable represents every aspect of the cannabis supply chain. Our fifteen members operate in 23 states with legal cannabis programs, including the District of Columbia. We are growers, processors, retailers, wellness centers, technology companies, investors, entrepreneurs, and publicly traded companies.

Since California passed Proposition 215 in 1996 which legalized the use of medical cannabis by those with debilitating conditions, states around the country have developed cannabis programs by licensing and regulating cannabis businesses. Unfortunately, due to the Schedule I status of cannabis,

these businesses have been unable to access traditional financial services, causing massive public safety problems and business operations challenges.

The SAFE Act deftly rectifies this problem by allowing legitimate, licensed cannabis businesses to access financial services. It provides clarity for financial regulators and opportunity to entrepreneurs by creating a system of accessible capital. SAFE also would allow for increased financial transparency in the cannabis industry allowing law enforcement to sort out licensed business from illicit actors.

The bill's lead sponsors Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Denny Heck (D-WA), Steve Stivers (R-OH) and Warren Davidson (R-OH) have developed broad bipartisan support for this important legislation. The SAFE Act is supported by a sweeping coalition of stakeholders. Activists in the drug policy community, businesses in the cannabis industry, investors, state and local law enforcement, banking regulators, and many other groups.

Currently, 47 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands and several Indian tribes have some form of legalized cannabis either through an adult use program, a medical cannabis program, or through cannabidiol programs. Additionally, seven states are expected to either create or expand cannabis programs via ballot initiatives in 2020 and 2021. It is estimated that legal cannabis industry U.S. consumer spending on legal cannabis reached \$10.4 billion dollars in 2018. Even if no other states reform their laws, cannabis spending is expected to top \$26 billion by 2025. The SAFE Act ensures that this economic growth can happen in legitimate channels instead of on the streets.

While there are many more facets of cannabis reform that must be tackled in the future, the SAFE Banking Act will provide needed clarity, keep our communities safe, and foster economic growth and opportunity.

Sincerely,

SAPHIRA GALOEB,
Executive Director,
National Cannabis Roundtable.

CTF,

March 25, 2019.

Re: CTF Supports the "Secure And Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019" or the "SAFE Banking Act of 2019"

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Chairwoman, Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY,
Ranking Member, Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS AND RANKING MEMBER MCHENRY: The Cannabis Trade Federation (CTF), a national coalition of cannabis-related businesses that represent all aspects of the industry including cultivators, dispensaries, wholesalers, distributors, and ancillary businesses, strongly supports enactment of the SAFE Banking Act, legislation that would create a federal safe harbor for banks that offer direct or indirect services to cannabis-related businesses pursuant to state law. The SAFE Banking Act will benefit law enforcement, state regulatory bodies, including taxing authorities, and cannabis-related businesses.

We associate ourselves with the testimony provided to the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions on February 13, 2019, by Rachel Pross, Chief Risk Officer for Maps Credit Union, who testified on behalf of the Credit Union National Association. She correctly observed:

In the absence of a federal law providing explicit legal clearance for financial institu-

tions to provide banking services to the Cannabis industry, it is highly likely that many of these businesses will be forced to continue operating outside of the financial mainstream. That outcome increases the potential of lost tax revenue, increases the likelihood of criminal thefts in our communities, and deprives both state and federal law enforcement with important information about cannabis activity.

She is correct and her observations are obviously true. We would like to underscore the importance of having cannabis-related businesses mainstreamed into the financial system to law enforcement. In short, cash-only businesses are more susceptible to bad actors, including money laundering, than are those in the banking system where all anti-money laundering and Bank Secrecy Act rules are followed and enforced. This is one reason FinCEN promulgated guidance on February 14, 2014, regarding "BSA Expectations Regarding Marijuana-Related Businesses," which remains in effect today. That guidance noted that it "should enhance the availability of financial services for, and the financial transparency of, marijuana-related businesses."

As important as that guidance is, banks have not fully embraced it. Only federal legislation can achieve the type of transparency and regulatory compliance sought by FinCEN. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to order the SAFE Banking Act of 2019 favorably reported so that the full House of Representatives can consider this important legislation forthwith.

Sincerely,

NEAL LEVINE,
Chief Executive Officer,
Cannabis Trade Federation.

CALIFORNIA CANNABIS INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION,
September 25, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: The California Cannabis Industry Association (CCIA) would like to offer its enthusiastic support for H.R. 1595, the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019 (SAFE). From the passage of our state's medical cannabis program with Proposition 215 in 1996, to the passage of adult use cannabis with Proposition 64 in 2016, California has been the leading "laboratory for democracy" on cannabis policy. The SAFE Banking Act is a massive victory for California cannabis business and consumers.

CCIA is the collective voice of the state's cannabis industry, representing the diverse interests of cannabis retailers, cultivators, manufacturers, delivery services, distributors, testing facilities, insurance groups, packaging companies, and various ancillary services. Our unified voice includes over 500 California businesses representing over 670 brands and approximately 15,000 employees.

Without question, the biggest challenge that all our members face is access to traditional financial services. Due to restrictions in Federal law, CCIA member businesses are forced to primarily operate through cash transactions, creating a massive public safety problem, and a logistical nightmare when it comes to things like processing employee payroll and paying state and local taxes. In fact, some members of CCIA have paid upwards of \$500,000 in cash carried in duffel bags for quarterly tax payments. It is estimated that legal cannabis sales will hit \$3.1 billion in 2019 and \$7.2 billion by 2024, a market that will be 40% larger than all of Canada and 253% larger than Colorado. SAFE

moves these massive revenues into legitimate banks and off the streets. With access to banking services our businesses can reinvest in communities, increase of transparency of our operations, and help facilitate economic growth. Additionally, SAFE prevents consumers from having to carry cash to pay for their cannabis and allows them to purchase with credit cards. SAFE provides clarity for financial regulators and law enforcement to sort out licensed business from illicit actors.

The bill's lead sponsors Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Denny Heck (D-WA), Steve Stivers (R-OH) and Warren Davidson (R-OH) have developed broad bipartisan support for this important legislation. The SAFE Act is supported by a sweeping coalition of stakeholders. Activists in the drug policy community, businesses in the cannabis industry, investors, state and local law enforcement, banking regulators, and many other groups.

The SAFE Banking Act is the first step of hopefully many in federal cannabis reforms that allow California and other states with cannabis programs to become fully on par with other existing industries.

Sincerely,

LINDSAY ROBINSON,
Executive Director,
California Cannabis Industry Association.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES,
February 13, 2019.
House Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN MAXINE WATERS AND RANKING MEMBER MCHENRY: On behalf of Florida's farmers, our medical marijuana professionals, and consumers, I want to thank you for your efforts to provide the cannabis industry access to traditional banking and express my strong support for the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act (H.R. 2215).

Conflicting guidance from the federal government has unnecessarily, led to a higher level of risk and hurdles for businesses in this emerging market. This is an issue that affected me personally—while running for this office, our campaign had two bank accounts closed due to my advocacy for medical marijuana access and cannabis. The absence of traditional banking services forces state-licensed businesses to resort to all cash operations, which is inefficient and a public safety concern. Businesses can't operate proficiently with irregularities restricting their growth, stability, and the ability to pay bills, rent, and employees, when their accounts are inevitably closed. This is an issue impacting our state and national economy.

One of the important provisions of the recently signed 2018 Farm Bill (the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018) is the relisting of hemp as an agricultural commodity. But without congressional action, continued confusion and misinformation regarding hemp could discourage financial institutions from partnering with our farmers on this new commodity.

The Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act (H.R. 2215) is a strong first step in providing legitimate cannabis related and state-licensed farmers, business, and consumers with access to an efficient and safe banking system, and traditional loans and capital markets.

Sincerely,

NICOLE FRIED,
Commissioner of Agriculture.

NATIONAL ARMORED CAR ASSOCIATION,
September 25, 2019.

HON. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs,
Washington, DC.

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: On behalf of the National Armored Car Association (NACA), I write to express our support for H.R. 1595, the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2019. While NACA's members do not take a position in favor of or opposed to the legalization of cannabis or marijuana, nor currently service the U.S. cannabis industry, we support H.R. 1595 because it would address the existing conflict between federal and state law with respect to proceeds from marijuana-related businesses and allow for safer transportation, storage and oversight of such proceeds.

Formed in 1929, NACA is a business association that brings together the three major companies of the armored car industry—Brink's, Garda, and Loomis—with a focus on protecting and promoting the common interests of the industry. These three organizations comprise approximately 90% of the armored car industry in the United States, and NACA members have handled virtually every dollar and coin in circulation. They provide secure transportation and cash management services for the Federal Reserve, financial institutions, state and local governments, and private businesses and individuals across the United States and internationally.

Currently thirty-three states and several territories, including the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico, have legalized the use of cannabis to some extent. However, federal law prohibits cultivation, distribution, and possession of marijuana imposing significant legal risks to financial institutions and ancillary businesses that might consider providing financial services to the marijuana industry. Consequently, hundreds of millions of dollars in cash are being transported and stored outside our banking system and often without adequate security and oversight. The lack of available vendors to provide secure transport and storage of cash increases the risk of criminal activity that can pose a danger not only to those involved in the cannabis industry, but the general public. H.R. 1595 would provide NACA member companies with the needed legal protection and clarity to safely and securely transport cash in states that have legalized and regulated cannabis.

We urge members of the House to support H.R. 1595.

Sincerely,

BASIL THOMSON,
Senior Director, NACA.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD KLOSE
SENIOR FOR THE 2019 MONTANA
CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Klose Senior of Laurel, a recipient of the 2019 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Klose is a veteran of the United States Army. He served from 1961 to 1964 in the 3rd Brigade 4th Armored Division and attained the rank of Sergeant.

Serving the community of Laurel for 12 years, Mr. Klose volunteers at the Laurel Senior Center as a board member and a volunteer driver. He has also served on the Yellowstone County Adult Resource Alliance for seven years. For the last five years, Mr. Klose has served as vice president of the Friends of the Yellowstone National Cemetery.

Mr. Klose is a prominent member of the Montana American Legion. He has been the Department of Montana Commander, the District 11 Adjutant, and Laurel's Post No. 123 Commander. Mr. Klose is dedicated to the post's Funeral Honors detail where he has participated in 85 percent of all funerals conducted at the Yellowstone National Cemetery.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Richard Klose Senior for his dedication and service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I mistakenly returned from a meeting in the Rayburn Room too late and missed the second vote of the series.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 613.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Federal Employee Recruitment Act of 2019 to require the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to develop, within three months of enactment of this bill, a plan for recruiting new workers into federal service. With the aging of the federal workforce, this bill is more important than ever.

The average age of federal employees has steadily increased over the course of the last two decades, hitting 47.5 years in 2017. In the private sector, 54 percent workers are over 40 years old, while in the federal workforce, that number is 69 percent. At the end of last year, only 6 percent of the federal workforce were under 30, while almost a quarter of private-sector employees were under 30.

There are numerous consequences to an aging federal workforce. For example, as older federal employees opt to retire, the government risks permanently losing much of its institutional knowledge if federal agencies cannot find adequate replacements.

Possible solutions to the problem of a graying workforce include increased federal recruitment at college and university campuses, increased technological innovation in how applications are submitted, and a greater number of internships. Improved benefits, including paid family leave, increased telework,

and short-term disability insurance allowing coverage for non-work-related injury or illness or pregnancy, can also likely increase recruitment and retention of employees by the federal government.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

RECOGNIZING ALICE SEFCIK SULAK

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I'm honored to recognize the incredible life and achievements of Alice Sefcik Sulak of Temple, Texas. Her contributions to the region, as well as her commitment to maintaining the proud traditions of her Czech ancestry, have made her a beloved member of the Central Texas community.

Renowned for both her singing voice as well as her abilities to play multiple instruments, Alice was one of Texas' pioneering Czech vocalists who distinguished herself as an accomplished and respected musician with a distinctive and recognizable style. Throughout her life, she both mentored young musicians and helped popularize Czech music throughout Texas.

Alice remains a vital member of the Temple community. In 1923, her parents built Tom Sefcik Hall, a classic Texas dance hall. Alice grew up working at the hall, and in 1970 she took over the operation, which she continues to run today. Sefcik Hall is a community gathering place and the site of countless first dates, weddings, anniversary celebrations, birthday parties, and family reunions. While the number of dance halls across Texas are dwindling, the lights remain on at Sefcik Hall, where new memories are made every day.

Recognizing her invaluable contributions, the City of Temple has proclaimed November 17, 2019 as "Alice Sefcik Sulak Day." She is truly a local treasure and a fitting recipient of our recognition and appreciation. Her commitment to investing her gifts, talents, and abilities to improve her community is a deeply held creed that speaks to the generosity of a true and devoted citizen.

Alice Sefcik Sulak's life is the story of a woman unafraid to chase her passions and devote her time to make good communities great. I join all Temple residents in celebrating her on this special day.

GRAVE CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF JOSE DANIEL FERRER

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, I am gravely concerned for the welfare of Jose Daniel Ferrer, a courageous Cuban pro-democracy activist and hero of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU).

Ferrer was seized on October 1, 2019, and remains held without access to family, friends, legal counsel, international human rights

groups, or other concerned members of his organization.

Human rights groups including Amnesty International have cited alarming but unverified reports of torture and maltreatment at the hands of the regime's thugs, including the withholding of necessary medical care, food and water.

It is a disgrace that the King and Queen of Spain are in Cuba, while Ferrer languishes in prison, and have failed to exercise simple human decency by demanding his release, or meeting with other courageous independent democracy and human rights activists.

The regime in Cuba has the blood of innocents on its hands, those whose only "crime" was daring to speak against the evils of the dictatorship including:

Orlando Zapata Tamayo, who died in state custody on February 23, 2010; Juan Wilfredo Soto Garcia, who died on May 8, 2011;

Laura Pollan, the renowned leader of the Ladies in White, who died under suspicious circumstances on October 14, 2011;

Wilman Willar Mendoza, who died on January 19, 2012;

Aramando Sosa Fortuny, who died on October 28, 2019;

We also remember Oswaldo Paya and Harold Cepero of the Christian Liberation Movement, both of whom died on July 22, 2012 in a suspicious car accident that has not been fully and appropriately investigated.

The regime of firing squads, political prisoners, the Tugboat Massacre, the Brothers to the Rescue shootdown, the Black Spring, and the murders of activists continues its evils to this day. It continues to intimidate, detain, encourage acts of repudiation, and inflict brutal violence to suppress the Cuban people.

Jose Daniel Ferrer must be released immediately and without condition, and those who participate in vile human rights abuses must be held accountable. The world is watching. Should any harm come to Ferrer, the murderous Cuban dictatorship headed by Raúl Castro and his puppet Miguel Diaz-Canel bear sole responsibility.

RECOGNIZING MARY LAFORGE FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary LaForge of Crow Agency for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for her service to her country and service to fellow veterans at Crow Agency.

Ms. LaForge served in the United States Air Force as a reprographic specialist. She received multiple commendation during her time in the Air Force, including the Air Force Overseas Service Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal.

At the Crow Agency, Ms. LaForge has played a large role in providing many services to her fellow veterans. She coordinated with the Billings Vet Center to ensure mental health services are provided to Crow Agency veterans, assisted others with enrolling in pro-

grams with the Department of Veteran Affairs, and brought veteran employment fairs and job opportunities to the agency. Additionally, she placed a key role in organizing the Yellowstone Homeless Veterans Stand Down.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Mary LaForge for her dedication and service to her country and community.

CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF AUSTIN TICE

SPEECH OF

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, more than seven years ago, Austin Tice, an American journalist and Marine Corps veteran, disappeared in Syria.

Since the day he vanished, his parents, family, friends, and supporters, have worked tirelessly to ensure that no stone is left unturned and no avenue ignored to see Austin return home safely.

In the seventh year of Austin's captivity, I ask that whomever holds Austin release him immediately so that he can return to his loved ones.

I also ask the assistance of the Government of Syria do whatever it can to help facilitate Austin's release.

There are things that transcend politics and diplomacy, bridge cultural divides, and need no translation across different languages.

Those are things like love and hope—represented by a mother and father who wake up each day with deep love and concern for their son and the belief that today could be the day when they get the chance to hug him again.

I ask for the help of whomever holds Austin and can assist with his release—without the assignment of blame or malice to anyone—so that this year is the last that Austin remains so far from home and his family.

HONORING ROSA EMILIA RODRIGUEZ-VÉLEZ

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the distinguished career of the honorable Rosa Emilia Rodríguez-Vélez, on her retirement as U.S. Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico.

The experience and commitment of U.S. Attorney Rodríguez-Vélez has been vital in the Puerto Rico District. Her record in this office is of outstanding performance in the face of the great challenges in the fight against violent crime, drug and arms trafficking, national security threats, human trafficking, organized crime, illegal entry into the U.S., and most notably the fight against public corruption.

U.S. Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodríguez-Vélez has served the public interest since 1977 in the Puerto Rico Department of Justice and since 1988 in the U.S. Attorney's Office. In that role she held numerous key positions in her career as First Assistant U.S. Attorney,

Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney, Civil Division Chief, Deputy Chief for the White Collar/General Crimes unit, Administrative Officer, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Coordinator and Chairperson, Violent Crime Coordinator, Basic Criminal Advocacy Coordinator and Supervisor, Public Affairs Officer and District Office Security Manager.

Ms. Rodríguez-Vélez was appointed U.S. Attorney by the Attorney General in June 2006 and received a presidential nomination in January 2007. On October 13, 2007, the seven judges of the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico unanimously appointed Ms. Rodríguez-Vélez to serve as United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico. On October 4, 2011, Ms. Rodríguez-Vélez was re-appointed to a new term as United States Attorney, pursuant to the unanimous vote of the Court.

U.S. Attorney Rodríguez-Vélez has implemented numerous initiatives to combat drug trafficking and violent crime in Puerto Rico, including multiple drug strike forces responsible for over 2,400 arrests; an Illegal Firearms and Violence Reduction Initiative, responsible for over 500 arrests; and a RICO Unit to prosecute violent drug trafficking organizations. She has received numerous awards and commendation letters during her years of service from both the Puerto Rico and United States Departments of Justice, as well as from state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Her character has been tested many times, often facing unfair political attacks and obstruction, especially when addressing the fight against the scourge of public corruption, yet she has remained a steadfast prosecutor, always serving justice and believing in her oath to the U.S. Constitution and Law. Because I can attest to her courage, her integrity, her professional excellence and her heartfelt belief in justice and American values, I congratulate her on a well and faithfully executed career—42 years working in both the Puerto Rico and U.S. Departments of Justice, 12 of them as the U.S. District Attorney for Puerto Rico.

I personally admire the courage of Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodríguez and recognize her as a role model for women. I thank her for her service and, I wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on November 12, 2019 during roll call no. 610, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 4162, GI Bill Planning Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 611, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3224, Deborah Sampson Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING LE GAUB FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Le Gaub of Bozeman, a recipient of the 2019 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Gaub is a veteran of the U.S. Army. In his distinguished service from 1972 to 2003, He earned multiple commendations, including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Serving his community through Troops to Teachers, Mr. Gaub works as a program manager to secure funding for military veterans seeking to transition to careers in K–12 education. He is a friendly face around many schools in Montana and in veteran support groups and nonprofits where he invests much of his time. Since his start with the Troops to Teachers program, he has helped bring in a substantial amount of grants ensuring its success.

I ask colleagues to join me today in commending Le Gaub for his dedication and service.

HONORING THE KICK FOR NICK FOUNDATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, just a few weeks ago I had the extraordinary opportunity to participate in a local fundraiser for the Kick For Nick Foundation and was so inspired by the generosity of the participants and the mission of the Foundation that I wanted to share the experience with my colleagues.

PFC Nicholas A. Madaras of Wilton, Connecticut served our country bravely in Iraq until his life was cut tragically short by an IED on September 3, 2006. He was just 19 years old and weeks away from the scheduled end of his deployment. Nick had been an avid soccer player, coach, and referee growing up and when he had last came home on leave he had shared stories about connecting with young Iraqi children through the sport, often using anything they could find as a ball, most times nothing more than a tin can. Nick asked friends and family to send him a few soccer balls to share with the children in Baqubah. Unfortunately, he never got that chance.

Yet, from their grief, Nick's family and friends found a new mission—a way to pay tribute to Nick's memory, his passion for soccer, and his desire to make a difference in the lives of the children he had met in the war-torn country where he served. Shortly after his passing, Nick's family was approached by Ken Dartley, also of Wilton, who had read Nick's story and asked to start a program collecting soccer balls in his honor to fulfill his wish to share his love and passion for the game with

Iraqi children. It was through this first effort that the Kick For Nick Foundation was born.

What began with a few soccer balls in a net donated at the James P. Whipple American Legion Post 86 in Wilton has since grown exponentially with over 50,000 soccer balls having been donated and distributed to date. The Kick For Nick Foundation has received donations from 47 of the 50 states and, prior to distribution, each one is inscribed three times with Nick's name. Initially the balls were distributed only by US troops in Iraq, but over the years, in addition to soldiers, the distribution network has grown to include US military contractors, volunteers, individuals, schools, and charitable organizations. Balls have been given to underprivileged children in more than 50 countries including Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Bhutan, Guatemala, Colombia. Beyond the distribution of soccer balls, when they have the opportunity and the supplies, Kick For Nick has also provided uniforms, cleats, shin guards, personal hygiene supplies such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, school supplies such as pencils, notebooks and backpacks, as well as occasional food supplies.

As I walked through the fundraiser and the many who had gathered to support the Foundation, I was inspired by the displays showing pictures of troops distributing the balls and of notes of thanks from the soldiers distributing them as well as the young people receiving them. I had the opportunity to speak with Nick's father, Bill, as well as several of his family members, finding myself in awe of their strength and determination to ensure Nick's memory continues to make a difference in the world. The Kick For Nick Foundation is an extraordinary effort and a wonderful tribute to PFC Madaras. It is my hope that their success continues to grow and that they can continue in their mission to foster peace, good will and stability across the globe by collecting soccer balls and delivering them into the hands of underprivileged children around the world—honoring the memory of PFC Nicholas A. Madaras and giving life to his dream of bringing a bit of hope and joy to children living in difficult circumstances.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF DAVE SPILLER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the dutiful work of my constituent, Police Chief Dave Spiller, on the occasion his retirement from the Pleasanton Police Department after 17 years of service.

Chief Spiller joined the Pleasanton Police Department in 2002 after more than a decade serving the San Diego and Mountain View Police Departments. In 2011, Chief Spiller was appointed to be Pleasanton's sixth police chief. He has served in every sworn rank of the police profession—from officer to chief.

Chief Spiller's colleagues can attest not only to his professionalism but to his commitment to safety and quality of life in Pleasanton. His leadership as police chief was characterized by compassion, integrity and responsiveness to the city.

Chief Spiller's commitment to law enforcement has left an immeasurable impact that extends far beyond his own department. In his time as chief he has modernized the department's training, technology, and equipment. He has fostered lasting partnerships that have shaped the future of his community and local law enforcement.

Chief Spiller's passion for public service is reflected by his pursuit of higher education which culminated in his master's degree in public leadership from St. Mary's College. Through his service as an advisory board member on the Administration of Justice Board and an adjunct faculty member at Las Positas College, Chief Spiller is cultivating a future police force that will reflect the same integrity and commitment that he has brought to the law enforcement community.

In addition, Chief Spiller serves as a member of the International Criminal Justice Board at the University of San Francisco, a member of the Board of Directors for the California Police Chiefs Association, and he is an independent contract trainer and group facilitator serving non-profit organizations and municipal governments.

I want to thank Chief Spiller for the contributions he has made to the Pleasanton Police department and community. Your extraordinary vision and leadership will be missed, and we wish you a fulfilling retirement.

HONORING MS. MARY E. STUART

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize an outstanding individual who has been volunteering for sixty consecutive years. At the age of 91, Ms. Mary Stuart can be found working seven hour shifts at Medical City Plano five days a week.

In 1959, Ms. Stuart began her hospital volunteer efforts in Newfane, New York, and later relocated to Tallahassee, Florida where she continued her work in area medical centers. In 1997, Mary moved to Plano and soon became a valued volunteer at Medical City Plano. In fact, just this year Ms. Stuart received her 25,500 hours volunteer pin which is the most hours a volunteer has ever given to Medical City Plano since they opened their doors in 1975.

Her unbelievable track record as a community servant who puts the needs of others above her own has earned her other prestigious titles such as the Texas Yellow Rose from former Texas Governor Rick Perry and Honorary Georgia Peach.

The Plano community is very proud of her leadership in volunteerism. Ms. Stuart exemplifies a passion for helping others and she undoubtedly betters the world around her.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Ms. Mary Stuart for her sixty years of volunteer work.

RECOGNIZING LYNNE AND MYRON MALNAA OF GLASGOW

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lynne and Myron Malnaa of Glasgow for their dedication to and compassion for Montana's children.

After her eldest daughter graduated from high school and with their son and Myron rodeoing, Lynne felt like she had an empty nest, and she says she found her quiet house unsettling.

One day Lynne, who ran a daycare out of their home for 25 years, got a call that changed her life. She was told there were a few desperate kids who needed a home right away. Lynne instantly stepped up and took them in. It happened so quickly, Myron, a law enforcement officer for 25 years, says he doesn't even remember Lynne talking to him about taking on such a big responsibility. Lynne says she did.

Since that day 18 years ago, the Malnaas continue to provide a safe haven for many kids in need. They have welcomed more than 150 foster children into their home, embracing them with the unconditional love they need.

Lynne and Myron nurture and care for the kids, who come to them from various backgrounds. They watch them grow and give the opportunity to let the kids be kids.

Lynne and Myron have also adopted two children and are guardians to another.

For their commitment to Montana's children, Lynne and Myron were recognized recently as 2019 Angels in Adoption honorees.

Madam Speaker, for freely giving over 150 foster children unconditional love and a home, I recognize Lynne and Myron Malnaa for their Spirit of Montana.

WENDELL "SKIP" BROWNFIELD

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Wendell "Skip" Brownfield for his heroic service in the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

On February 5, 1970, Skip and nine others set out to a location where increased enemy activity had been noticed. In route, Skip's unit triggered a booby trap, detonating a large explosive. The explosion was followed by heavy enemy fire.

During the attack, two members of Skip's unit were injured. Despite the enemy fire, Skip and a fellow soldier got the two injured men to an opening so that a helicopter could rescue them.

Skip Brownfield's heroism that night was not the only time he served meritoriously in battle during the Vietnam War. For actions he took in previous engagements with enemy forces, Skip was awarded a Bronze Star with "V" device and Air Medal with "V" Device, among other decorations.

Madam Speaker, I wish to send my most sincere gratitude to Mr. Brownfield for his service to our nation. Skip is a hero to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEITH DAGHISTANI

HON. LAUREN UNDERWOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Leith Daghistani for his service in my office in Washington, DC.

Leith joined our office as a legislative fellow and served as an advisor for my work on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, in addition to handling a policy portfolio that included defense, foreign affairs, agriculture, and trade. Among other accomplishments, he developed multiple pieces of legislation to improve health care delivery at the VA and helped our agricultural community navigate a challenging year of tough weather and unprecedented trade tensions. Leith was also instrumental in ensuring House passage of the Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act and the Caring For Our Women Veterans Act.

Leith's diligence, intelligence, and compassion were invaluable assets as we worked to establish our legislative operation from scratch during my first year in office. I commend his drive to advance mental health and suicide prevention services for veterans and to improve outcomes for women veterans and younger veterans. Although Leith may be leaving our office, our veterans in northern Illinois and our community that supports and honors them will continue to benefit from the results of his hard work and expertise.

Prior to joining my staff, Leith earned a Bachelor of Science from the United States Naval Academy and served our country as an officer in the United States Navy. I am grateful he chose to continue his career in public service by joining my office. Our office will miss his kindness, diligence, sense of humor, and expertly-brewed coffee.

Madam Speaker, I would like to formally thank Leith Daghistani for his service to my office, to Illinois's 14th Congressional District, and to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK OF CALIFORNIA WIC

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) for its tremendous contribution to enhancing equity in access to healthy foods for low-income families with young children. The WIC program has been an important resource for vulnerable families, providing a critical nutritional safety net for low-income pregnant women, infants, and young children across the United States.

WIC's contribution to the health and welfare of Orange County residents is unparalleled. With its continued supply of nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and nutrition-related information, WIC has had a significant positive impact on communities in Orange County. In addition, thanks to WIC

programs, many residents have benefited from the substantial cost savings that have been accrued from early investments in maternal and child nutrition.

On November 11, 2019, the first wave of WIC sites in Orange County began providing food benefits in a new way—through the California WIC Card. Previously, families served by WIC received paper vouchers instead. This change is expected to greatly improve the WIC participant experience, while also improving the reimbursement experience for WIC vendors to ensure the dollars redeemed in stores in our community are received more efficiently.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing the extraordinary work and contributions of California WIC and their efforts to modernize operations to ensure a better and more efficient experience for all who participate.

RECOGNIZING PERRY MILLER FOR
THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRES-
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-
TION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Perry Miller of Chinook for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and dedication to his community.

Mr. Miller served in both the U.S. Marines and the Montana Army National Guard. During his combined 12 years of service, Mr. Miller deployed overseas and received multiple commendations, including the Meritorious Service award.

Following his service, Mr. Miller became active in the community. He currently serves as a Judge and the Justice of Peace for Blaine County. Outside of his work, Mr. Miller has coached youth baseball, football, and wrestling, bringing many teams to state and individual championships. Through the VFW Post 4620, he volunteers for Memorial Day and Veterans Day services. Mr. Miller is also active in his church, teaching CCD class to high schoolers.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Perry Miller for his dedication and service to his community.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR RODNEY
COLES, SR.

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Pastor Rodney Coles of Greenville, North Carolina. In the fall of 2007, Pastor Coles formed the Churches Outreach Network in Greenville, North Carolina. Its mission is to aid the community through feeding the hungry and furnishing resource assistance to those in need.

Pastor Coles has tirelessly served the community through Churches Outreach Network by supporting the Healthy Living Alliance

which collaborates with churches and ministries within the surrounding community to develop a healthy living program which aims to encourage individuals to develop a healthier lifestyle. Pastor Coles also supports the Joy Soup Kitchen which serves lunch to those in need. Further, his Outreach Network promotes and assists the Community Unity Network which brings resources to the community concerning health, food, community awareness, rental assistance, senior citizen programs, veteran assistance and educational assistance. Since his arrival he has been a shining star to the community in need.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring this incredible public servant, but more importantly, a wonderfully faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, and my personal friend Pastor Rodney Coles, Sr.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VICKIE
HARTMAN NICKS

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Vickie Hartman Nicks.

Vickie was born on July 9, 1953 in Thomasville, North Carolina. She graduated from East Davidson High School in 1971 and married Steve Nicks in 1979. In 1981, she took a position as the Secretary of Mt. Zion Wesleyan Church, where she worked for 38 years.

While being the church secretary certainly kept her busy, her devotion to the community didn't stop there. Vickie was involved in many children and youth programs as well as being a member of the choir. She enjoyed painting and crafts and was known for her quick wit and keen sense of humor.

Outside of being active in her church, Vickie was even more proud of being a wife, mother, grandmother, and lifelong resident of Davidson County. She was an excellent role-model for and steadfast supporter of her daughters, Stefanie and Andrea, as well as her grandsons Steven and Jacob.

Vickie's enormous impact on the lives of her loved ones is indelible, and will live on for years to come.

Vickie lost her life to a long drawn out battle with cancer but her grit and tenacity never let her lose faith. Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with her husband, Steve Nicks, to learn about Vickie's bravery while facing the final stages of her life. Her battle with cancer was truly heartbreaking, representing a tragic loss to our Davidson County community. Her determination and grace provides an example to us all.

Today I wear this bracelet given to me by her husband that states, "Vickie Strong." I wear it today in her memory.

Madam Speaker, please join me in praying for Vickie along with her husband Steve and the entire Nicks family.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND
WORK OF MARLENE DILILLO

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and work of Marlene DiLillo, the former Executive Director of the Greater Killeen Community Clinic, as she retires after years of incredible public service. With her "can-do" spirit and high-minded vision, she's a model citizen and trusted community leader.

During Marlene's nearly two decades as manager of a medical clinic, she has always shown great respect and support for both staff and colleagues as well as a willingness to make tough decisions. As the Executive Director, she worked tirelessly to nurture relationships with other community organizations, by convening and collaborating around community needs, and actively participating with government agencies, nonprofits, businesses and community leaders, and elected officials.

Marlene signs all her emails with the stirring words "Our job is not to climb the ladder of success, but to descend the ladder of servanthood." All who've been blessed by her presence know that to her this isn't a meaningless expression but a deep and lasting creed that has been the guiding force of the life of a true and devoted public servant.

Marlene DiLillo's retirement is the richly-deserved beginning of an exciting journey. I join her colleagues, family, and friends in honoring her career, commending her commitment to public service, and wishing my friend nothing but the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING KAREN SEMPLE FOR
THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRES-
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-
TION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Karen Semple of Montana City for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for her service and dedication to her community.

Ms. Semple served in the United States Air Force for almost a decade. Ms. Semple received multiple commendations during her time in the Air Force and continued to serve her community when she returned home.

Ms. Semple has served her community as a chaplain for various veteran groups and fire departments. In her role with the American Legion, she has led training for other chaplains to have the tools necessary to minister to veterans with moral injury, PTSD, and suicide ideation. In addition, Ms. Semple serves as a volunteer firefighter, and the American Legion of Montana Disaster Emergency Response Coordinator.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Karen Semple for her dedication and service to her community.

HONORING THE CONNECTICUT
STATE LIBRARY'S "DIGGING
INTO HISTORY" PROGRAM

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to take a moment to recognize an extraordinary program sponsored by the Connecticut State Library—"Digging Into History." This extraordinary program brought together fifteen Connecticut high school students, five of which I am proud to say are from my District, to take part in a unique learning experience and community service project.

The first German offensive against American troops during World War I took place on April 20, 1918 in the village of Seicheprey, France. It was Connecticut troops from the 102nd Infantry Regiment, also known as the "Yankee Division," that came under attack that morning as the German forces launched the surprise offensive. The battle of Seicheprey occurred on the southern side of the St. Mihiel salient. There, three companies of the Yankee Division's 102nd Regiment occupied a trench, known as the Sibille trench. The battle raged throughout the day with heavy losses on both sides and the village was destroyed. After the war's end, Connecticut citizens collected \$5,000 to help rebuild the water supply and installed a fountain with a plaque in the town square. A bond had been forged between Connecticut and Seicheprey.

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of this battle and as a way to strengthen that bond, the "Digging Into History" program was created. The program brought fifteen Connecticut high school students to Seicheprey to take part in a community service project to clear and restore a section of the trenches Connecticut soldiers occupied, with the goal of creating a historic attraction to help spur tourism in the region. The students worked with sixteen French students as well as military historians to clear vegetation from the trenches, re-dig sections and restore the trenches to how they appeared a century ago.

It was an extraordinary opportunity for these young people, bringing the history of World War I to life for them, and today they are sharing that experience with the presentation of "Digging Into History: Back From the Trenches." Having had visited Normandy and other such sites myself, I can imagine how thrilling this project must have been. Though Congressional business keeps me in Washington for the event in Hartford, I hope to be able to see the presentation myself soon.

These fifteen young men and women have been incredible ambassadors for their communities, the State of Connecticut, and our nation. I am honored to have this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to them for their remarkable work on this project. I also want to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Connecticut State Library for their work to organize this once in a lifetime experience for these young people. I have no doubt it is a journey they will never forget.

NEW HOME, NEW BYLAWS, SAME
MISSION: WPAOG HISTORY PART
IV (1996-2019) SECTION A

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD Section A of the fourth and final installment of an article by Keith J. Hamel honoring the 150th Anniversary of the West Point Association of Graduates:

"When the Association of Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy moved into the Herbert Alumni Center in the winter of 1995, it was primed to capitalize on its past and, in the process, make new history as well. The AOG began on May 22, 1869, when a group of graduates, upon a suggestion from Robert Anderson, Class of 1825, held its first organizational meeting in the office of Dr. Horace Webster, Class of 1818. Out of this meeting came the Association's mission: "... to cherish the memories of our Alma Mater, and to promote the social intercourse and fraternal fellowship of its graduates." Ever since then, the AOG mission has been about serving both West Point ("Alma Mater") and the Long Gray Line ("its graduates").

In the first stage of its history (1869-1900), covered in our Winter 2019 issue, AOG was instrumental in moving the remains of the "Father of the Academy," Sylvanus Thayer, Class of 1808, to the West Point Cemetery and memorializing him with a statue. Also during this era, one of AOG's founding members, George Cullum, Class of 1833, bequeathed \$250,000 to build a memorial hall at West Point and \$10,000 for "necessary expenses" of the Association. In AOG's second stage (1901-45), outlined in our Spring 2019 issue, AOG raised money to purchase the Sanctuary Window in the newly built Cadet Chapel and introduced initiatives such as "Alumni Day" (first held on June 11, 1923) and ASSEMBLY magazine (which debuted in April 1942). The modern AOG (see the Summer 2019 issue) began to take shape in the late 1940s with the establishment of the West Point Alumni Foundation and the granting of tax-exempt status by the IRS. Thanks to these developments in AOG's third era (1946-95), fundraising for both the West Point Superintendent's Fund and AOG's annual appeal steadily grew, and in 1972, Major General William Knowlton '43JAN, the 49th Superintendent, removed the AOG active duty officer from the Office of Assistant to the Superintendent, freeing the Association to solicit money for the Academy and to establish new services for graduates. To meet these dual objectives, AOG created both a Directorate of Development (fundraising) and a Directorate of Alumni Affairs (fraternal fellowship) in the 1970s and 1980s, setting up the themes that dominate the present era of its 150-year history.

1997-2002: THE BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

In 1996, after AOG had moved into Herbert Alumni Center, Edward "Shy" Meyer '51, Chairman of the Association, noted that it was time for the Association to refocus its fundraising efforts. "The bulk of money has gone into the Alumni Center and alumni type things rather than the Superintendent's projects," Meyer said, according to the minutes of the October 1996 Board of Trustees meeting. "With 2002 coming up for a target, we have a responsibility as alumni to do something for the Academy in the way of a gift." In June 1990, AOG's Long Range Planning Committee had agreed to raise \$100 million in 10 years for USMA, based on a long-

range analysis of Academy needs through 2002. However, debate over whether to run an Army Athletics Center Campaign or a Cadet Leadership Opportunities Campaign in conjunction with the Academy's Bicentennial in 2002 slowed efforts to get the Bicentennial Campaign fully underway. All that changed in 1996. Now with focus provided by Meyer and the West Point Fund Committee, chaired by Jack Hammack '49, and in partnership with Lieutenant General Dan Christman '65, USMA's 55th Superintendent, AOG's fundraising moved into high gear, thanks in large part to lessons learned in the campaign to raise funds for Herbert Alumni Center. The Bicentennial Campaign kicked off with a goal to raise \$150 million for West Point between 1997 and 2002.

In the six years preceding the Bicentennial Campaign, the average AOG annual collection was \$9.4 million, from fewer than 14,000 donors annually, but during the campaign, those numbers jumped to \$28.8 million and 21,000 donors per year. But even more than raising more money and growing the donor pool, the Bicentennial Campaign provided the vehicle to aid AOG's burgeoning maturity. It made it necessary for the Association to grow and professionalize, developing new office systems where none had existed, establishing gift acceptance and donor recognition policies and procedures, and educating graduates to overcome general objections of some alumni toward fundraising. It also transformed the physical, academic, and extracurricular landscape of West Point, because the result of the campaign was not just "something for the Academy in the way of a gift," but a collection of many significant and lasting gifts.

"The response to the Bicentennial Campaign was overwhelming," said Tom Dyer '67, who was Chairman of the West Point Fund during most of the Bicentennial Campaign, and who took over as AOG Chairman in January 2002. When the campaign closed on December 31, 2002, AOG had raised \$218.6 million for West Point, nearly \$70 million more than its initial goal. What's more, nearly half of all West Point graduates had given at least one gift. "Never in our wildest dreams did we think we would finish having raised nearly \$220 million!" said Dyer, addressing the success of the Bicentennial Campaign in his Chairman's Letter in the March/April 2003 issue of ASSEMBLY "What a great tribute to [all graduates] and dear friends who recognized how much the 'margin of excellence' enriches the cadets' experience."

EXPANDING AOG SERVICES

While AOG's Development team was busy raising funds for the Bicentennial Campaign, the AOG Alumni Support team was expanding services to graduates across a broad spectrum of programs. In fact, according to one Chairman and CEO Annual Report of this era, "the most rapidly expanding activity managed by the Association of Graduates is its Alumni Support Program."

In November 1996, the team hosted the first AOG Minority Alumni Conference. A year prior, the Association established the Minority Outreach Committee with the mission to enhance the participation of minority members in AOG programs and activities. More than 120 graduates and friends of West Point attended the first conference, raising and discussing issues of major concern to minority graduates. A second conference was held in April 1998. Attended by 107 participants, the objective of the conference was to translate those issues identified in 1996 into action plans to achieve specific objectives related to minority cadet recruiting, the experience of minority cadets at the Academy, AOG support of minority graduates, and fundraising for minority-related projects.

Another new initiative that emerged during this time was the 50-Year Affiliation Program. In 1999, the Class of 1949 asked the Superintendent if it could present second lieutenant bars, inscribed with "49-99," to the graduates of the Class of 1999. The Superintendent agreed, and four members of the Class of 1949 greeted each cadet as he or she left the dais, diploma in hand, and presented the bars. Called a "friend raising" program by the Alumni Support team, the 50-year Affiliation Program later expanded to include a class flag presented to the yearling class as it completed summer training at Camp Buckner and a class coin presented to the cow class upon their taking the affirmation oath. Today, the 50-Year Affiliation Program features eight formal events and a handful of unofficial events at which cadets "Grip Hands" with those who preceded them a half-century earlier, including R-Day, A-Day, Plebe Class Crest Unveiling, Yearling CFT Class Flag Presentation, Cow Affirmation, Ring Weekend, Branch Night and Graduation.

Finally, in November 2000, AOG inaugurated the Class Ring Memorial Program. Proposed by Ron Turner '58 in the May/June 1999 edition of *ASSEMBLY*, the "Ring Melt," as it is more popularly known, has today become one of AOG's most revered traditions. As described by Turner, the program involves "graduates bequeathing (or graduates' descendants donating) West Point class rings for the specific purpose of incorporating the gold into the class rings of future graduates." Demonstrating that he had a long-term "tradition" in mind when he proposed his idea, Turner also recommended retaining some gold shavings after each melt so that these could be placed in the following year's melt, thus ensuring each year's "Memorial Gold ingot . . . would contain some of every ring donated." To date, a total of 575 rings have been donated, spanning the classes of 1896 to 1997. All graduates' rings from the classes of 2002-2020 contain this "legacy gold" from the Class Ring Memorial Program.

NEW GOVERNANCE, NEW OPERATIONS

With growth in the number of services it offered and the amount of money it was raising, AOG began considering changes to its organizational structure soon after the conclusion of the Bicentennial Campaign. At the same time, legislation proposed by New York's Attorney General requiring non-profit organizations in the state to follow practices similar to the Sarbanes-Oxley corporate reforms, which Congress enacted during this period, also prompted AOG to consider changes to its governance model. Thus, in 2003, AOG formed the 2020 Governance Committee, which presented the results of its yearlong study to the Board of Trustees in January 2005.

According to the Governance Committee's findings, the AOG board structure of the time was inefficient: "too many people for effective ideas, too infrequent for full consideration, too little time for all issues, too cumbersome to act as needs demand." Furthermore, in the opinion of AOG's legal counsel at the time, the early 2000s governance model left its 54 Trustees exposed to potential personal liability. The Governance Committee's solution was the creation of a smaller Board of Directors (12-16 members), plus Chairman and Vice-Chairman, who would be legally and fiduciarily responsible for the Association, supported by a larger 57-member (ultimately reduced to 54-member)

Advisory Council made up of a representative group of class, society, and at-large members. The Governance Committee believed that the Advisory Council would provide AOG with broad graduate representation and participation while also accessing a wide diversity of skills and experiences. They also felt that service on the Advisory Council would be excellent training for future Board of Directors members. An additional change to note, the Governance Committee concluded that role of Chief Executive Officer should not remain with the Chairman but transfer to the AOG President, the person on-site in Herbert Alumni Center, who would have authority over the day-to-day affairs of the Association and the management of its staff. After careful consideration and multiple compromises, the modernization and rewrite of AOG's Bylaws was completed and voted on in March 2005, elections were held in the fall of 2005, and, for the first time since the 1920s, a new model of AOG governance took effect on January 1, 2006 under the chairmanship of Ted Stroup '62.

A year after receiving its new streamlined model of governance, AOG received a new name: the "West Point Association of Graduates" (WPAOG). Board of Trustee minutes show that AOG's Strategic Planning Committee had been considering the name change since 1998, as part of a larger effort to change the fundraising, marketing, and business organization efforts of the Association, but it wasn't implemented until WPAOG launched its redesigned website in September 2007. The timing of this coincided with "AOG Strategic Plan 2010," which the Board considered in May 2007. One of the considerations under discussion during this meeting was branding, and the Association's new name now incorporated what many consider to be one of the world's premiere brands—West Point.

The new website was the product of WPAOG's Information Systems Department (ISD), which had been established in 1996 to build and maintain AOG's hardware and software infrastructures. ISD also developed and executed the AOG Information Strategic Plan, which leveraged existing technology to enhance the ability to communicate information quickly via electronic means. In 1997, this plan led to a test program that provided classes with a notification of the death of one its members within 24 hours after confirmation by AOG. That same year, AOG purchased software that enabled it to create real-time distribution of news items and articles. This was the beginning of today's Death Notification System (DNS), which each day receives and verifies death notifications and then sends out daily updates to Class and Society leaders (on average 400 per year).

Given the emphasis on improving communication with graduate members and on increasing awareness of the new WPAOG name change, it wasn't long before the Association created a specific department to address both needs. Effective communication had been a decade-long goal of AOG by 2009, and in August of that year, the Association began to seriously consider establishing an integrated communications team. One of the questions facing WPAOG at the time was what to do with *ASSEMBLY* magazine. Although beloved by many graduates, by 2009, less than 20 percent were subscribing to the magazine, which meant that the majority of graduates were not receiving news from their

alma mater. After much discussion and deliberation, WPAOG elected to follow the model of several peer alumni associations and produce a new quarterly magazine that would be mailed out free of charge to all graduates. West Point magazine debuted in January 2011, and in February WPAOG's Publications Directorate became part of the new Department of Communications and Marketing, which was charged with mastering new communications technologies in the internet era, becoming an ongoing source of information for graduates and promoting participation in WPAOG services.

At the same time, WPAOG's Finance Department continued its management of gift funds and endowments for West Point and the Long Gray Line, aided by expert advice from the Investment Committee. Today, WPAOG manages more than \$380 million in endowment funds, and the Association has received the highest rankings for transparency and efficient funds management from non-profit watchdogs Guidestar (Platinum) and Charity Navigator (4 stars).

In the early 2000s, AOG tried an innovative approach to building gift funded brick and mortar projects, which now encompass both new construction and renovation. WPAOG successfully managed the planning, design and construction of the Hoffman Press Box in 2002-03 and proffered the completed project as a gift to the government. The success of this approach led to it becoming the new model for gift-funded construction at West Point, and by 2019 WPAOG had completed over 170 projects, representing more than \$250 million donated by members of the Long Gray Line".

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM WHITE FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CON- GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM- MENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize William White of Helena for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and community.

Mr. White served in the U.S. Army for over 25 years, spanning from Vietnam to the Gulf Wars. He received multiple commendations during his time in the Army, including the Legion of Merit.

Mr. White has continued to serve his community. Volunteering at Fort Harrison Veterans Hospital, Mr. White has accumulated over 9500 hours serving in the office and as a driver. For his efforts, he earned a Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award. Additionally, he is an active member of the American Legion, serving as Post Commander for Post No. 2 in Helena, as the VA Volunteer Services Coordinator for the American Legion of Montana, and serves on the National Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation Commission.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending William White for his service to his country and community.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6579–S6614

Measures Introduced: Twenty-four bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2855–2878, and S. Res. 421–427. **Pages S6604–05**

Measures Passed:

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 72, directing the Clerk of the House to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2423.

Page S6586

White Horse Hill National Game Preserve Designation Act: Senate passed S. 2099, to redesignate the Sullys Hill National Game Preserve in the State of North Dakota as the White Horse Hill National Game Preserve.

Pages S6613–14

ONDCP Technical Corrections Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3889, to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 to make technical corrections, and the bill was then passed.

Page S6614

Women veterans of the Armed Forces Commemorative Stamp: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 415, expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative postage stamp series honoring women veterans of the Armed Forces and that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp series be issued, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S6614

Guru Nanak 550th birthday: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 393, recognizing the historical, cultural, and religious significance of the 550th birthday of Guru Nanak and the contributions and sacrifices made by Sikhs of the United States, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S6694

America Recycles Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 422, recognizing November 15, 2019, as "America Recycles Day" and expressing the sense of the Senate

that recycling promotes a healthy economy and responsible environmental stewardship.

Pages S6611, S6614

National Homeless Children and Youth Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 423, recognizing November 2019 as "National Homeless Children and Youth Awareness Month".

Pages S6611, S6614

Colorado Farm Bureau Federation 100th anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 424, recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Colorado Farm Bureau Federation and celebrating the long history of the Colorado Farm Bureau Federation representing the farmers and ranchers of Colorado.

Pages S6611–12, S6614

National Down Syndrome Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 425, designating October 2019 as "National Down Syndrome Awareness Month" and supporting the goals and ideals of National Down Syndrome Awareness Month.

Pages S6612, S6614

Luck Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Robert J. Luck, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Pages S6596, S6614

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, November 14, 2019, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2019.

Page S6596

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S6596

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S6596

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, November 18, 2019, Senate resume consideration of

the nomination; and that the motions to invoke cloture filed on Thursday, November 14, 2019, ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, November 18, 2019.

Page S6614

Lagoa Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Barbara Lagoa, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Page S6596

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 Robert J. Luck, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Page S6596

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S6596

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S6596

Zuckerman Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Adrian Zuckerman, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to Romania, Department of State.

Page S6596

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 Barbara Lagoa, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Page S6596

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S6596

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S6596

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 51 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 356), Steven J. Menashi, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Pages S6581–86, S6586–96

Messages from the House:

Pages S6603–04

Measures Referred:

Page S6604

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S6605–06

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S6607–10

Additional Statements:

Pages S6602–03

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Page S6613

Privileges of the Floor:

Page S6613

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—356)

Pages S6595–96

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:01 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6614.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Dan R. Brouillette, of Texas, to be Secretary of Energy, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Cassidy, Cruz, and Kennedy, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Peter Gaynor, of Rhode Island, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Reed, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION OVERSIGHT

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Smithsonian Institution, after receiving testimony from Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

NOMINATION

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Hugh Nathaniel Halpern, of Virginia, to be Director of the Government Publishing Office, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Blunt, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NONCOMPETE AGREEMENTS

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine noncompete agreements and American workers, including S. 124, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prevent employers from using non-compete agreements in employment contracts for certain non-exempt employees, and S. 2614, to prohibit certain noncompete agreements, after receiving testimony from Evan Starr, University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business, College Park; John W. Lettieri, Economic Innovation Group, Washington,

D.C.; and Keith A. Bollinger, Conover, North Carolina.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 34 public bills, H.R. 5080–5113; and 10 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 73–74; and H. Res. 698–705 were introduced. **Pages H8877–79**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H8880–81**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2247, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for programs and activities to protect the water quality of Puget Sound, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–290); and

H.R. 4275, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–291). **Page H8877**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H8829**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:49 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H8834**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Mr. Dipesh Pandya, BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, Warrington, Pennsylvania. **Pages H8834–35**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Pages H8835, H8845**

United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019: The House considered H.R. 4863, to promote the competitiveness of the United States, to reform and reauthorize the United States Export Finance Agency. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, November 15th. **Pages H8845–70**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–36 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill. **Pages H8856–59**

Agreed to:

Torres (CA) amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 116–289) that requires the Agency to emphasize outreach to tribal export businesses and to include in their annual report a summary of those outreach efforts and the provision of Agency support to tribal export businesses; **Pages H8859–60**

Tlaib amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 116–289) that requires the Agency to submit an annual report to Congress about the Agency's activities in economically disadvantaged regions and efforts to support businesses in those regions; also defines economically disadvantaged regions; **Pages H8865–66**

Case amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 116–289) that clarifies that, for the purpose of the Agency's Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, "minority" is understood to include Native Hawaiians and Alaska Natives; **Pages H8866–67**

Speier amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 116–289) that clarifies that the Bank's activities to support exports in energy efficiency technologies shall include activities to support exports in electric battery vehicles, batteries for electric vehicles, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure; and **Pages H8867–68**

Ruiz amendment (No. 9 printed in H. Rept. 116–289) that allows the U.S. Export Finance Agency to use surplus funds to expand or establish additional regional finance centers. **Pages H8868–70**

Proceedings Postponed:

Torres (CA) amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 116–289) that seeks to ensure that the Bank will not provide credit to any individual who is subject to sanctions related to serious violations of human rights or free speech, including in China and Burma; **Pages H8860–61**

Flores amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 116–289) that seeks to strike Section 13 and create the office of energy efficiency and clean energy exports which advises the EXIM board on ways to improve the export of goods and services that increase energy efficiency and clean energy abroad; requires the EXIM bank to consider energy affordability as well as environmental impacts before approving

transactions, and requires the EXIM bank to include in its annual report the impacts of any transaction backed by the Bank on the cost of energy in the importing country and the estimated emissions reductions caused by exports financed by the Bank;

Pages H8861–62

McAdams amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 116–289) that seeks to expand the prohibition of the Board of Directors from approving a transaction unless the person receiving the Agency's support certifies that the person does not engage in any activity in contravention of any U.S. law, regulation, or order concerning sanctions relating to the illegal trafficking of synthetic opioids, including any sanctions imposed pursuant to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act; and

Pages H8862–63

Davidson (OH) amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 116–289) that seeks to prohibit Agency assistance for the governments of certain countries (including China and Mexico) unless the President certifies that the government is cooperating with the U.S. to prevent illegal trafficking of synthetic opioids.

Pages H8863–65

H. Res. 695, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4863) was agreed to by a yeas-and-nays vote of 228 yeas to 198 nays, Roll No. 616, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 226 yeas to 198 nays, Roll No. 615. Pursuant to H. Res. 695, H. Res. 661 and H. Res. 693 are considered as adopted.

Pages H8838–45

Discharge Petition: Representative Rodney Davis presented to the clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on Financial Services from consideration of the bill (H.R. 3407) to strengthen the competitiveness of the United States, to modernize and reform the United States Export Finance Agency, and for other purposes (Discharge Petition No. 4).

Senate Referral: S. 2851 was held at the desk.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H8845.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H8843–44 and H8844–45. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Committee Meetings

SAFEGUARDING AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FROM WILD, INVASIVE, AND NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture held a hearing entitled “Safeguarding American Agriculture from Wild, Invasive, and Non-Native Species”. Testimony was heard from Ric Ortega, General Manager, Grassland Water District, Los Banos, California; Beth Thompson, State Veterinarian, Minnesota, and Executive Director, Minnesota Board of Animal Health; and public witnesses.

OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION'S FAILURES AT VA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection's Failures at VA”. Testimony was heard from Tamara Bonzanto, Assistant Secretary for Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Michael J. Missal, Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs.

THE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: THE VIEW FROM THE FEDERAL RESERVE

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Economic Outlook: The View from the Federal Reserve”. Testimony was heard from Jerome H. Powell, Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce held a markup on H.R. 3851, the “Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2019”; and H.R. 4779, to extend the Undertaking Spam, Spyware, And Fraud Enforcement With Enforcers beyond Borders Act of 2006, and for other purposes. H.R. 3851 was forwarded to the full Committee, as amended. H.R. 4779 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a markup on H.R. 4229, the “Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability Act”; H.R. 4227, the “Mapping Accuracy Promotes Services Act”; H.R. 5000, the “Studying How to Harness Airwave Resources Efficiently Act of 2019”; H.R. 4998, the “Secure and Trusted Communications Networks

Act”; H.R. 4461, the “Network Security Information Sharing Act of 2019”; H.R. 2881, the “Secure 5G and Beyond Act of 2019”; H.R. 4500, the “Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2019”; H. Res. 575, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all stakeholders in the deployment of 5G communications infrastructure should carefully consider and adhere to the recommendation of “The Prague Proposals”; and H.R. 5035, the “Television Viewer Protection Act”. H.R. 4227, H.R. 5000, H.R. 5035 were forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment. H.R. 4229, H.R. 4998, H.R. 4461, H.R. 2881, H.R. 4500, H. Res. 575 were forwarded to the full Committee, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 2445, the “Self-Employed Mortgage Act”; H.R. 3490, the “Small Business Lending Fairness Act”; H.R. 3948, the “Debt Collection Practices Harmonization Act”; H.R. 4403, the “Stop Debt Collection Abuse Act”; H.R. 5021, the “Ending Debt Collection Harassment Act of 2019”; H.R. 2398, to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 and title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the HUD–VASH program, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit annual reports to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives regarding homeless veterans, and for other purposes; H.R. 5003, the “Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act”; H.R. 5001, the “Non-Judicial Foreclosure Debt Collection Clarification Act”; and H.R. 5013, the “Small Business Fair Debt Collection Protection Act”. H.R. 4403, H.R. 3490, H.R. 5001, H.R. 5013, H.R. 3948, H.R. 5021, H.R. 2398, and H.R. 5003 were ordered reported, as amended.

THE U.S. POLICY IN THE SAHEL REGION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “The U.S. Policy in the Sahel Region”. Testimony was heard from Whitney Baird, Deputy Assistant Secretary for West Africa and Security Affairs, Bureau of African Affairs, Department of State; and Cheryl Anderson, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF BAIL BY STATE AND FEDERAL COURTS: A CALL FOR REFORM

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing

entitled “The Administration of Bail by State and Federal Courts: A Call for Reform”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE USE OF “SNAP” REMOVALS TO CIRCUMVENT THE FORUM DEFENDANT RULE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet held a hearing entitled “Examining the Use of “Snap” Removals to Circumvent the Forum Defendant Rule”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on H.R. 4248, the “Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Amendments of 2019”. Testimony was heard from Representative Cartwright; John Stefanko, Deputy Secretary, Office of Active and Abandoned Mine Operations, Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania, and Member, Interstate Mining Compact Commission; Alan Edwards, Deputy Director, Department of Environmental Quality, Wyoming, and Administrator, Wyoming Abandoned Mine Land Program, Cheyenne, Wyoming; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF NOAA’S REPORT ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing entitled “Oversight of NOAA’s Report on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing”. Testimony was heard from Alexa Cole, Acting Director of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING STATE EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Examining State Efforts to Undermine Access to Reproductive Health Care”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4979, the “Rural STEM Education Act”; H.R. 4704, the “Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act”; and H.R. 4990, the “Election Technology Research Act”. H.R. 4704, H.R. 4990, and H.R. 4979 were ordered reported, as amended.

WATER AND GEOTHERMAL POWER: UNEARTHING THE NEXT WAVE OF ENERGY INNOVATION

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “Water and Geothermal Power: Unearthing the Next Wave of Energy Innovation”. Testimony was heard from David Solan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Renewable Power, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy; Joseph Moore, Manager, Utah Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

ASSESSING THE GOVERNMENT’S ROLE IN SERVING RURAL AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESSES (PART ONE)

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship held a hearing entitled “Assessing the Government’s Role in Serving Rural American Small Businesses (Part One)”. Testimony was heard from Bette Brand, Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA-Rural Development, Department of Agriculture; and Michelle Christian, National Director, Office of Rural Affairs, U.S. Small Business Administration.

A FAIR PLAYING FIELD? INVESTIGATING BIG TECH’S IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESS

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “A Fair Playing Field? Investigating Big Tech’s Impact on Small Business”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

COMMERCIAL AND PASSENGER VESSEL SAFETY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled “Commercial and Passenger Vessel Safety: Challenges and Opportunities”. Testimony was heard from Rear Admiral Richard V. Timme, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, U.S. Coast Guard; Richard Balzano, Deputy Administrator, U.S. Maritime Administration; Brian Curtis, Director, Office of Marine Safety, National Transportation Safety Board; and public witnesses.

CYBERSECURITY CHALLENGES AND CYBER RISK MANAGEMENT AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled “Cybersecurity Challenges and Cyber Risk Management at the Department of Veterans Affairs”. Testimony was heard from Paul Cunningham, Deputy Assistant Secretary and Chief Information Security Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs; Nick Dahl, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Greg Wilshusen, Director of Information Technology and Cybersecurity, Government Accountability Office.

CARING FOR AGING AMERICANS

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Caring for Aging Americans”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MEMBER DAY

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Deutch, Chairman Kilmer, and Representatives Underwood, McCollum, Davis of California, Barragán, Ted Lieu of California, Bustos, Reed, Lee of California, Kaptur, Beyer, Phillips, DeFazio, Schneider, Peters, Axne, Tonko, Shalala, Stanton, Pingree, Schrier, Kennedy, Rouda, Mucarsel-Powell, and Malinowski.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Impeachment Inquiry: Ambassador Marie ‘Masha’ Yovanovitch”, 9 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Administrative Efficiencies: Exploring Options to Streamline Operations in the U.S. House of Representatives”, 9:30 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, November 18

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, November 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Robert J. Luck, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Complete consideration of H.R. 4863—United States Export Finance Agency Act of 2019.

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