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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR RAPE

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, two Stanford students were biking one night when they noticed a half naked woman lying motionless behind a dumpster with a male student on top of her. When they confronted the attacker, the man took off in the darkness of the night. The Good Samaritans were able to catch the coward and knock him to the ground. The woman, just 22 years of age at the time, was being raped, and the rapist was caught in the act.

When the victim regained consciousness, she was on a gurney, covered with pine needles, and was bleeding. Her assailant was Brock Turner, a scholarship swimmer at Stanford. Brock was found guilty of sexual assault on three counts. His sentence? A mere 6 months in prison and 3 years probation. Because the judge said "a prison sentence would have a severe impact on him." Well, isn't that the point?

Mr. Speaker, the punishment for rape should be longer than a semester in college. The defendant's dad called it a

"steep price to pay for 20 minutes of action." Clearly, Brock is a chip off the old block and daddy will never be named father of the year.

For many victims, Mr. Speaker, rape is a fate worse than death. Here is why. Because rape victims say that after being raped, they die emotionally many times; and with homicide, one dies only once.

After the sentencing, the brave victim read, Mr. Speaker, a 7,200-word statement to her attacker, the rapist. She said in part:

"I tried to push it out of my mind, but it was so heavy I didn't talk, I didn't eat, I didn't sleep, I didn't interact with anyone. I became isolated from the ones I loved the most. After I learned about the graphic details of my own sexual assault, the news article listed his swimming times, saying 'by the way, he's really good at swimming.'"

"I was the wounded antelope of the herd, completely alone and vulnerable, physically unable to fend for myself, and he chose me. During the investigation, I was pummeled with narrowed, pointed questions that dissected my personal life, love life, past life, family life, inane questions, accumulating trivial details to try and find an excuse for this guy who had me half naked before even bothering to ask for my name.

"My damage was internal, unseen, I carry it with me. You took away my worth, my privacy, my energy, my time, my safety, my intimacy, my confidence, my own voice.

"While you worry about your shattered reputation, I can't sleep alone at night without having a light on, like a 5-year-old, because I have nightmares of being touched where I cannot wake up. I did this thing where I waited until the sun came up and I felt safe enough to sleep."

Mr. Speaker, I was a prosecutor and a criminal court judge in Texas for

over 30 years. I met a lot of rape victims and learned how these attacks sometimes devastate their lives.

This judge got it wrong. There is an archaic philosophy in some courts "that sin ain't sin as long as good folk do it." In this case, the court and the defendant's father wanted a pass for the rapist because he was a big-shot swimmer. The judge should be removed.

The rapist should do more time for the dastardly deed that he did that night. This arrogant defendant has appealed the sentence. I hope the appeals court does grant the appeal and make it right and overturn the pathetic sentence and give him the punishment he deserves.

As a country, Mr. Speaker, we must change our mentality and make sure that people recognize sexual assault and rape for the horrible crimes that they are. As a grandfather of 11, I want to know that my granddaughters are growing up in a society that has zero tolerance for this criminal conduct. No means no. A woman who is unconscious does not even have the ability to consent or fight back.

Victims, like this remarkable woman, must know that society and the justice system are on their side. Too often the focus is on defending, protecting, and excusing sex offenders like Brock Turner. The entitlement mentality, being a good college athlete, and self-righteousness do not trump justice.

In 6 months, when Brock Turner is out of prison, he will return to his life, but the life of the victim may never be the same. The criminal has given her a life sentence of mental pain, anguish, and turmoil. Mr. Speaker, when rape occurs, the criminal is trying to steal the very soul of the victim.

Justice demands the judge be removed. The defendant should receive more time in prison. We, the people,

□ 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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the community, must support and assist the victim in all possible ways because, Mr. Speaker, rape is never the fault of the victim.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the statement of the victim in this case.

THIS IS A PARTIAL EXCERPT OF A 7,200 WORD STATEMENT FROM THE STANFORD RAPE VICTIM

"Your Honor, if it is all right, for the majority of this statement I would like to address the defendant directly. You don't know me, but you've been inside me, and that's why we're here today.

On January 17th, 2015, it was a quiet Saturday night at home. My dad made some dinner and I sat at the table with my younger sister who was visiting for the weekend. I was working full time and it was approaching my bed time. I planned to stay at home by myself, watch some TV and read, while she went to a party with her friends. Then, I decided it was my only night with her, I had nothing better to do, so why not, there's a dumb party ten minutes from my house, I would go, dance like a fool, and embarrass my younger sister. On the way there, I joked that undergrad guys would have braces. My sister teased me for wearing a beige cardigan to a frat party like a librarian. I called myself 'big mama', because I knew I'd be the oldest one there. I made silly faces, let my guard down, and drank liquor too fast not factoring in that my tolerance had significantly lowered since college. The next thing I remember I was in a gurney in a hallway. I had dried blood and bandages on the backs of my hands and elbow. I thought maybe I had fallen and was in an admin office on campus. I was very calm and wondering where my sister was. A deputy explained I had been assaulted. I still remained calm, assured he was speaking to the wrong person. I knew no one at this party. When I was finally allowed to use the restroom, I pulled down the hospital pants they had given me, went to pull down my underwear, and felt nothing. I still remember the feeling of my hands touching my skin and grabbing nothing. I looked down and there was nothing. The thin piece of fabric, the only thing between my vagina and anything else, was missing and everything inside me was silenced. I still don't have words for that feeling. In order to keep breathing, I thought maybe the policemen used scissors to cut them off for evidence. . . .

On that morning, all that I was told was that I had been found behind a dumpster, potentially penetrated by a stranger, and that I should get retested for HIV because results don't always show up immediately. But for now, I should go home and get back to my normal life. Imagine stepping back into the world with only that information. They gave me huge hugs and I walked out of the hospital into the parking lot wearing the new sweatshirt and sweatpants they provided me, as they had only allowed me to keep my necklace and shoes. . . . My sister picked me up, face wet from tears and contorted in anguish. Instinctively and immediately, I wanted to take away her pain. I smiled at her, I told her to look at me, I'm right here, I'm okay, everything's okay, I'm right here. My hair is washed and clean, they gave me the strangest shampoo, calm down, and look at me. Look at these funny new sweatpants and sweatshirt, I look like a P.E. teacher, let's go home, let's eat something. She did not know that beneath my sweatsuit, I had scratches and bandages on my skin, my vagina was sore and had become a strange, dark color from all the prodding, my under-

wear was missing, and I felt too empty to continue to speak. That I was also afraid, that I was also devastated. That day we drove home and for hours in silence my younger sister held me. My boyfriend did not know what happened, but called that day and said, 'I was really worried about you last night, you scared me, did you make it home okay?' I was horrified. That's when I learned I had called him that night in my blackout, left an incomprehensible voicemail, that we had also spoken on the phone, but I was slurring so heavily he was scared for me, that he repeatedly told me to go find [my sister]. Again, he asked me, 'What happened last night? Did you make it home okay?' I said yes, and hung up to cry.

You said, Being drunk I just couldn't make the best decisions and neither could she.

Alcohol is not an excuse. Is it a factor? Yes. But alcohol was not the one who stripped me, fingered me, had my head dragging against the ground, with me almost fully naked. Having too much to drink was an amateur mistake that I admit to, but it is not criminal. Everyone in this room has had a night where they have regretted drinking too much, or knows someone close to them who has had a night where they have regretted drinking too much. Regretting drinking is not the same as regretting sexual assault. We were both drunk, the difference is I did not take off your pants and underwear, touch you inappropriately, and run away. That's the difference.

You said, If I wanted to get to know her, I should have asked for her number, rather than asking her to go back to my room.

I'm not mad because you didn't ask for my number. Even if you did know me, I would not want to be in this situation. My own boyfriend knows me, but if he asked to finger me behind a dumpster, I would slap him. No girl wants to be in this situation. Nobody. I don't care if you know their phone number or not.

My independence, natural joy, gentleness, and steady lifestyle I had been enjoying became distorted beyond recognition. I became closed off, angry, self deprecating, tired, irritable, empty. The isolation at times was unbearable. You cannot give me back the life I had before that night either. While you worry about your shattered reputation, I refrigerated spoons every night so when I woke up, and my eyes were puffy from crying, I would hold the spoons to my eyes to lessen the swelling so that I could see. I showed up an hour late to work every morning, excused myself to cry in the stairwells, I can tell you all the best places in that building to cry where no one can hear you. The pain became so bad that I had to explain the private details to my boss to let her know why I was leaving. I needed time because continuing day to day was not possible. I used my savings to go as far away as I could possibly be. I did not return to work full time as I knew I'd have to take weeks off in the future for the hearing and trial, that were constantly being rescheduled. My life was put on hold for over a year, my structure had collapsed.

I can't sleep alone at night without having a light on, like a five year old, because I have nightmares of being touched where I cannot wake up, I did this thing where I waited until the sun came up and I felt safe enough to sleep. For three months, I went to bed at six o'clock in the morning.

You cannot give me back my sleepless nights. The way I have broken down sobbing uncontrollably if I'm watching a movie and a woman is harmed, to say it lightly, this experience has expanded my empathy for other victims. I have lost weight from stress, when people would comment I told them I've been running a lot lately. There are times I did not want to be touched. I have to relearn

that I am not fragile, I am capable, I am wholesome, not just livid and weak.

He is a lifetime sex registrant. That doesn't expire. Just like what he did to me doesn't expire, doesn't just go away after a set number of years. It stays with me, it's part of my identity, it has forever changed the way I carry myself, the way I live the rest of my life.

To conclude, I want to say thank you. To everyone from the intern who made me oatmeal when I woke up at the hospital that morning, to the deputy who waited beside me, to the nurses who calmed me, to the detective who listened to me and never judged me, to my advocates who stood unwaveringly beside me, to my therapist who taught me to find courage in vulnerability, to my boss for being kind and understanding, to my incredible parents who teach me how to turn pain into strength, to my grandma who snuck chocolate into the courtroom throughout this to give to me, my friends who remind me how to be happy, to my boyfriend who is patient and loving, to my unconquerable sister who is the other half of my heart, to Alaleh, my idol, who fought tirelessly and never doubted me. Thank you to everyone involved in the trial for their time and attention. Thank you to girls across the nation that wrote cards to my DA to give to me, so many strangers who cared for me.

Most importantly, thank you to the two men who saved me, who I have yet to meet. I sleep with two bicycles that I drew taped above my bed to remind myself there are heroes in this story. That we are looking out for one another. To have known all of these people, to have felt their protection and love, is something I will never forget.

And finally, to girls everywhere, I am with you. On nights when you feel alone, I am with you. When people doubt you or dismiss you, I am with you. I fought every day for you. So never stop fighting, I believe you. As the author Anne Lamott once wrote, 'Light-houses don't go running all over an island looking for boats to save; they just stand there shining.' Although I can't save every boat, I hope that by speaking today, you absorbed a small amount of light, a small knowing that you can't be silenced, a small satisfaction that justice was served, a small assurance that we are getting somewhere, and a big, big knowing that you are important, unquestionably, you are untouchable, you are beautiful, you are to be valued, respected, undeniably, every minute of every day, you are powerful and nobody can take that away from you. To girls everywhere, I am with you. Thank you."

CARBON TAX AND OIL TAX

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments from my friend from Texas. They are important to consider.

I am going to shift gears for a moment. I have another issue to talk about today. To a certain extent, I have great sympathy for my Republican colleagues. They have been stuck with a standard-bearer for their party, who is a bigot, a bully, a liar, a misogynist, with no discernible qualifications for the high office that he seeks. But they are not helping themselves by trying to shift the subject of debate here on the floor of the House.

Tomorrow, we are going to be taking a stand against a couple of what they think are unpopular ideas. It is too bad that the proposals we will be debating on were never considered by our Ways and Means Committee. One, a sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be bad for the economy. And the other, opposition to the President's proposal for a \$10 a barrel fee on oil.

The carbon tax ironically is something that most of the economists who have studied it—whether they are conservative, liberal, Republican or Democrat—agree would be a good policy for this country. A carbon tax is the most efficient way to deal with the serious problems of carbon pollution that is already harming the economy.

Look at the disruption of the fishing industry and the widespread flooding we have seen that has been unprecedented. We are about to go into another egregious forest fire season with huge costs economically, as well as to forest health. We have wildly unpredictable weather—unprecedented heat. In Portland, Oregon, last weekend, it was 100 degrees for both days.

A carbon tax would harness market forces to be able to change that direction more effectively than other initiatives. A carbon tax actually can be designed to cushion impacts on low- to moderate-income people. In fact, it actually could be designed to help low- to moderate-income people. A blanket dismissal of what economists think is our best economic environmental protection is shortsighted. It is too bad that we didn't debate it in committee.

The other resolution, the opposition to the President's barrel tax, misses the point entirely. It suggests that that is somehow going to be detrimental. Wait a minute. The barrel fee would be used to rebuild and renew America. We have been in a desperate situation. We haven't raised the gas tax since 1993. It has made it almost impossible to move forward with a robust transportation bill to deal with the problem. America is falling apart while we are falling behind. That is why seven red Republican States last year raised the gas tax. We couldn't even talk about it here in Congress.

Using a barrel fee of \$10 per barrel will enable us to make significant investments in rebuilding and renewing America. The Standard & Poor 500 research report of a couple of years ago pointed out that investment in infrastructure has a significant impact on the economy. \$1.2 billion creates almost 30,000 jobs, creates \$2 billion worth of economic activity, reduces the Federal deficit \$200 million, and we get the benefit of improved infrastructure.

That is why every major interest group supported raising revenues for transportation. When I introduced the gas tax increase, it was supported by the American Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO, by truckers, AAA, engineers, and contractors. Virtually everybody who builds, uses, maintains, or

owns American infrastructure said, Raise this fee, help us rebuild and renew America.

I think the only thing wrong with the President's proposal is that it is several years too late. We should have been debating this from the outset, particularly when petroleum prices have fallen precipitously, and when America's infrastructure continues to deteriorate. It is sad that we didn't have a robust debate in committee. We will have a little bit of discussion tomorrow. But it is too little and too late.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward presumptive nominees for the Office of President.

HONORING GENERAL GORDON SULLIVAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired General Gordon Sullivan for his accomplishments in over 54 years of total service to the soldiers, veterans, family members, the civilians of the United States Army, and this great Nation.

General Sullivan, raised in Quincy, Massachusetts, was commissioned a second lieutenant of armor in 1959. After a distinguished career spanning 36 years in uniform and serving in command level throughout the Army, his career culminated as the 32nd chief of staff of the United States Army.

On the occasion of his retirement from the Army, former Senator Bob Dole spoke of General Sullivan's caring leadership, sage counsel, and common-sense approach as he navigated the Army through a challenging period of significant downsizing and restructuring.

Senator Dole stated, "Our Army will sorely miss General Sullivan, but it is stronger and better for his service. The legacy he leaves—a ready Army, a future force that will be unmatched, and the deep love and devotion of his soldiers—is fitting of this great man."

After serving in uniform for almost four decades, General Sullivan continued to advocate on behalf of the Army as president of the Association of the United States Army for the past 18 years. His tireless efforts, ensuring our soldiers and their families had the best training and resources and that our veterans returning from combat received the best care, have been unmatched and are a true testament to this great man of character and conviction.

Under General Sullivan's executive leadership, the Association of the United States Army broadly expanded support and outreach to the Army families, the Army National Guard and Army Reserve, and the Department of Army Civilians by the promotion, establishment, and support of countless

programs and events at the national and local levels.

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Additionally, the Association of the United States Army generously contributed millions of dollars to veteran and soldier support programs, such as the Fisher House Foundation, the Center for the Intrepid, and the Army Emergency Relief.

Mr. Speaker, I first met General Sullivan 18 years ago, which was the week he started as the president of AUSA, when I served as an escort officer for the Senior Conference at the United States Military Academy at West Point. I was serving on the faculty at that time. I was struck by General Sullivan's graciousness, his humility, and the way he lived his life by conviction and integrity. I remain a huge fan to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of a grateful Nation to thank General Gordon Sullivan and his family for their over five decades of service to our Army. His leadership has directly enhanced the readiness of the United States Army. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting him and in wishing him well in his retirement.

THE COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, it is utterly disappointing that Donald J. Trump chose to use the court of public opinion in his attempt to defend against a civil fraud claim involving Trump University.

Last week, Donald Trump made disparaging statements about the trial judge. He suggested that the trial judge is incapable of objectively judging the case because of his Mexican heritage. He went on to say that the judge was a hater of Donald Trump's. The footage is being played over and over on television, and many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to their credit, have found these statements to be unacceptable.

In my humble opinion, Mr. Speaker, these statements rise to the level of contempt of court. They are racially based, and the litigant should be sanctioned. The Trump statements are perceived by millions of people to be race based and a discredit to the judiciary. It must be addressed.

Based on my years as a lawyer and as a judge, it is clear that, if a litigant feels that the judge cannot be fair and impartial in a case, the litigant has a duty to inform his counsel. Counsel then has an obligation to file motions of recusal that set out, with particularity, the grounds for the motion. This was not done, and I suspect it was not done because no evidence of bias even exists. If the attorneys chose to make such a reckless claim, the attorneys would be subject to discipline.

What would motivate a litigant in a class action civil fraud case to announce to millions of people that the judge is incapable of objectively judging his case because of his Mexican heritage?

It is bizarre. It is suspicious behavior.

One explanation is that the litigant, unable to convince his attorney to address these issues in court, wants to intimidate the judge and eventually force the judge off the case, which would slow the administration of justice and would postpone the trial for months, even years. The court system, Mr. Speaker, does not work that way.

These statements have put the attorneys in an ethical dilemma of whether they should repudiate the statement or not. Codes of Professional Conduct require an attorney to address client misconduct, to address it with the bar, to address it with the court, and to seek guidance on further representation.

Mr. Speaker, this is an egregious violation of litigant misconduct. The court and the attorneys bear responsibility for protecting the integrity of the judiciary and the judicial system. Donald Trump's lawyers must avow or disavow their client's misconduct. The integrity of an independent judiciary is clearly impacted by these inappropriate statements.

RELEASE WILDIN ACOSTA FROM DETENTION

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Riverside High School in Durham, North Carolina, held its graduation ceremony. Among the pomp and circumstance, one student who should have graduated with his class was, sadly, absent.

Wildin Acosta is a Honduran national who fled his country after the violence and threats to his life became so great that he risked everything to embark on a harrowing 17-day journey to the United States, all at the tender age of 17. He was classified as an Unaccompanied Minor and was eventually reunited with his parents in Durham, where he planted deep roots in the community and thrived at Riverside High School.

Instead of graduating yesterday with his classmates, he sits in an ICE detention facility in Georgia after being arrested by ICE agents while he was on his way to school. Led by his classmates, the Durham community has been unanimous in calling for the end of recent ICE raids that have spread fear throughout our community and schools.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, stand in support of Wildin, and I continue to fight for his release. I encourage my colleagues to fight with me and to implore the ICE Director and the Department of Homeland Security Secretary to use their discretion to release Wildin and others like him from detention.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN JEFFREY KUSS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Marine Corps Captain Jeffrey Kuss, a pilot with the Navy's elite Blue Angels flying squadron, who tragically lost his life in a fatal crash just over 1 week ago.

This week is the first-ever Navy Week in Syracuse, New York, in my district, which is marked by a series of local outreach efforts that are focused on translating the mission of the U.S. Navy to our community.

The week was expected to culminate with a performance of the Blue Angels at the Syracuse Hancock International Airport Airshow. Tragically, Marine Corps Captain Jeff Kuss, a married father of two young children, was killed when his jet crashed 2 miles from a runway near Nashville, Tennessee.

Captain Kuss, a native of Durango, Colorado, devoted his life to serving our country as a U.S. marine—joining the Blue Angels in September of 2014. At 32 years old, he had accumulated more than 1,400 flight hours and 175 carrier-arrested landings. His decorations include the Strike/Flight Air Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various personal and unit awards.

While the Syracuse Airshow will go on without the Blue Angels this weekend, our community is deeply saddened by the loss of this fallen pilot, and the show will celebrate and pay tribute to his life.

As Captain Kuss' family and the Blue Angels team grieve this tremendous loss, this weekend, central New York will remember and honor his life and service to our great Nation.

Semper Fi Marine.

MUHAMMAD ALI—THE GREATEST

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

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Muhammad Ali was, indeed, the greatest, and he spent considerable time in Chicago. Therefore, I got the opportunity to meet and know him. On occasion, I would visit with my friends Frank Lipscomb, Wallace Davis, Jr., and Ralph Metcalf, Jr., and we would visit with him in his Kenwood home and at meetings. Although Muhammad Ali was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, those of us who lived in Chicago embraced Ali as a fellow Chicagoan because of his relationship to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, who was with the Nation of Islam, and because of his involvement and engagement with the larger community. Muhammad Ali was not only the best boxer in the world, but during his heyday, he was a genuine hero to everyday people who felt that he was a part of them.

In 1966, 2 years after winning the heavyweight title, he refused to be conscripted into the military, citing his religious beliefs and opposition to the American involvement in the Vietnam war. He was eventually arrested, found guilty of draft evasion, and stripped of his boxing titles. He successfully appealed in the U.S. Supreme Court, which overturned his conviction in 1971. By that time, he had not fought for nearly 4 years and lost a period of peak performance as an athlete. Ali's actions as a conscientious objector to the war made him an icon for those who opposed the war.

With a record of 61 total fights, 56 wins—37 by knockouts—and just five losses, Muhammad Ali was, obviously, a superb athlete, but he was so much more. He was a humanitarian, a principled man. He was proud of his heritage, proud of his abilities, and proud of his accomplishments.

Muhammad Ali, a soldier in the people's army. I salute you.

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA'S SENIORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the importance of improving health care for America's seniors.

Living out one's golden years to the max can come with its share of challenges, especially as it relates to health care, which is why fighting for our seniors and improving their quality of care must always be a top priority. Whether at meetings in my Long Island office, my mobile office hours, or at various other events in my district in Suffolk County, New York, I have met with seniors who are struggling with balancing health challenges while being on fixed incomes.

Many cite a lack of healthcare options and a difficulty in gaining access to quality and affordable health care as a result of ObamaCare. There are also serious concerns over the solvency of Social Security and Medicare, which many seniors rely on for both financial and healthcare security.

As health challenges arise and seniors budgeting based on a fixed income, we should do everything we can to ensure that those who need medical care and attention are able to access quality care at an affordable price without having to jump through hoops. They also should be assured that the programs and benefits they rely on will always be there for them. ObamaCare has significantly impacted our seniors and their access to quality and affordable health care. I frequently hear concerns about lost doctors, canceled policies, and higher premiums and deductibles.

Earlier this year, Congress passed the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act, which would repeal many of the flawed major provisions under ObamaCare over a period of 2 years—specifically, many of the

harmful mandates and taxes—so that we can increase seniors' access without compromising quality of care or efficiency. It is important to improve the quality of health care in our country for our Nation's seniors.

Congress has also taken action to improve Medicare. Over the past year, the House has passed a number of bills, including the Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act, the Medicare Beneficiary Preservation of Choice Act, and the Medicare Advantage enrollment bill—all proposals that would protect and preserve Medicare for our seniors who rely on it as well as to restore and expand the Medicare open enrollment period.

The House also took action and made significant reforms to Social Security and Medicare, saving millions of seniors from significantly increased healthcare costs. By working in a bipartisan fashion, Congress was able to stave off a massive premium hike for seniors who utilize Medicare part B. Without this action, approximately 8 million seniors across our country would have been subjected to a 52 percent premium hike for Medicare part B. In this bipartisan effort, action was taken to prevent a 20 percent across-the-board cut to Social Security disability benefits.

Moreover, in working across the aisle with my colleagues in the House, we were able to repeal the sustainable growth rate formula, also known as the doc fix, to prevent there being a 20 percent cut to Medicare. This action alone has been seen as the most significant Medicare reform that has taken place in years. Without this legislation, which is now law, many doctors would have simply stopped accepting new Medicare patients or would have even ceased in accepting Medicare altogether.

Congress has also been committed to passing legislation and securing funding to expand seniors' access to the most innovative technologies and treatments so that we can diagnose and treat diseases as early as possible.

Last year, the House passed the 21st Century Cures Act, bipartisan legislation I cosponsored in Congress to improve and modernize our Nation's health care. This legislation would accelerate the process for scientific advancement while providing desperately needed research funding so that we can provide the next generation of cures. It is our duty as Americans to always protect and improve the quality of life and care for our Nation's seniors.

If anyone in the First Congressional District of New York ever needs assistance or has questions about Social Security and Medicare or a Federal issue in general, I encourage you to contact my Long Island office at area code (631) 289-1097.

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STANFORD RAPE CASE AND SENTENCING

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, these are the facts: Brock Turner was found on top of an unconscious woman whose clothing he had removed. He tried to run away. The woman later found pine needles and dirt in her genitalia.

This is also a fact: Brock Turner was sentenced to a mere 6 months in county jail for committing the violent crime of rape, of which Turner will probably serve 3 months. Why? Because the judge said a longer sentence would have a "severe impact" on Turner. A severe impact? What a travesty.

All I could think of was Proverbs, which says: "A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain and a corrupt spring."

Our justice system must become better than this. Our educational system must become better than this. People must understand that rape is one of the most violent crimes a person can commit and not as Mr. TURNER's father said, "20 minutes of action."

I am working on several pieces of legislation to help survivors of sexual assault and harassment, including the HALT Act to strengthen prevention and enforcement efforts on campuses. But today I want to honor the courage of the woman who survived Brock Turner's violent assault. Her bravery inspires me, as I hope it will inspire you. I only have time to read an excerpt, but I encourage you to read the entire statement, all 7,000 words.

"You don't know me, but you've been inside me, and that's why we're here today."

"I was found unconscious, with my hair dishevelled, long necklace wrapped around my neck, bra pulled out of my dress, dress pulled off over my shoulders and pulled up above my waist, that I was butt naked all the way down to my boots, legs spread apart, and had been penetrated by a foreign object by someone I did not recognize."

"You are guilty. Twelve jurors convicted you guilty of three felony counts beyond reasonable doubt, that's twelve votes per count, thirty six yeses confirming guilt, that's one hundred percent, unanimous guilt."

"Alcohol is not an excuse . . . alcohol was not the one who stripped me, fingered me, had my head dragging against the ground, with me almost fully naked."

"Regretting drinking is not the same as regretting sexual assault. We were both drunk, the difference is I did not take off your pants and underwear, touch you inappropriately, and run away. That's the difference."

"How fast Brock swims does not lessen the severity of what happened to me, and should not lessen the severity of his punishment. If a first-time of-

fender from an underprivileged background was accused of three felonies and displayed no accountability for his actions other than drinking, what would his sentence be?

"The fact that Brock was an athlete at a private university should not be seen as an entitlement to leniency, but as an opportunity to send a message that sexual assault is against the law regardless of social class."

". . . to girls everywhere, I am with you. On nights when you feel alone, I am with you. When people doubt you or dismiss you, I am with you. I fought everyday for you. So never stop fighting, I believe you. As the author Anne Lamott once wrote, 'Lighthouses don't go running all over an island looking for boats to save; they just stand there shining.'

"Although I can't save every boat, I hope that by speaking today, you absorbed a small amount of light, a small knowing that . . . justice was served, a small assurance that we are getting somewhere, and a big, big knowing that you are important, unquestionably, you are untouchable, you are beautiful, you are to be valued, respected, undeniably, every minute of every day, you are powerful and nobody can take that away from you."

VOLUNTEERING THE MIDWEST WAY

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mary Gangl of Coon Rapids, Minnesota. Mary was recently awarded the Office Volunteer of the Year Sylvie, which is given annually by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Upper Midwest Chapter.

The Sylvie award was presented to Mary for her contributions to the society which works to improve the lives of those diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Mary spends nearly 400 hours a year volunteering at the office front desk where she helps with many important tasks as well as welcoming visitors and staff.

Multiple sclerosis is a debilitating disease of the central nervous system, which affects more than 2 million people worldwide. Those affected by this disease have devastating symptoms; and, unfortunately, at this time, there is no cure.

I want to thank Mary for dedicating so much of her time volunteering to help others. Your hard work is appreciated, and you truly deserve this award.

MINNESOTA HOME TO MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Minnesota-based company Sign-Zone for receiving a Manufacturers Alliance Manufacturer of the Year award for midsize businesses. Sign-Zone is highly deserving of this award, as it is one of

the fastest growing companies in the country as well as the Nation's leading provider in visual communication products and solutions.

Manufacturing is an incredibly important industry in the State of Minnesota. Our State is not only home to nearly 300,000 manufacturing jobs, but the industry brings billions of dollars to our economy every year, making it a key pillar of Minnesota's economy.

I commend Sign-Zone for bringing great business and excellent products to our community, but I also thank them for contributing to an industry that is so critically vital to our State.

Congratulations, Sign-Zone, and thank you for what you contribute to the great State of Minnesota.

MINNESOTA'S OWN PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of Minnesota's best and brightest, Sartell High School senior Gopi Ramanathan, who was recently named a 2016 Presidential Scholar.

Every year, up to 161 students can be named Presidential Scholars, making it one of the highest awards a high school student can receive. It is safe to say this achievement has gone to an incredibly deserving scholar.

Gopi Ramanathan has had an exceptionally successful high school career, and his resume includes a very long list of accolades and achievements. He is a two-time champion of the Minnesota State Geography Bee, and he was captain of the United States team that took first place at the 2013 National Geographic World Geography Bee.

Additionally, he is a member of the National Honor Society, a Big Brother mentor, a member of the student council, the president of the Minnesota Association of Student Councils, and a member of the Sartell soccer team.

Perhaps most notably, Gopi earned a perfect score of 36 on his ACTs, an accomplishment that puts him in the top one-tenth of 1 percent of students across this country.

It is an honor to recognize a student of such distinction here today, and I can say with absolute certainty that we will see more great things to come from this young man in the future.

ANOKA EDUCATOR HONORED AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anoka High School math teacher Paul Kelley for recently being honored at the White House in a ceremony for exceptional educators.

In addition to teaching math at Anoka High School for the past 29 years, Mr. Kelley serves on the board of directors for the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Along with four other teachers from around the country, Mr. Kelley was nominated for this recognition by the staff at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics headquarters.

During the ceremony at the White House, Paul had the chance to meet hundreds of other extraordinary teach-

ers as well as the Secretary of Education, John B. King, and Deputy Assistant to the President for Education, Roberto Rodriguez. Mr. Kelley also heard from President Obama, thanking the educators for their roles in educating today's youth.

A good teacher molds minds, sparks creativity, and gives students keys that can open all of life's doors. Congratulations, Mr. Kelley, on your recent achievement, and thank you for helping Minnesota students achieve their full potential.

THE STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise once again to discuss the harsh realities of homelessness in America and to call attention to the Republicans' so-called poverty agenda that simply ignores the fact that men, women, and children are sleeping on the streets of America, eating out of garbage cans, and using our sidewalks and streets for restrooms.

Homelessness is one of the most tragic and disappointing reminders of the overwhelming poverty in this country. According to the latest estimates, almost 600,000 Americans are homeless. It is a problem in virtually every district, and it affects people from very different walks of life: 37 percent of the homeless population are represented in families, 15 percent are chronically homeless, 8 percent are veterans, and 6.5 percent are children.

While there is a claim that some progress has been made to decrease homelessness in some communities, a lot more needs to be done, especially in some of our largest cities where homelessness is, sadly, increasing exponentially: in my hometown of Los Angeles, homelessness increased 20 percent between 2014 and 2015; in New York City, homelessness increased 11 percent between 2014 and 2015; and in Chicago, there was an 8 percent increase in that timeframe.

As public policymakers and Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to deal with problems and circumstances that undermine and harm our way of life. We are a people who cherish religion. In every religion, there is a reference to feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, and clothing the naked.

Where are the Republican Members who regularly hold prayer meetings, who attend church on Sunday in their districts, but yet they are supporting this fake poverty agenda that does not even mention homelessness? Where are the Members who claim to honor our veterans, yet walk past them on the sidewalk in their tents and sleeping under our bridges?

We know that we can functionally end homelessness and alleviate poverty in this country. We know that Federal

resources and the social safety nets are incredibly effective at lifting up struggling families. We know that if we properly support the Department of Housing and Urban Development and other Federal agencies that we could create the necessary housing units and provide the social services that our neighbors need to get off the streets.

What we need is, simply, the political will to get it done. Unfortunately, we do not have the support from Republicans whose sham of a poverty agenda released this week would only exacerbate homelessness and punish the poor.

Take the Republican approach to housing assistance, for example. For years, they have cut funding for HUD programs, leaving more than 75 percent of eligible families without any housing help at all. And their latest poverty plan recycles some of the most harmful changes Republicans have sought for our housing programs. They refuse to acknowledge the realities of unaffordable rents that require families to earn almost triple the minimum wage to be able to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment.

And they want to impose these so-called work requirements that simply don't work if you ignore the already high unemployment rates in certain areas as well as the need to invest in job training, education, child care, and other social services to make it possible for individuals to obtain stable employment. What the Republicans have put forth is truly the wrong way forward.

Fortunately, Democrats know what it takes; and when we talk about issues of homelessness in particular, there is a very simple solution to this very real problem. That is why I have introduced H.R. 4888, the Ending Homelessness Act of 2016.

Now, a lot of people will say: Oh, my goodness, did you see how much money is in that bill? This bill would devote over \$13 billion over 5 years to housing assistance programs and create the housing units and services that we so desperately need to get people off the streets.

□ 1045

So while others will point to this bill and talk about the cost of it, the fact of the matter is, this is the richest country in the world, and we spend money on so many other things that are not as important as taking care of our most vulnerable population.

So, yes, this is a \$13 billion bill. We have to stop playing with this issue and thinking it is going to go away simply because we don't want to acknowledge it. We have to pay for the possibility of ending this homelessness. I cannot bear the thought of children sleeping in their cars every night and getting up and going to school the next day.

ADDRESSING THE NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss one of the most serious issues facing the United States: the staggering national debt of over \$19 trillion. This equates to \$59,409 for every person living in our country.

While the national debt has grown almost \$9 trillion since President Obama was sworn in, here in Congress, we must work together to debate solutions that will address our country's debt and get our fiscal house back in order. Every day, families in south Florida sit around the dinner table and make tough decisions on how they will spend their money. They stick to their budgets, and their government should be no different.

Last October, I was proud to support a 2-year bipartisan budget agreement that implemented new caps on discretionary spending for both fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Too often, enormous sums are wasted due to unpredictable budget cycles and government shutdown threats. With the adoption of this 2-year budget, Congress was able to reduce wasteful government spending by providing certainty to agencies as they plan for the future.

The budget also contains reforms to entitlement programs. It is important that we protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid—the invaluable safety net for those who need the help—while working to implement reforms to make these programs solvent for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance solutions that will rein in our national debt. It is our duty as elected officials to leave our children and grandchildren the same economic opportunities as previous generations had. That is my highest priority in Congress.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH GEBARA

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joseph Gebara as he retires from his post as president of the Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSA. Mr. Gebara has been integral to the organization's mission of unlocking the potential present in every child.

Mr. Gebara, who held his post since 2014, has always maintained an unwavering focus on his goals, and has used his position to effectively serve our community. For years he has been at the helm of a movement which seeks to engage with south Florida families and provide them with the tools necessary to empower their children and set them on a path towards success.

Mr. Gebara has been firmly rooted in the south Florida community, which is evident through his service as board member of The Children's Trust as well as chairman of the Miami-Dade Public Schools Title I District Advisory Council. In those roles, Mr. Gebara worked tirelessly to facilitate collaboration between educators and families as well as increasing inclusivity so that every voice was heard, respected, and taken into consideration.

I commend Mr. Joe Gebara for his service to the south Florida community, and congratulate him on a job well done. Mr. Speaker, I can personally attest to the fact that he is the most passionate advocate for children and families in our schools that I know.

HOMESTEAD VETERANS CLINIC

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my strong support for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in allocating funds to create a new VA medical clinic in Homestead, Florida. As it currently stands, the Homestead Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic rents a medical office that does not meet the needs of military members and veterans in our south Florida community. With the establishment of a new clinic, Homestead would be able to serve more than 10,000 military personnel, veterans, and eligible family members in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, which would be a substantial improvement from its current capabilities.

Though this new clinic would be a step forward, there is still significant work that must be done to help our veterans and servicemembers living in the Florida Keys. They do not have a local clinic and must travel up to 4 hours to reach the nearest VA facility. These brave men and women deserve more easily accessible options, and I will continue fighting for them.

Supporting our troops and veterans is essential to paying our profound debt of gratitude to the very people who have put their lives in danger to defend our freedoms. It is because of brave people like our veterans that America continues to have the strongest military in the world, and we must always honor them.

CREATING A BETTER NATION FOR MY NEW GRANDCHILD AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, Norma and I became grandparents. Our daughter, Vanessa—with our son-in-law, Brian, present—delivered a healthy baby boy, full of life and full of possibilities. His name is Joaquin Cruz de la Rosa.

From the moment I first learned I would soon be a grandfather, I was excited to welcome our grandson into this great world. I am grateful that Joaquin was born in the greatest nation in the history of time, these United States of America, a country that strives to live the principles of hard work, persistence, and equality. He was born to a nation of native Americans and immigrants whose foundation and future relies on the grit and determination of millions of people who will persist so their family can achieve that American Dream.

We were elected to the House of Representatives to serve all of our con-

stituents and put our country first. Joaquin's arrival has encouraged me to reflect on what we do here. He has made me think about how Congress' words, actions, and obstructions are affecting the livelihood of all Americans.

I want Joaquin to live in a nation where his right to love whomever he chooses and to marry the person he falls in love with, regardless of gender, is respected. I am grateful that he was born healthy and in a safe, clean hospital full of skilled doctors, nurses, and technicians.

I am also grateful Vanessa and Joaquin Cruz received top notch health care, care that until recently was out of reach for many families. The Affordable Care Act has allowed countless pregnant women and newborn infants to see a doctor without risking bankruptcy. This sets them on the path of a healthy, productive life here in America. Now that 20 million more Americans have true access to health care, Congress must stop the efforts to repeal the healthcare law. Instead, we must come together to make sure we expand access, ensure the marketplace is working, and keep health care affordable for all Americans in this great country.

Every Member of Congress has a responsibility to the next generation and the one after that. We are responsible for their future. We face a short 12-week session in this 114th Congress.

What will we accomplish during this time? Will we vote on partisan bills that will go nowhere? Or will we face the challenges affecting our Nation and the world? Or will we, once and for all, think of the children and ensure future generations inherit a nation that remains the global leader, full of opportunities?

We hold the power to make things better for our kids and grandkids. For my grandson, and all grandchildren, I will fight for a future where a quality education doesn't put students and families into 6-figure debt. Every child deserves a world-class education that provides them with the knowledge and skills to achieve their dreams and uphold our place as a global leader in innovation.

For my grandson and grandchildren of his generation, I will continue to be a vocal advocate on the need to create a just and equal criminal and juvenile justice system that is worthy of our Nation. We spend \$12,000 to educate a child in America, but we are willing to spend more than \$150,000 to imprison that child for 1 year. And yet every year funding for education ends up on the chopping block.

How can we justify that?

My grandson was born into a great country, but sometimes, Mr. Speaker, this Congress does not live up to the potential that this Nation deserves. A child in the United States is less likely to die from a disease than from a gunshot. We are better than that, Mr. Speaker. It is our responsibility to address this reality.

We must work together for my grandson and all the children of his generation to make sure our parks are greener, our air is cleaner, to cure the sickness that is taking our climate, to make sure that a father or mother, no matter what their economic circumstances, does not have to worry that their child's bathwater is poisoned. This is our job.

It is our job to be leaders, and I will work with my colleagues every day to live up to what our grandchildren deserve. Far too often I hear elected officials spew the same line: "We are mortgaging our children's future." Our parents and grandparents invested in our Nation, and we have reaped those benefits. It is time that we do the same for future generations.

That is what has made us the greatest economy in the world: investing in our roads and bridges, investing in schools and hospitals, in forward-thinking legislation that will serve others for generations to come. Now more than ever, I understand just how important it is that we work together and create solutions so that our children will live a better life.

YOUTH PROMISE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER of Florida). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOHIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an incredibly important piece of legislation that will provide essential funding for programs which will go miles toward helping every young person in America who has maybe had a misstep reach their potential and achieve their American Dream.

As I travel my district, I am so impressed as I meet some of the most incredible young people in north central Florida. These young Americans have the capability of literally changing the world and the capability of bettering their communities and setting a positive example for the youth that will follow in their footsteps.

Unfortunately, too many will fall victim to the circumstances in which they were born. Too many will become familiar with the inside of a juvenile detention facility, as the image of the classroom fades from memory, and the all-too-often reality of life behind bars begins to materialize. I want to stress that if this happens to even just one child, that is one child too many.

We live in the greatest nation on Earth. We tell our children they can be whatever they want to be when they grow up, yet we know the reality for some is that as these very words are spoken, there is no truth to them. These are the youth who fall subject to the cradle-to-prison pipeline, and it is unacceptable.

These are the children in our communities, children who go to school with our own kids and, yes, in some cases even our own children. We have the

ability to change their reality. H.R. 2197, the Youth PROMISE Act, will do just that. The Youth PROMISE Act establishes a PROMISE Advisory Panel of State representatives as well as local PROMISE Coordinating Councils, which will develop and implement evidence-based locally controlled—not Washington-controlled—youth violence prevention and intervention practices and mentorship opportunities.

These practices will occur on a community level, working with families, working with schools, nonprofits, juvenile justice advocates, and law enforcement officers to intervene early in a child's life to prevent them from starting down a path that can easily define the remainder of their lives.

Last Congress, the Youth PROMISE Act garnered the bipartisan support of over 130 Members of this body in Congress, yet it sat in committee for nearly 2 years. This Congress, the Youth PROMISE Act has sat in the House Committee on Education and the Workforce for over 400 days without action.

Our youth cannot continue to wait. There are many issues that Congress deals with which Republicans, Democrats, and Independents cannot agree upon, but this is not one of them. If they have not already, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this vital piece of legislation. I urge leadership in the House and the Senate to bring up this bill for a vote, a vote for our challenged youth so that they may continue the great posterity of this Nation.

□ 1100

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARIA L. GUTIERREZ

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a good friend and community leader, Maria L. Gutierrez.

Maria led her life with purpose. She wanted to make a positive difference, and there is no doubt that she did that. She served as the general manager of Univision in Fresno, California, and led the television station to be one of the highest-ranking stations not only in the San Joaquin Valley, but in the Nation.

She was a strong advocate for immigration reform, equal rights for women, and worked hard to bring more water to the Valley. She cared, she had a big heart, and she was a role model for all who knew her.

We miss Maria dearly, especially that big smile that she always had on her face.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and Maria's family and friends in paying tribute to her life. May she rest in peace.

IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize June as Immigrant Heritage Month.

We are a Nation of Native Americans and of immigrants past and immigrants present. That is America. For over 250 years, since the formation of the United States, immigrants have helped make our country what it is today. They add energy and value with each generation of Americans.

California's San Joaquin Valley, which I proudly represent, is home to people whose families come from all over the world. Their story is our story. It is one of achieving the American Dream, which is my family's story.

I am fortunate to represent and live in an area with some of the hardest working people you will ever meet in your life who have made lasting contributions to the San Joaquin Valley's agriculture economy, businesses, education, and healthcare systems. Their contributions have had positive impacts not only in California, but throughout the Nation.

Hispanic, Armenian, Italian, Portuguese, Sikh, and Hmong immigrants are among the many who have come from Asia, the Americas, Africa, and Europe to call America their home.

These immigrant families, for generations, have been and always will be a cornerstone of a place that we call the United States of America. They are living out the American Dream, and their children and grandchildren continue to add value and make a positive difference in our valley and the Nation.

Degrading immigrant communities is not an American value. Name-calling is not a virtue and never should be condoned. Insinuating that someone is not qualified based on their ethnicity and heritage is completely unacceptable, especially coming from someone who wants to be leader of the free world.

The sad reality is that some individuals are going to use hateful rhetoric to tear us apart. It is wrong. But we must always remember that the bonds we share as Americans are far, far stronger than whatever differences we may have.

Wrongly questioning a judge's objectivity because of his ethnic background is pure and simple racism. It is not the American way. We are better than that. And, Mr. Trump, you should apologize for your hurtful statements.

Instead of talking about a wall to keep people out, our next President must focus on efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform so that we can fix our Nation's broken immigration system. As I said, we are a Nation of immigrants. And that is one of the reasons why the United States is the greatest Nation in the world, period.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and all Americans to join in celebrating immigrant communities throughout our great Nation by recognizing June as Immigrant Heritage Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward

presumptive nominees for the Office of President of the United States, a principle memorialized in section 370 of the House Rules and Manual.

SCHUYLKILL SCHOLASTIC DRINKING WATER AWARD

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the work of students from Perkiomen Valley High School and Phoenixville Area Middle School.

Recently, the Schuylkill Action Network recognized the Perkiomen Key Club and the Phoenixville Envirothon and Environmental Awareness Club for their exceptional efforts to protect our local watershed.

Perkiomen students designed and installed a rain garden in their township building, which I visited this past weekend, and which is expected to cleanse rainwater and remove pollution. Phoenixville students installed a "bioswale" to help absorb runoff and reduce pollution in Pickering Creek to keep their communities beautiful and healthy.

For their efforts, the Schuylkill Action Network presented the Schuylkill Scholastic Drinking Water Award to these hardworking club members from both schools.

Let me also recognize the Schuylkill Action Network and many watershed organizations across my district that do a great job protecting our watersheds.

I want to congratulate these students for their ingenuity to keep the water in our congressional district clean and safe for our community.

SARAH PENNINGTON/MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Sarah Pennington for her courageous leadership on mental health.

Sarah is a courageous, dynamic, hardworking high school student at Pottsgrove High School, and the reigning Miss Freedom Forge's Outstanding Teen. She visited my office yesterday to bring attention to mental health issues and to discuss relevant policy reforms.

Sarah has not graduated high school yet, of course, but she has already founded a nonprofit, Show Your Hero, with the goal of raising mental health awareness.

I want to thank Sarah for her advocacy. I also have some exciting news. Sarah will be participating in Miss PA's Outstanding Teen pageant from June 22 to June 24 in Pittsburgh. I want to wish her the very best in that pursuit.

FIRST RESPONDERS IN PHOENIXVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work of Phoenixville first responders.

Recently, West End Ambulance and the Phoenixville Fire and Police Departments responded to a call for help. These devoted crews assisted an individual who went into cardiac arrest. Through their swift efforts to administer CPR, the responders were able to save a life.

The Chester County EMS Council recognized the responders for their expertise on May 28, coinciding with National Emergency Medical Services Week, which honors those serving on our communities' front lines every day.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and thank these and all firefighters, officers, EMTs, and paramedics for their service.

STATE OUTREACH FOR LOCAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a bill I introduced in the House called the SOLVE Act, short for the State Outreach for Local Veterans Employment Act.

The SOLVE Act will provide Pennsylvania, and all States, with critical flexibility to utilize existing grant funds in the way that best serves the needs of each State's unique veteran population.

The American Legion, Paralyzed Veterans of America and National Guard Association of the United States, have all endorsed this commonsense bill.

I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this bill as well.

RECOGNIZING WILSON SOUTHERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Wilson Southern Middle School as one of six exemplary middle schools in Pennsylvania recognized as a school to watch. I also thank the teachers, administrators, parents, faculty, and students for their hard work in making Wilson Southern Middle School such an exceptional middle school. We are very proud of you.

BRINGING POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION OUT OF THE SHADOWS

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of Bringing Postpartum Depression Out of the Shadows Act.

Every year, one in seven new mothers experiences perinatal depression, impacting babies and families for years to come.

This bipartisan legislation, which I have cosponsored with Congresswoman KATHERINE CLARK of Massachusetts, would help those suffering receive the treatment they need. States would receive Federal funding to establish, expand, or maintain programs for screening and treatment of maternal depression.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of mental health advocates, we have reached over 65 bipartisan cosponsors in the House. I am respectfully encouraging other Members and their staffs to look at this bill and join as cosponsors. It is the right thing to do as we seek to proactively address issues of

postpartum depression in communities across this country.

THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am a Member of the United States Congress and a very—I hate to use the term proud, but I am proud to have been a member of the Judiciary Committee for the number of years that I have served in this august place.

As I serve, I am well aware of the importance of the Constitution and the very sacred responsibility that we have in protecting it. So I thought that, as a lawyer who has practiced and one who has served as an associate municipal court judge in my hometown of Houston, Texas, it would be important to remind Members of the established three branches of government and the responsibilities that each hold, but focus in particular on the executive—the President of the United States.

In Article II, the Constitution, says: "The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America." It uses the term that "he should hold," and, in particular, it acknowledges that he or she should take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

Article III establishes our judicial power. In particular, with respect to Federal courts: "all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, under their Authority."

All of these cases have jurisdiction under our Federal court system. So, the Federal courts and jurists are of keen importance.

One would wonder how we establish the need for the rule of law and separation of powers. It came first from 1215, King John's Magna Carta, which indicated that no one should be imprisoned, dispossessed, outlawed, exiled, or in any way destroyed, except by lawful judgment of his peers and the law of the land.

I know that when I sat as a member of the bench, I would look at petitioners and I would hope that even though my history was that of a former slave, being an African American—when I say a former slave, descendants of such; the history of African Americans is such—and I would hope that my background would not have countered the fairness that I would have rendered to anyone who came before me.

Judicial independence is something that we hold dear. The Founders understood that judges who are able to apply the law freely and fairly are essential to the rule of law.

The Constitution guarantees our rights on paper, but this would mean nothing without independent courts to protect them. That means our judges in the Federal system should not be intimidated or influenced or protected

from the influence of the other branches, as well as shifting popular opinion.

This insulation is referred to as judicial independence. It allows our Federal judges to make decisions based on what is right under the law, without facing politics, such as not getting re-elected; or, personal, such as getting fired or having their salary lowered.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I have often joined with the late Henry Hyde, then the chairman, who wanted to raise the salaries of our Federal judges.

So I think it is imperative to come before this body, my colleagues, to raise great angst when someone's ethnicity is called out as a reason that they cannot be fair.

I am appalled that we have come to this in 2016, where, if I were to symbolically ascend to a Federal bench, or maybe the colleagues who many of us and the Senate have supported and the President has nominated—the diverse bench that represents Asians, Hispanics, African Americans, and women and men, Anglos, Caucasians—anyone would raise a question.

I have been before a court and not welcomed the decision. There have been many reasons why I was not pleased with that decision. But I could not raise the question of race.

And so I think it is worth condemning that we would have this kind of public discourse where the race of a Federal judge is raised. Remember what I said: judicial independence warrants that we, in fact, cannot intimidate the bench and not, in fact, deny the freedom of the court to decide cases based on facts and the law, not based on public opinion, the views of special interests groups, or even a judge's own personal belief.

The right of every citizen to a fair trial is a cornerstone of our democracy. Why should anyone be diminished, and why should the petitioner independently attempt to intimidate based on race? It is appalling. It is absurd.

So I ask all of my colleagues, as protectors of the Constitution and people who are here making laws, to independently go out to the highways and byways of life and condemn those words. Need I say who it is? Condemn those words and condemn this kind of discourse.

I would offer to say that anyone who has said those words and who pretends to put themselves forward to uphold this Constitution is disqualified and unfit.

I would hope that we will have an independent executive under the Constitution, an independent legislative branch, and, of course, an independent judiciary—one of which I respect with the highest of authority.

I will close by simply saying I have won cases; I have saved a hospital. I have lost cases. I have been affected by cases in my redistricting and denied the rights of the Voting Rights Act. But I will never undermine and dimin-

ish the Constitution for right cases and wrong cases, ever.

I ask my colleagues to condemn those actions.

□ 1115

CONGRATULATING ARMANDO VALLADARES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear friend and a true patriot, Ambassador Armando Valladares, for being awarded the Canterbury Medal, the highest honor bestowed by The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.

Armando Valladares spent 22 years in Castro's gulags. He endured unconscionable torture while in prison. Why, Mr. Speaker? Because Armando refused to put a sign on his desk saying that he supported Fidel Castro.

No matter how much abuse he endured in prison, Armando fought his jailers every day. He protected his conscience from the constant and ongoing attacks of the brutal Communist dictatorship.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan installed Armando Valladares as our U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Human Rights Council.

Earlier this year, Ambassador Valladares wrote about President Obama's misguided and dangerous overtures to the Castro regime—one-sided negotiations. In a recent op-ed that Armando Valladares wrote, he said: "In agreeing to meet with Raul Castro, Obama rewards a regime that rules with brutal force and systematically violates human rights."

Ambassador Valladares, thank you for your courage. Thank you for your principled stand against the Castro regime. Godspeed, my friend.

COMMEMORATING DEERING ESTATE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of one of south Florida's most notable cultural, historical, environmental, and archaeological treasures, the Charles Deering Estate, located in my beautiful congressional district.

Charles Deering, the first chairman of the board of International Harvester, bought the property in the year 1916. Now, as a jewel of the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces system, the 444-acre Deering Estate serves as a center of community life in the very groovy village of Palmetto Bay.

It also conserves globally endangered native plant communities and is a focal point for the ongoing Biscayne Bay coastal wetlands restoration that aims to re-create more natural freshwater flows and to slow saltwater intrusion into our drinking water sources as sea levels rise. And the sea levels are, indeed, rising due to global climate change.

Mr. Speaker, the Deering Estate's future will be just as important as its past to all of south Florida. The Deering Estate is indeed a jewel in our already beautiful south Florida treasures.

BREAKING THE PROMISE

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the House is expected to take up the PROMESA bill today regarding the Puerto Rican debt crisis. This bill has serious implications to every taxpayer in the country.

PROMESA applies a form of chapter 9 bankruptcy to the general obligation bonds of Puerto Rico that are guaranteed by the Commonwealth's constitution.

Article VI, section 8 of Puerto Rico's constitution explicitly provides that "interest on the public debt and amortization thereof shall first be paid."

Well, this bill ignores the Puerto Rican constitution and breaks that promise, and here is why this is so important to the rest of the country:

Every State government has similar constitutional provisions that guarantee its general obligation bonds. This is what allows States to borrow at extremely low interest rates: because their debt is constitutionally guaranteed and, therefore, the risk of default is extremely low.

If Congress is willing to undermine a territory's constitutionally guaranteed bonds today, there is every reason to believe it would be willing to undermine a State's guarantee tomorrow. This, in turn, invites credit markets to question such guarantees as being no longer secured on constitutional bedrock but, rather, dependent upon the shifting whims of Congress. This, in turn, means the value of these bonds is devalued, and interest rates paid by taxpayers on that debt will increase.

The Governors of six States have already raised this warning, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, whose credit is directly undermined by PROMESA, wants out of the bill for the same reason.

Now, PROMESA could have respected the \$18 billion of constitutionally guaranteed debt and focused instead on restructuring the \$54 billion of Puerto Rican municipal debt that is not constitutionally guaranteed. After all, there is no reason to treat San Juan's municipal debt any differently than San Jose's. But constitutionally issued debt is fundamentally different, and its reliability must be maintained. Tellingly, supporters of this bill voted down just such an amendment in committee.

Supporters have said they have addressed this concern by inserting instructions to the control board to "respect the relative lawful priorities in the constitution, other laws or agreements." But ironically, one of those

“other laws” the control board is instructed to respect is the government’s repudiation of that debt.

Furthermore, the same section instructs the control board to provide “adequate funding for public pension systems” and includes other contradictory instructions. The only possible interpretation of these provisions is that the sanctity of the sovereign debt is subject to balancing and, therefore, subordination to junior claims by the control board.

Just last week, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew and the White House admitted that this was both the intent and effect of the bill.

Meanwhile, another provision of PROMESA prevents lawful bondholders from enforcing their claims in court for a period of 6 months but doesn’t prevent the government from paying out junior claims during this period. Indeed, in anticipation of this bill, the new budget for Puerto Rico increases general fund spending, while it radically reduces its debt service payments.

Honoring the rule of law and maintaining the Commonwealth’s full faith and credit guarantee would be a powerful signal to bond markets that the United States stands by its promises, even when it is inconvenient.

Under current law, it is in the interest of both sides, debtor and creditor, to work out terms that both can live with to restructure and repay this debt. Indeed, until the prospect of a congressional rescue arose, Puerto Rico was negotiating terms of a debt restructuring with the mutual consent of its creditors.

It is also in the interest of the people of Puerto Rico to uphold the full faith and credit clause of their constitution, which will be vitally important for them to reenter the credit market once their affairs are put back in order.

Puerto Rico faces both crisis and opportunity: a crisis born of slavish devotion to failed leftist economic policies, and an opportunity to replace those policies with proven free market solutions that can create a fresh start for the people of Puerto Rico and shine as a beacon of hope for other similarly afflicted States.

I fear the net result of this legislation will be to spread the crisis to other States with heavy debts by increasing their debt service costs.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO J. RANDY JACKSON

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, a friend of Georgia’s Third Congressional District, and a friend of all Georgia, J. Randy Jackson, chief administrative officer for Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia, who tragically passed away on the afternoon of May 20, 2016.

Randy was the first American employee hired for Kia’s plant in Georgia. He not only became the public face for Kia Motors in Georgia, but an advocate for the continued creation and development of employment opportunities for Georgians.

When he came to Kia, and when Kia came to West Point, Georgia, West Point was a struggling city affected by the textile plant closings. But under Randy’s leadership ability to bring people together for the good of all, both Kia and West Point have thrived. Today, Kia is responsible for 15,000 jobs at the plant and in the surrounding community.

Mr. Jackson played a key role in hiring thousands of those employees. A passionate worker, his enthusiasm for Kia and creating jobs cultivated a workplace that both blended corporate business and human needs.

Randy had an almost unique way about him. Somehow, he was able to be comfortable and at ease while projecting that he had full control over every situation that might arise. Randy’s way was a remarkable blend of personality, caring, and expertise.

Randy’s presence was felt beyond the walls of Kia—and will be for many years to come. He was, for example, involved in the THINC Academy, which strives to support the education of future generations of good employees.

While Randy Jackson was a dedicated company man, he was also a devoted family man. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Deborah Jackson. He was the proud father of two children, James Randall Jackson, Jr., of Kentucky, and Jennifer Caley Jackson of Milner, Georgia. His parents, James Edward and Pauline Greer Jackson of Macon, Georgia, and a sister, Delbra Jackson Hayes, of Perry, Georgia, also survive him. Mr. Jackson was a very loving and doting grandparent to his granddaughter, Scarlett Anne. Mr. Jackson also had softness in his heart for his beloved Rat Terrier, Rambo Brodie.

Randy lived a life of hard work and love. He inspired those around him “to make every day better than yesterday.” His loss will be long felt at Kia and in the entire community. He made both better from his presence.

At the plant, they talk about the Kia Way, emphasizing teamwork and problem solving to make progress. We all know that Randy’s way was the Kia Way. The community and the plant will go on; the plant he helped to make sure that it would, but it won’t be quite the same without him.

Thanks, Randy, and until we meet again.

HONORING PORT ALLEGANY, PENNSYLVANIA, ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the 200th anniversary of the community of Port Allegany, McKean County, in Pennsylvania’s Fifth Congressional District.

Port Allegany was founded in 1816 as Canoe Place, located just 30 miles from the headwaters of the Allegheny River. True to its name—Port Allegany, which was bestowed in 1838—the settlement served as a port along the river for Native Americans and pioneers who would stop to build or repair canoes before traveling along the river.

Later in its history, Port Allegany became known for its glass manufacturing.

The first plant of the Pittsburgh Corning Corporation was constructed there in 1937, and glass block used in construction all over America are still built there.

Today you can still find people enjoying the outdoors in the settlement first known as Canoe Place. Tourism is a big part of the town’s economy, with visitors enjoying canoeing, kayaking, and fishing.

The celebration of Port Allegany’s anniversary will kick off Sunday and run through June 18 with plenty of activities, including an ice cream social, Pioneers Day picnic, a car cruise, and wagon rides.

HONORING FORMER OIL CITY POLICE OFFICER STANLEY FEDOREK

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Stanley Fedorek, a former police officer in Oil City, located in Venango County in Pennsylvania’s Fifth Congressional District. Mr. Fedorek was recognized just this week as the oldest member of the Fraternal Order of Police in Pennsylvania at the age of 98.

Fedorek has been a member of the Fraternal Order of Police for 68 years and received a certificate of appreciation and a commemorative letter from the organization.

Mr. Speaker, Stanley Fedorek is also a veteran, serving as a first sergeant in the United States Army in Italy during World War II. He joined the Oil City Police Department following his discharge and served as an officer up until 1968. He later worked security at Mellon Bank.

Mr. Fedorek has only missed two meetings in his time as a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, and he was still driving himself to those meetings at 95 years of age.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Fedorek for his service to the Oil City community and to our Nation.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 30 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. HULTGREN) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Kent Clark, Grace Gospel Fellowship, Pontiac, Michigan, offered the following prayer:

Our God, our Father, we call upon Your name—a name at which every knee shall bow. Your name is Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father. You are the Prince of Peace, the Rose of Sharon, the Lily of the Valley, and the bright Morning Star. You are the fairest of 10,000.

You are the great creator God, alpha and omega, beginning and end, first and last. Your name is Redeemer and the Lord, the Way, the Truth and Life, Bread of Life, and Author and Finisher of our faith.

We know no greater judgment could befall a nation than for it to be deserted by God, left to be the play thing of malignant forces.

Speak to us, O great Jehovah.

We know a sparrow does not fall without Your notice, and we know that a nation cannot rise without Your aid.

In the name of Joshua, Jesus saves, Immanuel—God with us.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. 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. WILSON of South Carolina. 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 Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WALBERG led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND KENT CLARK

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise—very proudly so—to pay tribute to an inspiring man, and I am proud to call him a mentor and a friend, Pastor Kent Clark.

Pastor Clark is the senior pastor of Grace Gospel Fellowship Church in Pontiac, Michigan, and he is the chief executive officer of Grace Centers of Hope. Grace Centers of Hope is one of Michigan's leading faith-based organizations that provides care for the homeless and for individuals who are fighting addiction.

Grace Centers of Hope provides comprehensive programs for men, women, and children, including group and individual counseling, GED classes and testing, financial education, addiction and abuse classes, and child care. It also has a self-funded homeownership program and offers graduates of its program the opportunity to own their own homes. It does all of this without accepting government funding.

Pastor Clark, truly, has a servant's heart, and he and his wife, Dr. Pam Clark, and their family have dedicated their lives to helping those in need—with unparalleled commitment and devotion.

Pastor Clark is a husband, a father, a grandfather, and a renowned author. He was named "Michiganiaan of the Year" by the Detroit News in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to welcome my friend, Pastor Kent Clark, to the United States House of Representatives as our guest chaplain today. I would like to personally recognize and thank him for his tireless efforts and unwavering dedication to our community.

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.

ALLEN AMERICANS HOCKEY TEAM IN THE PLAYOFFS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise in support of the Third District's Allen Americans hockey team. Tonight, our stellar team defends its championship title in game six of the Kelly Cup Playoffs.

I want to congratulate the whole team on an outstanding season.

You all have accomplished so much to get where you are today, and you are just one victory away from your fourth straight championship.

To all of our fine Allen American athletes, I want you to know that your hometown is proud of you and that we believe in you. I will probably be "rocking the red" to cheer you on.

Go beat the Wheeling Nailers.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Norfolk, Virginia, January 1, 2014:

Melvin Alston, 32 years old;

Marcus Deering, 22.

Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania, August 6, 2013:

James "Vinny" LaGuardia, 64 years old;

David Fleetwood, 62;

Gerard Kozic, 53.

Beaumont, Texas, March 16, 2014:

Darrell Hawkins, 34 years old;

Anthony Ray Hawkins, 33;

Reshawna Hawkins, 30.

Savannah, Georgia, December 2, 2015:

Brandy Council, 34 years old.

Oceanside, California, March 13, 2013:

Edgar Sanchez Rios, 16 years old;

Melanie Virgen, 13.

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, May 24, 2014:

Jamie Williams, 28 years old;

Sandy Gaddis Barnwell, 22;

Devonte Dantzler, 21.

Killeen, Texas, February 22, 2015:

Larry Guzman, 40 years old;

Lydia Farina, 31;

Dawn Giffa, 28.

Auburn, Washington, March 31, 2013:

Nicholas Lindsay, 26 years old.

FOREST TREE DAMAGE TOLL AND FIRE DANGER

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, years of drought have left a terrible toll on the forests of the Sierra Nevada in California. The Forest Service estimates that there are at least 40 million trees that have died in California alone. The scope of this challenge is almost unbelievable, and the danger it presents is nearly unavoidable. However, there are steps that we can take to address it.

While it is refreshing that the Forest Service is finally using the categorical exclusions that have been authorized under the recent farm bill to speed forest management projects, it won't be enough to prevent forest fires of devastating sizes and scopes. The Forest Service should rapidly increase the numbers of public-private partnerships it engages in and allow the private sector to remove the dead trees that are just waiting for a spark.

The Senate should act immediately to pass H.R. 2647 and allow forest fires

to be funded like earthquakes, hurricanes, and other natural disasters so as to end the diversion of forest management funding that limits preemptive fuel reduction work.

We also need to incentivize technologies like the usage of biomass, which can make productive use of damaged trees and brush, et cetera, and can generate long-term renewable power—base-load, reliable power.

Congress should act to extend the same tax incentives that wind and solar power receive to biomass plants, which don't just create power but do so more reliably and which have the additional benefit of consuming wood and slash that would otherwise burn in our forests, causing pollution. This would also bring jobs back, which are much needed in the rural part of America.

MUHAMMAD ALI

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, last week, the world lost a champion. Muhammad Ali was a gold medalist boxer and a three-time heavyweight champ, but what truly made him "The Greatest" was what he did outside of the ring.

He had quick reflexes but a quicker wit. He was introduced to the world as a fighter, but he chose to hang up his gloves to stand up against the war. At a time when racism pushed so many people down, Muhammad Ali had the audacity to speak up—and people listened.

I was lucky to have met Muhammad Ali several times. He spent much of his time in Los Angeles, and he became close with my dad, L.A. County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. They were allies in the fight for civil rights and for struggling families.

I have a Muhammad Ali story.

In 1987, my dad suffered a debilitating stroke that left him partially paralyzed shortly before he was up for reelection to his 10th term. Muhammad Ali actually showed up at my parents' home in South Los Angeles one day, and he told my father that he would personally push him door-to-door in his wheelchair if that is what it took to get him reelected.

You can imagine what that meant to my dad, to me, and to all of the neighborhood kids who actually saw Muhammad Ali do that with my dad. I will never forget that moment, and the world will never forget Muhammad Ali.

HONORING CAPTAIN BRADLEY LONG

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to pay tribute to Captain Bradley Long, a fallen firefighter from my district.

Captain Long was a dedicated public servant and was born to be a fire-

fighter. In fact, he started volunteering as a junior firefighter when he was just 14 years old at the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue. He followed in his father's footsteps, who had fought fires for 25 years. Though he was a full-time firefighter with the Newton Fire Department, he also continued to serve as a volunteer at Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue, which is where he was serving when he died in a diving accident while attempting to rescue a missing swimmer.

Following his death, Captain Long's father described how Bradley loved what he did and how he loved helping people, and that is what he was doing when he gave his life. Captain Long is the epitome of a public servant, and he will be deeply missed.

CONGRESS MUST PASS THE EQUALITY ACT

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

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, somewhere in America today there is a young person who, all of a sudden, realizes that he or she is gay. They are afraid that, if their parents find out, they may be tossed out of the house, that their classmates will taunt them, and there are still politicians who say that they are not equal.

For years, these young people didn't believe they had any options, but, today, because of the work of the LGBT community and because of leaders like Harvey Milk, they have hope. They can run for public office; they can serve in our military; they can marry whom they love. They have hope for a better future, but there is still work to be done.

Across the country, including in Florida, LGBT Americans can still be discriminated against. That is why Congress must pass the Equality Act. We must pass it because it is the right thing to do. We must pass it for the young person who is still scared and struggling. We must pass it to give them hope.

COMMEMORATING SOUTH CAROLINA STATE GUARD WEEK

(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, this week, South Carolina honors and pays tribute to the dedicated men and women of the South Carolina State Guard.

The unpaid volunteers of the State Guard are always prepared for challenging events in the community. They respond quickly to work to help families recover after natural disasters. The South Carolina State Guard was crucial during the flooding last October. This 1,000-year flood devastated many neighborhoods. Members from all three brigades of the State Guard worked

around the clock in filling sandbags and in assisting engineers and law enforcement.

I was grateful to visit disaster relief centers firsthand, which was coordinated with the State Guard, and I was accompanied by Representatives Kirkman Finlay and Chip Huggins.

Our citizens really appreciate the command staff of the South Carolina State Guard for leading and inspiring these members: Major General Thomas Mullikin, Brigadier General Richard Leonard, Brigadier General Leon Lott, and Command Sergeant Major Mark Freeman.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Our sympathy to the people of Tel Aviv as the latest victims of Islamic terrorists.

□ 1215

HONORING OFFICER VERDELL SMITH

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I express and join with the people of the City of Memphis who are mourning the loss of another law enforcement officer.

Officer Verdell Smith, Jr., served 18 years as a Memphis policeman. He also served his country in the United States Navy.

Last weekend, a man went wild in Memphis and shot three different people and then had his car hurtling at a high speed in the wrong direction on a one-way street toward a busy intersection of Beale and B.B. King. Officer Smith tried to clear the intersection of civilians to save them from tragedy. Unfortunately, Officer Smith was struck by the car and died.

Officer Verdell Smith's funeral will be tomorrow. He leaves behind a family, particularly two children, Chelsea and Verdell, Jr.; his stepchildren; his grandmother; his father, O'Dell Smith, Sr.; and siblings.

Law enforcement put themselves in danger all the time to protect us. We appreciate their service. We mourn the loss of Officer Smith, a life of service.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROSWELL OPERA HOUSE

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th anniversary of Michigan's oldest theater, the Croswell Opera House.

The Croswell, located in the heart of Adrian, Michigan, is one of the oldest continuously operated theaters in the United States. Named for Charles M. Croswell, an Adrian resident and Michigan's 17th governor, the auditorium first opened its doors in 1866 and

has played host to many distinguished figures throughout the years, including Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, and Edwin Booth.

Today, the 650-seat auditorium is an official Michigan historic site and has been restored to its original 19th century splendor.

The Crosswell is a gem within our community that continues to maintain its reputation as the epicenter for the arts in southeastern Michigan.

Please join with me today in honoring all of those involved in the theater's fine tradition of excellence as we celebrate their 150th year anniversary.

REJECTING RACISM

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, this week, we have seen a very clear difference between our two parties. I would remind my colleagues that this is the year 2016. It is not 1916. It is not 1816.

We, as a Nation, have come so far. But there was a time when I, as a woman, would not have been allowed to vote, let alone speak on the floor of this Chamber.

There was a time when our friends on the Congressional Black Caucus or our friends in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, also, would not have been welcomed right here. You know what, we are better than that.

We know that the diversity of our Nation makes us greater. So whenever racism rears its ugly head, all of us, Democrats and Republicans, have an obligation to reject it.

Mr. Speaker, I have been very disturbed to see so many of my Republican colleagues trying to tiptoe around the offensive behavior of the new leader of their party, Donald Trump.

I urge all of my colleagues to do the right thing and reject racist policies without any ifs, ands, or buts.

RECOGNIZING ILLINOIS' 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the impressive individuals who will be representing Illinois' 18th Congressional District at three of the most prestigious academic institutions in our Nation, our U.S. service academies.

Earlier this year, I nominated 22 individuals from my district, and seven of them have been accepted and will begin their service at the Air Force Academy, West Point, and the Naval Academy this summer.

I was privileged to meet with these young men and women in my district last Friday, and the talent among these seven is indeed inspiring and di-

verse. These cadets and midshipmen are not only at the top of their class in academic achievements, but they also excel in extracurricular activities. We have a State wrestling champion, a hockey player who will be playing for the Air Force Academy, and a competitive golfer who will be playing at the Naval Academy.

Most importantly, I was struck by their earnest commitment to serving our country. Many of these students come from families with a legacy of military service. We even have an aspiring Navy Seal and a JAG attorney in this group.

I want to congratulate Randy Menyweather, II, Matthew Helmich, Faith Kim, Trevor Stone, Eric Betts, August Will, and Morgan Riley.

Thank you to these students for their commitment to our country, and to their families for raising them, and to those in our Illinois communities who have helped them reach this accomplishment. I wish them much success.

CELEBRATING DR. ALLAN WOLFSON

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a dear friend and mentor of mine, Dr. Allan Wolfson, program director of the emergency medicine residency at the University of Pittsburgh, for his retirement.

Abby trained me in emergency medicine, which has benefited thousands of patients I have cared for. He is the longest active serving residency program director in emergency medicine. Among his over 360 trainees are several deans of medical schools and chairs of departments of emergency medicine.

He is so good and well-respected by his peers that he has been recognized and honored by many prestigious organizations. He received the National Emergency Medicine Residents Association Residency Director of the Year award in 2012. He even wrote the premier textbook of emergency medicine.

He loves to teach, loves to mentor, loves emergency medicine, loves his residents, and loves to have a good time. Abby, you know what I mean.

You trained me to be an advocate for my patients. I carry that can-do, problem-solving, patients-first advocacy with me now in Congress. First and foremost and always an emergency physician.

Abby, congratulations and thank you.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of hurricane season. My constituents and all Americans in coastal regions are susceptible to these devastating storms.

Disasters can strike at any time, often with little warning. Just days ago, my district was hit by Tropical Storm Colin. The winds and heavy rains were intense, causing dangerous flooding. It is important that we have a plan in place.

We must all be prepared with supply kits filled with potential lifesaving items, like flashlights, radios, and batteries. It is also crucial to follow local weather forecasts and heed any emergency warnings.

The best way to guarantee safety is thorough preparation. My Web site at Bilirakis.house.gov as well as FEMA.gov both have important resources available to you.

This year, be sure you are ready and safe.

POVERTY

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, nearly 47 million people are living in poverty in the United States. That is about 10 times the total population of Los Angeles. And, Mr. Speaker, no matter how hard these families work and no matter how much these families save, they are still not able to get ahead.

These families struggle to feed themselves and their children. They struggle to save for a home. They struggle to live the American Dream that we all yearn for, and that is unacceptable.

That is why I support expanding programs, which I believe help and provide a social safety net. Essential programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and the Free and Reduced Lunch Program serve specific community needs.

Mr. Speaker, we need to bring legislation to the floor that will help families, help families to help themselves get ahead, proven programs. Let's not condense or cut them. Let's work on legislation to help these families.

OZONE STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 4775, the Ozone Standards Implementation Act. Under the Clean Air Act, the EPA has used the National Ambient Air Quality Standards to impose costly and burdensome regulations on American manufacturers and the American people.

By the EPA choosing to lower the NAAQ Standards further, many businesses will suffer while still struggling to meet the original standard. American businesses have already spent billions of dollars and years of planning to meet the 75 parts per billion original

standard and will now find themselves unable to meet the new requirements. We can't and shouldn't change the rules in the middle of the game.

Businesses across America and in Georgia 12, like many paper mills and manufacturing plants that are economic drivers in our area, have already spent billions to make our air cleaner.

H.R. 4775 ensures that States and counties have the needed flexibility and time to comply with these standards while keeping our air clean and safe.

I am proud to support this bill and commend my colleagues in the House for passing it this week.

HATEFUL RHETORIC

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, if I were to stand here today and read an agenda on attacks on immigrants, Muslims, women, and families living in poverty and even the judicial system, you might think it was the campaign platform for the Republican candidate for President. But every one of those hasn't just come from "Con Man Don."

They have been embraced, affirmed, and in many cases even inspired by this Republican Congress. So you could be forgiven for being confused because the truth is they are all one and the same.

We are used to this hateful rhetoric coming from the other side of the aisle. Sometimes it is masked in legislation; sometimes not so much.

But when the leader of their party, their standard-bearer, "Con Man Don" makes racist and discriminatory remarks as easily as if he were reciting the alphabet, it begs the question: "What do Republicans stand for?"

You only have to look at all they have in common with "Con Man Don," a candidate they have even admitted has made racist statements. It is clear they stand with "Con Man Don," but it is also clear who they don't stand with and, that is, the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward presumptive nominees for the Office of President.

CASTNER RANGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 110th anniversary of the Antiquities Act.

From the first national monument, Devils Tower in Wyoming that was designated in 1906, to the Statue of Liberty in New York, and Glacier Bay in Alaska, over 148 designations have been made by 16 Presidents, most of them Republicans. While the last 110 years have arguably been successful for this country, we can do better.

Today's national monuments and the people who visit them do not reflect the great diversity of this country. That is why I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Castner Range National Monument Act.

The Castner Range is in El Paso, Texas. It is 7,000 acres of pristine Chihuahuan desert, Rocky Mountain wilderness surrounded by a community that is 85 percent Mexican American.

The last 110 years have been great. I ask my colleagues to support me and join me in ensuring that the next 110 years are even better.

DENOUNCE THE HATEFUL RHETORIC

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I am calling on House Republicans to denounce the hateful rhetoric coming from the leader of their party.

Week after week, House Republicans, my colleagues, publicly announce their endorsement of Donald Trump. They aren't just endorsing the candidate, but also the hateful and discriminatory agenda set by their party's Presidential nominee.

House Republicans cannot continue to support him and denounce his inflammatory rhetoric, including the demonization of our friends that are Hispanic and Muslim, at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Republicans to step up. It is time for them to step up to the plate and do the right thing and denounce this bigotry. You can't pretend that the things that your party's leader is saying aren't hurtful and divisive to the American public.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to do the right thing, step up, come up with an agenda that is good for all Americans, and stop pretending as if the things that the leader of your party is saying isn't hurtful.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would, again, remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward presumptive nominees for the Office of President.

□ 1230

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, June 9, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. 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 June 9, 2016 at 9:09 a.m.:

That the Senate disagree to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the

bill; Senate agree to House request for Conference; Senate appoint conferees H.R. 2577.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5278, PUERTO RICO OVERSIGHT, MANAGEMENT, AND ECONOMIC STABILITY ACT

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 770 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 770

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. 5278) to establish an Oversight Board to assist the Government of Puerto Rico, including instrumentalities, in managing its public finances, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. 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 Natural Resources now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-57. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such 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 amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon passage of H.R. 5278 the House shall be considered to have: (1) stricken all after the enacting clause of S. 2328 and inserted in lieu thereof the provisions of H.R. 5278, as passed by the House; and (2) passed the Senate bill as so amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), 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. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 770 provides for consideration of H.R. 5278, the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act, or PROMESA. The resolution provides for a structured rule and makes in order eight amendments.

This bill addresses a very serious issue as it relates to the financial situation in Puerto Rico. The Government of Puerto Rico has racked up over \$118 billion in debt. They have already defaulted on portions of their debt in May, and they face another deadline on July 1. The territory has reached a point where they can no longer meet the basic demands of their citizens.

The Constitution makes clear that Congress has the authority over territories. Article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the Constitution states: "The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States . . ."

After hearing calls for greater autonomy, in 1950 Congress recognized Puerto Rico's authority over internal matters through passage of the Federal Relations Act. Congress also approved Puerto Rico's constitution in 1952.

So we gave them the control they demanded, and with that, they attempted to become a liberal paradise by raising taxes, expanding government programs, and spending at unsustainable rates. To help pay for these policies, Puerto Rico issued billions of dollars in bonded debt that they can no longer pay back. Now they are demanding help, which puts Congress in a very difficult position.

The fact that we have reached this point is a direct result of the President and the Treasury Department being asleep at the switch. They either were not paying attention to the financial situation in Puerto Rico or they were paying attention and chose to do nothing.

I want to highlight a few important things about this bill. First, this bill is not a bailout. The American taxpayers did not create this problem, and we shouldn't send their money to something they did not cause.

What really worries me is that if Congress doesn't act on this legislation, then we will find ourselves in a position at some point facing serious

pressure to vote on a true actual bailout of Puerto Rico. That would be a grave mistake.

As the president of Americans for Tax Reform noted in an op-ed for the National Review, "Congress needs to step in now; otherwise, a huge taxpayer bailout is the likely outcome. PROMESA is the best, most fiscally responsible way to prevent a bailout from occurring."

This bill does not include a single penny in taxpayer money. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office found that this bill would have "no significant net effect on the Federal deficit." So let's try and get this problem resolved in a fiscally responsible way that does not use taxpayer dollars.

Second, the policies in Puerto Rico have led to this problem, so it is important that the legislation address some of these policies and require greater accountability. The bill does this through the creation of a seven-person financial oversight board which is responsible for the development of budgets and fiscal plans for Puerto Rico.

The bill also includes some common-sense policy changes that will hopefully ease the burdens on the Puerto Rican Government by prohibiting the costly new overtime rule from taking effect and giving them flexibility with minimum wage requirements for young workers.

Through better oversight and regulatory reforms, it is my belief the Puerto Rican economy can grow and the country can get back on a more stable financial footing.

I want to make one thing very clear. I and every Member of this House have great empathy and appreciation for the Puerto Rican people because they did not cause this problem. I have had the honor of traveling to Puerto Rico and visiting this beautiful place. I enjoyed meeting the people and really appreciated their hospitality. I believe it is important we do what we can in a responsible manner to support the Puerto Rican people.

Ultimately, I wish this legislation wasn't necessary, but the reality of the situation demands action. So I call on my colleagues to support this rule, support the underlying bill, and let's address this problem in a responsible way without a bailout.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Alabama, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes for debate.

The people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico face an urgent fiscal crisis, and this institution's delay in addressing this crisis has left the United States citizens on that island in dire straits.

In June of 2015, Puerto Rico's Governor stated that the Commonwealth would not be able to pay its debts. Now Puerto Rico faces a \$2 billion interest

and principal payment on July 1. It is unlikely the Commonwealth will be able to make this payment. So I am pleased that, finally, after a full year, this body has decided that the citizens in the Commonwealth deserve relief from this growing humanitarian disaster.

However, now that legislation has been brought forward to deal with this issue, I fear that the solution to this problem presented here will hobble the workers of Puerto Rico for some time to come. While the bill accomplishes much by way of addressing the debt crisis in Puerto Rico, it also hamstring workers by expanding the subminimum wage on the island.

This legislation expands the application of the Federal subminimum wage to those under 25 years old and extends the application of this subminimum wage to those workers from 90 days to up to 4 years. Just for reference, the subminimum wage that will now be subjected to workers 25 years old and younger and for up to 4 years is \$4.25 an hour—\$4.25 an hour—a full \$3 per hour less than the workers in the States make when, indeed, the workers in the United States ought be making \$15 an hour.

The bill would also delay implementation of the Department of Labor's rule on overtime pay until the GAO completes a study, which could take up to 2 years. This means that under the provisions of this bill, the young people of Puerto Rico will be paid a subminimum wage, and the rest of the workers on the island will not be eligible for the new overtime rules, losing out on hard-earned money for working long hours.

While some legislative solution is necessary in order to responsibly address Puerto Rico's debt crisis, these provisions are unconscionable. It is long past time that we start treating our fellow citizens in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico—as well as the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands and American Samoa and Guam and the Marianas—with dignity and respect, not with provisions to limit their ability to earn the same amount of money for their hard work as any other American. It is all right for them to go to war and die—and they do in sometimes disproportionate numbers—but we don't want to see to it that they receive an appropriate wage.

Also disconcerting to me is what is not found in the bill, which is any money to address the Zika virus on the island. Make no mistake, the fiscal situation and the response to this virus are linked. I know that there will be some that will argue that the House passed \$633 million, the Senate passed \$1.2 billion, and they will go to conference, but I am talking specifically about this financial crisis and Puerto Rico's problem.

Given the financial situation on the island, there are grave concerns about the Commonwealth's ability to handle an outbreak of the virus. Already there

are over 1,000 local cases of Zika in Puerto Rico. To put that in perspective, there are today just over 600 cases in the continental United States, and nearly all of those are travel-related.

As we move further into the summer and into the mosquito season, I fear that what is already a fiscal crisis could turn into a growing health crisis as the economically stressed island will be left with little resources to deal with the virus and a Congress that is unwilling to adequately fund a response.

These wage and overtime provisions will do nothing but increase poverty and force more Puerto Ricans to leave the island. This bill may take steps to right the Puerto Rican economy, which is currently in shambles, but at what cost? Treating the young and the workers of Puerto Rico as second and third class citizens?

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

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

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), my colleague on the Committee on Rules, brings up two very important issues. Indeed, nothing in this bill would require people to pay the subminimum wage. It simply allows it. It provides it as an alternative.

□ 1245

I think this is a situation where Puerto Rico is going to need all the alternatives it can possibly have at its disposal to deal with what is truly a devastating fiscal problem and a devastating economic problem, which gets to a second point he brought up.

When you have a breakdown in the economy, as you have got, and a breakdown in the government's financing, as we have got in Puerto Rico, it has dramatic effects in other parts of society. We are already seeing a breakdown in their hospitals and their ability to deliver health care. And education, for that matter.

So the best way we can address healthcare problems, whether it is Zika or something else or the other myriad of problems that result from this, is to get this bill passed and get Puerto Rico quickly on the road to recovery, both fiscally and economically.

I heard my friend's comments. I understand them. But the best way to get where we are trying to go is to give Puerto Rican people the most options we can to deal with this problem and also get them on the road as quickly as we can. And that is what the bill is designed to do.

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) who really knows Puerto Rico, in light of the fact that he is the Congressman representing Puerto Rico.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, in the last year and a half, this Congress has held nine hearings on Puerto Rico, a

U.S. territory, home to 3.4 million American citizens. These hearings confirmed that Puerto Rico is in jeopardy right now. Not next year. Now.

Island residents are relocating to the States in unprecedented numbers. The Puerto Rican Government is on the brink of collapse, a victim of decades of inequality at the Federal level and mismanagement at the local level.

The government and its instrumentalities have \$70 billion in bonded debt, three public entities on the island have already defaulted on payments to creditors, and larger defaults appear imminent. Puerto Rico's three main pension systems are severely underfunded, placing at risk the retirement security of over 330,000 individuals. The government of Puerto Rico has lost access to the credit markets, so it cannot borrow money to meet current obligations.

All objective observers, including virtually every major editorial board in the Nation, understand that the government of Puerto Rico must restructure its debts—ideally, through voluntary agreements with creditors, but through a court-supervised process, if necessary. It is regrettable that we have reached this point, but it is reality. We must confront this challenge with courage and candor.

PROMESA gives Puerto Rico the critical tool it lacks; namely, a legal mechanism to restructure its debts in an orderly way, ensuring the sacrifice will be shared in a fair and equitable manner.

Without PROMESA, the Puerto Rican Government is likely to collapse, participants in pension plans will be terribly damaged, and most bondholders could lose their investments. Absent this bill, almost nobody wins and nearly everybody loses.

Now, PROMESA pairs debt restructuring authority with the creation of an independent oversight board to help the Puerto Rican Government better manage its public finances, balance its budgets, become more efficient and transparent, and regain access to the credit markets.

There are some Puerto Rican politicians who seek broad debt restructuring authority from Congress, but oppose an oversight board. This is not a realistic option, and would result in Puerto Rico receiving nothing.

I fully understand the importance of democracy and dignity. As a lifelong advocate for statehood for Puerto Rico, I want full democratic rights for the island on both the national and local level, not fewer democratic rights.

My test from day one has been that the board should have the authority to oversee, but not to command and control, the Government of Puerto Rico. PROMESA meets this test.

After intensive negotiations, the bill establishes a reasonable board with powers far less potent than the powers that Congress gave the board it established for the District of Columbia in 1995. If the Puerto Rican Government

does its job well, the board will have a limited role and will cease to operate within a few years.

PROMESA, like any product of bipartisan compromise, is not perfect. For instance, the minimum wage provision is deeply misguided, and I support Mrs. Torres' amendment to remove it from the bill.

I will explain it in plain language. It makes no sense to apply a different Federal minimum wage to Puerto Rico, because it simply encourages Puerto Ricans to migrate to the States or otherwise not to seek a job and rely on government assistance.

Nevertheless, I should say that there is almost zero chance this provision will affect a single worker in Puerto Rico, since the government will retain the ability to prevent its use.

This bill is the best chance we have to solve the immediate fiscal crisis in Puerto Rico and to place the island on the path to a brighter future. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the bill.

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

I appreciate the remarks of the gentleman from Puerto Rico. I hope he was in the Chamber and he heard words that I said. Everybody in this House stands with the people of Puerto Rico. Our hearts go out for them. This is a very difficult situation.

He used a very strong phrase. He said that they are on the brink of collapse. And I agree with my friend from Florida: no one would know better than the gentleman from Puerto Rico. We want to keep them from collapsing.

There are many of us on this side that would rather do nothing, but we understand that there has to be some responsibility here. And so this is an effort to exercise responsibility in a fiscally sound way, and I believe that is what this does.

So I appreciate the gentleman's remarks. This is an urgent time for him and his people, and it is time for us to act.

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, when I came to Congress in 1993, among the first people that I met and got to know and have been fast friends with since, is the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ), my good friend who also has not only great wisdom on the subject of immigration and social policies in this country, but certainly his understanding of Puerto Rico.

I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ).

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and to the underlying bill.

I submitted 10 amendments for consideration, and not one of them was ruled in order to be debated today by my colleagues.

But I don't oppose the bill because I didn't get an amendment in here. The fact that my amendments were deemed unsuitable for debate by the Congress of the United States is an indication of the underlying problems with the bill.

If you can't debate the future of Puerto Rico here in the Congress of the United States, imagine when you give it to seven people unelected by anyone in Puerto Rico or in the United States that can meet in secret. They can meet in secret without informing us of any one of their decisions. If we can't have a debate about Puerto Rico, if it is so important, why not take time to have a debate about the amendments that are offered by people here.

We are engaged today in a wholly undemocratic activity in the world's greatest democracy. We are debating how we will take power from people who are virtually powerless already.

As I have said throughout this debate, Puerto Rico, by virtue of court cases and the Territorial Clause of the Constitution, "belongs to, but is not a part of the United States."

I say to all of my colleagues: treat them with dignity, with respect. Do not put blinders on as though they do not exist.

Yes, the Territorial Clause of the Constitution of the United States says that they are a territory and that, therefore, they are property of the United States of America. But I submit to each and every one of you that they are live human beings with hearts, with souls, and they should demand and receive the respect of any other human. Don't treat them like a piece of trash. Don't treat them like an inanimate object that has no right to dignity and to respect, which is what we are doing here today. I cannot vote for this.

President Obama referred to the special place that Kenya owns in his heart because, he says: It will always be a special place because that is the place of the birth of my father.

Let me submit to you that Puerto Rico is the place of the birth of my father. And I cannot come here and turn my back on the place of the birth of my father with this outrageously undemocratic and this outrageously unfair proposal to the people of Puerto Rico.

Think about it. You are imposing a junta, because that is what they are calling it. There will be no difference between this junta and the junta of Pinochet in Chile, as far as the international community is concerned. And why? Because yesterday—and the Speaker of the House of Puerto Rico is in the gallery—they approved a resolution rejecting this junta. Elected by the people of Puerto Rico. And what does the Congress of the United States, the democracy of the world, say? We don't care.

Today, as we speak, the Senate in Puerto Rico has a resolution rejecting it. And just this past Sunday, every candidate for Governor in Puerto Rico, every last candidate for Governor of Puerto Rico that was successful had in their platform a rejection of PROMESA.

How many times do the people of Puerto Rico have to reject this pro-

posal so that the Congress of the United States treats them with some respect and some dignity?

And I just want to say: Control board? Where was the last control board we know so much about? Flint, Michigan. And what did the control board do? They poisoned the people—American citizens—in Flint.

Let me suggest to you that if you give power to a control board unelected and unsupervised by anyone here, be careful. Be careful. Remember Flint. Remember the poisoning of the people and what the control board did there. That is exactly what we should suspect will happen.

People say: LUIS, what is your alternative? Our alternative is quite simple: have a conversation. Not a conversation that begins: we will not spend a penny on the people of Puerto Rico. That is the way our conversation went. We will not. You have to show me a solution in which we do not spend a penny.

Well, let me tell you, we spend money. The Jones Act imposed on the people of Puerto Rico the most expensive merchant marine in the world. It costs \$500 million a year. Why don't we lift that from them? We believe in democracy, we believe they should be free. Why don't we lift that from them?

Medicaid and Medicare. Have you seen the reimbursement schedules to Puerto Rico? They pay the same in FICA taxes, but don't receive the same in terms of reimbursements.

In 2006, the wisdom of this Congress was to say to the people of Puerto Rico: we don't care that you are going to lose hundreds of thousands of jobs. We are eliminating section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code that created jobs.

The people of Puerto Rico want jobs. They want jobs and they want the dignity and the respect of being American citizens of this Nation.

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. And they demand the dignity and the respect that comes. They don't come here on their knees. They are a proud people. They are a people who want to use their creativity and their energy.

This Congress of the United States has said they are a colony. I didn't say that. The Committee on Natural Resources says: we have plenary powers over the people of Puerto Rico. I didn't say that. You said that. If you have plenary powers over the people of Puerto Rico, then assume your responsibility that comes with those plenary powers over the people of Puerto Rico.

Please don't tell me you are going to put Puerto Ricans on the board. I lived in Puerto Rico. I remember when the sugarcane cutters would cut the sugarcane. Let me assure you there were Puerto Ricans in charge of exploiting those workers in the sugarcane field. There have been many times in history

when the very same people who have been put in charge exploit their own.

Give us dignity. Give us transparency. Do it at least in the Spanish language so the people can know what is going on. At least King George, when he would come with his decrees—before he burned this building down—would write his decrees in English so that we would understand what he was doing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded and requested not to refer to occupant of the gallery.

□ 1300

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I visited Puerto Rico, and believe me when I say the fiscal crisis the island is facing is, in every way, a crisis. Hospitals can't pay their bills. They have closed wings of the hospital. One hospital is \$4 million in debt because they haven't paid an electric bill.

Some people will point out that this is largely a crisis of Puerto Rico's own making. They are right; the gentleman from Illinois is wrong.

Puerto Rico has had internal self-government for over 50 years. It wasn't the Congress that forced Puerto Rico to pile up debt after debt after debt after debt; and it wasn't the Congress that tapped Puerto Rico on the shoulder until now and said: You can't sustain this debt.

There already have been two defaults. There is a \$2 billion default coming on the 1st of July because they don't have the money to even do their debt service; and despite this dire situation, the Puerto Rican Government has increased its spending on everything except, ironically, debt service.

I see what is happening in Puerto Rico as a cautionary tale for us here in Washington and here in the Congress of the United States.

Now, PROMESA is not rewarding bad behavior. If we wanted to reward bad behavior, we would pay billions of dollars in a taxpayer-financed bailout to finance all of this irresponsible borrowing that has been going on in Puerto Rico.

Significantly, this bill does not commit one penny of taxpayer funds to bail out Puerto Rico. The fiscal oversight board is designed to help Puerto Ricans set their finances in order when they have failed to do so by themselves.

Now, let me say something. I heard the gentleman from Illinois talk about us treating Puerto Rico as a colony. That has not been the case since Mr. Munoz Marin, the legendary Governor of Puerto Rico, persuaded this Congress to give Puerto Rico internal self-government. What has happened here is internal self-government has failed, and that is why we are talking about this today.

I don't think many of my constituents in Wisconsin or Mr. DUFFY's constituents or Chairman BISHOP's constituents really were concerned about

Puerto Rico, but we were; and we stepped up to the plate and offered a solution that has attracted bipartisan support and the support of the administration.

What do we hear from the opponents of this piece of legislation, one of whom just spoke very eloquently? It is wrong. It is bad. We shouldn't do that. We are ignoring the people of Puerto Rico.

Well, we are not doing that. We are making sure in this bill that the pain is shared. If this bill doesn't pass, there is no plan B, and Puerto Rico is going to collapse into an economic morass. There is no plan B.

I haven't heard anything from those who are opposed to this bill on what their alternative is. They have had a year to come up with their alternative, and all they do is make fiery speeches against what has been a very long and patient negotiated process. They are not a part of the solution. They are trying to engender more opposition, and they are a part of the problem.

Pass this rule. Pass this bill. Let's get Puerto Rico back on track, and this is a way to do it with some help from the oversight board.

Puerto Ricans are going to have to do this themselves. They haven't been able to do it without a tap on the shoulder. Too bad there is an oversight board, but that is the only game in town.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, through you, I will advise my friend from Alabama that I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close whenever he is.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to another gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Alabama for yielding.

It is a fascinating debate, where two sides of the political aisle have come together, at the start, from very different vantage points on how to help Puerto Rico but have consistently worked together to find a compromise that all of us think is going to leave Puerto Rico better off than it is today.

I heard the gentleman from Illinois, in his fiery remarks, talking about dignity and respect for the people of Puerto Rico. He was saying that people in Puerto Rico are being treated like trash.

The economic stats are staggering of what is happening in Puerto Rico: the unemployment rate, it is double that of the mainland; the labor participation rate is 20 points lower than the national average; and thousands of people every month are leaving the island because there is not enough economic opportunity.

If you want to talk about dignity and respect, look at the poverty on the island. Look at the despair on the island. I mean, you have families that are being separated because they have no

jobs. They can't live in their neighborhoods, in their communities with their families because they can't find an opportunity, so they have to go somewhere else. That is not dignity. That is not respect.

So this Congress has come together with a unified voice to come up with a package that can actually get Puerto Rico on an economic path to prosperity.

Listen, I would love if we can say to the Puerto Rican Government: You guys have to do a better job of managing your debt.

Guess what. It has been a failure, with \$73 billion in debt. They can't get their hands around it. The people have lost trust in the government, and so they are saying: If you look at the polls, we want Congress to act. We want Congress to do something. We can't get saved at home. Would the U.S. Congress please step in? Would you please help us out?

They aren't opposed to an oversight board to help manage the finances of the island. They are not opposed to a system to restructure Puerto Rican debt, a system that, by the way, makes sure that the bondholders of Puerto Rican debt will bear the loss, not the American taxpayer, because I think this institution believes that we should have the bondholders bear that loss instead of the American taxpayer.

We don't believe in capitalism on the way up, where you get all the rewards of your investment and bonds, but socialism on the way down, so, if you lose in an investment, the taxpayer will bail you out. That is not what we believe in.

So I guess when I hear opponents who talk about their fathers being born in Puerto Rico and them wanting to die in Puerto Rico, I love the passion, I love the fire, but you have to have a heart and look at what is happening on the island and look at a commonsense, bipartisan solution where you have the President of the United States, the Treasury, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI), who has been masterful in helping make sure that we stay on target, we understand what is going on on the island, that we understand what will work and what won't work, that we have come together, two different parties, actually, the Speaker of the Puerto Rican House engaging with us on how we are going to fix the island.

One quick last point. This is about debt restructuring. This is about getting the finances in order. But this also has to be about economic growth. You won't have a recovery until you have economic growth. We incent investment on the island.

Though we haven't done enough—there is still more to do—both sides have committed to making sure we come up with a strategy and a plan to make sure we have investment in Puerto Rico, so there is more opportunity, more jobs, more tax revenue, and more prosperity for the Puerto Rican people.

I am proud of the work that this House has done on this bill, the different sides, different views, different opinions that have come together to make this bill happen. I would encourage everyone to support the rule and, later today, support this bill.

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

There is no doubt that the people of Puerto Rico find themselves in a dire situation, and there is no doubt that this situation has been made worse by the snail's pace with which the majority has seen fit to address the problems facing the people of Puerto Rico.

Though the restructuring of Puerto Rico's debt is certainly needed, I worry that the burdens placed upon the residents of the island, through this bill, really only amount to punting on important issues that we will, nonetheless, have to address somewhere down the road while making these important issues all the more complicated when we do get to the business of actually helping the people of Puerto Rico.

I urge a "no" vote on the rule, Mr. Speaker.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I appreciate the remarks of my friend from Florida. This is a tough issue, there is no question about it. There are many of us that don't really understand how we got to this point. I have been trying to do some digging about that.

The truth of the matter is that the people in the Federal Government who were supposed to be looking over this and watching Puerto Rico and making sure that, if things needed to be done, they were done appropriately, under the law, were the President of the United States and the Treasury Department, and they failed.

Now, they failed in watching the situation and raising the alarm for the rest of us. Let's make no mistake about it. The people of Puerto Rico elected governments, and those governments that have home rule authority made decisions that have put this island, as we just heard, on the brink of collapse because they spent money they didn't have, and they racked up debt they can't pay back.

Now, let's just stop and think for a minute. Where are we going in the United States of America? We are spending money we don't have, and we are racking up debt that there may come a day, for our country, as it is for Puerto Rico, that we won't be able to pay back; and then we, as the United States of America, will be on the brink of collapse. So perhaps we should learn a lesson here, that the decisions we make in this House about the future of the United States of America, those decisions could lead to the very same result for our country that we see for Puerto Rico.

My heart goes out to the people of Puerto Rico. They are suffering, and the suffering will get worse if we do not act.

The sponsor of the bill used two phrases with regard to this legislation that really struck me. He said it is "common sense" and "bipartisan." Isn't it a good thing that we have commonsense legislation that is bipartisan? Isn't that what the people of the United States of America send us here to do?

Let's come together, as one House, with one voice, help the people of Puerto Rico, and then, together, sit down and learn the lesson of what has happened here so that we don't repeat those mistakes for our country and end up with the United States of America on the brink of collapse.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to discuss H. Res. 770, the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5278—Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA).

Our consideration of PROMESA must be a very thoughtful analysis of an outcome where the people of Puerto Rico will be empowered and be on a path towards progress where working families, their children and pensioners can be on a pathway towards a better future.

PROMESA is a bipartisan measure and effort to assist the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in restructuring \$70 billion in currently unpayable debt, an amount that exceeds the size of its entire economy.

There are a total of 3.548 million people living on the island of Puerto Rico.

Since 2006, Puerto Rico's economy has shrunk by more than 10 percent and shed more than 250,000 jobs.

More than 45 percent of the Commonwealth's residents live in poverty—the highest poverty rate of any state or territory.

Furthermore, its 11.6 percent unemployment rate is more than twice the national level.

The challenges facing the people of Puerto Rico have ignited the largest wave of out-migration since the 1950's, and the pace continues to accelerate.

More than 300,000 people have left Puerto Rico in the past decade with a record of 84,000 people leaving in 2014.

Puerto Ricans suffer from high rates of forced migration due to the better opportunities offered in the United States compared to in the commonwealth.

The gap between emigrants and immigrants has been continuously widening.

Indeed, this increase in emigrants caused a population decline, the first in its history, and the stateside Puerto Rican population grew quickly.

The median age of male Puerto Ricans is of working age from the ages of 25–49 and similarly for women from the ages of 25–59.

Most of the homes are family-led.

There are about 1,133,600 people in the civilian labor force but only 43 percent of them are employed.

In addition, most of those working work in minimum wage jobs.

Over 27 percent of the people in the Commonwealth are on welfare.

The median income in Puerto Rico is only half that of the poorest U.S. state, Mississippi, but welfare benefits are about the same in Puerto Rico as in Mississippi.

Swift action is needed in order to alleviate the pain and suffering of the people of Puerto Rico.

There is no time to waste.

H.R. 5278 appears to be an emergency default for Puerto Rico, an American territory where 3.5 million American citizens reside and continue to live in fear for their finances, their families and their future.

On July 1, Puerto Rico will face nearly \$2 billion worth of bond payments.

Already, businesses have closed, public worker benefits are in jeopardy, hospital care is restricted and basic governmental functions are at risk.

Should the Puerto Rican government default in early July, it faces certain litigation by its creditors, further erosion of its economy, and an inability to provide basic services to its people.

This measure creates a process for the Commonwealth to restructure their bond debts, avoiding a default that could lead to a humanitarian catastrophe and instead allowing Puerto Rico to return to economic growth and fiscal balance.

It would allow for the creation of a seven-member Financial Oversight and Management board which will approve annual budgets and fiscal plans.

This fiscal plan must be designed in a way that provides adequate funding for pension obligations.

Also, I have serious concerns about the minimum wage provision of the measure.

Specifically, regarding minimum wage and overtime, H.R. 5278 would extend the application of the existing federal subminimum wage of \$4.25 an hour to those under the age of 25 in Puerto Rico for as long as four years, while all other federal jurisdictions pay the subminimum wage to those under the age of 20 for only up to the first ninety days of employment.

We need to continue to work on ways to improve this measure to ascertain that American citizens in Puerto Rico are not languishing in poverty.

Indeed, the measure contains a provision that provides for a delay on the new Department of Labor overtime pay regulation until a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study is completed and the Department of Labor determines whether the rule could negatively impact the economy of Puerto Rico.

Additionally, the measure would create a "Revitalization Coordinator" that works closely with the Oversight Board to determine which energy and other infrastructure projects will be able to bypass local environmental, public health, and consumer protection laws.

Let me underscore again that I have serious concerns about the provisions in this measure, not the least of which is the expansion of the subminimum wage, the exemption from the new overtime Rule, and the exclusion of protections for pension benefits.

I commend my Democratic colleagues in their efforts of protecting the environment and wildlife refuge in the Commonwealth.

I look forward to working with my Democratic colleagues and our Republican colleagues across the aisle in continuing to improve the provisions of the measure for the betterment of fellow American citizens in Puerto Rico.

Let me conclude by highlighting that H.R. 5278 is not perfect but so long as we continue to work on a bipartisan basis in good faith, we can work towards our efforts of ensuring that Puerto Rico does not become a humanitarian crisis.

We must continue to work together to be our brother's and sister's keepers.

It is essential that we stand with the people of Puerto Rico and take action.

It is essential that we continue to work towards an orderly process that promotes the livelihood of U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico and alleviates the crisis.

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

The previous question was ordered.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5325, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 771 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 771

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. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, 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 Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such 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 amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration of H.R. 5325 pursuant to this resolution, section 3304 of Senate Concurrent Resolution 11 shall not apply.

□ 1315

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I raise a point of order against House Resolution 771 because the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act.

The resolution, in waiving all points of order against consideration of the bill, waives section 425 of the Congressional Budget Act, thereby causing a violation of section 426(a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas makes a point of order that the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The gentleman has met the threshold burden under the rule, and the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes of debate on the question of consideration. Following debate, the Chair will put the question of consideration as the statutory means of disposing of the point of order.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year's appropriations process has been rocky to say the least. That trend is poised to continue this evening and tomorrow as the House considers the fiscal year '17 Legislative appropriations bill.

Buried in this bill's committee report is controversial language that forces the Library of Congress to continue using the derogatory term "illegal alien" in its subject headings. Mr. Speaker, I will explain the background on this issue.

Last month, the Library of Congress announced proposed changes to its subject headings that would replace the term "aliens" with "noncitizens" and replace the term "illegal aliens" with "noncitizens" and "unauthorized immigration."

It is not unusual for the Library of Congress to make changes to its subject headings. In fact, each year it makes thousands of such changes. In 2015 alone, there were 4,934 new subject headings that were added. An example of one such change that the Library has made in the past was to replace the word "Negro" with a less offensive word.

This sort of evolution of the Library's subject headings is not unprecedented by any stretch of the imagination. However, what is unprecedented is Congress' weighing in on these changes. In fact, the Library has confirmed that this is the first time that Congress will have legislated on any of its subject headings in the history of the Library of Congress. So never before in history has Congress so much as communicated with the Library of Congress about its subject headings, let alone introduced legislation concerning them.

With this bill, that is all about to change. House Republicans are poised to make history by—for the first time ever—interfering in the Library of Congress' subject headings process to preserve a prejudicial term.

Now, I am not going to lump everybody on the other side of the aisle together on this issue. When this bill was marked up in the Appropriations Committee, Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ introduced an amendment that would remove the "alien"-related language from the legislation's committee report. In fact, four Republicans in the committee joined Democrats to vote in favor of that measure, and the amendment only failed by one vote.

So there is bipartisan consensus on this matter, and it deserves debate and a vote in the full House of Representatives so that all of us can take a vote where, for the first time—again, this is the first time in its history—where the Congress is legislating on a subject heading of the Library of Congress, and it is to force the Library of Congress to continue using the word "illegal alien" rather than allowing them to do their job and, as they were considering doing, retiring that term.

Yesterday, three amendments were presented to the Rules Committee that would allow this to occur. Astoundingly, the Rules Committee rejected all three of those amendments. In other words, they would have allowed us to debate this and take a vote on it, but the Rules Committee rejected all three of these amendments, preventing a vote on this issue on the House floor.

As I mentioned before, Mr. Speaker, the language in the committee report that has sparked this debate refers to a portion of U.S. Code that contains the term "alien." I have introduced legislation that would remove "alien" from U.S. Code in instances where it refers to immigrants to this Nation. My bill, which is H.R. 3785, the CHANGE Act, would replace the terms "alien" and "illegal alien" in Federal law with the terms "foreign national" and "undocumented foreign national."

Let me be clear about why I am doing that. First, these folks may not be American citizens, but they are human beings. They are not people from outer space. When we think of the term "alien," we don't think of human beings; we think of people that are from somewhere else.

The word "illegal alien" has also been used oftentimes—although not by everyone—in a pejorative way, in a way that is meant to be pejorative and offensive. It stigmatizes immigrants in this Nation and diminishes the quality of discussion around immigration issues in the United States. When ugly, belittling names are used to describe groups of people, those terms can make discrimination seem okay.

There is precedent for changing language in our laws as words' meanings evolve over time. For example, our Federal code previously used the terms "lunatic" and "mentally retarded." Those words have since been taken out.

Just last month, President Obama signed into law a bill that I believe we can all be proud of, which was introduced by my colleague, Congresswoman GRACE MENG of New York, that removes the terms "Oriental" and "Negro" from Federal code. It is also time for "alien" to be added to the list of words we remove from Federal code.

So I urge my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, to stand up for the dignity of all people who call America home and vote in favor of the CHANGE Act.

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

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I understand that my friend has great passion on this issue. What I love about this Chamber is that it allows people to come and express their passions.

But I serve on the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee has original jurisdiction of the unfunded mandate point of order, and it is designed to prevent Congress from imposing unfunded mandates—rules that we are not going to pay for—on outside institutions: State governments, local governments, and tribal governments.

By definition, this is the legislative branch appropriations bill. It funds the Library of Congress. We are absolutely funding what this bill is asked to do. To debate the merits of the underlying language is absolutely legitimate debate. But to use this point of order, which is almost a textbook definition of what this point of order does not apply to, is a dilatory tactic, Mr. Speaker.

I would ask that we vote to dispense with that, oppose this point of order, and get on to the underlying legislation.

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, can I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would make two points. The first is that this is an unfunded mandate because the Library of Congress was already well on its way to changing this term. Now, Congress is instructing it that it cannot do that. There is no way that money is not spent in following the instruction of Congress. So I disagree with the gentleman. This is an unfunded mandate.

To the issue itself, there was no argument from the other side that these words are pejorative, that this word is an anachronism. And, by the way, Mr. Speaker, this word is used in Federal code and applies to people who are here who are undocumented and also people who are here legally who are residents. So this is not only an issue of the undocumented. This is an issue of immigrants generally.

I know that, over the years, ours has been a very devout nation, a nation of faith, and that includes many of the people in this body. I, for example, have had an opportunity to visit with the faith study group that meets once a week that talks about the issues of their own personal faith, their own journeys, and the work that they do for their constituents.

As I think about my own district, which is 64 percent Hispanic in San Antonio, it is a town whose creativity, entrepreneurship, and spirit has been infused by the immigrant spirit. These are hardworking, often humble people who don't ask for much from their government, who work hard to provide for their families and who hardly ever will be heard to complain. Most of them, obviously, are documented; some are not.

But those people who are not and those who are considered resident aliens are human beings, and I believe that our faith would tell us that God considers those folks human beings, not illegals. I don't imagine that God thinks of those people as illegal. They are fundamentally human beings, and they should be respected.

They are not American citizens. We understand that, and there has been much debate over the last few years about passing comprehensive immigration reform or at least considering it here on the House floor. That hasn't happened yet. But I do think that each of us can at least extend some modicum of respect to these people.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to join me in voting for the CHANGE Act.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I applaud my friend for coming down here and speaking on the underlying bill. I think it is very important that we have the conversations that we will have on the underlying bill. But it is also important, in the name of good government, to use these points of order for the purpose these points of order were intended to be used.

The Library of Congress cannot spend one penny except for those dollars provided in the underlying legislation. Yes, the underlying legislation has mandates for the Library of Congress, but those mandates are funded because that is the only way the Library of Congress can be funded.

This is an incredibly important point of order, Mr. Speaker. The power that we have in this body to dictate to State, local, and tribal governments what they must do and then refuse to pay the bill is a dangerous practice that this institution recognized when it created this point of order to avoid.

I hope my friends on both side of the aisle will continue to bring up unfunded mandates points of order when they are applicable. But I implore my colleagues: Do not take a vote to suggest that a point of order designed to

prevent us from putting unfunded costs on local governments should apply when we are funding the responsibilities of the Federal Government. That perverts the intent, and it undermines our ability to use this point of order effectively in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge us to allow the House to continue our business for the day. Vote "yes" on the question of consideration of the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the point of order has expired.

The question is, Will the House now consider the resolution?

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 231, nays 170, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 283]

YEAS—231

Abraham	Fox	Massie
Aderholt	Franks (AZ)	McCarthy
Allen	Frelinghuysen	McCaul
Amash	Garrett	McClintock
Amodei	Gibbs	McHenry
Babin	Gibson	McKinley
Barr	Gohmert	McMorris
Barton	Goodlatte	Rodgers
Benishek	Gosar	McSally
Bilirakis	Gowdy	Meadows
Bishop (MI)	Granger	Meehan
Bishop (UT)	Graves (GA)	Messer
Blackburn	Graves (LA)	Mica
Blum	Graves (MO)	Miller (FL)
Bost	Griffith	Miller (MI)
Boustany	Grothman	Mooleenaar
Brady (TX)	Guinta	Mooney (WV)
Brat	Guthrie	Mullin
Bridenstine	Hanna	Mulvaney
Brooks (AL)	Harper	Murphy (PA)
Brooks (IN)	Harris	Neugebauer
Buchanan	Hartzler	Newhouse
Buck	Heck (NV)	Noem
Bucshon	Hensarling	Nugent
Burgess	Hill	Nunes
Byrne	Holding	Olson
Calvert	Hudson	Palazzo
Carter (GA)	Huelskamp	Palmer
Carter (TX)	Huizenga (MI)	Paulsen
Chabot	Hunter	Pearce
Chaffetz	Hurd (TX)	Perry
Clawson (FL)	Hurt (VA)	Pittenger
Coffman	Issa	Pitts
Cole	Jenkins (KS)	Poe (TX)
Collins (GA)	Jenkins (WV)	Poliquin
Collins (NY)	Johnson (OH)	Pompeo
Costello (PA)	Johnson, Sam	Posey
Cramer	Jolly	Ratcliffe
Crawford	Jordan	Reed
Crenshaw	Joyce	Reichert
Culberson	Katko	Renacci
Curbelo (FL)	Kelly (MS)	Ribble
Davis, Rodney	Kelly (PA)	Rigell
Denham	King (IA)	Roby
Dent	King (NY)	Roe (TN)
DeSantis	Kinzing (IL)	Rogers (AL)
DesJarlais	Kline	Rogers (KY)
Diaz-Balart	Knight	Rohrabacher
Dold	Labrador	Rokita
Donovan	LaHood	Ros-Lehtinen
Duncan (SC)	LaMalfa	Roskam
Duncan (TN)	Lamborn	Ross
Emmer (MN)	Lance	Rothfus
Farenthold	Latta	Rouzer
Fitzpatrick	LoBiondo	Royce
Fleischmann	Long	Russell
Fleming	Loudermilk	Salmon
Flores	Love	Sanford
Forbes	Lucas	Scalise
Fortenberry	Lummis	Schweikert
	MacArthur	Scott, Austin
	Marchant	Sensenbrenner
	Marino	Sessions

Shimkus	Trott	Whitfield
Shuster	Turner	Williams
Simpson	Upton	Wilson (SC)
Smith (MO)	Valadao	Wittman
Smith (NE)	Wagner	Womack
Smith (NJ)	Walberg	Woodall
Smith (TX)	Walden	Yoder
Stefanik	Walker	Yoho
Stewart	Walorski	Young (AK)
Stivers	Walters, Mimi	Young (IA)
Stutzman	Weber (TX)	Young (IN)
Thompson (PA)	Webster (FL)	Zeldin
Thornberry	Wenstrup	Zinke
Tiberi	Westerman	
Tipton	Westmoreland	

NAYS—170

Adams	Gallego	Neal
Aguilar	Garamendi	Nolan
Ashford	Graham	Norcross
Bass	Grayson	O'Rourke
Beatty	Green, Al	Pallone
Becerra	Green, Gene	Pascarell
Bera	Grijalva	Pelosi
Beyer	Hahn	Perlmutter
Bishop (GA)	Hastings	Peters
Bonamici	Heck (WA)	Pingree
Boyle, Brendan	Higgins	Pocan
F.	Himes	Polis
Brady (PA)	Honda	Price (NC)
Brown (FL)	Hoyer	Quigley
Bustos	Huffman	Rangel
Butterfield	Israel	Rice (NY)
Capps	Jackson Lee	Richmond
Cárdenas	Jeffries	Roybal-Allard
Carney	Johnson (GA)	Ruiz
Carson (IN)	Johnson, E. B.	Ruppersberger
Cartwright	Jones	Rush
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Ryan (OH)
Castro (TX)	Keating	Sánchez, Linda
Chu, Judy	Kelly (IL)	T.
Cicilline	Kennedy	Sanchez, Loretta
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Schakowsky
Clay	Kind	Schiff
Cleaver	Kirkpatrick	Schrader
Clyburn	Kuster	Scott (VA)
Cohen	Langevin	Scott, David
Connolly	Larsen (WA)	Serrano
Conyers	Larson (CT)	Sewell (AL)
Cooper	Lawrence	Sherman
Courtney	Levin	Sinema
Crowley	Lewis	Slaughter
Cuellar	Loeb sack	Smith (WA)
Davis (CA)	Lofgren	Speier
Davis, Danny	Lowenthal	Swalwell (CA)
DeFazio	Lowe	Takano
DeGette	Lujan Grisham	Thompson (CA)
Delaney	(NM)	Thompson (MS)
DeLauro	Lujan, Ben Ray	Titus
DelBene	(NM)	Tonko
DeSaulnier	Maloney,	Torres
Deutch	Carolyn	Tsongas
Dingell	Maloney, Sean	Van Hollen
Doggett	Matsui	Vargas
Doyle, Michael	McCollum	Veasey
F.	McDermott	Vela
Duckworth	McGovern	Velázquez
Edwards	McNerney	Visclosky
Engel	Meeks	Walz
Eshoo	Meng	Wasserman
Esty	Moore	Schultz
Fattah	Moulton	Waters, Maxine
Foster	Murphy (FL)	Watson Coleman
Frankel (FL)	Nadler	Wilson (FL)
Fudge	Napolitano	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—32

Barletta	Fincher	Luetkemeyer
Black	Gabbard	Lynch
Blumenauer	Gutiérrez	Payne
Brownley (CA)	Hardy	Peterson
Capuano	Herrera Beutler	Price, Tom
Costa	Hice, Jody B.	Rice (SC)
Cummings	Hinojosa	Rooney (FL)
Duffy	Hultgren	Sires
Ellison	Lee	Takai
Ellmers (NC)	Lieu, Ted	Welch
Farr	Lipinski	

□ 1350

Mses. EDWARDS and WASSERMAN SCHULTZ changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. SHUSTER changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the question of consideration was decided in the affirmative.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), 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. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, the buzz you hear around this Chamber, I suspect, is enthusiasm for the underlying bill. This is the legislative branch appropriations bill for FY 2017, and it is the single piece of legislation that enables all of the constituent services that go on from this institution. I want to say that again. Not one act of constituent service would go on anywhere in this country but for this underlying text. It is the Legislative Branch Subcommittee, led by my friend and colleague from Georgia, cardinal TOM GRAVES.

They do great work on the Legislative Branch Subcommittee, Mr. Speaker. It is no surprise to my colleagues in this Chamber that the House Appropriations Committee has been hard at work in producing those 12 appropriations bills that we are required to pass every year. Our success record in getting that done as a body has been spotty, but the success record of our committee in getting that done has been historic.

Even more, unlike many bills that come to this floor, the Appropriations Committee has said: Do you know what? We did the very best that we could do, but we welcome the input and counsel from our colleagues because we all have different experiences; we all come from different parts of the country; and we all have something to add.

So this bill, Mr. Speaker, makes in order 13 different amendments—seven offered by Republicans, six offered by Democrats—so that we can improve this bill and discuss this bill even more.

Among the top line items in the bill is the funding for our Capitol Police. No more so than this year have folks had the Capitol Police on their minds. The service that those men and women provide is indispensable in this Chamber, and I would argue, more than it is valuable to us and more than it is valuable to our constituents who visit this Chamber every day throughout the

year, it is valuable to the families of those who send their loved ones to work here each and every day.

This bill funds the Architect of the Capitol. We talk so much about spending reductions and trying to be responsible. I am so proud of the spending record in terms of those reductions on inefficient programs that this Chamber has generated, but we have priceless American treasures right here in this building. I recall when you could see the water running down from the Capitol dome as it destroyed those precious American, historical treasures. So this bill funds the Architect of the Capitol so that we are not a penny-wise and pound-foolish in terms of our obligation to tend to America's treasures.

This bill funds the Government Accountability Office. I dare say there is not a Member of Congress in this institution who hasn't had a constituent ask about a GAO report, who hasn't had occasion on his own to ask our auditing agency—our accounting office—to do a study of the best ways to use our resources, to make use of the limited resources that we have. They provide an incredibly valuable, non-partisan service so that we can do the very best for our constituents back home.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is funded at a level that is lower than the level was when I arrived in this Chamber. It is lower than the level was in 2009 and in 2010. I think that is important, because I think thrift really does begin at home. Throughout every year that I have been in this institution—I am now in year 5—we have absolutely gone after inefficient programs elsewhere in the government. We have absolutely tried to make a difference in curbing that tidal wave of debt that threatens the next generation, but we have started here in each and every bill.

Mr. Speaker, folks don't know it. The newspapers always carry the stories of excess on Capitol Hill. I don't know where they find those excess stories. I will tell you that the allotment for the spending of my office—for all of the constituent service that we do—is less than was allotted 10 years ago. Inflation corrodes it, and the job market erodes it. Time and time again, every dollar buys less, as every American family knows. We have committed ourselves as an institution to do more with less—thrift beginning at home.

There is a modest increase in this bill from the last cycle to deal with those issues, like our Capitol Police, like the Library of Congress, like the preservation of the Capitol. I support all of those underlying measures, and I support the rule by which we are bringing this measure here again. Thirteen amendments are made available by this rule. If we pass the rule, we will then move to the underlying bill, vote on those 13 amendments, and move to final passage.

I urge all of my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying bill.

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

□ 1400

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

I thank my friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), for yielding me the customary 30 minutes for debate.

This legislation, as he indicated, provides \$3.48 billion for the House of Representatives and joint operations of Congress. That is a \$73 million increase over the current year's levels, but more than \$150 million below the President's request.

This legislation funds the salaries and expenses for the House of Representatives, the Capitol Police, the Congressional Budget Office, the Architect of the Capitol, Government Accountability Office, and the Library of Congress.

Today is June 9. Nearly 2 months have passed since my friends in the majority sailed past the statutory deadline for passing a budget without even looking back. Nearly 1 month has passed since House Republicans began considering appropriations bills without first agreeing to top-line spending levels.

Republicans made passing a budget a top priority this year. They insisted that we would return to regular order. I really wish the American public understood the “regular order” concept. Yet here we are working without a roadmap and, instead, passing new rules to stifle debate on the House floor on controversial issues like equal rights.

But I will get to that in a bit, Mr. Speaker. For now, I will just say it is disappointing because, instead of considering appropriations bills funding critical investments for American families and communities, the House majority has again chosen to take care of itself. The partisan mishmash we are discussing today is no different.

Here is an example: This legislation forces the Library of Congress to continue to use the pejorative term “illegal alien” in its subject headings. Mr. Speaker, in another life, as a member of the judiciary, I refused to use that term when discussing persons that were before me. I can't help but laugh at the absurdity of this.

We—and I mean Congress—can't have a conversation about comprehensive immigration reform, yet we are forcing the Library of Congress to readopt politically charged rhetoric. For what? How is this a priority? The Legislative Branch Appropriations bill is certainly not the appropriate place for a political debate on immigration.

This legislation continues to fund the Energy and Commerce select panel to target Planned Parenthood, which, thus far, has conducted a completely partisan, political witch hunt and come up empty.

This legislation continues to fund the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi, which has already spent \$7 million on just four hearings over the

past 2 years in order to smear Secretary Clinton. And what has it produced? Nothing.

I will note that the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi has overlapped a number of previous investigations that also found nothing. You want to cut wasteful spending, Mr. Speaker? Look no further. Defund the Benghazi hearings.

I am happy to say that the bill provides \$563 million for Members' representational allowances for the coming fiscal year. This is 1.5 percent increase over the current level. But when we consider the fact that the MRAs have been cut by nearly 17 percent since 2011—that adds up to \$312,000—a mere 1.5 percent increase is clearly inadequate. I can make the argument that, because of that, we are unable to pay young people that come here and keep them with their institutional memory, and in addition we are unable to provide efficient services for our constituents; yet we cut that \$312,000 out of the budget, and now we are going to add back a little bit and claim that we are being efficient.

I won't even go into the salary and the cost-of-living adjustment but to say that people find it surprising that we are entering this legislation in 2017, year 9, without a cost-of-living increase for Members of Congress. I wonder if that is causing some of them to live in their offices. I wonder if it is causing them to breach tax considerations when they do that and, perhaps, even ethical considerations. But I won't go into that.

Furthermore, an amendment has been offered that will require a 1 percent cut across the board to the bill's spending levels. Such a cut would essentially wipe out this already diminutive increase. Members should vote this amendment down.

With salaries frozen where they are, I just got through saying we can't retain the best talent. We continue to lose staff. I have three staffers that were perfect for their jobs that had to leave because they couldn't afford to live on the salary that we were paying them.

Side note here, Mr. Speaker: the median rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Washington, D.C., was \$2,160 per month last December; and I will remind the Members of this body that many staffers start here at \$30,000 or less, annually. Do the math. We need to take better care of our people.

Mr. Speaker, before I yield back, I feel compelled to mention Speaker RYAN's new rules governing the appropriations process on the House floor. Three weeks ago, something particularly shameful took place in this room as we debated the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

An amendment by our colleague and friend, SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, reached the vote threshold needed to pass. Republican leadership, apparently caught off guard, held open the vote for

nearly 8 minutes in order to make Republican Members change their vote. They allowed this to happen in the back of the room, and the amendment failed.

And what contentious subject was the amendment focused on? I will tell you. Prohibiting Federal contractors from discriminating against LGBTQ employees. This episode demonstrated just how little courage some Members of the Republican Party have.

A week later, Representative SEAN PATRICK MALONEY offered his amendment again, this time to the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, and it caused such a hubbub that the legislation collapsed on the floor. I will say that again. A provision ensuring that LGBTQ contractors can't be fired solely because they are LGBTQ proved so contentious to Republicans that they defeated their own appropriations bill—I might add, a good bill—to prevent it from taking effect.

As a result, beginning this month, House Republican leadership is closing down the process and requiring all Members to submit amendments for appropriations measures to the Rules Committee in advance and has announced regular order is being suspended in order to make sure Republicans aren't caught off guard by "embarrassing" amendments, for instance, ensuring basic civil rights to American citizens.

Remember Speaker RYAN's pledge to return to regular order? Where is that commitment now? Perhaps my friends should consider that the reason these amendments are embarrassing to them is because their position is, in and of itself, embarrassing.

I will note that Representative SEAN PATRICK MALONEY offered his amendment again for the current legislation, but this time Republicans won't even allow it on the floor for a vote.

So, Mr. MALONEY, offer it again and again so we can continue to point out how ridiculous this is.

This entire process is quickly turning into a joke. Enough already. Why don't we fold the tent, wait until after the conventions and the November election, and start all over again, because we are doing nothing here.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is not widely known, but I have believed, in the 5 years that I have been in this institution, that if you were to lock the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) and myself in a room together, we could solve most of the issues that ail this Nation, that there really is more common ground in this institution than folks are willing to let on. But I find myself in the very uncomfortable position today of disagreeing with almost every conclusion that he reached, while I agree with so many of the fundamental issues that he believes brought us to this point; for example, regular order is bringing these appropriations bills to the floor.

The 1974 Budget Act lays out this process clearly. It lays out the process for passing a budget, and it lays out the process, if the disagreements over that budget become too great, how we can proceed with the appropriations bills. It is exactly what is happening here today and exactly the way we envisioned it in 1974 when they passed the first Congressional Budget Act. It continues to roll on that way today. This is a success; it is not a failure.

My friend is absolutely right; it has been 9 years since Congress last received a pay raise. I will say to my friend that I go down to townhall meetings and I say: One day, I am going to come down here and tell you that I have so satisfied you and your needs that I think I deserve a pay raise, too.

I listened to my friend, and my friend talks about how the process is broken and we can't pass budgets. My friend talks about particularly shameful episodes that go on here on the floor of the House. My friend talks about failure to do the right thing and shenanigans that go on from leadership.

I will tell you, I failed to find anything in those few minutes that I thought my constituents would find worthy of a pay raise, and I regret that, Mr. Speaker. Because these men and women that I have the great pleasure of surrounding myself with here, these Representatives that come from 343 other very different districts across the country, they work hard, and they are honorable men and women fighting the hardest for their constituents who often disagree with me and mine.

We did have a very important vote 2 weeks ago, Mr. Speaker. You remember it well. I heard my colleagues trumpeting victories for equality, trumpeting historic votes in favor of equal opportunity when they passed an amendment, and not 20 minutes later, they voted against sending that bill to the Senate so that that amendment could become law.

Hear me again. We have big debates in this Chamber about serious issues that matter; and at some point, it has to be incumbent upon each and every one of us, if we get what we want in the amendment process, we need to support the final bill and get it moving to the President. I don't need to be right about policy; I need to make a difference on policy.

Like it or not, there are only two ways to change the law of this land from this Chamber. One is sending a bill to the President's desk and winning his signature; and the second is sending a bill to the President's desk, receiving his veto, and overriding it right back here in this Chamber. Neither of those processes for change, Mr. Speaker, even begin if we don't send the legislation from this floor.

I say to the gentleman from Florida, I am not scared of tough votes. To our colleagues who want to be protected from tough votes, I say you need to get another job than running for Congress. I am sure there are other folks who

will have you. If you don't want to take votes, don't become a United States Congressman. The toughest votes are the best votes we take in this institution. They tell us who we are as a people.

But the issues on which we are voting are too important to reduce to a bumper sticker tagline that goes on a campaign commercial that is going to be useful for 6 months or less. Let's have the big debates; let's do the big things; and then let's send those bills to the President's desk so that it becomes the law of the land.

We can talk and we can talk and we can talk, and so much of that talk centers around bringing change to America. Whether it is restoring a value of old or bringing a new value, it relates to bringing change to America. But that change cannot start until we change a little bit about ourselves.

Vote for the amendments; vote for your conscience; send those bills to the White House so we can get this process going.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I would like to address very briefly my friend—and he is my friend—that I agree with much of what he said. He said fundamentally much of what I said he did not agree with, but he pointed to the fact that the Maloney amendment passed and then we turned around and voted against the bill.

There were other measures in that bill that some of us didn't care for that caused us to vote against it as well, and among them was one that was particularly offensive to me since I represent one of our national parks, and that was carrying guns in national parks.

□ 1415

I could go on. There were at least seven other riders that were put on by the majority that caused me angst. I am not sure about everybody else.

Additionally, I agree with my good friend that he and I could solve many of these problems, but one thing that I know that he favors, and I know that he agrees with me, and that is that as often as possible that we have open rules in this body; where we are headed is, in many respects, not in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN), my good friend.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, this bill picks a fight with the librarians. In the bill, we seek to compel the Library of Congress to use an outdated and dehumanizing term to reference people who aren't citizens of the country.

Although the term "alien" is used in our statutes, it is outdated and deeply insulting to people born abroad who have worked hard to contribute to our economy and communities. In fact, this fall, the Republican Party in California itself decided not to use the term "illegal alien" in its platform. In

this bill, the Republicans in the House look like they are doubling down on vilifying immigrant communities.

Now, as part of a longstanding, often-used process for reviewing and updating subject headings, the Library of Congress apolitically decided to use the term "noncitizens" and "unauthorized immigration" instead of the pejorative term "illegal aliens." The Library makes these types of changes all the time. It is one of 90 such modifications proposed en masse by the Library this last March.

When a subject heading is changed, references to previous headings are retained so researchers can use them, but mandating the term "illegal alien," which is what Republicans are doing in this appropriations bill, is entirely political.

The rider countermands the Library's professional judgment. Now, it is noteworthy that the Library didn't choose the term "undocumented immigrant" favored by many because they didn't want to be political. They just wanted to be fair.

Applying these standards in the past, the Library of Congress changed the subject classification "Negroes" to "African Americans," the way we discuss African Americans today. The catalog used to say "cripples." That makes me cringe. That was changed over time, first to "handicapped" and later to "people with disabilities." But in this political season, it seems there is no limit to the racial invective that is being hurled around, and this bill plays into that.

Now, to my knowledge, Congress has never before told the Library of Congress what the heading in their card catalog has to be, and that we would do it in this case to promote a term that is so offensive to people is a darn shame.

Now, in the past, we have used the appropriations process to shut down the government. Republicans have done that repeatedly. I would hope that the Republicans in the House would not want to go down that path with this. It is true, this term is used in the statute. Our colleague, Representative CASTRO, has a bill to correct it. I would urge that bill be taken up and this unwarranted measure be rejected.

I include in the RECORD a letter from the American Library Association.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
AND ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY
COLLECTIONS & TECHNICAL SERVICES,

April 28, 2016.

Re: Request to Remove "Library of Congress Classification" Amendment from Legislative Branch Appropriations Legislation.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROGERS, RANKING MEMBER LOWEY AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE: We write today on behalf of the more than 58,000 members of the American Library Association and of the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS): the division of ALA members expert in cata-

logging and classification. We do so to respectfully urge the House Appropriations Committee to strike language in legislation just adopted by its Legislative Branch Subcommittee that would bar the Library of Congress (Library) from implementing an appropriate and thoroughly researched change in its subject heading classifications announced in late March of this year.

Specifically, the Library proposes to replace the terms "Aliens" with "Noncitizens," and "Illegal aliens" with two headings: "Noncitizens" and/or "Unauthorized immigration." While some see politics in this decision, Mr. Chairman, as library professionals viewing the work of our colleagues we see only attention to historical detail, intellectual honesty, procedural transparency, and faithfulness to long-standing precepts and practices of librarianship. These have been the hallmarks of cataloging for all of ALCTS' nearly 60 years and of almost 130 years of library science. Stripped of polemic and sensationalism, these are the facts underpinning the Library of Congress' frankly routine and professional determination:

The Library of Congress has a long-established, often used process for reviewing and updating outdated subject headings and establishing new ones as needed that preserves all prior versions of updated headings. Such updates may be proposed from outside or within the Library of Congress, but the Library makes the final decision on all changes to subject headings. The Library reviews each change proposal individually and typically adopts over a thousand each year.

Indeed, the heading change now before the Committee was one of 90 such modifications proposed en masse by the Library in March. When a subject heading is changed, references to previous headings are effectively retained indefinitely so that researchers who perform a search for a former heading are certain to be directed to all relevant materials. No document in the Library of Congress' (or any library's) collection itself is ever substantively edited, modified, annotated or "corrected" in any way as the result of a subject heading update like the one interdicted by the Subcommittee's recent action. Only its catalog "label" is altered.

The Library's process in this case was rigorous, transparent, and consistent with the highest standards of professional cataloging practice. The Library was first asked 18 months ago, quite publicly, to review its use of the cataloging term "illegal aliens" by one of the nation's preeminent colleges. That request, with modifications, subsequently was echoed by the American Library Association upon debate and approval of a formal Resolution by its more than 180-member Council in January of 2016. A "stakeholders" meeting with all appropriate expert sections from within the Library then was convened just over two months ago at which both outside requests, and the broader issues they raised, were reviewed in detail. It is a measure of the Library's professionalism and independence that, in fact, neither external proposal as submitted actually was accepted. Rather, upon review of the totality of the facts and consistent with venerable cataloging practice, the Library apolitically crafted the proposed policy described above and now before the Committee.

Decisions to update a subject heading are based on many considerations, including "literary warrant": the frequency with which a term is or is not used in print and other dynamic resources that, by their nature, change with and reflect current social structures and norms. For subject headings that refer to groups of people, special attention is paid to: popular usage; terms used by members of the group to self-identify; and avoiding terms that are widely considered

pejorative toward the group being described. Applying these same standards in the past, for example, the Library of Congress uneventfully changed the subject classification “Negroes” to “Afro-Americans” and again to “African Americans” over a period of years. The catalog term “Cripples” similarly morphed over time, first to “Handicapped” and later to “People with disabilities.” Congress made no move to countermand those expert cataloging determinations.

The Library reasonably and properly concluded in this instance that, when used in reference to people, the long-used terms “illegal” and “alien” have in recent decades acquired derogatory connotations, become pejorative, and been associated with nativist and racist sentiments. As the Library has noted: the heading “Aliens” has been in use by the Library since 1910; “Aliens, illegal” came into official use more than 35 years ago; and “Illegal aliens” has been in service for almost a quarter-century. Over that long span of time, and particularly in recent years, referring to undocumented persons (as opposed to forms of conduct) as “illegal” increasingly has been widely acknowledged as dehumanizing, offensive, inflammatory, and even a racial slur.

This shift has been plain and pronounced, as the Library observed, in precisely the kind of dynamic materials that cataloging standards require any Library to assess in evaluating the suitability of a subject heading in use and its prospective modification. Indeed, in recent years many national news organizations (including the Associated Press, USA Today, ABC, Chicago Tribune, and Los Angeles Times) categorically have stopped using the word “illegal” to describe human beings as a matter of editorial policy.

Moreover, the Pew Research Center has documented that their actions were not merely anecdotal or aberrant in any way. To the contrary, Pew compared use of the term “illegal aliens” in U.S. newspapers during the same two-week period in 1996, 2002, 2007 and 2013 (all times when immigration matters were much in the news). It found that use of that phrase declined precipitously over the most recent 6-year period surveyed, appearing in 21% of news reports in 2007 but just 5% in 2013: a 76% reduction in use and all-time low.

We understand, Mr. Chairman, why some have chosen to politicize the Library’s proposed subject heading changes discussed above. In light of the foregoing, however, it is the view of our Associations that, at minimum, the Library of Congress’ recent proposed reclassifications discussed above are fully consistent with accepted professional cataloging standards and practices. Indeed, we believe that a compelling case can be made that the proposed changes are required by them. We hope that the foregoing description of the standards and practices of our profession, rigorously adhered to and unimpeachably applied by the Library of Congress in this case, will assist the Committee to accept the Library’s independent professional cataloging determinations.

Specifically, we urge you and all Members of the Committee to strike all language from any piece of appropriations legislation that would countermand or modify the Library’s recent determinations pertaining to the terms “Aliens” and/or “Illegal aliens,” and to oppose any other legislation that would have similar effect.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide the Committee with a factual context in which to consider its upcoming actions. Please contact us should you or your staff have any questions, or require any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,
SARI FELDMAN,

President, American Library Association.
NORM MEDEIROS,
President, Association for Library Collections & Technical Services.

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

My friend from Florida made reference to regular order earlier and, again, he and I see very much eye-to-eye on that issue. The gentlewoman who just spoke is one of my great friends on the Committee on the Judiciary.

I would like to read the offending language that folks are referring to. It says this in its entirety:

To the extent practicable, the committee instructs the Library to maintain certain subject headings that reflect terminology used in title VIII United States Code. To the extent practicable, the Congress directs the Library of Congress to use the laws passed by Congress.

That is the offending language.

My friend serves on the Committee on the Judiciary. If the Committee on the Judiciary did as she is suggesting and changed the law tomorrow, this language would reflect those changes passed by the Committee on the Judiciary tomorrow. This isn’t the Committee on Appropriations’ jurisdiction. We can, as an open appropriations process allows, make every political point that we want to make on every topic under the Sun, but longstanding policy is not changed in an annual appropriations bill. It is changed by authorizers like my friends on the Committee on the Judiciary, and I urge them to get to work on it.

There is no question, all of the examples the gentlewoman cited, I am with her 100 percent. We have made those changes, and we are the better for it, but let’s not suggest—again, to my friend from Florida’s point, why don’t folks think Congress is deserving of a pay raise? I listened to my friend describe the motivations that folks had for including this language. They were not described as motivations in friendly or admiring terms. The language that says from Congress to the Library of Congress, use the laws passed by Congress.

Ms. LOFGREN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOODALL. I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LOFGREN. I would just like to note and put into the RECORD the fact sheet from the American Library Association indicating that it is the Library of Congress’ belief that it will need to change its policy already underway on this, so if the gentleman is saying that the language in the bill doesn’t require a change on the Library’s part, I think that would be news to the Library.

Mr. WOODALL. Reclaiming my time, I am not suggesting anything of the kind. I am suggesting that the language that folks are describing as offensive says from the Congress to the

Library of Congress, use the laws passed by Congress.

If we don’t like the laws of the land, we have a process to change them, and for better or for worse, that process begins in the committee on which the gentlewoman serves.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time so that I can continue my discussion with my friend from Florida.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) for a unanimous consent request.

(Ms. LOFGREN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the missive from the American Library Association entitled “Support Library of Congress Autonomy in Subject Heading Determinations.”

SUPPORT LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AUTONOMY IN SUBJECT HEADING DETERMINATIONS

[From the American Library Association and Association for Library Collections & Technical Services]

In late March of this year, after an extensive process consistent with long-standing library principles and practice, the Library of Congress proposed to replace the subject heading classification “Aliens” with “Noncitizens,” and “Illegal aliens” with two headings: “Noncitizens” and/or “Unauthorized immigration.” Similar, but not identical, changes previously had been requested by Dartmouth College and endorsed by the American Library Association.

In mid-April, the Legislative Branch Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee adopted language that would, in effect, countermand the Library’s professional judgments and reverse the proposed reclassifications noted above. (The Report adopted by the Subcommittee states: “To the extent practicable, the Committee instructs the Library to maintain certain subject headings that reflect terminology used in title 8, United States Code.”) The full House Appropriations Committee will meet in mid-May and has the power to undo the Subcommittee’s action.

On April 28, the Presidents of ALA and ALCTS (ALA’s division of members expert in cataloging and classification) wrote the attached letter to the Committee’s leaders and members on April 28 asking that they do so. Its principal points and specific requests follow on the reverse.

KEY POINTS: “LIBRARY LETTER” TO HOUSE APPROPRIATORS BACKING PROPOSED LIBRARY OF CONGRESS RECLASSIFICATIONS

The Library of Congress has a long-established, often used process for reviewing and updating outdated subject headings and establishing new ones as needed that preserves all prior versions of updated headings.

The Library’s process in this case was rigorous, transparent, and consistent with the highest standards of professional cataloging practice.

Decisions to update a subject heading are based on many considerations, including “literary warrant:” the frequency with which a term is or is not used in print and other dynamic resources that, by their nature, change with and reflect current social structures and norms. For headings that refer to groups of people, special attention is paid to: popular usage; terms used by members of the group to self-identify; and avoiding terms widely considered to be pejorative toward the group being described.

The Library reasonably and properly concluded in this instance that, when used in reference to people, the long-used terms “illegal” and “alien” have in recent decades acquired derogatory connotations, become pejorative, and been associated with nativist and racist sentiments. Particularly in recent years, referring to undocumented persons (as opposed to forms of conduct) as “illegal” increasingly has been widely acknowledged as dehumanizing, offensive, inflammatory, and even a racial slur. This shift has been plain and pronounced:

in recent years many national news organizations (including the Associated Press, USA Today, ABC, Chicago Tribune, and Los Angeles Times) categorically have stopped using the word “illegal” to describe human beings as a matter of editorial policy; and

the Pew Research Center compared use of the term “illegal aliens” in U.S. newspapers during the same two-week period in 1996, 2002, 2007 and 2013 (all times when immigration matters were much in the news). It found that use of that phrase declined precipitously over the most recent 6-year period surveyed, appearing in 21% of news reports in 2007 but just 5% in 2013: a 76% reduction in use and all-time low.

The Library of Congress’ recent proposed reclassifications discussed above are fully consistent with accepted professional cataloging standards and practices. Indeed, a compelling case can be made that the proposed changes are required by them.

ALA and ALCTS, its division of experts in cataloging, urge the Committee to accept the Library’s apolitical subject heading judgment and, thus, to strike language from any piece of appropriations legislation that would modify or countermand the Library’s recent determinations pertaining to the terms “Aliens” and/or “Illegal aliens,” and to oppose any other legislation that would have similar effect.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California), my friend and the ranking member of the Committee on Ethics in this body.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the consideration of H.R. 5325, a deceitful effort by House Republicans to yet again dehumanize an entire group of people. It pains me to even say the phrase “illegal alien” out loud because it is pejorative, it is offensive, and has no place in our modern discourse. The Library of Congress is correct to leave this phrase in the pages of history and never to have it uttered again.

The importance of the Library of Congress’ decision to discontinue and remove the outdated phrase cannot be emphasized enough. Libraries nationwide and around the world look to the Library of Congress’ subject headings and other standards to publish information. As lawmakers representing a country of immigrants, Congress should not assist in the dissemination of information that perpetuates racism and promotes hate.

Of course, I am not at all surprised that congressional Republicans would resort to inserting themselves into bibliographic decisions that are normally reserved for librarians, not appropriators or politicians. Republicans hypocritically claim to want to keep government out of people’s lives, but want

government to intrude and dictate standards only when it benefits their bigoted views.

Sadly, today’s effort and other past maneuvers to block President Obama’s executive actions on immigration falls in line with the concerted effort to move our country backward. We are better than that. Instead of promoting antiquated and deplorable language, we should be tackling any number of important issues—affordable education, tax reform, and promoting job growth—not telling librarians and educators how to do their jobs.

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

Going back to my friend from Florida’s case that we have hardworking men and women here who haven’t had a pay raise in 9 years, if we are a part of a body that perpetuates racism and hate, I don’t want a single one of us to get a penny. I don’t want a single one of us to get a penny. My experience is that is not at all who we are. That is not who we are at all.

My quick text search of the U.S. Code—and I am a lawyer, but I haven’t read the Code cover to cover—tells me that “illegal alien” is referenced 32 times, even in a single title. Let’s go change it. If you want to get rid of it, let’s go in and get rid of it. Don’t act like this is beyond our control and if only we can fix the Library of Congress, suddenly we can solve all that ails us.

This is the United States Code. If you don’t like the Code, change the Code. Tell me that we are ineffective and we can’t get that done? We are talking about a title change here, one that we have already done, already this Congress. We eliminated the last reference to “Oriental” in the United States Code. We do these things together, but we don’t do them by accusing one another of promoting racism and hate. We do those things by talking to one another.

Mr. HASTINGS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOODALL. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. HASTINGS. The Library of Congress has made 90 subject head changes. Why this one? Why does it have to stick and can’t be changed? I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. WOODALL. Reclaiming my time, I confess that I had no idea the Library of Congress was even in the subject change heading business. It wasn’t until I read a press release from somebody talking about this issue that I even knew this issue existed. But now that I know it exists, I know that it doesn’t exist in subject titles at the Library of Congress. It exists in the United States Code that is the law of the land for the greatest free nation this world has ever known.

You want to talk about shame on us? Shame on us for letting the librarians decide when the debate begins and when the debate ends. It is the United States Code and the responsibility falls

to one body and one body only, and that body is here.

I want to go back home, Mr. Speaker. I want to tell my constituents they are getting every dollar’s worth out of this institution and, candidly, I believe they are getting more value today than they were yesterday and they got more value yesterday than they did a week ago or a month ago or a year ago. I think we are getting better.

I will give you a small example. We talk about legislative branch funding as if it is some sort of self-serving institution. That is just nonsense. We came here with one job and one job only, and that is to serve our constituents back home. This cycle we have passed the FAST Act, the first long-term transportation funding bill in 20 years. We did it together. We couldn’t do it alone. We did it together.

Mr. Speaker, after 17 years of kicking the can down the road on the sustainable growth rate, that Medicare tag line that threatened care for every single senior citizen on Medicare, 17 years of kicking it down the road, we came together and abolished it forever. Forever. We did it together because that is the only way we could get it done. The Visa Waiver Program improvement.

Mr. Speaker, S. 139, the bill that made it easier for people with rare diseases to get involved in clinical trials. Can you imagine? Can you imagine a government that in the name of helping people said: Oh, no, you can’t try that new cure. It might hurt you. When your response is, Mr. Government, I am dying, it is my only chance of survival. We fixed that. One of many things about what is best about this institution, Mr. Speaker, Time and time again, we come together to solve real problems that real people have asked of us. That is what this funding bill is about.

I hope we are going to move past this bill today. I hope we are going to get back to regular order. It pains me that in an election year, it threatens the free and open debate that this institution prides itself on. But I think that is just fear. I think we are better than that. I think we are going to get past it. But that is not the debate today.

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, would you be kind enough to tell both sides how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 14 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Georgia has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule to bring up legislation that would disband the select investigative panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Mr. Speaker, this panel is just another waste of taxpayer money. Three House committees, 12 States, and one grand jury have already investigated the charges against Planned Parenthood, and none found evidence of wrongdoing.

□ 1430

Mr. Speaker, this panel is conducting a purely partisan political witch hunt, and it should be disbanded.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment into the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CURBELO of Florida). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), the distinguished ranking member of the select investigative panel, to discuss the proposal.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question so that Mr. HASTINGS can offer H.R. 769, a resolution to shut down the select panel that we call the select panel to attack women's health.

House Republicans created this panel based on a lie and fraudulent videotapes that have been discredited by three House committees, 12 States, and a Texas grand jury that actually indicted the video maker. They have used this fraud as a pretext to conduct a lethally dangerous witch hunt aimed at women's health clinics and scientists conducting promising research on diseases like Alzheimer's, MS, and the Zika virus.

Panel Republicans are bullying witnesses and abusing congressional authority in a manner not seen since the days of Senator Joe McCarthy. But this time, people's lives, not just their livelihoods, are at stake.

Republicans have issued dozens of unilateral subpoenas without first seeking voluntary cooperation. They are demanding the names of researchers, students, clinical personnel, doctors, and medical students, amassing a database that could be released publicly at any time.

Republicans refuse to put rules in place to protect these names and have reneged on public promises to do so. Instead, they have publicly released names and confidential documents.

They issued a press release naming a doctor who has already faced decades of harassment and violence; disclosed the time, place, and location of his appearance before the panel; and fueled the flames by comparing him to a convicted murderer.

They have repeatedly used inflammatory rhetoric, comparing researchers to Nazi war criminals and echoing words of antiabortion activists that were also used by the gunman who shot 12 people, killing 3, at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs.

Republicans have demanded and obtained information that they have no right or need to know, including records of victims of rape and personal financial information.

The Republicans are abusing power and putting people's lives in danger in pursuit of their agenda to limit legal abortion and a woman's right to choose and to shut down fetal tissue research.

Fetal tissue research has historically had broad bipartisan support. It is the basis for key vaccines that have saved millions of lives, including the polio vaccine.

The so-called investigative panel has already had a chilling effect on research, drying up the supply of needed tissue for research on multiple sclerosis and threatening other diseases, including Alzheimer's and diabetes.

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

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. All I really need is the time to say this:

We should now be ending this dangerous and unjustifiable witch hunt. It is time to say "no" to this panel, and it is time to say "no" to the previous question so that we can finally have a really strong debate on this House floor and finally defund this panel.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I would advise my friend from Florida that I do not have any speakers remaining and am prepared to close when he is.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my good friend.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Florida for his management of what is a difficult and trying legislative process and my distinguished friend from Georgia, as well, for his service. Both of them are on the Rules Committee.

It pains me to come to the floor on an appropriations bill when I know that there is so much opportunity for us to be able to work together. I know my good friend from Georgia will understand the pain of which I speak and will also attest to the fact that, in many instances in the appropriations process, we have an open rule and we allow our Members to express themselves on behalf of the people of their congressional districts but, more importantly, the higher goal, and that is, the people of the United States of America.

Let me first express my pain that this bill is the first bill that has come to the floor, when I know that there was vigorous debate and possibilities for the energy and water bill—certainly, in my congressional district, which has seen itself under inches and inches of rain, seeing people die, and losing individuals through these enormous rains and flooding—because we need the kind of infrastructure that comes under energy and water. That bill is not being able to pass. Seeing the funding for access to health care, community centers, community health

clinics not yet come to the floor; seeing the funding for infrastructure and transit that is so needed in our urban centers, like Houston, Texas, not coming to the floor. And then, of course, the Department of Justice, which is in the middle of dealing with commutation of sentences, dealing with youth justice programs, dealing with a number of issues that are paining Americans; and they need our relief.

Yet the bill that comes to the floor, I must again painfully say, is an appropriations bill that I will not be able to support. It is a bill that really keeps the wheels going in this place. It is not a more important bill, but it keeps the wheels going so that we can do the people's work.

Here is what is happening that I think is a dastardly reflection on what we have come to. Let me be very clear. As a senior member of the Judiciary Committee dealing with the mechanics of lawmaking, dealing with laws that ultimately provide people civil or criminal justice relief or constitutional relief, I want to tell my colleagues who wrote this language that the issue dealing with the Library of Congress is an administrative one.

The idea that noncitizens and unauthorized immigration have any impact on creating a comprehensive immigration system, which I have introduced legislation along with my colleagues, joining with them over the years, has no import and impact of law. It is truly an administrative task that the Library of Congress is attempting to comport with national experts of librarians.

Everybody loves a librarian. They give our children knowledge. They give our students knowledge. They give all of us knowledge.

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an addition 1 minute.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. They give us their best expertise.

Why we would intrude in an administrative process when it goes into nothing that impacts the scheme of the administrative or the legal structure here in the United States: it is to denigrate; it is to insult.

We understand that the word "illegal" does connote that you have violated a criminal act in certain instances. And there are those who are undocumented, noncitizens, et cetera, unauthorized, that have not violated any criminal laws.

Let me also say to you that defunding of the foolish Planned Parenthood investigation is warranted. Why? In my own home State of Texas, in Houston, the indictment did not go to Planned Parenthood, which was the attempt; but it went to the perpetrators of fraud on Planned Parenthood. There is nothing to investigate.

If you want to investigate, then investigate the lack of access of millions of women in the State of Texas who were using those clinics that Planned Parenthood had.

So my point is this is a bill we must vote against. Vote against the underlying rule and the bill, because it is nothing but fraud and foolishness, and that is not what we should do in this House.

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 5½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rarely speak from the well of the House. I come down here today because, like my good friend from Georgia and many of us in this institution, those of us that have studied the institution genuinely love it and recognize that it is, fundamentally, what makes our Nation great.

When we speak of Congress, we are talking about the House of Representatives and the United States Senate. For a substantial period of time, both in the control of Democrats and Republicans, we have carried ourselves in a way that has caused us to appear dysfunctional. And, in many instances—validly—those that look at us feel that we are unable to get things done.

My younger friend from Georgia pointed out a significant number of things that we did do, and he is correct about that. But he also knows there are a significant number of things that we have not been able to do, largely for the reason that we are not acting in a bipartisan manner—in an openly transparent manner, in many instances—in order to provide for all of the Members of this body to have input.

I came to the well because, as I near my 80th birthday, I am in a different category than many of the younger Members in this institution. Many of the younger Members of this institution have young families.

We, the 434 of us that are seated—and we will swear in the 435th a little later today—and the delegates from the territories and the District of Columbia, are in a variety of categories, as Americans. Some substantial number of Members in this body are multimillionaires; a significant number of Members of this body easily qualify to be in the middle class or the upper class; and there are some Members here who are in the lower class in our society.

Fortunately for us, in the 22 years that I have been here, I have seen this body grow in its diversity. More women on both sides, African Americans, Latino Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans are part of this body from different walks of life. Some of us own our own homes here in the metropolitan Virginia-Maryland area. Some rent apartments. Some are in basements. Some are in one room. Some are gathered together because of the expenses here.

Now, my friend is right. I would like to go home and be able to show to my constituents and to his that we did ev-

everything that we could here to make for more efficiency. But I can cite the glut all over our agencies and, at the very same time, I make no apologies to anybody for how hard I work or how hard he works and the fact that we are entering our 9th year without a pay raise.

Now, I think it is wrong for Members of the House of Representatives to live in their offices. I think that there is an ethics provision that needs to be addressed, and I think there is a tax consideration that needs to be addressed.

□ 1445

And the public does not understand that nearly 100 Members, including the Speaker of the House of Representatives, live in their offices. Something is drastically wrong with that. Most of them are there for the reason that they can't afford to live in this town; and somehow or another, we are deserving, as are our staffs, deserving of being paid appropriately.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to remind my friends of the importance of the legislation we are debating today. This legislation allows us to run our operations here in Congress. Unfortunately, with this legislation, my friends in the majority are continuing their trend of putting politics above policy.

For this reason, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the rule and oppose the underlying measure.

And I want to make it very, very clear that the remarks that I made are my remarks. They are not the remarks of the Democrats in this institution. But I know this: I have had a lot of Members on both sides of the aisle say to me that they know that I am correct.

Courage, friends, courage, that is what it takes.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I love watching my friend from Florida speak. The only thing I love more than watching him speak is talking to him one-on-one when the cameras are turned off.

It is not as easy as it ought to be in 2016 to come to the floor of the House and speak one's mind. Folks are worried about what the newspapers are going to say. Folks are worried about what the news is going to broadcast. Folks are worried about what the Twitterverse is going to do.

A lot of folks will tell you one thing when the cameras are on and another thing when the cameras are turned off, Mr. Speaker, but ALCEE HASTINGS is not one of those folks. It is the same message no matter who he is talking to and no matter where he is saying it because he comes from a place of conviction, and I love serving with people like that.

Truthfully, Mr. Speaker, if folks knew that it wasn't just their Member of Congress that was like that, but it was the one next door, and the one

down the road, and the one across the river, and the one upstate, I think we would have a very different discussion about whether Congress is working or whether Congress is failing.

But, Mr. Speaker, when I try to sort those issues out, I don't really have to go back home to figure out why folks are disappointed. I don't even have to go back to the public record. I don't have to go any further than this one debate on this one legislative day.

Just in our hour together, Mr. Speaker, I have heard Members suggest that this House is using tactics not seen since Joe McCarthy. I wouldn't pay for that. I have heard Members suggest that this House is perpetuating racism and hate. I wouldn't pay for that. I have heard that there are dastardly things happening in the work of this institution. I am not going to pay for that. I have heard that we have been involved in activities particularly shameful.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have all got a great relationship with the men and women who send us here to serve them. We have a special relationship, and a relationship that, I think, the men and women in this Chamber work exceptionally hard to make good on; but when we use the credibility that we develop in that relationship to tell folks that we are broken, to tell folks that we are worthless, to tell folks that the greatest experiment in self-governance that the world has ever known is failing, they believe us. They believe us.

Mr. Speaker, the discussions that we have, the differences that are brought to life on this floor, those are not failures. Those are successes. The back and the forth, the fights that we have, the headlines that get made when folks just can't agree, those are not failures: those are successes.

When the Framers put together this Constitution, Mr. Speaker, they made it hard—they made it hard to change the law of the land. It was supposed to be the rare thing that happened when we all came together and found agreement, and when we did, it was going to be in the best interest of a young Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard my colleagues challenge us to defeat this bill today, as if funding the United States Congress is a self-serving action. I don't know who the self-serving Members of this institution are, Mr. Speaker, because I have not met them.

My friend from Texas came to the floor, and she said: If we don't get our work done, NIH will not be funded. And she is right. She said: If we do not get our work done, justice reform will not happen. And she is right. She said: If we do not get our work done, families that are struggling to respond to floods in her home part of the country will not get the dollars. And she is right. She is right.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about changing the appropriations process to allow a little less openness, and I regret that. We are talking about it because, in the name of doing that energy

and water bill that she spoke of, in the name of passing those bills that are essential to the functioning of the country, in the name of doing that responsibility that the Constitution places squarely on our shoulders, we have folks who pass amendments to bills only to let those bills fail.

I would tell you, as someone who believes in an open process, who believes in an open process, that if we can have that festival of democracy that is an open rule on an appropriations bill, let's have it. Let's let the votes fall where they may, and then send that bill to the Senate and on to the White House and make it the law of the land.

But if in the name of making a point, we prevent this institution from doing its constitutionally mandated business, if in the process of making a political point, we prevent this institution from providing the money for that fundamental research, from providing the money for that flood relief, from providing the money for essential justice reform, I tell you, we have not honored this Nation with an open process; we have failed it.

And the question then falls to us: Are we going to have an open process that allows every Member to speak out on behalf of their constituency to fight for what may be best for this Nation that we all love? Or are we going to have election-year politics, decide that being able to produce that press release is more important than getting our work done?

I happen to know the answer, Mr. Speaker. I happen to know the answer because I happen to know each one of these Members on a personal level. There is not one of them who wouldn't turn in their voting card tomorrow if they could take a vote on the biggest issue that matters to them today. There is not one of them that wouldn't turn in their voting card tomorrow if they could make a difference for this generation and the next generation today, and I love that about them. I love it about each and every one of them.

Passing this bill lets those folks come to work and get this job done. Passing this bill allows us to get to work doing those things that I believe will honor the men and women who sent us here. Passing this rule allows us to get to the underlying bill that will keep the lights on not just for constituent service back in every district in this land, but the lights on in what I would argue is the greatest deliberative body, the greatest embodiment of self-governance that this world has ever known.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 771 OFFERED BY
MR. HASTINGS

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 769)

Terminating a Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Rules.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of House Resolution 769.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Adopting House Resolution 770;

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 771; and

Adopting House Resolution 771, if ordered.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 5278, PUERTO RICO OVER-
SIGHT, MANAGEMENT, AND ECO-
NOMIC STABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 770) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5278) to establish an Oversight Board to assist the Government of Puerto Rico, including instrumentalities, in managing its public finances, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 241, nays 178, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 284]

YEAS—241

Abraham	Blum	Calvert
Aderholt	Bost	Carter (GA)
Allen	Boustany	Carter (TX)
Amodel	Brady (TX)	Chabot
Babin	Brat	Chaffetz
Barr	Bridenstine	Clawson (FL)
Barton	Brooks (AL)	Coffman
Benishek	Brooks (IN)	Cole
Billirakis	Buchanan	Collins (GA)
Bishop (MI)	Buck	Collins (NY)
Bishop (UT)	Bucshon	Comstock
Black	Burgess	Conaway
Blackburn	Byrne	Cook

Cooper Jones
Costa Jordan
Costello (PA) Joyce
Cramer Katko
Crawford Kelly (MS)
Crenshaw Kelly (PA)
Culberson King (IA)
Curbelo (FL) King (NY)
Davis, Rodney Kinzinger (IL)
Denham Kline
Dent Knight
DeSantis Labrador
DesJarlais LaHood
Diaz-Balart LaMalfa
Dold Lamborn
Donovan Lance
Duffy Latta
Duncan (SC) LoBiondo
Duncan (TN) Long
Ellmers (NC) Loudermilk
Emmer (MN) Love
Farenthold Lucas
Fitzpatrick Lummis
Fleischmann MacArthur
Fleming Marchant
Flores Marino
Forbes Massie
Fortenberry McCarthy
Foxy McCaul
Franks (AZ) McClintock
Frelinghuysen McHenry
Garrett McKinley
Gibbs McMorris
Gibson Rodgers
Gohmert McSally
Goodlatte Meadows
Gosar Meehan
Gowdy Messer
Granger Mica
Graves (GA) Miller (FL)
Graves (LA) Miller (MI)
Graves (MO) Moolenaar
Griffith Mooney (WV)
Grothman Mullin
Guinta Mulvaney
Guthrie Murphy (PA)
Hanna Neugebauer
Harper Newhouse
Harris Noem
Hartzler Nugent
Heck (NV) Nunes
Hensarling Olson
Hice, Jody B. Palazzo
Hill Palmer
Holding Paulsen
Hudson Pearce
Huelskamp Perry
Huizenga (MI) Pittenger
Hultgren Pitts
Hunter Poe (TX)
Hurd (TX) Poliquin
Hurt (VA) Pompeo
Issa Posey
Jenkins (KS) Price, Tom
Jenkins (WV) Ratcliffe
Johnson (OH) Reed
Johnson, Sam Reichert
Jolly Renacci

NAYS—178

Adams Clarke (NY)
Aguilar Clay
Amash Cleaver
Ashford Clyburn
Bass Cohen
Beatty Connolly
Beckerra Conyers
Bera Courtney
Beyer Crowley
Bishop (GA) Cuellar
Blumenauer Cummings
Bonamici Davis (CA)
Boyle, Brendan Davis, Danny
F. DeFazio
Brady (PA) DeGette
Brown (FL) Delaney
Brownley (CA) DeLauro
Bustos DelBene
Capps DeSaulnier
Capuano Deutch
Cárdenas Dingell
Carney Doggett
Carson (IN) Doyle, Michael
Cartwright F.
Castor (FL) Duckworth
Castro (TX) Edwards
Chu, Judy Ellison
Cicilline Engel
Clark (MA) Eshoo

Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin
Zinke

Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCaul
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks

Barletta
Butterfield
Farr
Fincher
Hardy

Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nader
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarelli
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky

NOT VOTING—14

Herrera Beutler
Hinojosa
Lieu, Ted
Luettkemeyer
Payne

□ 1515

Mr. SHERMAN and Ms. SPEIER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

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

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 284, had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 8, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a facsimile copy of a letter received from Ms. Patricia Wolfe, Elections Administrator, State of Ohio, indicating that, according to the preliminary results of the Special Election held June 7, 2016, the Honorable Warren Davidson was elected Representative to Congress for the Eighth Congressional District, State of Ohio.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE,
Columbus, Ohio, June 8, 2016.

Hon. KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. HAAS: This is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Election

Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

held on Tuesday, June 7, 2016, for Representative in Congress from the Eighth Congressional District of Ohio, show that Warren Davidson received 21,537 or 76.79% of the total number of votes cast for that office.

It would appear from these unofficial results that Warren Davidson was elected as Representative in Congress from the Eighth Congressional District of Ohio.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by all Eighth Congressional District of Ohio boards of elections involved, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA WOLFE,
Elections Administrator.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE WARREN DAVIDSON, OF OHIO, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Ohio, the Honorable WARREN DAVIDSON, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will Representative-elect DAVIDSON and the members of the Ohio delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise his right hand.

Mr. DAVIDSON appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 114th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE WARREN DAVIDSON TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker and Members, it is my privilege to welcome Congressman WARREN DAVIDSON, his wife, Lisa; and their two beautiful children, Rachel and Zach, to Washington, D.C.

To the Davidsons, their extended family, and their friends who are here to support them, we all wish you hearty congratulations. To Congressman DAVIDSON, on behalf of a grateful

Nation, I want to extend our gratitude for your many years of service in the United States Army. Thank you for your dedication to duty, honor, and country.

Though I am dean of Ohio's delegation, it seems just like yesterday when I was in your shoes. This moment you will never forget. You have worked hard to put together a winning coalition to win a hard-fought campaign, and that takes a dedicated person and a very giving family to make the necessary sacrifices.

To accomplish worthy objectives during your time in Congress, you will want to find issues that you can build coalitions around and then enlist others on both sides of the center aisle in that cause. Perhaps the best advice I can give you is to stay close to the people where you came from in Troy, Ohio; in Clark, Miami, Darke, Preble, and Butler Counties; and as DANIEL WEBSTER's words inspire us through the ages, dedicate our efforts to a higher cause, developing the resources of our land, calling forth its powers, building up its institutions, promoting all its great interests, and seeing whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered.

Welcome to the United States House of Representatives to WARREN, Lisa, and your family.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Cincinnati, Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) my dear colleague. He is the dean, the longest serving member, on the Republican side.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank her for her kind words to our now-colleague, WARREN DAVIDSON. As the two longest serving Members from Ohio, she and I have worked together for many years, particularly on matters important to our great State of Ohio. I look forward to continuing to work with her in the future.

Mr. Speaker, WARREN DAVIDSON is an American success story. Born and raised in the great State of Ohio, WARREN enlisted in the Army right after high school. While serving in Germany, he witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall. He impressed his superior officers with his dedication and leadership qualities and thus earned an appointment to West Point where he continued to excel, in fact, finishing in the top 10 percent of his graduating class.

Upon his return to Active Duty, WARREN's reputation as an outstanding officer earned him positions in some of the Army's most distinguished units: The Old Guard, the 75th Ranger Regiment, and the 101st Airborne Division.

For many people, that would be a successful career. But WARREN had more to accomplish. In 2000, he returned to Ohio to help out with the family manufacturing business. To prepare himself to run the business, he earned an MBA from the University of Notre Dame, where, not surprisingly, he graduated with honors.

WARREN brought the same work ethic and leadership abilities that he employed as an Army officer to grow and expand the family business. Since taking over the business, he has transformed it from a small shop with 20 employees to an enterprise now employing more than 200 people.

Now WARREN brings the lessons that he learned and the wisdom that he gained, both in the military and as a small-business owner, to the people's House, to Congress. Personally, I think that the House will benefit tremendously from his experiences, and I look forward—and I know you also will look forward—to working with him.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome WARREN DAVIDSON, his lovely wife, Lisa, and their children, Zach and Rachel, to the United States House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, and honored guests, it is a pretty good welcome. I thank you all.

My new colleagues, surely you know how surreal this moment is. Not all of you had the same experience of a special election. It is a little different. But you have all been here and have been given the trust of your districts to come represent them and serve here, so I am sure you understand how surreal it is having already been here.

I am really honored today to have a lot of folks with me. We all know that politics is a team sport. I have no greater teammate than my wife, Lisa. Our family was able to join us. Our daughter, Rachel, and my son, Zach, have been able to come on the floor. They took a fast route to the floor here. My sister, Robin, her husband, Larry, and close to 100 other friends and family were able to come here. So having run campaigns, you all know that it takes maybe a battalion-sized element to put a whole campaign together. So in some way, they are representative of all the hard work that goes on to win a campaign. I could not have been here without them. So I thank you all.

To really have come from the background, just enlisting in the Army, going to West Point, serving in some great units, and growing small manufacturing companies, doing all these things that we heard about, it is pretty, pretty nice. I have been focused on raising a family and growing kids. Frankly, in October, I was not planning to run for Congress. To come from filing 10 minutes before the deadline, jumping into a very competitive race, I understand that not a ton of you guys wanted the Speaker's job, and you got drafted. But about 15 other Republicans wanted the district Representative job, so it was very competitive. I am really thankful to have won the race and been able to come here.

It is really an honor to be able to stand here and talk with you, my new colleagues. I look forward to getting to

know every one of you on both sides of the aisle. I hope you will take the chance to get to know me. You can probably appreciate drinking from a firehose. I think I had about 2 or 3 hours now, maybe 4 hours, from my first meetings, whereas I think a lot of you had a couple of months, from November to January. I really hope to get to know you all.

The Founders intended us to have a strong Congress, and especially with the Presidential race the way it is, Congress truly has an opportunity to show real leadership and to be able to have the chance to be here and do the incredibly consequential work, face the challenge, and perhaps be part of solving some great things is an incredible honor. So let's get around to it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentleman from Ohio, the whole number of the House is 435.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5325, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The SPEAKER. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 771) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 241, nays 181, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 285]

YEAS—241

Abraham	Burgess	DeSantis
Aderholt	Byrne	DesJarlais
Allen	Calvert	Diaz-Balart
Amash	Carter (GA)	Dold
Amodei	Carter (TX)	Donovan
Babin	Chabot	Duffy
Barr	Chaffetz	Duncan (SC)
Barton	Clawson (FL)	Duncan (TN)
Benishek	Coffman	Ellmers (NC)
Bilirakis	Cole	Emmer (MN)
Bishop (MI)	Collins (GA)	Farenthold
Bishop (UT)	Collins (NY)	Fitzpatrick
Black	Comstock	Fleischmann
Blackburn	Conaway	Fleming
Blum	Cook	Flores
Bost	Costello (PA)	Forbes
Boustany	Cramer	Fortenberry
Brady (TX)	Crawford	Fox
Brat	Crenshaw	Franks (AZ)
Bridenstine	Culberson	Frelinghuysen
Brooks (AL)	Curbelo (FL)	Garrett
Brooks (IN)	Davidson	Gibbs
Buchanan	Davis, Rodney	Gibson
Buck	Denham	Gohmert
Bucshon	Dent	Goodlatte

Gosar Marchant
 Gowdy Marino
 Granger Massie
 Graves (GA) McCarthy
 Graves (LA) McCaul
 Graves (MO) McClintock
 Griffith McHenry
 Grothman McKinley
 Guinta McMorris
 Guthrie Rodgers
 Hanna McSally
 Harper Meadows
 Harris Meehan
 Hartzler Messer
 Heck (NV) Mica
 Hensarling Miller (FL)
 Hice, Jody B. Miller (MI)
 Hill Moolenaar
 Holding Mooney (WV)
 Hudson Mullin
 Huelskamp Mulvaney
 Huizenga (MI) Murphy (PA)
 Hultgren Neugebauer
 Hunter Newhouse
 Hurd (TX) Noem
 Hurt (VA) Nugent
 Issa Nunes
 Jenkins (KS) Olson
 Jenkins (WV) Palazzo
 Johnson (OH) Palmer
 Johnson, Sam Paulsen
 Jolly Pearce
 Jones Perry
 Jordan Peterson
 Joyce Pittenger
 Katko Pitts
 Kelly (MS) Poe (TX)
 Kelly (PA) Poliquin
 King (IA) Pompeo
 King (NY) Posey
 Kinzinger (IL) Price, Tom
 Kline Ratcliffe
 Knight Reed
 Labrador Reichert
 LaHood Renacci
 LaMalfa Ribble
 Lamborn Rice (SC)
 Lance Rigell
 Latta Roby
 LoBiondo Roe (TN)
 Long Rogers (AL)
 Loudermilk Rogers (KY)
 Love Rohrabacher
 Lucas Rokita
 Lummis Rooney (FL)
 MacArthur Ros-Lehtinen

NAYS—181

Adams Cummings
 Aguilar Davis (CA)
 Ashford Davis, Danny
 Bass DeFazio
 Beatty DeGette
 Becerra Delaney
 Bera DeLauro
 Beyer DelBene
 Bishop (GA) DeSaulnier
 Blumenauer Deutch
 Bonamici Dingell
 Boyle, Brendan Doggett
 F. Doyle, Michael
 Brady (PA) F.
 Brown (FL) Duckworth
 Brownley (CA) Edwards
 Bustos Ellison
 Butterfield Engel
 Capps Eshoo
 Capuano Esty
 Cárdenas Fattah
 Carney Foster
 Carson (IN) Frankel (FL)
 Cartwright Fudge
 Castor (FL) Gabbard
 Castro (TX) Gallego
 Chu, Judy Garamendi
 Cicilline Graham
 Clark (MA) Grayson
 Clarke (NY) Green, Al
 Clay Green, Gene
 Cleaver Grijalva
 Clyburn Gutiérrez
 Cohen Hahn
 Connolly Hastings
 Conyers Heck (WA)
 Cooper Higgins
 Costa Himes
 Courtney Honda
 Crowley Hoyer
 Cuellar Huffman

Roskam Ross
 Rothfus Rothfus
 Rouzer McCarthy
 Royce McCaul
 Russell Russell
 Salmon Salmon
 Sanford Sanford
 Scalise Scalise
 Schweikert Schweikert
 Scott, Austin Scott, Austin
 Sensenbrenner Sessions
 Shimkus Shimkus
 Shuster Shuster
 Simpson Simpson
 Smith (MO) Smith (MO)
 Smith (NJ) Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX) Smith (TX)
 Stewart Stewart
 Stivers Stivers
 Stutzman Stutzman
 Thompson (PA) Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry Thornberry
 Tiberi Tiberi
 Tipton Tipton
 Trott Trott
 Turner Turner
 Upton Upton
 Valadao Valadao
 Wagner Wagner
 Walberg Walberg
 Walden Walden
 Walker Walker
 Walorski Walorski
 Walters, Mimi Walters, Mimi
 Weber (TX) Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL) Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup Wenstrup
 Westerman Westerman
 Westmoreland Westmoreland
 Whitfield Whitfield
 Williams Williams
 Wilson (SC) Wilson (SC)
 Wittman Wittman
 Womack Womack
 Woodall Woodall
 Yoder Yoder
 Yoho Yoho
 Young (AK) Young (AK)
 Young (IA) Young (IA)
 Young (IN) Young (IN)
 Zeldin Zeldin
 Zinke Zinke

Moore Moore
 Moulton Moulton
 Murphy (FL) Murphy (FL)
 Nadler Nadler
 Napolitano Napolitano
 Neal Neal
 Nolan Nolan
 Norcross Norcross
 O'Rourke O'Rourke
 Pallone Pallone
 Pascarell Pascarell
 Pelosi Pelosi
 Perlmutter Perlmutter
 Peters Peters
 Pingree Pingree
 Pocan Pocan
 Polis Polis
 Price (NC) Price (NC)
 Quigley Quigley
 Rangel Rangel
 Rice (NY) Rice (NY)
 Richmond Richmond

Barletta Barletta
 Farr Farr
 Fincher Fincher
 Hardy Hardy

NOT VOTING—12

Herrera Beutler Herrera Beutler
 Hinojosa Hinojosa
 Lieu, Ted Lieu, Ted
 Luetkemeyer Luetkemeyer

□ 1533

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

Stated for:

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 285, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 237, noes 182, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 286]

AYES—237

Conaway Conaway
 Cook Cook
 Costello (PA) Costello (PA)
 Cramer Cramer
 Crawford Crawford
 Crenshaw Crenshaw
 Culberson Culberson
 Curbelo (FL) Curbelo (FL)
 Davidson Davidson
 Davis, Rodney Davis, Rodney
 Denham Denham
 Dent Dent
 DeSantis DeSantis
 DesJarlais DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart Diaz-Balart
 Dold Dold
 Donovan Donovan
 Duffy Duffy
 Duncan (SC) Duncan (SC)
 Duncan (TN) Duncan (TN)
 Ellmers (NC) Ellmers (NC)
 Emmer (MN) Emmer (MN)
 Farenthold Farenthold
 Fitzpatrick Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann Fleischmann
 Fleming Fleming
 Flores Flores
 Forbes Forbes
 Fortenberry Fortenberry
 Foxx Foxx
 Franks (AZ) Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen Frelinghuysen
 Garrett Garrett
 Gibbs Gibbs
 Gibson Gibson
 Gohmert Gohmert
 Goodlatte Goodlatte

King (NY) King (NY)
 Kinzinger (IL) Kinzinger (IL)
 Kline Kline
 Knight Knight
 Labrador Labrador
 LaHood LaHood
 LaMalfa LaMalfa
 Lamborn Lamborn
 Lance Lance
 Latta Latta
 LoBiondo LoBiondo
 Long Long
 Loudermilk Loudermilk
 Love Love
 Lucas Lucas
 Lummis Lummis
 MacArthur MacArthur
 Marchant Marchant
 Marino Marino
 McCarthy McCarthy
 McCaul McCaul
 McClintock McClintock
 McHenry McHenry
 McKinley McKinley
 McMorris McMorris
 Rodgers Rodgers
 McSally McSally
 Meadows Meadows
 Meehan Meehan
 Messer Messer
 Mica Mica
 Miller (FL) Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI) Miller (MI)
 Moolenaar Moolenaar
 Mooney (WV) Mooney (WV)
 Mullin Mullin
 Mulvaney Mulvaney
 Murphy (PA) Murphy (PA)
 Neugebauer Neugebauer
 Newhouse Newhouse
 Noem Noem
 Nugent Nugent
 Nunes Nunes

NOES—182

Adams Adams
 Aguilar Aguilar
 Ashford Ashford
 Bass Bass
 Beatty Beatty
 Becerra Becerra
 Bera Bera
 Beyer Beyer
 Bishop (GA) Bishop (GA)
 Blumenauer Blumenauer
 Bonamici Bonamici
 Boyle, Brendan Boyle, Brendan
 F. F.
 Brady (PA) Brady (PA)
 Brooks (AL) Brooks (AL)
 Brown (FL) Brown (FL)
 Brownley (CA) Brownley (CA)
 Bustos Bustos
 Butterfield Butterfield
 Capps Capps
 Capuano Capuano
 Cárdenas Cárdenas
 Carney Carney
 Carson (IN) Carson (IN)
 Cartwright Cartwright
 Castor (FL) Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX) Castro (TX)
 Chu, Judy Chu, Judy
 Cicilline Cicilline
 Clark (MA) Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY) Clarke (NY)
 Clay Clay
 Cleaver Cleaver
 Clyburn Clyburn
 Cohen Cohen
 Connolly Connolly
 Conyers Conyers
 Cooper Cooper
 Costa Costa
 Courtney Courtney
 Crowley Crowley
 Cuellar Cuellar
 Cummings Cummings
 Davis (CA) Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny Davis, Danny
 DeFazio DeFazio
 DeGette DeGette
 Delaney Delaney
 DeLauro DeLauro
 DelBene DelBene
 DeSaulnier DeSaulnier
 Deutch Deutch
 Dingell Dingell
 Doggett Doggett

Shuster Shuster
 Simpson Simpson
 Smith (MO) Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE) Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ) Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX) Smith (TX)
 Stefanik Stefanik
 Stewart Stewart
 Stivers Stivers
 Stutzman Stutzman
 Thompson (PA) Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry Thornberry
 Tiberi Tiberi
 Tipton Tipton
 Trott Trott
 Turner Turner
 Upton Upton
 Valadao Valadao
 Wagner Wagner
 Walberg Walberg
 Walden Walden
 Walorski Walorski
 Walters, Mimi Walters, Mimi
 Weber (TX) Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL) Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup Wenstrup
 Westerman Westerman
 Westmoreland Westmoreland
 Whitfield Whitfield
 Williams Williams
 Wilson (SC) Wilson (SC)
 Wittman Wittman
 Womack Womack
 Woodall Woodall
 Yoder Yoder
 Yoho Yoho
 Young (AK) Young (AK)
 Young (IA) Young (IA)
 Young (IN) Young (IN)
 Zeldin Zeldin
 Zinke Zinke

Doyle, Michael Doyle, Michael
 F. F.
 Duckworth Duckworth
 Edwards Edwards
 Ellison Ellison
 Engel Engel
 Eshoo Eshoo
 Esty Esty
 Fattah Fattah
 Foster Foster
 Frankel (FL) Frankel (FL)
 Fudge Fudge
 Gabbard Gabbard
 Gallego Gallego
 Garamendi Garamendi
 Graham Graham
 Grayson Grayson
 Green, Al Green, Al
 Green, Gene Green, Gene
 Grijalva Grijalva
 Gutiérrez Gutiérrez
 Hahn Hahn
 Hastings Hastings
 Heck (WA) Heck (WA)
 Higgins Higgins
 Himes Himes
 O'Rourke O'Rourke
 Pallone Pallone
 Pascarell Pascarell
 Pelosi Pelosi
 Perlmutter Perlmutter
 Peters Peters
 Peterson Peterson
 Pingree Pingree
 Pocan Pocan
 Polis Polis
 Price (NC) Price (NC)
 Quigley Quigley
 Kennedy Kennedy
 Kildee Kildee
 Kilmer Kilmer
 Kind Kind
 Kirkpatrick Kirkpatrick
 Kuster Kuster
 Langevin Langevin
 Larsen (WA) Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT) Larson (CT)
 Lawrence Lawrence
 Lee Lee
 Levin Levin
 Lewis Lewis
 Lipinski Lipinski
 Loeb sack Loeb sack
 Lofgren Lofgren
 Lowenthal Lowenthal

Lowey Lowey
 Lujan Grisham Lujan Grisham
 (NM) (NM)
 Luján, Ben Ray Luján, Ben Ray
 (NM) (NM)
 Lynch Lynch
 Maloney, Carolyn Maloney, Carolyn
 Maloney, Sean Maloney, Sean
 Massie Massie
 Matsui Matsui
 McCollum McCollum
 McDermott McDermott
 McGovern McGovern
 McNeerney McNeerney
 Meeks Meeks
 Meng Meng
 Moore Moore
 Moulton Moulton
 Murphy (FL) Murphy (FL)
 Nadler Nadler
 Napolitano Napolitano
 Neal Neal
 Nolan Nolan
 Norcross Norcross
 O'Rourke O'Rourke
 Pallone Pallone
 Pascarell Pascarell
 Pelosi Pelosi
 Perlmutter Perlmutter
 Peters Peters
 Peterson Peterson
 Pingree Pingree
 Pocan Pocan
 Polis Polis
 Price (NC) Price (NC)
 Quigley Quigley
 Kennedy Kennedy
 Kildee Kildee
 Kilmer Kilmer
 Kind Kind
 Kirkpatrick Kirkpatrick
 Kuster Kuster
 Langevin Langevin
 Larsen (WA) Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT) Larson (CT)
 Lawrence Lawrence
 Lee Lee
 Levin Levin
 Lewis Lewis
 Lipinski Lipinski
 Loeb sack Loeb sack
 Lofgren Lofgren
 Lowenthal Lowenthal

Sewell (AL)	Thompson (MS)	Velázquez
Sherman	Titus	Visclosky
Sinema	Tonko	Walz
Slaughter	Torres	Wasserman
Smith (WA)	Tsongas	Schultz
Speier	Van Hollen	Waters, Maxine
Swalwell (CA)	Vargas	Watson Coleman
Takano	Veasey	Welch
Thompson (CA)	Vela	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—15

Barletta	Herrera Beutler	Payne
Farr	Hinojosa	Sires
Fincher	Jackson Lee	Takai
Hanna	Lieu, Ted	Walker
Hardy	Luetkemeyer	Wilson (FL)

□ 1540

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 286.

PUERTO RICO OVERSIGHT, MANAGEMENT, AND ECONOMIC STABILITY ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 5278.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 770 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. 5278.

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

□ 1543

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. 5278) to establish an Oversight Board to assist the Government of Puerto Rico, including instrumentalities, in managing its public finances, and for other purposes, with Mr. SIMPSON 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.

The gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say that to date, this is one of the most significant bills that has come to the floor in a long time, and it is going to be an excellent solution to a very, very difficult problem.

I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), the sponsor of the bill, for its introduction.

□ 1545

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chair, I thank Congressman BISHOP and the whole Natural Resources Committee for all of the hard work they put into this bill.

This has been a months-long process of working with Democrats and Republicans, the administration, Treasury, Puerto Rican elected officials, all coming together to negotiate, to discuss, to philosophize and then eventually come up with what I think is an excellent resolution to the burning crisis in Puerto Rico. I want to take a moment to talk about what is actually happening on the island.

Puerto Rico is \$73 billion in debt. That is over 100 percent of GNP. They have almost \$2 billion of unpaid bills to their vendors. So what does that mean? That means schools are closing down because we don't have fuel for energy in the schools or for school buses. Hospital wings are closing. Emergency vehicles aren't being run because the island doesn't have money to pay its bills. This is a true economic crisis. It is a true humanitarian crisis that is taking place in Puerto Rico.

So the question becomes: Does this institution act to help Puerto Rico, or do we continue to negotiate and refine and tweak a bill that will never come to the floor, that will never make it to the Senate, that will never gain the President's signature? Do we let perfect be the enemy of the good?

I think this is a great bill that is going to actually get Puerto Rico on a path to prosperity, opportunity, and economic growth; that is going to help the people in Puerto Rico who have a dream of living in Puerto Rico stay in Puerto Rico with their families in their communities on the island that they love.

Right now, there is despair. We have thousands of people leaving Puerto Rico every month to come to the mainland because there is no opportunity. This is what debt does to economies. It absolutely crushes them, and it crushes people.

So what do we do? Well, we have a two-pronged approach. Number one, the elected officials in Puerto Rico have known that this issue has been coming for years, and they haven't been able to get their hands around it, haven't had the political will to fix the burning problem. So we are going to put into effect an oversight board to actually work with the island government to get its finances and its budgets under control.

That oversight board is going to have an opportunity to work on debt restructuring, which is the second prong of this bill. \$73 billion in debt, they can't pay it. People might want to wish that all the bondholders could be paid. They might dream about all the bondholders being paid, but the bottom line is Puerto Rico doesn't have enough income to pay its bondholders. They can't pay their vendors, let alone their bondholders.

So we set up a system where the island and the bondholders have a forum

in which to negotiate a settlement, a resolution to this massive debt. And if they can't come up with a resolution or a solution to the debt, they can access the court system, and the courts can help them resolve the disputes in regard to this massive debt. It is that system that is going to allow for debt restructuring and an oversight board that is going to bring Puerto Rico to a place of economic health. When you can get to a place of economic health, you can start to have a conversation about economic growth; and when you have economic growth, you actually help people, you help families, and you help communities.

Now, there are some who have said that this bill is a bailout. Let me tell you what. I have the definition of a bailout, and a bailout happens when this institution sends taxpayer monies to somewhere else or to somebody else. The bottom line is this bill doesn't spend any taxpayer money bailing anybody out. There is no taxpayer money that is involved.

What we do here is say: Hey, listen. If you invested in Puerto Rican bonds and you might have gotten a great upside, a great return on your bonds that you maybe bought at 50 or 60 cents on the dollar, you took that risk; and if there is a loss, you, the bondholder, are going to bear the loss on that bond, but the taxpayers aren't going to bear that loss for you.

So I think this is a great compromise, a great package that is going to bring economic health and growth back to Puerto Rico.

I want to thank Mr. PIERLUISI for all of the insight that he has given to both sides of the aisle on what needs to be done to make this work, and the elected politicians, the Speaker of the Puerto Rican House, who has been so gracious with his insight into how we structure a package that is going to grow Puerto Rico.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, I yield myself 5 minutes.

The United States flag has flown over Puerto Rico for more than a century. Those born on the island are American citizens, and more than 200,000 have served in the United States military, including roughly 10,000 serving today. Millions more live on the U.S. mainland but consider Puerto Rico their home.

Mr. Chairman, we are here today because our fellow Americans are suffering, and it is our constitutional responsibility to help them. They are suffering from the effects of a debt crisis more than a decade in the making.

A devastating combination of mismanagement, unfair Federal policies, opportunistic hedge funds, and desperate budget cuts have destroyed the economy on the island. The monstrous burden of Puerto Rico's \$70 billion debt is swallowing the funds needed to provide health care, education, transportation, and public safety for the Commonwealth's families.

Almost 100,000 people have left the Commonwealth last year to look for

better economic opportunities, which only makes the situation on the island worse. About 80 percent of children in Puerto Rico live in high-poverty areas, compared to about 11 percent of children on the mainland. The island's poverty rate is about 44 percent, and unemployment is 13 percent.

If Congress fails to act, the island and its people face another decade of further economic and social collapse. Our fellow citizens of Puerto Rico should not have to endure this coming humanitarian crisis. Our colleague, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, has described the status quo as a "recipe to lose an entire generation to forced migration to the mainland."

After 6 months of difficult bipartisan negotiations, four hearings, and a series of draft bills, we are here today to consider H.R. 5278. H.R. 5278 will provide the tools necessary to get the economy of Puerto Rico on a more stable footing and allow the Commonwealth to regain access to credit markets.

The bill would allow restructuring of all outstanding debt without favoring any particular creditor; require transparent audits, combined with annual fiscal plans and budgets; and temporarily pause the ongoing flurry of litigation to allow the oversight board to begin its work and create a space for voluntary negotiations.

As I have said throughout this process, this is not a bill that I or Democrats would have written. The oversight board is too powerful and is yet another infringement of the sovereignty of the people of Puerto Rico, and they have a right to find it offensive. The provisions undermining minimum wage and overtime rules don't belong in the bill. What is worse, they threaten the effectiveness of the over-all legislation.

Provisions that should be included—like full pension protections, an earned income tax credit, equal funding for Medicaid, and a Zika response—are missing. But the reality is that this is the only bill that would attract enough support from my colleagues across the aisle to pass in a Congress which they control. There is no other avenue available to address the crisis. This compromise is the bill we can and should pass.

When measured against a perfect bill, this legislation is inadequate. When measured against the worsening crisis in Puerto Rico, this legislation is vitally necessary.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5278.

I would like to take a moment to clarify for the record a number of inaccurate and misleading statements in the Committee Report on H.R. 5278. It appears that the Committee Report on H.R. 5278 was prepared based on earlier non-public drafts of the bill—not the version considered by the Committee. Several references plainly do not reflect the current language in H.R. 5278 as introduced or as voted on by the House Committee on Natural Resources during its markup hearing.

The following statement on page 40 of the Committee Report oversimplifies a complex problem facing Puerto Rico and, in my view, mischaracterizes the nature of the territory government's action: It says, "Puerto Rico's local politicians have accelerated the crisis on the island through the passage of harmful legislation, including the imposition of a moratorium on the payment of debt." Puerto Rico's passage of a moratorium law was a local response to attempt to address its fiscal and debt emergency in the absence of necessary Congressional action. It is misleading and unreasonable to characterize the passage of a local moratorium law as accelerating the crisis.

The Committee Report's summary of section 101 provides that: "[a]dditionally, this section provides for the appointment of seven individuals to the Oversight Board through a process that ensures that a majority of its members are effectively chosen by Republican congressional leaders on an expedited timeframe, while upholding the President's constitutional role in making appointments." Let's be very clear: The President appoints all seven members of this Puerto Rico Board. To be sure, members of Congress may make suggestions to the President, but the power to appoint members of this territorial entity remains with the President.

The Committee Report's summary of section 201 is inaccurate in a number of respects. The report states, on page 45, that "[i]mportantly, Fiscal Plans ensure the protection of the lawful priorities and liens as guaranteed by the territorial constitution and applicable laws, and prevent unlawful inter-debtor transfers of funds." This interpretation is misleading and does not reflect the language of the bill or the evolution of the language throughout the legislative process. Section 201(b)(1)(N) provides that a Fiscal Plan certified by the Oversight Board must "respect" the relative lawful priorities or lawful liens under territory laws, not "ensure the protection" of such priorities or liens. The verb "respect" was specifically chosen by the drafters of the bill and carefully considered by the Committee. For instance, at the Committee markup, Representative FLEMING twice offered amendments that would have changed the "respect" language in section 201(b)(1)(N) to "comply with." The Committee twice rejected those amendments—the first time on a voice vote and the second time on a roll call vote, 16 yeas to 23 nays. The Committee recognized that the verb "comply with" was unduly restrictive and that the Oversight Board needed the flexibility afforded by the verb "respect," which is more open-ended. For that reason, it is inaccurate for the Committee Report to state—contrary to the current legislative text and the Committee's intent—that Fiscal Plans ensure the protection of lawful priorities and liens.

In addition, the summary of section 201 explains that "[w]hile this language seeks to provide an adequate level of funding for pension systems, it does not allow for pensions to be unduly favored over other indebtedness in a restructuring." But Section 201(b)(1)(C) has nothing to do with relative priorities among various creditors; the provision requires the Board to provide for adequate funding of pensions, which relates to the Fiscal Plan and the manner by which annual budgets comply with the Fiscal Plan. Of course, any restructuring under Title III must be consistent with the Fis-

cal Plan under Section 314 of the bill, but the Committee Report is inaccurate in suggesting that this provision relates to relative priorities.

The following statement on page 48 summarizing section 303 is missing a critical adjective: "nor may an executive order divert funds from one instrumentality to another or to the territory." Certain executive orders that divert funds from one territorial instrumentality to another or to the territory may be lawful under applicable territory laws. The only types of executive orders that are preempted by section 303(3) of this Act are "unlawful" executive orders, as the text of section 303(3) makes abundantly clear. For instance, if an executive order is permitted by the territory's constitution or its laws, it is not an unlawful executive order and is not preempted by section 303. The drafters intended section 303(3) to make clear that PROMESA preempts and renders void any executive orders issued beyond the scope of what would have been authorized by its local laws; lawful exercises of executive authority are unaffected.

In summarizing section 314 on page 50, the report states: "[b]y incorporating consistency with the Fiscal Plan into the requirements of confirmation of a plan of adjustment, the Committee has ensured lawful priorities and liens, as provided for by the territory's constitution, laws, and agreements, will be respected in any debt restructuring that occurs." This summary suffers from the same problem that the summary of the provisions of section 201 suffered: It refers to language that has never existed in a public version of the bill; rather, it reflects staff-level draft text that was ultimately rejected. Section 201 clarifies that Fiscal Plans must "respect" lawful priorities and lawful liens. The Committee carefully considered this language and twice rejected amendments proposed to change it to "comply with" such priorities and liens.

The summary of section 407 on page 52 explains that: "[t]his section grants creditors the right to sue upon the conclusion of the stay, if the government of Puerto Rico transfers property between instrumentalities during the tenure of the Oversight Board in violation of any agreement, or applicable law that a creditor has or would have a pledge of, security interest in, or lien on such property." Section 407, as drafted and passed through Committee establishes a federal remedy for Puerto Rico's creditors in certain circumstances. But the addition of the language "or would have" in the Committee Report, again, reflects staff-level text that was not ultimately included in the version approved by the Committee. The current text provides a cause of action for creditors that—at the time of the alleged unlawful transfer—in fact have "a pledge of, security interest in, or lien on" the transferred property. Contrary to the suggestion of the Committee Report, the provision does not permit such a cause of action if the plaintiff only "would have" in some future circumstance such an interest.

Indeed, the fact that the addition of words like "or would have" were discussed but not ultimately included in the text is strong evidence that Congress did not intend for such prospective, contingent rights to be within the scope of this provision. It would have been extraordinary to provide certain creditors an argument that federal law establishes for them a property interest where no such property interest existed under the terms of the agreements

they negotiated. The Committee rightly declined to do so.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to one of the senior members of our committee, a senior member of his delegation, and someone who happens to be celebrating today not only his anniversary, but also his birthday; and what better way of giving a birthday present to the Representative from Alaska than to allow him to speak on the floor on the subject of Puerto Rico.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5278.

May I commend Chairman BISHOP for his kindness in recognizing my birthday and my anniversary. I am quite proud of that. I am 83 years old. I want a lot of you to remember the fact I still can kick tails and take names, so just keep that in mind.

This is a bill that I do support. It has been worked together with the Puerto Ricans. It has been worked together with Representatives GRIJALVA and PIERLUISI. I would say most all of the people involved in this recognize this is not everything we would want, but it is the bill, I think, that can help Puerto Rico today and now.

It is not a bailout. That is for some people who keep saying it is a bailout. It does not allow taxpayer dollars to be used for paying down the Puerto Rican debt.

I held a hearing in February on the oversight board concept, and it was clear that it was needed and it was testified in favor of. I understand some reluctance in Puerto Rico, but let's get this ship righted. Once we get it righted, restaffed, and the sails full of wind, then Puerto Rico will have a chance.

I do support the multiple-step process. The bill combats the immediate crisis. It will help out Puerto Rico's ability to take and get credit. We need more long-term solutions, though, about the economic zones in Puerto Rico and how we improve the economy there so they can continue to grow.

I want to compliment Mr. DUFFY's amendment, and I will support Mr. DUFFY and his work on this legislation. I do believe a HUBZone is very necessary in the contracting program.

As I mentioned, I have been worked passionately on Puerto Rican issues on the floor of the House. Fifteen years ago, we had a vote about statehood. I passed it by one vote. I am a big supporter of statehood and always have been. It didn't occur. We didn't allow it.

Right now, this problem has to be addressed.

I again do compliment Mr. BISHOP, Mr. DUFFY, and members on that side of the aisle. Let's take our American people and Puerto Rico and give them the recognition that is necessary. Let's take and help them now so we can go forth.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ).

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I want to take this opportunity to really thank Ranking Member GRIJALVA for the important role that he has played throughout this process.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the bill. When I was elected to Congress, I understood there would be tough votes. For me, PROMESA is one of those votes. For those of us with ties to Puerto Rico, this is a profoundly personal issue.

There is plenty of blame to go around for this situation. San Juan has played a role, but Washington and Wall Street have equally contributed to this crisis. It is a crisis that is already harming working families that call the island home and, if left unaddressed, it will grow immeasurably worse.

So today we stand at a fork in the road: one path—the bill before us—empowers Puerto Rico to restructure 100 percent of its debt; the only other route sends Puerto Rico to the courthouse, where it will be at the mercy of creditors that will inflict further suffering on the island.

Now, some would suggest that if we oppose this bill, somehow a third option will magically appear before us. That is nonsense. The stark reality we now face is that, other than PROMESA, there are simply no other politically feasible options left.

That does not mean that this is a perfect bill. It is not even close. It makes no sense that this bill includes an attempt to pay Puerto Rican workers less than those on the mainland. It is offensive that Puerto Rico must foot a \$370 million price tag for an oversight board its residents do not want. And the bill does not address economic growth incentives and healthcare parity, issues at the core of Puerto Rico's crisis.

Despite these shortcomings, I see no alternative. If we do not act, Puerto Rico will unravel further. Basic services are being cut, and these cuts will deepen. More schools will close. More police and firefighters will be terminated. And those who will pay the price are Puerto Rico's most vulnerable: its children, its seniors, and its working families.

We have a profound responsibility to prevent this catastrophe from worsening. Those suffering on the island are my brothers and sisters, my fellow Puerto Ricans.

□ 1600

But, my friends, they are also your fellow citizens. 200,000 Puerto Ricans have fought—and shed blood—in every military conflict since World War I. Now these citizens need our help. This is a responsibility we cannot ignore. You see, when the United States took Puerto Rico—and remember we seized it by force—we did not just obtain a pretty island. We also took on a responsibility to care for the people who live there.

Now, let me say this: Living up to that responsibility does not end with this vote on this bill today. Decisions made by Washington over decades have corroded Puerto Rico's economy. Addressing those problems will require more work by Congress. Until we end the colonial conditions that have subjugated and exploited the island, there will be no long-term recovery.

So this bill alone is not enough. We must pass additional legislation, in the next 6 months, addressing Puerto Rico's deep-seated economic challenges and ongoing healthcare crisis. If we do not, then, Washington, we have failed the people of Puerto Rico once more.

Mr. Chairman, this is not the legislation I would have written, but it is the only way we can extend a lifeline to Puerto Rico right now. In many ways, the easy path for me would be to vote "no." Certainly, I have heard the case made by some in the Puerto Rican community.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chair, at the end of the day, I know that if this bill does not pass, people I care about and love on the island I grew up on will suffer greatly. At least with this legislation, Puerto Rico can begin restructuring its debts and start down a new path toward a brighter future. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the bill. Then please join me in working to address the other long-term challenges confronting Puerto Rico.

In closing, let me thank all those who worked on this legislation, especially Leader PELOSI, Speaker RYAN, and Whip HOYER. Let me also thank Ranking Member GRIJALVA and Chairman BISHOP for their efforts as well as my fellow Puerto Rican Members of Congress. And, of course, our thanks to the staff who dedicated countless hours crafting this compromise.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO). He is from the southern tip of Florida, as close to Puerto Rico as you can get on the mainland.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in support of H.R. 5278, the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act, or PROMESA. I want to thank Chairman BISHOP and Representative DUFFY, who have shown steadfast leadership in finding practical solutions to address the fiscal crisis in Puerto Rico.

The situation in Puerto Rico is urgent and so is the need for a responsible reform agenda. Hundreds of thousands of citizens have left the island—many have come to Florida—to find better opportunities as a result of the deteriorating economic conditions.

Our friends in Puerto Rico, our fellow American citizens deserve a better future, one that gives them the chance to

achieve prosperity on the island. This legislation is an important step forward in helping the island mitigate the existing humanitarian and economic emergency in a responsible way.

The bill also allows the congressional task force to look at impediments to economic growth and poverty reduction, including equitable access to Federal healthcare programs for the island's residents. Serious challenges remain in the healthcare sector—like the impending Medicaid cliff—that could have a detrimental impact on the future of the island.

I also urge my colleagues to vote in favor of my amendment with Mr. JOLLY which will guarantee that addressing the nearly 60 percent of children living in poverty on the island is a top priority. As we work to achieve economic stability on the island, we must also ensure that the mechanisms in this bill benefit the extremely vulnerable child population.

Congress has an important interest in ensuring that Puerto Rico not only survives the current crisis, Mr. Chairman, but that it is able to build a better and more sustainable future. Again, I am very supportive of the bipartisan solutions in H.R. 5278, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill and of my amendment which addresses child poverty on the island.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, at the outset, rarely do we see the political courage and intellectual integrity that we have seen in the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ). I have worked with her for months now trying to get to a solution fair to Puerto Rico and fair to the 3.5 million American citizens who live in Puerto Rico.

I also want to thank my friend José SERRANO, also from New York, also Puerto Rican, also having thought about this extraordinarily thoughtfully, and it has been difficult. I want to congratulate both of them for coming to the decision that is a terribly difficult one for them that this is, at this juncture, the only alternative to the pain and the suffering of which Ms. VELÁZQUEZ spoke.

I am sure the citizens of Puerto Rico are watching this debate, and they understand this is not a perfect bill. It is not the bill I or Mr. PIERLUISI—who lost an election, in my view, because of his fidelity to what he believes is in the island's best interest—would have written.

It forces Puerto Rico to take some bitter medicine, accept an oversight board with broad powers that is unacceptable to many living on the island, and it does not provide additional assistance to the island that is critically needed and ought to be done. Hopefully we can address that.

It is a compromise, and it will enable the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to restructure its debt and prevent economic catastrophe. I can assure both

sides of the aisle in this Chamber and in the Senate that it is a compromise forged out of a serious consideration of all possible alternatives that could result in bipartisan agreement.

We must not risk the cost of further inaction by this Congress, which should have acted months ago; but it is not too late to do the right thing. Congress must act before Puerto Rico's next interest payment is due on July 1.

According to The New York Times Editorial Board: This bill “has flaws . . .”

I think both sides would agree to that.

The New York Times went on: “. . . but at this late hour, it offers the island its best chance of survival.”

It is, therefore, Mr. Chairman, my advice and urging to our Members that we vote for this bill. We need to come together and pass this bill without any controversial riders.

Again, I want to thank Representatives VELÁZQUEZ and SERRANO and Resident Commissioner PIERLUISI for their leadership, their courage, and their integrity.

Mr. Chairman, we need to pass this bill for the American citizens living on Puerto Rico and to meet the responsibility of which Ms. VELÁZQUEZ spoke so eloquently.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), one of the premier members of our committee.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5278. I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin, Congressman DUFFY, and Chairman BISHOP for their work in crafting this bipartisan legislation.

H.R. 5278 is a compromise bill designed to save Puerto Rico from economic calamity and prevent a taxpayer bailout. Mr. Chairman, I suggest that the admission from both sides of the aisle that this bill isn't perfect is a testament that this bill is the best solution.

Puerto Rico is in a crisis. The territory has already missed payments on its debt, and more and larger missed payments are on the near horizon. The fiscal and economic conditions of Puerto Rico are unsustainable. Based on the constitutionally delegated power of Congress “to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States,” we have a responsibility to take action on this matter.

This unsustainable debt burden brought on by poor decisions, unfulfilled promises, and bad investments has crippled their economy. Their unemployment rate is 12.2 percent, and since Puerto Ricans are American citizens, thousands of young people come to the mainland each year to find work. Puerto Rico is spiraling out of control, and it is our constitutional responsibility to put our territory on a different path and change the economic trajectory.

H.R. 5278 establishes a 7-member oversight board that will have the authority to establish budgets for the territory, require the scoring of legislation so the people of Puerto Rico know the true costs of government programs, and the power to veto contracts and executive orders.

Once again, I would like to thank Congressman DUFFY and Chairman BISHOP for their hard work in crafting a bill to get Puerto Rico on the right track without a taxpayer bailout. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5278 to stop Puerto Rico's economic death spiral and to lay a foundation for a brighter future in Puerto Rico without spending taxpayer dollars.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO).

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, when we started these negotiations, with both sides wanting to do something, with both leaderships in the House wanting to do something, I knew that at the end of the day I would be voting for a bill. I knew I had to do that for a very simple reason. Inactivity, inaction was not an option. The only option was to do a bill.

What that bill would look like was my question. What that bill would look like was my challenge and my dilemma. The bill changed. The original bill had some provisions that no one could really defend on either side. We have made a bill now that does have some hard pills to swallow, but then over \$70 billion in debt with no signs of being able to pay is even more of a bitter pill to swallow. The territory is hurting. The people are hurting.

In fact, if anything comes out of this that is positive, it is the fact that the U.S. Congress is paying attention to Puerto Rico in a way that it hasn't in a long, long time, if at all. We are paying attention, and we want to do something about the situation at hand.

We are not supposed to direct our comments to the gallery or to the TV cameras, so I won't do that. But there are people watching this, and they need to have faith in the fact that both parties have come together to come together with a plan that will help us, a plan that will bring Puerto Rico back out of this debt situation. And, most importantly, I believe there is a commitment on both sides to work on economic development projects for the future to help Puerto Rico and its economy.

But I couldn't get off this podium today without addressing my most important issue, and that is that the problem with Puerto Rico continues to be the status. As long as Puerto Rico is a colony, a territory of the United States, these issues will come back and other issues will come back.

I once, some months ago, either sarcastically or very profoundly, said that all we were doing if we didn't deal with the status was putting a Band-Aid on a bigger problem. Well, there is a bigger problem, and I think it is time Congress came together with the people of

Puerto Rico and decided to end the colonial status. But ending the colonial status does not mean tweaking the colony to make it a little better or washing the face of the colony to make it a little more presentable. It means getting rid of the colony and either becoming the 51st State or an independent nation. There is no other solution.

□ 1615

And for us, as the people who promote—and rightfully so—democracy throughout the world, to have a colony for 118 years is wrong. And remember, Puerto Rico didn't do this by itself. The indifference and inequality created this problem, as much as everything else.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR), my good friend, who has done a whole lot of work on this particular bill.

Mr. LABRADOR. I thank the chairman and Mr. DUFFY for the work they and their staffs have done on this critical piece of legislation. I especially want to thank my staffer, Aaron Calkins, for his work to make this a better bill. We have worked countless hours to improve this bill, and I am proud of the work that we have done.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today as a member of the Natural Resources Committee and as a Representative of Idaho's First Congressional District to support H.R. 5278.

The debt crisis in Puerto Rico is a result of years of liberal policies where the government carelessly borrowed and overspent, while simultaneously encouraging mismanagement and inefficiency. We cannot view Puerto Rico's situation in a vacuum. If left unresolved, the financial crisis in Puerto Rico will impact the rest of our Nation.

The bill imposes fiscal reforms without spending a single dollar of U.S. taxpayer money to relieve Puerto Rico's debt. The bill protects taxpayers from bailing out a government that spent recklessly and avoids setting a horrible precedent that could tempt free-spending States to walk away from their obligations.

Specifically, H.R. 5278 establishes a strong oversight board to require Puerto Rico to balance its budget and achieve fiscal responsibility. The bill includes language that ensures that the fiscal plans and any potential restructuring must honor lawful priorities and liens as guaranteed by Puerto Rico's constitution and laws.

Every State and municipality in this country relies on bond markets to provide funding for government operations. H.R. 5278 creates the balance that will effectively address the needs of Puerto Rico, while ensuring access to these markets for States and municipalities nationwide.

In conclusion, as a person who was born and raised in Puerto Rico and somebody who is very proud of his Puerto Rican heritage, I love the people,

I love the island, and I hope that this bill sets them on the path to fiscal responsibility and a brighter future.

The House must pass this bill to establish the necessary framework to help Puerto Rico put its fiscal house in order, while also protecting the interests of every American.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI), who, at great risk politically, continued to push for this compromised bill we have before us; and for that, we are grateful.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Chairman, I represent Puerto Rico in Congress, and I rise in support of PROMESA.

Puerto Rico is at a crossroads. Since 1898, it has been a territory of the United States, subject to the broad powers of Congress under the Territory Clause.

In 1917, Congress conferred U.S. citizenship on individuals born in Puerto Rico. In the 1950s, Congress authorized and approved a constitution for Puerto Rico, which provides the island with a republican form of government consisting of three branches.

Because Puerto Rico is a territory, my constituents have never been treated equally relative to their fellow U.S. citizens in the States in terms of either democratic rights or economic opportunities. In large part, to compensate for the lack of fair treatment at the Federal level, the Puerto Rican Government has spent beyond its means at the local level, leading to excessive deficits and debt.

This lack of discipline is regrettable but understandable, since the Puerto Rican Government is seeking to provide a quality of life to island residents comparable to the quality of life in the States. Bear in mind that my constituents can hop on a plane any time, any day, and move to Florida or Texas.

The bill we consider today, PROMESA, is a bipartisan compromise intended to deal with the territory's unprecedented fiscal crisis, which is severe and immediate. The bill will enable Puerto Rico to restructure its public debt in a fair and orderly manner, while establishing an independent and temporary oversight board to ensure that Puerto Rico has a viable, long-term fiscal plan and balanced budgets and that it sticks to both.

In an emergency, the first step is to stabilize the situation, and I believe PROMESA can accomplish this objective. Without this legislation, the Puerto Rican Government is likely to collapse, participants in public pension plans will be terribly harmed, and many bondholders could lose their investments.

PROMESA is in the interest of all stakeholders, and the most likely alternative is chaos, litigation, a rapidly deteriorating quality of life in Puerto Rico, and even greater migration to the States. However, let me be plain. This bill is an essential first step, but it is not an enduring solution.

The Federal Government and, indeed, the Puerto Rican Government must

come to terms with a fundamental fact: so long as my constituents are treated like second-class citizens, Puerto Rico will never have a first-class economy.

Puerto Rico must become a full and equal member of the American family as a State, which is the just and logical next step, or Puerto Rico must join the community of nations as a sovereign country.

Puerto Rico deserves true democracy and true dignity—nothing less—yet first things come first. We have to deal with this immediate crisis. We have to save the house in Puerto Rico. Vote “yes” on H.R. 5278.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I, too, would like to express my appreciation and sincere gratitude to the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico for his hard work.

I may be known as the historian of this body, but the gentleman from Oklahoma will give a historical perspective.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS).

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to note that there are only a handful of my colleagues on the floor or in the body who were here when the precedent for this process was set in 1995.

Some of my colleagues on this side of the room argue that we are setting a new precedent. We are not. Some of you remember 1994, when I came as a new Member in a special election. Some of you remember the economic chaos, the near collapse of the District of Columbia and the city of Washington. Some of you remember how we were told in those days that you can't go into certain parts of town because it is not safe. Some remember the stories about how a high percentage—if not almost half—the police cars wouldn't run at any one time.

I remember waking up one July night and looking out the fifth-floor window of the apartment building I was in as the firemen were hosing down a spot not many paces from the corner of First and D Streets where someone had been killed, literally within hundreds of feet of the Federal campus. Washington, D.C., the District of Columbia, was about to collapse into chaos—1994.

So what did we do in 1995? We passed a bill very similar to this. We set up a supervisory board that took control of the finances to help right the ship.

For 2 years, there were tremendously painful decisions made here in Washington, D.C., at the municipal level; but after those 2 years, we had 4 years of balanced budgets, and the Control Act, as it was called, was suspended. It was successful. And the renaissance this town, this community has gone through all started with that bill in 1995.

Now, I am voting for this piece of legislation because I believe my fellow American citizens who live in Puerto

Rico deserve the right to have a renaissance, deserve the right to move forward. But we are all Members of elected bodies and we know how tough these decisions and situations are.

Pass this bill; create the supervisory board; give the good citizens of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth, our fellow Americans, a chance to benefit, just as Washington, D.C., did. They deserve the chance.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ).

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this legislation. The people of the enchanted island deserve better. It is my duty to my heritage and to the land where I intend to return some day and where someday—hopefully, not soon—I intend to be buried.

As President Obama said so profoundly when he visited the land of his father's birth, Kenya, a nation with one of the richest histories of the struggle for freedom against the colonial power, I, too, LUIS GUTIÉRREZ, am deeply and profoundly connected to my father's birthplace.

I cannot add my vote to this bill and go back to Puerto Rico or to the Puerto Rican people in my congressional district in Illinois with my head held high. I cannot and will not, not when I know that the majority of votes that will pass this legislation if it passes today will come from the Democratic Party, a party that, for all its flaws, is a party I expect a lot more from in times like this.

At a moment in American history when Latinos are quite literally being dragged through the mud by the other party and maligned for being Latinos and distrusted and disrespected because of where their parents or grandparents were born, I expect my fellow Democrats to stand up tall when the lives and destinies of so many citizens—the entire island and its people—are held in the hands of the U.S. Congress.

By law, they do not have a vote here. By law, they need others to vote on their behalf. By law, Puerto Rico belongs to, is property of but not part of, the United States. By law, this Congress owns Puerto Rico and must treat that ownership as stewardship, as a caring and respectful seat of power over the powerless.

And because it is the Democratic Party that will supply so many folks to enact this bill, I expect my colleagues to demand more. I expect us not to support a sub-minimum wage. I expect us not to waive overtime rules that pay people for the work they do.

I expect my fellow Democrats to stand up for equity and equality for Puerto Ricans in our Tax Code, in Medicare and health care, so that they don't have to flee Puerto Rico to go to Orlando, Newark, or Chicago.

I expect Democrats to join me in opposing the same type of unelected control board that has no accountability

to the people that it is controlling—the type of control board focused on austerity without consequences of action for the people; the kind of control board that made decisions in Flint, Michigan, and that poisoned the people that did not elect them, that acted slowly to remedy the situation until other governments and other elected leaders accountable to the people they govern have to step up and begin addressing.

Let me say, I am going to offer a translation in Spanish.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

This is not my promise. My promise is that the people of Puerto Rico be respected, that we don't treat them as if they were colonized slaves. I reject this bill. Let me tell you that my promise is clear: to continue my work to defend Puerto Rico. As it is said by the Puerto Rican people: precious, it does not matter what tyrant treats you with bad intentions, precious you'll be.

Esta no es mi promesa; mi promesa es que el pueblo de Puerto Rico se respete y que no se trate como si fueran colonizados esclavos. Yo rechazo esta propuesta, y les digo que mi promesa es clara; de trabajar para defender. Porque como se dice pueblo de Puerto Rico preciosa, no importa el tirano te trate con negra maldad.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). The gentleman from Illinois will provide the Clerk a translation of his remarks.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), one of the cosponsors of this bill.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I went to Puerto Rico in March. I have been involved in negotiating this, at the request of the Speaker, literally since the first of this year.

This is difficult. This is something that nobody is happy with. This is something where everybody is going to take a haircut because the depth of the problem is so bad.

What we heard right after this Congress began its session this year was: Why don't we just give them a super chapter 9 bankruptcy? That would have been bad for the future of Puerto Rico, because super chapter 9 would have dumped the \$72 billion of debt and had it wiped out. And there is no way that Puerto Rico, having stiffed \$72 billion worth of bondholders, would ever have been able to access the bond market again.

□ 1630

Bond market access is essential to any type of State or municipal financing.

So what do we have? A choice of doing nothing, and we have heard about the severe consequences if we do nothing, or going with something that worked in the District of Columbia, which is the oversight board.

Now, sure, they are unelected. One of them has to be from Puerto Rico. But

the Puerto Rican Government, which has been elected, is the one that caused this problem to begin with. They have increased just about every function of spending on the Island except debt service, and they have borrowed more and more and more and more, and they don't have the money, or wouldn't appropriate the money to service the debt.

That is why we are here today, and that is what has got to be fixed. It should be fixed with an oversight board working in conjunction with the Puerto Rican Government, not by a court, or simply by not doing anything. It can be fixed, and Puerto Rico can have a renaissance because this is about the only practical way out of the mess.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5278. This bill is not a perfect bill, but it is a true bipartisan compromise, and it is the only option on the table to address the crisis in Puerto Rico, which is the home to 3.5 million American citizens.

The solution that this bill adopts is simple: It will allow Puerto Rico to restructure its debt in an orderly, court-supervised process and, in exchange, a temporary, temporary Federal oversight board will help Puerto Rico make the structural reforms necessary to get its finances in order and set it on the path of economic growth.

I would like to truly thank all parties for their hard work on this bill, especially Mr. PIERLUISI; my good friends from New York, my colleagues Representatives VELÁZQUEZ and SERRANO; Ranking Member GRIJALVA; Chairman BISHOP; Leader PELOSI; and Antonio Weiss, at the Treasury Department.

New York City, which I represent, has some experience with control boards. When we faced a fiscal crisis back in the 1970s, the State established two control boards. And while that was a tough pill to swallow, in the long run, it made our city better and stronger.

I would like to emphasize that the solution to New York City's fiscal crisis involved a control board, a debt restructuring, and a \$2.3 billion loan from the Federal Government. Puerto Rico isn't getting any Federal money at all, so a debt restructuring law is really the least we can do to help them.

Finally, while some opponents of this bill claim on this floor that debt restructuring is unnecessary because Congress solved D.C.'s fiscal crisis in the nineties with just a control board, this is fundamentally untrue.

The only reason the D.C. Control Board was able to balance D.C.'s budget so quickly was because Treasury assumed the District's \$4 billion in pension obligations the year after the Control Board was created.

So a control board by itself is not enough. We need to do more. But I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MACARTHUR), who is another Member who has worked hard on this particular bill.

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Chairman, we all know about the crisis in Puerto Rico involving 3½ million U.S. citizens, and we know the causes, fiscal mismanagement over decades, resulting in nearly \$120 billion of bonds and unfunded pension liabilities. Unemployment is two times what it is here on the mainland, and people are fleeing Puerto Rico in droves, especially young people. It is not sustainable.

Mr. Chairman, we decided, as a society, hundreds of years ago, that we were not going to throw debtors into prison, but we were going to allow for the orderly reorganization of debts. And yet, Puerto Rico does not have the basic laws that allow that to take place in this situation. This bill fixes that.

This bill puts equal pressure on bondholders, on the island of Puerto Rico. The bill will require them to work together or there will be consequences. And the bill brings an oversight board to help that happen, to even require that to happen. We have to do this.

But, Mr. Chairman, fixing the debt crisis alone is not going to fix Puerto Rico's future. We need growth initiatives. This island will not enjoy an enduring prosperity until this Congress also thinks about how to help Puerto Rico grow.

That is why I introduced a title to this bill; it is just a sense of Congress, but it puts a flag in the ground saying that we have more work to do on growth, and I am really pleased to see a Growth Commission included in the bill.

Mr. Chairman, I have spent a lifetime in business. I have had the privilege of creating thousands of jobs. That doesn't happen when you have uncertain conditions.

In 1996, we changed the Tax Code in Puerto Rico that treats the return of earnings from that island to the mainland like it is coming from a foreign country, and you can watch the growth rate of Puerto Rico plummet ever since. Ever since 2006—my date was wrong—2006, you can see the growth rate plummet over 10 years.

Manufacturing is still half of the island's economy and yet, it is reduced by half over the last 20 years. We have to do things that make Puerto Rico an attractive business environment.

We all are worried about offshoring. This is an opportunity for near-shoring in a U.S. territory. It is an opportunity to demonstrate pro-growth principles in action; to allow Puerto Rico, an island paradise, to become an economic miracle.

This is the opportunity that I see. I am proud of the bill. Like any bill, it is not perfect. But let's not let the per-

fect become the enemy of the good. It is a good bill that deserves our support. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI). Her time and commitment to the people of Puerto Rico and to working on a compromise in a bipartisan bill have been the primary drivers to this point on the bill that we have before us.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise and commend the leadership of Chairman BISHOP. I thank the gentleman for bringing us here today, as well as our ranking member, Mr. GRIJALVA, for bringing this compromise legislation to the floor.

It is with the deepest of pride that I join my colleagues, Congresswoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ and Congressman JOSÉ SERRANO, in support of this legislation. Although we have concerns about some elements of it, we support it on balance.

I can't help but mention to my colleagues here that in April, many of you were there when Congress bestowed the Congressional Gold Medal on the legendary 65th Infantry Regiment, a largely Puerto Rican regiment that served with valor since World War I.

Honor et Fidelitas, honor and fidelity, so rings the motto of this courageous regiment of Americans. With honor and fidelity, the 65th Regiment overcame prejudice and bigotry and wrote a new chapter of heroism in our shared American story.

In the Panama Canal Zone in World War I, on the doorsteps of Nazi Germany, in the defining crucible of the Korean War, and beyond, the Borinqueneers protected freedom abroad and advanced dignity at home.

Their daring on the battlefield helped break down the discrimination facing Puerto Rican and Latino Americans across our country. They enriched our Nation with the strength of their service, through the excellence of their example, and the power of their bravery. Their valor under fire is nothing short of legendary. The heroic service of the Borinqueneers is one of the true great American stories.

I bring this to mind because on that day in Emancipation Hall, which was crowded with people, and the presentations were led by the bipartisan, bicameral House and Senate, Democrat and Republican leadership who had representatives of our military to salute the bravery of these people of Puerto Rico in defense of our country.

Now we have nearly 100,000 veterans in Puerto Rico who will be affected, harmed, unless we act today. Today, more than 3 million of our fellow American citizens in Puerto Rico are facing a fiscal and public debt emergency that threatens their economy, their communities, and their families. Only Congress can provide Puerto Rico with the tools it needs to emerge from this crisis.

After long bipartisan negotiations, we achieved a restructuring process

that meets the test of workability. Does it work? Will it happen?

This is not a bailout. Some people are trying to describe it as such for some other purposes. I know that my colleague from Puerto Rico, PEDRO PIERLUISI, has explained to us the urgency of this. I know that we would have, perhaps, had a bill that didn't have some of the provisions in it that are in it, and we would have preferred to add some better things to the bill, but that is not the choice before us.

As legislators, we have to make a choice: will the bill alleviate the challenge that the people of Puerto Rico are facing? Our Resident Commissioner, PEDRO PIERLUISI, thinks that this bill does achieve that, and I thank him for his courageous leadership on all of this.

Again, this can be a very passionate discussion. It is an emotional one because it involves the lives of people that some of us know and are part of the families of our Members, as JOSÉ SERRANO and NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ mentioned. But we have to be dispassionate in how we make a judgment about how we can solve the problem, and we have that opportunity today.

The oversight board that President Obama will appoint is one that will have the opportunity to implement the restructuring as described in this legislation. On a bipartisan basis, we will be submitting names to the President promptly so that he can appoint the oversight board.

It would be my commitment to make sure that the commitment from the House Democrats is for there to be one from Puerto Rico representing the people of Puerto Rico on that board.

In addition to the oversight board, this legislation also contains a task force, a Members' task force whose task it is to look at impediments in Federal law to Puerto Rico's economic growth. I would hope that that task force would afford us the opportunity to see other ways that we can help the economic growth of Puerto Rico, for the citizens, our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico.

We can talk about parity in relationship to Medicare, Medicaid, and the rest. We can talk about the earned income tax credit, which we enjoy in the United States, and having that be more available in Puerto Rico. We can talk about ways to use the Tax Code to give more opportunity there.

So I urge my colleagues to support the legislation. Even though it is not the bill that either one side would have written, it is a compromise. But it will provide the people of Puerto Rico the tools to overcome the crisis and move forward, hundreds of millions of dollars, maybe \$1 billion a year. It will alleviate Puerto Rico from having to commit, because of the restructuring, and will enable it to meet the needs of the people of Puerto Rico as it gets back on its feet.

Puerto Rico's economic success is important to the United States. Our

economic growth and job creation plans must include our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico. I would hope, with the task force; I would hope with future legislation, as we go forward, we will recognize how close our connection is, how important it is for Puerto Rico to survive, and express our gratitude to the people of Puerto Rico for the vitality they bring to the United States of America, and for the security that so many Puerto Ricans risk their lives to protect our country.

With that, I urge our colleagues to pray over it and conclude, as our three colleagues, Congresswoman VELÁZQUEZ, Congressman SERRANO, Congressman PIERLUISI have concluded, that, on balance, we must move forward for the benefit of the veterans, for the people, for their children, for the citizens of Puerto Rico.

I urge an "aye" vote.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 4 minutes.

I appreciate the comments that have been made so far on a bill that I want to think actually has a lot of good in it.

□ 1645

Article 4, section 3 of the Constitution provides Congress not only the power, but also the responsibility to do what is needful dealing with the territories.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, just this morning, the Supreme Court ruled on a case concerning the territory and a question of double jeopardy. By a 6-2 decision, the Court held that Puerto Rico is not a separate sovereignty because the ultimate source of its power and its constitution is the United States Congress. So, indeed, this reminds us all here today of our duty to assist in the territorial issues.

Now, there are seven titles to this particular piece of legislation. The first two deal with the oversight board that will bring fiscal plans and a budget to the island. Titles III and VI deal with restructuring of the debt if certain criteria are met in the oversight board's discretion that it include good-faith debt negotiations with its creditors.

Title V is something I think we sometimes overlook because it gives fast-track authority for vital infrastructure projects to be moved by the government of Puerto Rico, especially in the area of energy generation and distribution systems. One of the problems of Puerto Rico is the high energy costs that have caused them to lose jobs. What we are attempting to do is trying to find a way of changing that problem and reducing Puerto Rico's reliance on diesel fuel to generate their electricity. That is one of the parts of this bill that is extremely important and I think is overlooked sometimes. The final title I am happy about because that has pro-growth portions and reforms in it.

But let it be very clear: this is a conservative bill that is rooted in the Con-

stitution that does not cost the American taxpayers a dime. It is not a bailout. It does not expand the size or scope of the Federal Government, and it does not encroach on State authority.

In fact, I think we have done a pretty good job in trying to solve some problems in a way that can move everyone forward.

At this point, I also want to thank the chairmen of the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on the Judiciary and Small Business Committee for their help with this particular bill, so especially Chairman KLINE, Chairman GOODLATTE, and Chairman CHABOT. I do appreciate their help on this particular bill.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, May 25, 2016.

Hon. STEVE CHABOT,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On May 25, 2016, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered favorably reported as amended H.R. 5278, the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with an additional referral to the Committee on Small Business, among other committees.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Small Business to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Small Business represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources to memorialize our understanding, as well as in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, and I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, May 25, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing regarding H.R. 5278, the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act. The bill contains a provision that is within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this bill before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner. Accordingly, I will agree that the Committee on Small Business be discharged from further consideration of the bill. I do so with the understanding that this action does not affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business, and that the Committee expressly reserves the right to seek conferees on any provision within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this or any similar legislation. I would ask that you support any such request.

I also ask that a copy of this letter be included in the Congressional Record during the consideration of H.R. 5278 on the House floor.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work on this legislation.

Sincerely,

STEVE CHABOT,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, May 31, 2016.

Hon. JOHN KLINE,
Chairman, Committee on Education and the Workforce, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On May 25, 2016, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered favorably reported as amended H.R. 5278, the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with an additional referral to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, among others.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Education and the Workforce to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Education and the Workforce represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources to memorialize our understanding, as well as in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, and I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE,
Washington, DC, May 31, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to H.R. 5278, the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act. Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Education and the Workforce with regard to H.R. 5278 on those matters within the Committee's jurisdiction.

In the interest of expediting the House's consideration of H.R. 5278, the Committee on Education and the Workforce will forgo further consideration of this bill. However, I do so only with the understanding this procedural route will not be construed to prejudice my Committee's jurisdictional interest and prerogatives on this bill or any other similar legislation and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to my Committee in the future. Additionally, I appreciate your committee's assistance with any additional improvements to the bill within the jurisdiction of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

I respectfully request your support for the appointment of outside conferees from the Committee on Education and the Workforce should this bill or a similar bill be considered in a conference with the Senate. I also request you include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Committee Report on H.R. 5278 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the

House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, May 31, 2016.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On May 25, 2016, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered favorably reported as amended H.R. 5278, the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with an additional referral to the Committee on the Judiciary, among others.

I ask that you allow the Committee on the Judiciary to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on the Judiciary represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources to memorialize our understanding, as well as in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, and I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, June 2, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: I am writing with respect to H.R. 5278, the "Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act," which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary among other committees. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 5278 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 5278 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and asks that you support any such request.

I appreciate your May 31, 2016, letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 5278 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in your committee report and in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 5278.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield myself the balance of my time, and thank Leader PELOSI and my colleague, Chairman BISHOP, his staff, and certainly staff on our side of the aisle for their hard work.

It is a bill that is indeed a compromise, and we shouldn't be ashamed of that. It is a compromise that I wish was more tilted on our side and the things that we wanted. But, Mr. Chairman, those are not the dynamics or the numbers in this House.

The reality is that the urgency of Puerto Rico, the humanitarian demands and needs of the island make us look at this bill not with an eye towards perfection, but with an eye toward what is doable and what can provide some immediate relief and begin the process of stability for the island and for its people, and begin the process of an economic renewal for the island itself.

I want to also acknowledge my colleagues, Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. SERRANO. I know how difficult this vote was and how difficult it is to vote on a compromise that does not fully empower and fully acknowledge the self-governance of the Puerto Rican people. I know that. But your endorsement of this bill is very meaningful in that it ties us to a heritage of representation by the Puerto Rican people in this body and to insisting and demanding that the needs of the people of Puerto Rico be recognized fully by this Congress. We recognize them today, as Mr. SERRANO said, but there is much, much more to do.

This vote, by the way, as I close, is not about heritage. More importantly, it is not about selling out one's heritage. It is about future generations and the opportunities they will have on the island. It is about stability for children, families, and the elderly with a fiscally stable economy and an accountable fiscal system within the island.

While I can understand the political expediency of voting "no," I think the demands and the urgency to deal with this question compel me—and I hope all my colleagues in this body—to vote "yes."

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield 4½ minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), another member of our committee.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I first want to thank Chairman BISHOP, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, Congressmen LABRADOR, DUFFY, and PIERLUISI, and many others who worked tirelessly on this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, the island of Puerto Rico with a population of under 4 million people has a debt of, by some measure, \$100 billion. That is a population less than the State of Louisiana, but a debt of nearly \$100 billion.

We have three options: We can do nothing and continue to allow this island territory to continue spiraling

downward in a financial and humanitarian crisis. We can provide financial oversight. We can relieve regulation, help to reignite the economy, and allow for a negotiation between the creditors and the debtor. Or we can pay off their debt and add to the already \$19 trillion irresponsible debt of the American Government today. Those are the options that are out there.

I will tell you, I also struggled with what the right conservative solution was in this case.

Ultimately, there is just one right answer. Doing nothing will simply worsen the financial condition, will probably put more burden on us to actually bail out the Nation on Congress and on the White House to do that. I oppose a bailout, and I oppose putting taxpayer dollars on the hook to pay off nearly a dozen years of irresponsible spending of the Puerto Rican Government.

So establishing a financial oversight board similar to what was done in Washington, D.C. and providing conditions to negotiate a solution is the right answer. It is the conservative solution.

During committee consideration of the bill, I included an amendment to ensure that Federal taxpayers are not put on the hook for this liability.

Section 210 says: "No Federal funds shall be authorized by this act for the payment of any liability of the territory or territorial instrumentality."

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, this amendment makes it clear: as affirmed by the Supreme Court today and mentioned by the committee chairman, Puerto Rico is different from a State, and the Supreme Court affirmed that today. It is not a State. It is a territory of the U.S., and we have a constitutional obligation to prevent a worsening disaster.

This bill does not set a precedent for States and municipalities. It respects the priority of debt by general obligation bondholders and others. It prevents higher cost of borrowing by States and municipalities by controlling the situation. Most importantly, Mr. Chairman, it doesn't bail out Puerto Rico. It creates a path for financial stability.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support for H.R. 5278.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Chairman, I come before the House today to support an important piece of legislation that will allow the people of Puerto Rico a path towards economic stability, growth, and prosperity.

Beholden to out-of-control tax-and-spend policies, the Puerto Rican people are experiencing the harsh realities of fiscal irresponsibility and unaccountable government. That is why I strongly support this bill.

We have a moral and constitutional responsibility to address this fiscal crisis which will only get worse if we don't act. That is why I support this bill and what we must learn from this experience.

Congress and Presidents of both parties have let our national debt reach an unsustainable \$19 trillion. That is only because the U.S. Government has something that Puerto Rico doesn't have: the ability to print money and borrow endlessly. So that is why I support the fiscal reforms in this bill which do not spend a single dollar in U.S. taxpayer money to relieve Puerto Rico of its debt.

I have long opposed taxpayer bailouts. Fortunately, this bill prevents the taxpayers from bailing out a government that spent recklessly and provides a conservative solution to force Puerto Rico to spend now responsibly. The bill also avoids setting a horrible precedent that could tempt free-spending States to walk away from their obligations by behaving irresponsibly.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. GARRETT. Most importantly, the bill creates a seven-member oversight board to oversee their debt restructuring and to conduct financial audits. What would this board do? It would require commonsense actions like sustainable government programs to establish fiscal plans to achieve needed reform and so on. This bipartisan bill is the first step to return Puerto Rico to solvency and stability.

Americans, each and every day, balance their own checkbooks and live within their own means. Politicians and government bureaucrats should behave no differently. I therefore support the underlying legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS). She is the vice-chair of the committee.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chairman, we saw a bunch of ads on TV about this bill and about what it would do to the bondholders. So I did some research.

I rise in support of this bill as one of the more conservative members of the Republican wing of this House. The reason I support it is the research I did showed me that it wasn't this widow that bought these bonds, it was large institutional investors. It was investors who knew what they were buying because they read the disclosure documents. It was investors who buy billions of dollars worth of bonds, and they are trying to diversify those portfolios, so they have some high-risk, high-return investments and some low-risk, low-return investments. They have different maturity dates. They come from different jurisdictions. They are trying to have a balanced portfolio. Those portfolios were purchased recognizing that some of these bonds might have a higher risk and a higher return.

That higher return comes at a discounted price. So they paid a discount in hopes that they would get the higher return and that these bonds would hold up.

Quite frankly, those bondholders knew what they were getting because it was even disclosed in the bond documents that Congress might be here today debating this very problem of the island's inability to repay everything.

Not all general obligation bonds are created equal. The bond purchasers knew what they were getting. This bill is going to allow for the relative-to-each-other agreement among the bondholders about how to treat the bonds.

Mr. Chairman, I fully support the bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN). He also has the title of Speaker of the House.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, it is vital that we pass this bill. Let me tell you why. Puerto Rico is in trouble, and we need to act now before that trouble threatens taxpayers.

Let me explain why. Puerto Rico's government owes \$118 billion in bonds and in unfunded pension liabilities. It has already defaulted on much of it. Things are only going to get worse.

Now the island is shutting down. You can see it in the news—closed schools, and hospitals are beginning to close. That is today. Tomorrow it could be policemen without cars. It could be blackouts at hospitals. This is a humanitarian disaster in the making. What is worse, if we do nothing, it could be a manmade humanitarian disaster.

I know this goes without saying, but it is worth repeating: the Puerto Rican people are our fellow Americans. They pay our taxes. They fight in our wars. We cannot allow this to happen.

I should also say that if we do nothing, the contagion will simply spread. About 15 percent of Puerto Rico's debt is already held by middle class Americans, and if the government can't meet its obligations, these families will pay the price—or even worse, taxpayers could be asked to bail it out.

□ 1700

That is simply unacceptable. That is why we are taking action now, to prevent a bailout and to help the Puerto Rican people.

What this bill will do is allow Puerto Rico to restructure its debts and set up an oversight board that will oversee this process. Congress and the President will appoint the members of this board. It will audit Puerto Rico's books and make sure the restructuring is open and fair. It will also make sure the restructuring honors the agreements. It will make sure the government changes its ways so we don't have to do this again.

Let me set a few things straight. Some people say this will set a bad precedent. Some people say this will

encourage reckless spending by the States. No, absolutely not. The bill applies only to territories and not to States.

I also want to point one other thing out. The Puerto Rican Government is not getting off scot-free here. Not at all. It has not served the Puerto Rican people well. It has spent money recklessly for decades.

This legislation will make sure that the government balances its budget. It will make sure that they pass reforms that will grow the Puerto Rican economy. It gives flexibility on the youth minimum wage so businesses will hire more young people.

I also hear people say that this is a bailout. That is absolutely, categorically, undeniably false. This bill won't add a single dollar to the deficit. All you have to do is look at the Congressional Budget Office. Not a single taxpayer dollar added to the deficit.

This bill prevents a bailout. That is the entire point. Let me tell you this: if we do not pass this bill, then there is much more likely going to be a bailout because there will be no other choice. But if we pass this bill, Puerto Rico will get a handle on its debt. Its economy will begin to grow. The people in Puerto Rico will see that help is on the way and there is a reason to stay because they are finally getting their act together. Taxpayers will be safe.

I am telling all Members right now, the best chance to get this right is to pass this bill. The best chance for creditors to get what they are owed is this bill. This is our responsibility. The Constitution is really clear. The Constitution gives Congress the duty to oversee legislation for all U.S. territories. Now it is time that we do our constitutional duty.

A lot of people have spent so much time on this legislation. Here is what we are doing. If we see a problem among our fellow citizens and it is in a territory where we have a constitutional responsibility, we have to address this problem, and we have to address this problem in a smart way so that we prevent the taxpayer from getting involved, we have to address this problem in a smart way so that we prevent any contagion from occurring in the bond markets, and we have to address this problem in a smart way so that Puerto Rico can get back on its feet again, so that the future for the people in Puerto Rico is a brighter future.

There are so many people who have poured their hearts into this. I want to thank ROB BISHOP from Utah, the chairman of the committee; I want to thank SEAN DUFFY from Wisconsin; I want to thank RAÚL LABRADOR from Idaho; I want to thank JIM SENSENBRENNER from Wisconsin; I want to thank PEDRO PIERLUISI from Puerto Rico; and I want to thank the Members from the other side of the aisle who put so much time into this.

This is a bipartisan bill. This is the best solution in a deepening crisis. This

bill has my full support. I urge all of my colleagues in the House to give it their full support as well.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Six months ago, our committee began the effort to try to solve this problem. We had four hearings, countless stakeholder meetings, and got input from expert testimony. Interested parties from all over the place were able to get their input in various drafts of this bill. It was an exhaustive effort, but what happened is at the end of this time we had a good bill. That is the way this process is supposed to work.

It is a bill that is rooted in the Constitution, it doesn't cost the taxpayers, it provides Puerto Rico with the tools to impose discipline over its finances, and led towards an element of prosperity.

In Spanish, I am told that the phrase *promesa* means promise. This bill is a promise for Puerto Rico for a better life. It is the way we go forward.

I urge everyone's adoption of a great piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Chair, today I rise in support of H.R. 5278, the "Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act" (PROMESA)—a bipartisan bill providing short-term relief to respond to the humanitarian crisis facing the people of Puerto Rico.

Mr. Chair, Puerto Rico's faltering economy and the well-being of its more than 3.4 million people are of great concern to my colleagues and me. The island's \$70 billion debt has made it extremely difficult for the Commonwealth to provide adequate health care, education and public safety for the people of Puerto Rico.

As a result, its people are struggling to access basic public services—as schools and hospitals face daily electricity and water shortages. I am deeply concerned that the island's health care systems have been adversely affected by Puerto Rico's debt crisis, making it increasingly difficult to handle a Zika outbreak or other health crises.

As a senior member of the Financial Services Committee, I support giving Puerto Rico all the tools necessary to restore its access to credit markets and restructuring its outstanding debt. These critically important measures will help restore its financial footing.

I do not support certain provisions in the bill, including sections undermining a minimum wage and protections for pension benefits. However, it is my hope that this bill on balance will help Puerto Rico stave off catastrophe by restoring basic services, with the hope of putting Puerto Rico back on the path toward improving the quality of life of its people.

In closing, Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 5278. This bill is not perfect, but it takes a step in the right direction.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Chair, I am disappointed that two amendments I offered yesterday at the Rules Committee were not made in order for debate on H.R. 5278, the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA). These amendments, along with amendments offered by

Rep. KILILI SABLÁN of the Northern Mariana Islands on the Earned Income Tax Credit and Rep. AMATA RADEWAGEN of American Samoa on the Child Tax Credit, would have addressed underlying issues that are experienced in all the territories and that contributed to Puerto Rico's debt crisis. We had a chance to address legacy policy issues that unduly put a significant financial strain on our local treasuries, yet we were denied an opportunity to more fully debate these issues and be afforded an up or down vote.

My first amendment would have granted the government of Guam flexibility to extend Social Security to all new government hires. The Government of Guam's (GovGuam) current retirement plan will leave many without sufficient means when they retire. As you know, the pension shortfall in Puerto Rico was a key contributor to its current fiscal crisis and local leaders in Guam are working proactively to enact legislation to prevent a similar situation in Guam. Part of their efforts is contingent on enrolling employees in Social Security, and my amendment would give GovGuam flexibility to enroll new hires in Social Security as it works to address retirement shortfalls for its current workforce. The Social Security Actuaries and the CBO have indicated that the amendment would have a net positive increase on federal revenues. I offered a practical, common sense solution that is supported by many on Guam. It was a proactive attempt to provide GovGuam with the tools it needs to address this systemic issue.

My second amendment would have granted equitable treatment to the U.S. territories in carrying out the Medicaid program. The amendment would have eliminated the Medicaid caps on the territories and provide parity with the federal medical assistance percentage in force in the territories. The inequitable treatment of the territories in Medicaid has caused significant financial strain on our local governments and has forced us to contribute a disproportionate share of local dollars when compared to the 50 states and DC. This was a bipartisan amendment supported by all representatives of the territories, and it would have put our constituents, who are all Americans, on equal footing with those who reside in the States. The cost of providing health care in our jurisdictions, particularly on Guam, inhibits our economies from truly developing. Further, this amendment was modeled off a request contained in President Obama's Fiscal Year 2017 budget request which would have eliminated the caps and put the territories on a path to improving their FMAP. This budget proposal is a critical component of solving the crisis we see in Puerto Rico yet we have been denied a chance to address this matter on the floor. We have an opportunity to address this inequity, and I feel it is critical that we act with purpose on this matter.

I also want to underscore my disappointment that amendments submitted by my colleagues, Mr. SABLÁN and Ms. RADEWAGEN were also not made in order. We firmly believe that Puerto Rico's debt crisis cannot be resolved through debt restructuring alone. This debt crisis was caused by underlying issues which have been impacted by the unequal treatment of the territories in certain federal programs. Again, like with Medicaid, addressing these issues for Puerto Rico and the other territories would help lift a burden and allow our local governments to focus more on eco-

nomics development and improving infrastructure to support those new economies.

Together our amendments addressed disparities in Medicaid and the application of the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, and would have fixed critical issues that contributed to Puerto Rico's debt crisis. We offered these amendments because while Guam's and the other territories' fiscal situations are nowhere near the crisis in Puerto Rico, we had an opportunity to be proactive and eliminate federal policies and programs that are not treating the territories with equity. Put more simply, we could have been proactive in addressing federal law to ensure our other territories are put in a better shape financially.

We simply do not believe that extending the authorities proposed in PROMESA without addressing continued systemic challenges will resolve Puerto Rico's problems, nor will it provide a more secure financial footing in all the territories. I recognize the political challenges that have been undertaken to get this bill to the point that we are at right now. However, we need to find the political will to address the systemic challenges now, before they become crises later. We are doing all we can to be proactive so that what is happening to Puerto Rico does not happen to the rest of us. I hope this Congress will address these issues so that we can bring parity to the millions of Americans living in the territories and enable the territories' local governments to focus on programs that will enhance their economies.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chair, House Resolution 5278 creates a board of managers to address the fiscal condition of Puerto Rico.

However, Puerto Rican officials still have not been held accountable or accepted responsibility for their policies that caused the financial crisis. In fact, just the opposite: the Puerto Rican government ignored its fiscal obligations when it recently voted to approve a moratorium on repaying any of its debt.

But it is Puerto Rico and not Congress who should take the first steps to adopt reform measures.

There is no certainty that a financial oversight board would implement any economic growth measures to improve the Island's fiscal condition.

The board has no mandate from Congress to address the bloated government workforce, high taxes, an insolvent pension system, limitations on trade under the Jones Act, and excessive welfare benefits, all of which helped cause the fiscal crisis.

This legislation rewards bad behavior and represents a missed opportunity for Congress to insist on fiscally responsible reforms.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today because Puerto Rico is confronting a catastrophe. The spiral of recession, emigration, debt, and austerity has left the island in dire straits. Puerto Rico faces immediate default on a large portion of its debt and the island might have to halt emergency services if it cannot obtain further credit.

This crisis has been developing for a long time, but the problem has grown increasingly unworkable over the past year while this Congress has done nothing. The potential humanitarian consequences of continuing to do nothing have convinced me that despite my grave concerns about what I consider a mere half-measure, I must support PROMESA, the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (H.R. 5278).

Puerto Rico's problems go beyond short-term debt service. Federal changes to their unique tax structure have helped push the territory into recession for a decade, which in turn has driven massive emigration elsewhere, which harms their ability to attract investment and fair financing, which has only further imperiled the island's fiscal situation. It is the very definition of an austerity driven destructive cycle.

Correcting its course is no easy task, but Puerto Rico can succeed if they receive two necessary things: time and support.

First, an immediate stay on debt collection and payments that would allow time to develop a negotiated resolution, or absent that a bankruptcy process that treats creditors equitably. All creditors should expect to shoulder some of the pain, but nobody should take unfair losses—least of all the pensioners who can least afford an unequal burden.

Second, an economic development plan that reflects Puerto Rico's unique challenges, like emigration to the mainland, which hinder the island's ability to rebuild its tax base and attract new investment. Alternative energy programs and tax incentives should be supported to encourage a more self-sufficient economy. Public health efforts should be directed to the island in order to evaluate growing problems that disproportionately affect Puerto Rico, such as Zika.

PROMESA, while well intentioned, simply may not fully address the magnitude of Puerto Rico's problems. Without an adequate commitment to improving economic stability on the island, talented residents will continue emigrating elsewhere, industry will further wither because of substandard public services, and local fiscal problems will likely escalate. Further, the ridiculous riders that potentially undercut wage and overtime protections—as well as environmental regulations—represent a cynical effort to take advantage of the island's desperate situation. It is a shameful reminder that many in this body see Puerto Rico as a colony unworthy of the privileges we enjoy on the mainland.

I am voting for PROMESA despite my serious concerns because I hope against hope that it will be improved in the Senate. A real recovery strategy—one that gives residents, workers, and pensioners a viable future—is what Puerto Rico needs and deserves.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I stand before you today to discuss H.R. 5278—Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA).

Our consideration of PROMESA must be a very thoughtful analysis of an outcome where the people of Puerto Rico will be empowered and be on a path towards progress where working families, their children and pensioners can be on a pathway towards a better future.

PROEMSA is a bipartisan measure and effort to assist the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in restructuring \$70 billion in currently unpayable debt, an amount that exceeds the size of its entire economy.

There are a total of 3.548 million people living on the island of Puerto Rico.

Since 2006, Puerto Rico's economy has shrunk by more than 10 percent and shed more than 250,000 jobs.

More than 45 percent of the Commonwealth's residents live in poverty—the highest poverty rate of any state or territory.

Furthermore, its 11.6 percent unemployment rate is more than twice the national level.

The challenges facing the people of Puerto Rico have ignited the largest wave of out-migration since the 1950's, and the pace continues to accelerate.

More than 300,000 people have left Puerto Rico in the past decade with a record of 84,000 people leaving in 2014.

Puerto Ricans suffer from high rates of forced migration due to the better opportunities offered in the United States compared to in the commonwealth.

The gap between emigrants and immigrants has been continuously widening.

Indeed, this increase in emigrants caused a population decline, the first in its history, and the stateside Puerto Rican population grew quickly.

The median age of male Puerto Ricans is of working age from the ages of 25–49 and similarly for women from the ages of 25–59.

Most of the homes are family-led.

There are about 1,133,600 people in the civilian labor force but only 43 percent of them are employed.

In addition, most of those working work in minimum wage jobs.

Over 27 percent of the people in the Commonwealth are on welfare.

The median income in Puerto Rico is only half that of the poorest U.S. state, Mississippi, but welfare benefits are about the same in Puerto Rico as in Mississippi.

Swift action is needed in order to alleviate the pain and suffering of the people of Puerto Rico.

There is no time to waste.

H.R. 5278 appears to be an emergency default for Puerto Rico, an American territory where 3.5 million American citizens reside and continue to live in fear for their finances, their families and their future.

On July 1, Puerto Rico will face nearly \$2 billion worth of bond payments.

Already, businesses have closed, public worker benefits are in jeopardy, hospital care is restricted and basic governmental functions are at risk.

Should the Puerto Rican government default in early July, it faces certain litigation by its creditors, further erosion of its economy, and an inability to provide basic services to its people.

This measure creates a process for the Commonwealth to restructure their bond debts, avoiding a default that could lead to a humanitarian catastrophe and instead allowing Puerto Rico to return to economic growth and fiscal balance.

It would allow for the creation of a seven-member Financial Oversight and Management board which will approve annual budgets and fiscal plans.

This fiscal plan must be designed in a way that provides adequate funding for pension obligations.

Also, I have serious concerns about the minimum wage provision of the measure.

Specifically, regarding minimum wage and overtime, H.R. 5278 would extend the application of the existing federal subminimum wage of \$4.25 an hour to those under the age of 25 in Puerto Rico for as long as four years, while all other federal jurisdictions pay the subminimum wage to those under the age of 20 for only up to the first ninety days of employment.

We need to continue to work on ways to improve this measure to ascertain that American citizens in Puerto Rico are not languishing in poverty.

Indeed, the measure contains a provision that provides for a delay on the new Department of Labor overtime pay regulation until a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study is completed and the Department of Labor determines whether the rule could negatively impact the economy of Puerto Rico.

Additionally, the measure would create a "Revitalization Coordinator" that works closely with the Oversight Board to determine which energy and other infrastructure projects will be able to bypass local environmental, public health, and consumer protection laws.

Let me underscore again that I have serious concerns about the provisions in this measure, not the least of which is the expansion of the subminimum wage, the exemption from the new overtime Rule, and the exclusion of protections for pension benefits.

I commend my Democratic colleagues in their efforts of protecting the environment and wildlife refuge in the Commonwealth.

I look forward to working with my Democratic colleagues and our Republican colleagues across the aisle in continuing to improve the provisions of the measure for the betterment of fellow American citizens in Puerto Rico.

Let me conclude by highlighting that H.R. 5278 is not perfect but so long as we continue to work on a bipartisan basis in good faith, we can work towards our efforts of ensuring that Puerto Rico does not become a humanitarian crisis.

We must continue to work together to be our brother's and sister's keepers.

It is essential that we stand with the people of Puerto Rico and take action.

It is essential that we continue to work towards an orderly process that promotes the livelihood of U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico and alleviates the crisis.

The Acting 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 Natural Resources, printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–57. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 5278

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 "Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act" or "PROMESA".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Effective date.

Sec. 3. Severability.

Sec. 4. Supremacy.

Sec. 5. Definitions.

Sec. 6. Placement.

Sec. 7. Compliance with Federal laws.

TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANIZATION OF OVERSIGHT BOARD
Sec. 101. Financial Oversight and Management Board.

- Sec. 102. Location of Oversight Board.
- Sec. 103. Executive Director and staff of Oversight Board.
- Sec. 104. Powers of Oversight Board.
- Sec. 105. Exemption from liability for claims.
- Sec. 106. Treatment of actions arising from Act.
- Sec. 107. Budget and funding for operation of Oversight Board.
- Sec. 108. Autonomy of Oversight Board.
- Sec. 109. Ethics.

TITLE II—RESPONSIBILITIES OF OVERSIGHT BOARD

- Sec. 201. Approval of fiscal plans.
- Sec. 202. Approval of budgets.
- Sec. 203. Effect of finding of noncompliance with budget.
- Sec. 204. Review of activities to ensure compliance with fiscal plan.
- Sec. 205. Recommendations on financial stability and management responsibility.
- Sec. 206. Oversight Board duties related to restructuring.
- Sec. 207. Oversight Board authority related to debt issuance.
- Sec. 208. Required reports.
- Sec. 209. Termination of Oversight Board.
- Sec. 210. No full faith and credit of the United States.
- Sec. 211. Analysis of pensions.
- Sec. 212. Intervention in litigation.

TITLE III—ADJUSTMENTS OF DEBTS

- Sec. 301. Applicability of other laws; definitions.
- Sec. 302. Who may be a debtor.
- Sec. 303. Reservation of territorial power to control territory and territorial instrumentalities.
- Sec. 304. Petition and proceedings relating to petition.
- Sec. 305. Limitation on jurisdiction and powers of court.
- Sec. 306. Jurisdiction.
- Sec. 307. Venue.
- Sec. 308. Selection of presiding judge.
- Sec. 309. Abstention.
- Sec. 310. Applicable rules of procedure.
- Sec. 311. Leases.
- Sec. 312. Filing of plan of adjustment.
- Sec. 313. Modification of plan.
- Sec. 314. Confirmation.
- Sec. 315. Role and capacity of Oversight Board.
- Sec. 316. Compensation of professionals.
- Sec. 317. Interim compensation.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 401. Rules of construction.
- Sec. 402. Right of Puerto Rico to determine its future political status.
- Sec. 403. First minimum wage in Puerto Rico.
- Sec. 404. Application of regulation to Puerto Rico.
- Sec. 405. Automatic stay upon enactment.
- Sec. 406. Purchases by territory governments.
- Sec. 407. Protection from inter-debtor transfers.
- Sec. 408. GAO report on Small Business Administration programs in Puerto Rico.
- Sec. 409. Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico.
- Sec. 410. Report.

TITLE V—PUERTO RICO INFRASTRUCTURE REVITALIZATION

- Sec. 501. Definitions.
- Sec. 502. Position of Revitalization Coordinator.
- Sec. 503. Critical projects.
- Sec. 504. Miscellaneous provisions.
- Sec. 505. Federal agency requirements.
- Sec. 506. Judicial review.
- Sec. 507. Savings clause.

TITLE VI—CREDITOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

- Sec. 601. Creditor Collective action.
- Sec. 602. Applicable law.

TITLE VII—SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING PERMANENT, PRO-GROWTH FISCAL REFORMS

- Sec. 701. Sense of Congress regarding permanent, pro-growth fiscal reforms.

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) TITLE III AND TITLE VI.—

(1) TITLE III shall apply with respect to cases commenced under title III on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) Titles III and VI shall apply with respect to debts, claims, and liens (as such terms are defined in section 101 of title II, United States Code) created before, on, or after such date.

SEC. 3. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this Act, or the application of that provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid, is not affected thereby, provided that title III is not severable from titles I and II, and titles I and II are not severable from title III.

SEC. 4. SUPREMACY.

The provisions of this Act shall prevail over any general or specific provisions of territory law, State law, or regulation that is inconsistent with this Act.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) AGREED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS.—The term “agreed accounting standards” means modified accrual accounting standards or, for any period during which the Oversight Board determines in its sole discretion that a territorial government is not reasonably capable of comprehensive reporting that complies with modified accrual accounting standards, such other accounting standards as proposed by the Oversight Board.

(2) BOND.—The term “Bond” means a bond, loan, letter of credit, other borrowing title, obligation of insurance, or other financial indebtedness for borrowed money, including rights, entitlements, or obligations whether such rights, entitlements, or obligations arise from contract, statute, or any other source of law, in any case, related to such a bond, loan, letter of credit, other borrowing title, obligation of insurance, or other financial indebtedness in physical or dematerialized form of which the issuer, obligor, or guarantor is the territorial government.

(3) BOND CLAIM.—The term “Bond Claim” means, as it relates to a Bond—

(A) right to payment, whether or not such right is reduced to judgment, liquidated, unliquidated, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, legal, equitable, secured, or unsecured; or

(B) right to an equitable remedy for breach of performance if such breach gives rise to a right to payment, whether or not such right to an equitable remedy is reduced to judgment, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, secured, or unsecured.

(4) BUDGET.—The term “Budget” means the Territory Budget or an Instrumentality Budget, as applicable.

(5) PUERTO RICO.—The term “Puerto Rico” means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(6) COMPLIANT BUDGET.—The term “compliant budget” means a budget that is prepared in accordance with—

(A) agreed accounting standards; and

(B) the applicable Fiscal Plan.

(7) COVERED TERRITORIAL INSTRUMENTALITY.—The term “covered territorial instrumentality” means a territorial instrumentality designated by the Oversight Board pursuant to section 101 to be subject to the requirements of this Act.

(8) COVERED TERRITORY.—The term “covered territory” means a territory for which an Oversight Board has been established under section 101.

(9) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The term “Executive Director” means an Executive Director appointed under section 103(a).

(10) FISCAL PLAN.—The term “Fiscal Plan” means a Territory Fiscal Plan or an Instrumentality Fiscal Plan, as applicable.

(11) GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO.—The term “Government of Puerto Rico” means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, including all its territorial instrumentalities.

(12) GOVERNOR.—The term “Governor” means the chief executive of a covered territory.

(13) INSTRUMENTALITY BUDGET.—The term “Instrumentality Budget” means a budget for a covered territorial instrumentality, designated by the Oversight Board in accordance with section 101, submitted, approved, and certified in accordance with section 202.

(14) INSTRUMENTALITY FISCAL PLAN.—The term “Instrumentality Fiscal Plan” means a fiscal plan for a covered territorial instrumentality, designated by the Oversight Board in accordance with section 101, submitted, approved, and certified in accordance with section 201.

(15) LEGISLATURE.—The term “Legislature” means the legislative body responsible for enacting the laws of a covered territory.

(16) MODIFIED ACCRUAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS.—The term “modified accrual accounting standards” means recognizing revenues as they become available and measurable and recognizing expenditures when liabilities are incurred, in each case as defined by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

(17) OVERSIGHT BOARD.—The term “Oversight Board” means a Financial Oversight and Management Board established in accordance with section 101.

(18) TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “territorial government” means the government of a covered territory, including all covered territorial instrumentalities.

(19) TERRITORIAL INSTRUMENTALITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “territorial instrumentality” means any political subdivision, public agency, instrumentality—including any instrumentality that is also a bank or public corporation of a territory, and this term should be broadly construed to effectuate the purposes of this Act.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term “territorial instrumentality” does not include an Oversight Board.

(20) TERRITORY.—The term “territory” means—

(A) Puerto Rico;

(B) Guam;

(C) American Samoa;

(D) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; or

(E) the United States Virgin Islands.

(21) TERRITORY BUDGET.—The term “Territory Budget” means a budget for a territorial government submitted, approved, and certified in accordance with section 202.

(22) TERRITORY FISCAL PLAN.—The term “Territory Fiscal Plan” means a fiscal plan for a territorial government submitted, approved, and certified in accordance with section 201.

SEC. 6. PLACEMENT.

The Law Revision Counsel is directed to place this Act as chapter 20 of title 48, United States Code.

SEC. 7. COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAWS.

Except as otherwise provided in this Act, nothing in this Act shall be construed as impairing or in any manner relieving a territorial government, or any territorial instrumentality thereof, from compliance with Federal laws or requirements or territorial laws and requirements implementing a federally authorized or federally delegated program protecting the health, safety, and environment of persons in such territory.

TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANIZATION OF OVERSIGHT BOARD
SEC. 101. FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT BOARD.

(a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the Oversight Board is to provide a method for a covered territory to achieve fiscal responsibility and access to the capital markets.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a Financial Oversight and Management Board for a territory is established in accordance with this section only if the Legislature of the territory adopts a resolution signed by the Governor requesting the establishment.

(2) **PUERTO RICO.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a Financial Oversight and Management Board is hereby established for Puerto Rico.

(3) **CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS.**—The Congress enacts this Act pursuant to article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States, which provides Congress the power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations for territories.

(c) **TREATMENT.**—An Oversight Board established under this section—

(1) shall be created as an entity within the territorial government for which it is established in accordance with this title; and

(2) shall not be considered to be a department, agency, establishment, or instrumentality of the Federal Government.

(d) **OVERSIGHT OF TERRITORIAL INSTRUMENTALITIES.**—

(1) **DESIGNATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An Oversight Board, in its sole discretion at such time as the Oversight Board determines to be appropriate, may designate any territorial instrumentality as a covered territorial instrumentality that is subject to the requirements of this Act.

(B) **BUDGETS AND REPORTS.**—The Oversight Board may require, in its sole discretion, the Governor to submit to the Oversight Board such budgets and monthly or quarterly reports regarding a covered territorial instrumentality as the Oversight Board determines to be necessary and may designate any covered territorial instrumentality to be included in the Territory Budget; except that the Oversight Board may not designate a covered territorial instrumentality to be included in the Territory Budget if applicable territory law does not require legislative approval of such covered territorial instrumentality's budget.

(C) **SEPARATE INSTRUMENTALITY BUDGETS AND REPORTS.**—The Oversight Board in its sole discretion may or, if it requires a budget from a covered territorial instrumentality whose budget does not require legislative approval under applicable territory law, shall designate a covered territorial instrumentality to be the subject of an Instrumentality Budget separate from the applicable Territory Budget and require that the Governor develop such an Instrumentality Budget.

(D) **INCLUSION IN TERRITORY FISCAL PLAN.**—The Oversight Board may require, in its sole discretion, the Governor to include a covered territorial instrumentality in the applicable Territory Fiscal Plan. Any covered territorial instrumentality submitting a separate Instrumentality Fiscal Plan must also submit a separate Instrumentality Budget.

(E) **SEPARATE INSTRUMENTALITY FISCAL PLANS.**—The Oversight Board may designate, in its sole discretion, a covered territorial instrumentality to be the subject of an Instrumentality Fiscal Plan separate from the applicable Territory Fiscal Plan and require that the Governor develop such an Instrumentality Fiscal Plan. Any covered territorial instrumentality submitting a separate Instrumentality Fiscal Plan must also submit a separate Instrumentality Budget.

(2) **EXCLUSION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An Oversight Board, in its sole discretion, at such time as the Oversight Board determines to be appropriate, may exclude any territorial instrumentality from the requirements of this Act.

(B) **TREATMENT.**—A territorial instrumentality excluded pursuant to this paragraph shall not be considered to be a covered territorial instrumentality.

(e) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) The Oversight Board shall consist of seven members appointed by the President who meet the qualifications described in subsection (f) and section 109(a).

(B) The Board shall be comprised of one Category A member, one Category B member, two Category C members, one Category D member, one Category E member, and one Category F member.

(2) **APPOINTED MEMBERS.**—

(A) The President shall appoint the individual members of the Oversight Board, of which—

(i) the Category A member should be selected from a list of individuals submitted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(ii) the Category B member should be selected from a separate list of individuals submitted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(iii) the Category C members should be selected from a list submitted by the Majority Leader of the Senate;

(iv) the Category D member should be selected from a list submitted by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

(v) the Category E member should be selected from a list submitted by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and

(vi) the Category F member may be selected in the President's sole discretion.

(B) After the President's selection of the Category F Board member, for purposes of subparagraph (A) and within a timely manner—

(i) the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall submit two non-overlapping lists of at least three individuals to the President; one list shall include three individuals who maintain a primary residence in the territory or have a primary place of business in the territory;

(ii) the Senate Majority Leader shall submit a list of at least four individuals to the President;

(iii) the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall submit a list of at least three individuals to the President; and

(iv) the Minority Leader of the Senate shall submit a list of at least three individuals to the President.

(C) If the President does not select any of the names submitted under subparagraphs (A) and (B), then whoever submitted such list may supplement the lists provided in this subsection with additional names.

(D) The Category A member shall maintain a primary residence in the territory or have a primary place of business in the territory.

(E) With respect to the appointment of a Board member in Category A, B, C, D, or E, such an appointment shall be by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, unless the President appoints an individual from a list, as provided in this subsection, in which case no Senate confirmation is required.

(F) In the event of a vacancy of a Category A, B, C, D, or E Board seat, the corresponding congressional leader referenced in subparagraph (A) shall submit a list pursuant to this subsection within a timely manner of the Board member's resignation or removal becoming effective.

(G) With respect to an Oversight Board for Puerto Rico, in the event any of the 7 members have not been appointed by September 30, 2016, then the President shall appoint an individual from the list for the current vacant category by December 1, 2016, provided that such list includes at least 2 individuals per vacancy who meet the requirements set forth in subsection (f) and section 109, and are willing to serve.

(3) **EX OFFICIO MEMBER.**—The Governor, or the Governor's designee, shall be an ex officio member of the Oversight Board without voting rights.

(4) **CHAIR.**—The voting members of the Oversight Board shall designate one of the voting members of the Oversight Board as the Chair of the Oversight Board (referred to hereafter in this Act as the "Chair") within 30 days of the full appointment of the Oversight Board.

(5) **TERM OF SERVICE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each appointed member of the Oversight Board shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(B) **REMOVAL.**—The President may remove any member of the Oversight Board only for cause.

(C) **CONTINUATION OF SERVICE UNTIL SUCCESSOR APPOINTED.**—Upon the expiration of a term of office, a member of the Oversight Board may continue to serve until a successor has been appointed.

(D) **REAPPOINTMENT.**—An individual may serve consecutive terms as an appointed member, provided that such reappointment occurs in compliance with paragraph (6).

(6) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy on the Oversight Board shall be filled in the same manner in which the original member was appointed.

(f) **ELIGIBILITY FOR APPOINTMENTS.**—An individual is eligible for appointment as a member of the Oversight Board only if the individual—

(1) has knowledge and expertise in finance, municipal bond markets, management, law, or the organization or operation of business or government; and

(2) prior to appointment, an individual is not an officer, elected official, or employee of the territorial government, a candidate for elected office of the territorial government, or a former elected official of the territorial government.

(g) **NO COMPENSATION FOR SERVICE.**—Members of the Oversight Board shall serve without pay, but may receive reimbursement from the Oversight Board for any reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by reason of service on the Oversight Board.

(h) **ADOPTION OF BYLAWS FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS OF OVERSIGHT BOARD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the appointment of all members and appointment of the Chair, the Oversight Board shall adopt bylaws, rules, and procedures governing its activities under this Act, including procedures for hiring experts and consultants. Such bylaws, rules, and procedures shall be public documents, and shall be submitted by the Oversight Board upon adoption to the Governor, the Legislature, the President, and Congress. The Oversight Board may hire professionals as it determines to be necessary to carry out this subsection.

(2) **ACTIVITIES REQUIRING APPROVAL OF MAJORITY OF MEMBERS.**—Under the bylaws adopted pursuant to paragraph (1), the Oversight Board may conduct its operations under such procedures as it considers appropriate, except that an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Oversight Board's full appointed membership shall be required in order for the Oversight Board to approve a Fiscal Plan under section 201, to approve a Budget under section 202, to cause a legislative act not to be enforced under section 204, or to approve or disapprove an infrastructure project as a Critical Project under section 503.

(3) **ADOPTION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS OF TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.**—The Oversight Board may incorporate in its bylaws, rules, and procedures under this subsection such rules and regulations of the territorial government as it considers appropriate to enable it to carry out its activities under this Act with the greatest degree of independence practicable.

(4) **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**—Upon a majority vote of the Oversight Board's full voting membership, the Oversight Board may conduct its business in an executive session that consists solely of the

Oversight Board's voting members and is closed to the public, but only for the business items set forth as part of the vote to convene an executive session.

SEC. 102. LOCATION OF OVERSIGHT BOARD.

The Oversight Board shall have an office in the covered territory and additional offices as it deems necessary. At any time, any department or agency of the United States may provide the Oversight Board use of Federal facilities and equipment on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis and subject to such terms and conditions as the head of that department or agency may establish.

SEC. 103. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF OVERSIGHT BOARD.

(a) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The Oversight Board shall have an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the Chair with the consent of the Oversight Board. The Executive Director shall be paid at a rate determined by the Oversight Board.

(b) **STAFF.**—With the approval of the Chair, the Executive Director may appoint and fix the pay of additional personnel as the Executive Director considers appropriate, except that no individual appointed by the Executive Director may be paid at a rate greater than the rate of pay for the Executive Director unless the Oversight Board provides for otherwise. The staff shall include a Revitalization Coordinator appointed pursuant to Title V of this Act. Any such personnel may include private citizens, employees of the Federal Government, or employees of the territorial government, provided, however, that the Executive Director may not fix the pay of employees of the Federal Government or the territorial government.

(c) **INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT AND PROCUREMENT LAWS.**—The Executive Director and staff of the Oversight Board may be appointed and paid without regard to any provision of the laws of the covered territory or the Federal Government governing appointments and salaries. Any provision of the laws of the covered territory governing procurement shall not apply to the Oversight Board.

(d) **STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—Upon request of the Chair, the head of any Federal department or agency may detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, and in accordance with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (5 U.S.C. 3371–3375), any of the personnel of that department or agency to the Oversight Board to assist it in carrying out its duties under this Act.

(e) **STAFF OF TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.**—Upon request of the Chair, the head of any department or agency of the covered territory may detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of that department or agency to the Oversight Board to assist it in carrying out its duties under this Act.

SEC. 104. POWERS OF OVERSIGHT BOARD.

(a) **HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.**—The Oversight Board may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence as the Oversight Board considers appropriate. The Oversight Board may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before it.

(b) **POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.**—Any member or agent of the Oversight Board may, if authorized by the Oversight Board, take any action that the Oversight Board is authorized to take by this section.

(c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.

(1) **FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**—Notwithstanding sections 552 (commonly known as the Freedom of Information Act), 552a (commonly known as the Privacy Act of 1974), and 552b (commonly known as the Government in the Sunshine Act) of title 5, United States Code, the Oversight Board may secure directly from any department or agency of the United States information necessary to enable it to carry out this Act, with the approval of the head of that department or agency.

(2) **FROM TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Oversight Board shall have the right to secure copies, whether written or electronic, of such records, documents, information, data, or metadata from the territorial government necessary to enable the Oversight Board to carry out its responsibilities under this Act. At the request of the Oversight Board, the Oversight Board shall be granted direct access to such information systems, records, documents, information, or data as will enable the Oversight Board to carry out its responsibilities under this Act. The head of the entity of the territorial government responsible shall provide the Oversight Board with such information and assistance (including granting the Oversight Board direct access to automated or other information systems) as the Oversight Board requires under this paragraph.

(d) OBTAINING CREDITOR INFORMATION.

(1) Upon request of the Oversight Board, each creditor or organized group of creditors of a covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality seeking to participate in voluntary negotiations shall provide to the Oversight Board, and the Oversight Board shall make publicly available to any other participant, a statement setting forth—

(A) the name and address of the creditor or of each member of an organized group of creditors; and

(B) the nature and aggregate amount of claims or other economic interests held in relation to the issuer as of the later of—

(i) the date the creditor acquired the claims or other economic interests or, in the case of an organized group of creditors, the date the group was formed; or

(ii) the date the Oversight Board was formed.

(2) For purposes of this subsection, an organized group shall mean multiple creditors that are—

(A) acting in concert to advance their common interests, including, but not limited to, retaining legal counsel to represent such multiple entities; and

(B) not composed entirely of affiliates or insiders of one another.

(3) The Oversight Board may request supplemental statements to be filed by each creditor or organized group of creditors quarterly, or if any fact in the most recently filed statement has changed materially.

(e) **GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.**—The Oversight Board may accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of services or property, both real and personal, for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Oversight Board. Gifts, bequests, or devises of money and proceeds from sales of other property received as gifts, bequests, or devises shall be deposited in such account as the Oversight Board may establish and shall be available for disbursement upon order of the Chair, consistent with the Oversight Board's bylaws, or rules and procedures. All gifts, bequests or devises and the identities of the donors shall be publicly disclosed by the Oversight Board within 30 days of receipt.

(f) SUBPOENA POWER.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Oversight Board may issue subpoenas requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, documents, electronic files, metadata, tapes, and materials of any nature relating to any matter under investigation by the Oversight Board. Jurisdiction to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of such materials shall be governed by the statute setting forth the scope of personal jurisdiction exercised by the covered territory, or in the case of Puerto Rico, 32 L.P.R.A. App. III. R. 4. 7., as amended.

(2) **FAILURE TO OBEY A SUBPOENA.**—If a person refuses to obey a subpoena issued under paragraph (1), the Oversight Board may apply to the court of first instance of the covered terri-

tory. Any failure to obey the order of the court may be punished by the court in accordance with civil contempt laws of the covered territory.

(3) **SERVICE OF SUBPOENAS.**—The subpoena of the Oversight Board shall be served in the manner provided by the rules of procedure for the courts of the covered territory, or in the case of Puerto Rico, the Rules of Civil Procedure of Puerto Rico, for subpoenas issued by the court of first instance of the covered territory.

(g) **AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS.**—The Executive Director may enter into such contracts as the Executive Director considers appropriate (subject to the approval of the Chair) consistent with the Oversight Board's bylaws, rules, and regulations to carry out the Oversight Board's responsibilities under this Act.

(h) **AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE CERTAIN LAWS OF THE COVERED TERRITORY.**—The Oversight Board shall ensure the purposes of this Act are met, including by ensuring the prompt enforcement of any applicable laws of the covered territory prohibiting public sector employees from participating in a strike or lockout. In the application of this subsection, with respect to Puerto Rico, the term "applicable laws" refers to 3 L.P.R.A. 1451q and 3 L.P.R.A. 1451r, as amended.

(i) VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT CERTIFICATION.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Oversight Board shall issue a certification to a covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality if the Oversight Board determines, in its sole discretion, that such covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality, as applicable, has successfully reached a voluntary agreement with holders of its Bond Claims to restructure such Bond Claims—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (C), if an applicable Fiscal Plan has been certified, in a manner that provides for a sustainable level of debt for such covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality, as applicable, and is in conformance with the applicable certified Fiscal Plan;

(B) except as provided in subparagraph (C), if an applicable Fiscal Plan has not yet been certified, in a manner that provides, in the Oversight Board's sole discretion, for a sustainable level of debt for such covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality; or

(C) notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B), if an applicable Fiscal Plan has not yet been certified and the voluntary agreement is limited solely to an extension of applicable principal maturities and interest on Bonds issued by such covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality, as applicable, for a period of up to one year during which time no interest will be paid on the Bond Claims affected by the voluntary agreement.

(2) **EFFECTIVENESS.**—The effectiveness of any voluntary agreement referred to in paragraph (1) shall be conditioned on—

(A) the Oversight Board delivering the certification described in paragraph (1); and

(B) the agreement of a majority in amount of the Bond Claims of a covered territory or a covered territorial instrumentality that are to be affected by such agreement, provided, however, that such agreement is solely for purposes of serving as a Qualifying Modification pursuant to subsection 601(g) of this Act and shall not alter existing legal rights of holders of Bond Claims against such covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality that have not asented to such agreement.

(3) **PREEXISTING VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS.**—Any voluntary agreements that the territorial government or any covered territorial instrumentality has executed with holders of its debts to restructure such debts prior to the date of enactment of the Act shall be deemed to be in conformance with the requirements of this subsection, to the extent the requirements of paragraph (2)(B)(i) have been satisfied.

(j) RESTRUCTURING FILINGS.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (3), before taking an action described in paragraph (2)

on behalf of a debtor or potential debtor in a case under title III, the Oversight Board must certify the action.

(2) **ACTIONS DESCRIBED.**—The actions referred to in paragraph (1) are—

(A) the filing of a petition; or

(B) the submission or modification of a plan of adjustment.

(3) **CONDITION FOR PLANS OF ADJUSTMENT.**—The Oversight Board may certify a plan of adjustment only if it determines, in its sole discretion, that it is consistent with the applicable certified Fiscal Plan.

(k) **CIVIL ACTIONS TO ENFORCE POWERS.**—The Oversight Board may seek judicial enforcement of its authority to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

(l) **PENALTIES.**—

(1) **ACTS PROHIBITED.**—Any officer or employee of the territorial government who prepares, presents, or certifies any information or report for the Oversight Board or any of its agents that is intentionally false or misleading, or, upon learning that any such information is false or misleading, fails to immediately advise the Oversight Board or its agents thereof in writing, shall be subject to prosecution and penalties under any laws of the territory prohibiting the provision of false information to government officials, which in the case of Puerto Rico shall include 33 L.P.R.A. 4889, as amended.

(2) **ADMINISTRATIVE DISCIPLINE.**—In addition to any other applicable penalty, any officer or employee of the territorial government who knowingly and willfully violates paragraph (1) or takes any such action in violation of any valid order of the Oversight Board or fails or refuses to take any action required by any such order, shall be subject to appropriate administrative discipline, including (when appropriate) suspension from duty without pay or removal from office, by order of the Governor.

(3) **REPORT BY GOVERNOR ON DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN.**—In the case of a violation of paragraph (2) by an officer or employee of the territorial government, the Governor shall immediately report to the Oversight Board all pertinent facts together with a statement of the action taken thereon.

(m) **ELECTRONIC REPORTING.**—The Oversight Board may, in consultation with the Governor, ensure the prompt and efficient payment and administration of taxes through the adoption of electronic reporting, payment and auditing technologies.

(n) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.**—Upon the request of the Oversight Board, the Administrator of General Services or other appropriate Federal agencies shall promptly provide to the Oversight Board, on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis, the administrative support services necessary for the Oversight Board to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

(o) **INVESTIGATION OF DISCLOSURE AND SELLING PRACTICES.**—The Oversight Board may investigate the disclosure and selling practices in connection with the purchase of bonds issued by the Government of Puerto Rico for or on behalf of any retail investors including any underrepresentation of risk for such investors and any relationships or conflicts of interest maintained by such broker, dealer, or investment adviser as is provided in applicable laws and regulations.

(p) **FINDINGS OF ANY INVESTIGATION.**—The Oversight Board shall make public the findings of any investigation referenced in subsection (o).

SEC. 105. EXEMPTION FROM LIABILITY FOR CLAIMS.

The Oversight Board, its members, and its employees shall not be liable for any obligation of or claim against the Oversight Board or its members or employees or the territorial government resulting from actions taken to carry out this Act.

SEC. 106. TREATMENT OF ACTIONS ARISING FROM ACT.

(a) **JURISDICTION.**—Except as provided in section 104(f)(2) (relating to the issuance of an order enforcing a subpoena), and title III (relating to adjustments of debts), any action against the Oversight Board, and any action otherwise arising out of this Act, in whole or in part, shall be brought in a United States district court for the covered territory or, for any covered territory that does not have a district court, in the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii.

(b) **APPEAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any order of a United States district court that is issued pursuant to an action brought under subsection (a) shall be subject to review only pursuant to a notice of appeal to the applicable United States Court of Appeals.

(c) **TIMING OF RELIEF.**—Except with respect to any orders entered to remedy constitutional violations, no order of any court granting declaratory or injunctive relief against the Oversight Board, including relief permitting or requiring the obligation, borrowing, or expenditure of funds, shall take effect during the pendency of the action before such court, during the time appeal may be taken, or (if appeal is taken) during the period before the court has entered its final order disposing of such action.

(d) **EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.**—It shall be the duty of the applicable United States District Court, the applicable United States Court of Appeals, and, as applicable, the Supreme Court of the United States to advance on the docket and to expedite to the greatest possible extent the disposition of any matter brought under this Act.

(e) **REVIEW OF OVERSIGHT BOARD CERTIFICATIONS.**—There shall be no jurisdiction in any United States district court to review challenges to the Oversight Board's certification determinations under this Act.

SEC. 107. BUDGET AND FUNDING FOR OPERATION OF OVERSIGHT BOARD.

(a) **SUBMISSION OF BUDGET.**—The Oversight Board shall submit a budget for each fiscal year during which the Oversight Board is in operation, to the President, the House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Governor, and the Legislature.

(b) **FUNDING.**—The Oversight Board shall use its powers with respect to the Territory Budget of the covered territory to ensure that sufficient funds are available to cover all expenses of the Oversight Board. Within 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the territorial government shall designate a dedicated funding source, not subject to subsequent legislative appropriations, sufficient to support the annual expenses of the Oversight Board as determined in the Oversight Board's sole and exclusive discretion.

SEC. 108. AUTONOMY OF OVERSIGHT BOARD.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Neither the Governor nor the Legislature may—

(1) exercise any control, supervision, oversight, or review over the Oversight Board or its activities; or

(2) enact, implement, or enforce any statute, resolution, policy, or rule that would impair or defeat the purposes of this Act, as determined by the Oversight Board.

(b) **OVERSIGHT BOARD LEGAL REPRESENTATION.**—In any action brought by or on behalf of the Oversight Board, the Oversight Board shall be represented by such counsel as it may hire or retain so long as no conflict of interest exists.

SEC. 109. ETHICS.

(a) **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.**—Notwithstanding any ethics provision governing employees of the covered territory, all members and staff of the Oversight Board shall be subject to the Federal conflict of interest requirements described in section 208 of title 18, United States Code.

(b) **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.**—Notwithstanding any ethics provision governing employees of the

covered territory, all members of the Oversight Board and staff designated by the Oversight Board shall be subject to disclosure of their financial interests, the contents of which shall conform to the same requirements set forth in section 102 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. app.).

TITLE II—RESPONSIBILITIES OF OVERSIGHT BOARD

SEC. 201. APPROVAL OF FISCAL PLANS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after all of the members and the Chair have been appointed to the Oversight Board in accordance with section 101(e) in the fiscal year in which the Oversight Board is established, and in each fiscal year thereafter during which the Oversight Board is in operation, the Oversight Board shall deliver a notice to the Governor providing a schedule for the process of development, submission, approval, and certification of Fiscal Plans. The notice may also set forth a schedule for revisions to any Fiscal Plan that has already been certified, which revisions must be subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Oversight Board. The Oversight Board shall consult with the Governor in establishing a schedule, but the Oversight Board shall retain sole discretion to set or, by delivery of a subsequent notice to the Governor, change the dates of such schedule as it deems appropriate and reasonably feasible.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A Fiscal Plan developed under this section shall, with respect to the territorial government or covered territorial instrumentality, provide a method to achieve fiscal responsibility and access to the capital markets, and—

(A) provide for estimates of revenues and expenditures in conformance with agreed accounting standards and be based on—

(i) applicable laws; or

(ii) specific bills that require enactment in order to reasonably achieve the projections of the Fiscal Plan;

(B) ensure the funding of essential public services;

(C) provide adequate funding for public pension systems;

(D) provide for the elimination of structural deficits;

(E) for fiscal years covered by a Fiscal Plan in which a stay under titles III or IV is not effective, provide for a debt burden that is sustainable;

(F) improve fiscal governance, accountability, and internal controls;

(G) enable the achievement of fiscal targets;

(H) create independent forecasts of revenue for the period covered by the Fiscal Plan;

(I) include a debt sustainability analysis;

(J) provide for capital expenditures and investments necessary to promote economic growth;

(K) adopt appropriate recommendations submitted by the Oversight Board under section 205(a);

(L) include such additional information as the Oversight Board deems necessary;

(M) ensure that assets, funds, or resources of a territorial instrumentality are not loaned to, transferred to, or otherwise used for the benefit of a covered territory or another covered territorial instrumentality of a covered territory, unless permitted by the constitution of the territory, an approved plan of adjustment under title III, or a Qualifying Modification approved under title VI; and

(N) respect the relative lawful priorities or lawful liens, as may be applicable, in the constitution, other laws, or agreements of a covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality in effect prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **TERM.**—A Fiscal Plan developed under this section shall cover a period of fiscal years as determined by the Oversight Board in its sole discretion but in any case a period of not less than

5 fiscal years from the fiscal year in which it is certified by the Oversight Board.

(c) DEVELOPMENT, REVIEW, APPROVAL, AND CERTIFICATION OF FISCAL PLANS.—

(1) TIMING REQUIREMENT.—The Governor may not submit to the Legislature a Territory Budget under section 202 for a fiscal year unless the Oversight Board has certified the Territory Fiscal Plan for that fiscal year in accordance with this subsection, unless the Oversight Board in its sole discretion waives this requirement.

(2) FISCAL PLAN DEVELOPED BY GOVERNOR.—The Governor shall submit to the Oversight Board any proposed Fiscal Plan required by the Oversight Board by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a).

(3) REVIEW BY THE OVERSIGHT BOARD.—The Oversight Board shall review any proposed Fiscal Plan to determine whether it satisfies the requirements set forth in subsection (b) and, if the Oversight Board determines in its sole discretion that the proposed Fiscal Plan—

(A) satisfies such requirements, the Oversight Board shall approve the proposed Fiscal Plan; or

(B) does not satisfy such requirements, the Oversight Board shall provide to the Governor—

(i) a notice of violation that includes recommendations for revisions to the applicable Fiscal Plan; and

(ii) an opportunity to correct the violation in accordance with subsection (d)(1).

(d) REVISED FISCAL PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Governor receives a notice of violation under subsection (c)(3), the Governor shall submit to the Oversight Board a revised proposed Fiscal Plan in accordance with subsection (b) by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a). The Governor may submit as many revised Fiscal Plans to the Oversight Board as the schedule established in the notice delivered under subsection (a) permits.

(2) DEVELOPMENT BY OVERSIGHT BOARD.—If the Governor fails to submit to the Oversight Board a Fiscal Plan that the Oversight Board determines in its sole discretion satisfies the requirements set forth in subsection (b) by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a), the Oversight Board shall develop and submit to the Governor and the Legislature a Fiscal Plan that satisfies the requirements set forth in subsection (b).

(e) APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION.—

(1) APPROVAL OF FISCAL PLAN DEVELOPED BY GOVERNOR.—If the Oversight Board approves a Fiscal Plan under subsection (c)(3), it shall deliver a compliance certification for such Fiscal Plan to the Governor and the Legislature.

(2) DEEMED APPROVAL OF FISCAL PLAN DEVELOPED BY OVERSIGHT BOARD.—If the Oversight Board develops a Fiscal Plan under subsection (d)(2), such Fiscal Plan shall be deemed approved by the Governor, and the Oversight Board shall issue a compliance certification for such Fiscal Plan to the Governor and the Legislature.

(f) JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF FISCAL PLAN.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if the Governor and the Oversight Board jointly develop a Fiscal Plan for the fiscal year that meets the requirements under this section, and that the Governor and the Oversight Board certify that the fiscal plan reflects a consensus between the Governor and the Oversight Board, then such Fiscal Plan shall serve as the Fiscal Plan for the territory or territorial instrumentality for that fiscal year.

SEC. 202. APPROVAL OF BUDGETS.

(a) REASONABLE SCHEDULE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BUDGETS.—As soon as practicable after all of the members and the Chair have been appointed to the Oversight Board in the fiscal year in which the Oversight Board is established, and in each fiscal year thereafter during which the Oversight Board is in operation, the Oversight Board shall deliver a notice to the Governor and

the Legislature providing a schedule for developing, submitting, approving, and certifying Budgets for a period of fiscal years as determined by the Oversight Board in its sole discretion but in any case a period of not less than one fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the notice is delivered. The notice may also set forth a schedule for revisions to Budgets that have already been certified, which revisions must be subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Oversight Board. The Oversight Board shall consult with the Governor and the Legislature in establishing a schedule, but the Oversight Board shall retain sole discretion to set or, by delivery of a subsequent notice to the Governor and the Legislature, change the dates of such schedule as it deems appropriate and reasonably feasible.

(b) REVENUE FORECAST.—The Oversight Board shall submit to the Governor and Legislature a forecast of revenues for the period covered by the Budgets by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a), for use by the Governor in developing the Budget under subsection (c).

(c) BUDGETS DEVELOPED BY GOVERNOR.—

(1) GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGETS.—The Governor shall submit to the Oversight Board proposed Budgets by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a). In consultation with the Governor in accordance with the process specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a), the Oversight Board shall determine in its sole discretion whether each proposed Budget is compliant with the applicable Fiscal Plan and—

(A) if a proposed Budget is a compliant budget, the Oversight Board shall—

(i) approve the Budget; and

(ii) if the Budget is a Territory Budget, submit the Territory Budget to the Legislature; or

(B) if the Oversight Board determines that the Budget is not a compliant budget, the Oversight Board shall provide to the Governor—

(i) a notice of violation that includes a description of any necessary corrective action; and

(ii) an opportunity to correct the violation in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) GOVERNOR'S REVISIONS.—The Governor may correct any violations identified by the Oversight Board and submit a revised proposed Budget to the Oversight Board in accordance with paragraph (1). The Governor may submit as many revised Budgets to the Oversight Board as the schedule established in the notice delivered under subsection (a) permits. If the Governor fails to develop a Budget that the Oversight Board determines is a compliant budget by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a), the Oversight Board shall develop and submit to the Governor, in the case of an Instrumentality Budget, and to the Governor and the Legislature, in the case of a Territory Budget, a revised compliant budget.

(d) BUDGET APPROVAL BY LEGISLATURE.—

(1) LEGISLATURE ADOPTED BUDGET.—The Legislature shall submit to the Oversight Board the Territory Budget adopted by the Legislature by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a). The Oversight Board shall determine whether the adopted Territory Budget is a compliant budget and—

(A) if the adopted Territory Budget is a compliant budget, the Oversight Board shall issue a compliance certification for such compliant budget pursuant to subsection (e); and

(B) if the adopted Territory Budget is not a compliant budget, the Oversight Board shall provide to the Legislature—

(i) a notice of violation that includes a description of any necessary corrective action; and

(ii) an opportunity to correct the violation in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) LEGISLATURE'S REVISIONS.—The Legislature may correct any violations identified by the Oversight Board and submit a revised Territory Budget to the Oversight Board in accordance with the process established under paragraph

(1) and by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a). The Legislature may submit as many revised adopted Territory Budgets to the Oversight Board as the schedule established in the notice delivered under subsection (a) permits. If the Legislature fails to adopt a Territory Budget that the Oversight Board determines is a compliant budget by the time specified in the notice delivered under subsection (a), the Oversight Board shall develop a revised Territory Budget that is a compliant budget and submit it to the Governor and the Legislature.

(e) CERTIFICATION OF BUDGETS.—

(1) CERTIFICATION OF DEVELOPED AND APPROVED TERRITORY BUDGETS.—If the Governor and the Legislature develop and approve a Territory Budget that is a compliant budget by the day before the first day of the fiscal year for which the Territory Budget is being developed and in accordance with the process established under subsections (c) and (d), the Oversight Board shall issue a compliance certification to the Governor and the Legislature for such Territory Budget.

(2) CERTIFICATION OF DEVELOPED INSTRUMENTALITY BUDGETS.—If the Governor develops an Instrumentality Budget that is a compliant budget by the day before the first day of the fiscal year for which the Instrumentality Budget is being developed and in accordance with the process established under subsection (c), the Oversight Board shall issue a compliance certification to the Governor for such Instrumentality Budget.

(3) DEEMED CERTIFICATION OF TERRITORY BUDGETS.—If the Governor and the Legislature fail to develop and approve a Territory Budget that is a compliant budget by the day before the first day of the fiscal year for which the Territory Budget is being developed, the Oversight Board shall submit a Budget to the Governor and the Legislature (including any revision to the Territory Budget made by the Oversight Board pursuant to subsection (d)(2)) and such Budget shall be—

(A) deemed to be approved by the Governor and the Legislature;

(B) the subject of a compliance certification issued by the Oversight Board to the Governor and the Legislature; and

(C) in full force and effect beginning on the first day of the applicable fiscal year.

(4) DEEMED CERTIFICATION OF INSTRUMENTALITY BUDGETS.—If the Governor fails to develop an Instrumentality Budget that is a compliant budget by the day before the first day of the fiscal year for which the Instrumentality Budget is being developed, the Oversight Board shall submit an Instrumentality Budget to the Governor (including any revision to the Instrumentality Budget made by the Oversight Board pursuant to subsection (c)(2)) and such Budget shall be—

(A) deemed to be approved by the Governor;

(B) the subject of a compliance certification issued by the Oversight Board to the Governor; and

(C) in full force and effect beginning on the first day of the applicable fiscal year.

(f) JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF BUDGETS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if, in the case of a Territory Budget, the Governor, the Legislature, and the Oversight Board, or in the case of an Instrumentality Budget, the Governor and the Oversight Board, jointly develop such Budget for the fiscal year that meets the requirements under this section, and that the relevant parties certify that such budget reflects a consensus among them, then such Budget shall serve as the Budget for the territory or territorial instrumentality for that fiscal year.

SEC. 203. EFFECT OF FINDING OF NONCOMPLIANCE WITH BUDGET.

(a) SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.—Not later than 15 days after the last day of each quarter of a fiscal year (beginning with the fiscal year determined by the Oversight Board), the Governor

shall submit to the Oversight Board a report, in such form as the Oversight Board may require, describing—

(1) the actual cash revenues, cash expenditures, and cash flows of the territorial government for the preceding quarter, as compared to the projected revenues, expenditures, and cash flows contained in the certified Budget for such preceding quarter; and

(2) any other information requested by the Oversight Board, which may include a balance sheet or a requirement that the Governor provide information for each covered territorial instrumentality separately.

(b) **INITIAL ACTION BY OVERSIGHT BOARD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Oversight Board determines, based on reports submitted by the Governor under subsection (a), independent audits, or such other information as the Oversight Board may obtain, that the actual quarterly revenues, expenditures, or cash flows of the territorial government are not consistent with the projected revenues, expenditures, or cash flows set forth in the certified Budget for such quarter, the Oversight Board shall—

(A) require the territorial government to provide such additional information as the Oversight Board determines to be necessary to explain the inconsistency; and

(B) if the additional information provided under subparagraph (A) does not provide an explanation for the inconsistency that the Oversight Board finds reasonable and appropriate, advise the territorial government to correct the inconsistency by implementing remedial action.

(2) **DEADLINES.**—The Oversight Board shall establish the deadlines by which the territorial government shall meet the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1).

(c) **CERTIFICATION.**—

(1) **INCONSISTENCY.**—If the territorial government fails to provide additional information under subsection (b)(1)(A), or fails to correct an inconsistency under subsection (b)(1)(B), prior to the applicable deadline under subsection (b)(2), the Oversight Board shall certify to the President, the House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Governor, and the Legislature that the territorial government is inconsistent with the applicable certified Budget, and shall describe the nature and amount of the inconsistency.

(2) **CORRECTION.**—If the Oversight Board determines that the territorial government has initiated such measures as the Oversight Board considers sufficient to correct an inconsistency certified under paragraph (1), the Oversight Board shall certify the correction to the President, the House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Governor, and the Legislature.

(d) **BUDGET REDUCTIONS BY OVERSIGHT BOARD.**—If the Oversight Board determines that the Governor, in the case of any then-applicable certified Instrumentality Budgets, and the Governor and the Legislature, in the case of the then-applicable certified Territory Budget, have failed to correct an inconsistency identified by the Oversight Board under subsection (c), the Oversight Board shall—

(1) with respect to the territorial government, other than covered territorial instrumentalities, make appropriate reductions in nondebt expenditures to ensure that the actual quarterly revenues and expenditures for the territorial government are in compliance with the applicable certified Territory Budget or, in the case of the fiscal year in which the Oversight Board is established, the budget adopted by the Governor and the Legislature; and

(2) with respect to covered territorial instrumentalities at the sole discretion of the Oversight Board—

(A) make reductions in nondebt expenditures to ensure that the actual quarterly revenues and expenses for the covered territorial instru-

mentality are in compliance with the applicable certified Budget or, in the case of the fiscal year in which the Oversight Board is established, the budget adopted by the Governor and the Legislature or the covered territorial instrumentality, as applicable; or

(B)(i) institute automatic hiring freezes at the covered territorial instrumentality; and

(ii) prohibit the covered territorial instrumentality from entering into any contract or engaging in any financial or other transactions, unless the contract or transaction was previously approved by the Oversight Board.

(e) **TERMINATION OF BUDGET REDUCTIONS.**—The Oversight Board shall cancel the reductions, hiring freezes, or prohibition on contracts and financial transactions under subsection (d) if the Oversight Board determines that the territorial government or covered territorial instrumentality, as applicable, has initiated appropriate measures to reduce expenditures or increase revenues to ensure that the territorial government or covered territorial instrumentality is in compliance with the applicable certified Budget or, in the case of the fiscal year in which the Oversight Board is established, the budget adopted by the Governor and the Legislature.

SEC. 204. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH FISCAL PLAN.

(a) **SUBMISSION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS TO OVERSIGHT BOARD.**—

(1) **SUBMISSION OF ACTS.**—Except to the extent that the Oversight Board may provide otherwise in its bylaws, rules, and procedures, not later than 7 business days after a territorial government duly enacts any law during any fiscal year in which the Oversight Board is in operation, the Governor shall submit the law to the Oversight Board.

(2) **COST ESTIMATE; CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE OR NONCOMPLIANCE.**—The Governor shall include with each law submitted to the Oversight Board under paragraph (1) the following:

(A) A formal estimate prepared by an appropriate entity of the territorial government with expertise in budgets and financial management of the impact, if any, that the law will have on expenditures and revenues.

(B) If the appropriate entity described in subparagraph (A) finds that the law is not significantly inconsistent with the Fiscal Plan for the fiscal year, it shall issue a certification of such finding.

(C) If the appropriate entity described in subparagraph (A) finds that the law is significantly inconsistent with the Fiscal Plan for the fiscal year, it shall issue a certification of such finding, together with the entity's reasons for such finding.

(3) **NOTIFICATION.**—The Oversight Board shall send a notification to the Governor and the Legislature if—

(A) the Governor submits a law to the Oversight Board under this subsection that is not accompanied by the estimate required under paragraph (2)(A);

(B) the Governor submits a law to the Oversight Board under this subsection that is not accompanied by either a certification described in paragraph (2)(B) or (2)(C); or

(C) the Governor submits a law to the Oversight Board under this subsection that is accompanied by a certification described in paragraph (2)(C) that the law is significantly inconsistent with the Fiscal Plan.

(4) **OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO NOTIFICATION.**—

(A) **FAILURE TO PROVIDE ESTIMATE OR CERTIFICATION.**—After sending a notification to the Governor and the Legislature under paragraph (3)(A) or (3)(B) with respect to a law, the Oversight Board may direct the Governor to provide the missing estimate or certification (as the case may be), in accordance with such procedures as the Oversight Board may establish.

(B) **SUBMISSION OF CERTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT INCONSISTENCY WITH FISCAL PLAN AND**

BUDGET.—In accordance with such procedures as the Oversight Board may establish, after sending a notification to the Governor and Legislature under paragraph (3)(C) that a law is significantly inconsistent with the Fiscal Plan, the Oversight Board shall direct the territorial government to—

(i) correct the law to eliminate the inconsistency; or

(ii) provide an explanation for the inconsistency that the Oversight Board finds reasonable and appropriate.

(5) **FAILURE TO COMPLY.**—If the territorial government fails to comply with a direction given by the Oversight Board under paragraph (4) with respect to a law, the Oversight Board may take such actions as it considers necessary, consistent with this Act, to ensure that the enactment or enforcement of the law will not adversely affect the territorial government's compliance with the Fiscal Plan, including preventing the enforcement or application of the law.

(6) **PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF PROPOSED ACTS.**—At the request of the Legislature, the Oversight Board may conduct a preliminary review of proposed legislation before the Legislature to determine whether the legislation as proposed would be consistent with the applicable Fiscal Plan under this subtitle, except that any such preliminary review shall not be binding on the Oversight Board in reviewing any law subsequently submitted under this subsection.

(b) **EFFECT OF APPROVED FISCAL PLAN ON CONTRACTS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.**—

(1) **TRANSPARENCY IN CONTRACTING.**—The Oversight Board shall work with a covered territory's office of the comptroller or any functionally equivalent entity to promote compliance with the applicable law of any covered territory that requires agencies and instrumentalities of the territorial government to maintain a registry of all contracts executed, including amendments thereto, and to remit a copy to the office of the comptroller for inclusion in a comprehensive database available to the public. With respect to Puerto Rico, the term "applicable law" refers to 2 L.P.R.A. 97, as amended.

(2) **AUTHORITY TO REVIEW CERTAIN CONTRACTS.**—The Oversight Board may establish policies to require prior Oversight Board approval of certain contracts, including leases and contracts to a governmental entity or government-owned corporations rather than private enterprises that are proposed to be executed by the territorial government, to ensure such proposed contracts promote market competition and are not inconsistent with the approved Fiscal Plan.

(3) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that any policies established by the Oversight Board pursuant to paragraph (2) should be designed to make the government contracting process more effective, to increase the public's faith in this process, to make appropriate use of the Oversight Board's time and resources, to make the territorial government a facilitator and not a competitor to private enterprise, and to avoid creating any additional bureaucratic obstacles to efficient contracting.

(4) **AUTHORITY TO REVIEW CERTAIN RULES, REGULATIONS, AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS.**—The provisions of this paragraph shall apply with respect to a rule, regulation, or executive order proposed to be issued by the Governor (or the head of any department or agency of the territorial government) in the same manner as such provisions apply to a contract.

(5) **FAILURE TO COMPLY.**—If a contract, rule, regulation, or executive order fails to comply with policies established by the Oversight Board under this subsection, the Oversight Board may take such actions as it considers necessary to ensure that such contract, rule, executive order or regulation will not adversely affect the territorial government's compliance with the Fiscal Plan, including by preventing the execution or enforcement of the contract, rule, executive order or regulation.

(c) **RESTRICTIONS ON BUDGETARY ADJUSTMENTS.**—

(1) **SUBMISSIONS OF REQUESTS TO OVERSIGHT BOARD.**—If the Governor submits a request to the Legislature for the reprogramming of any amounts provided in a certified Budget, the Governor shall submit such request to the Oversight Board, which shall analyze whether the proposed reprogramming is significantly inconsistent with the Budget, and submit its analysis to the Legislature as soon as practicable after receiving the request.

(2) **NO ACTION PERMITTED UNTIL ANALYSIS RECEIVED.**—The Legislature shall not adopt a reprogramming, and no officer or employee of the territorial government may carry out any reprogramming, until the Oversight Board has provided the Legislature with an analysis that certifies such reprogramming will not be inconsistent with the Fiscal Plan and Budget.

(3) **PROHIBITION ON ACTION UNTIL OVERSIGHT BOARD IS APPOINTED.**—During the period after a territory becomes a covered territory and prior to the appointment of all members and the Chair of the Oversight Board, such covered territory shall not enact new laws that either permit the transfer of any funds or assets outside the ordinary course of business or that are inconsistent with the constitution or laws of the territory as of the date of enactment of this Act, provided that any executive or legislative action authorizing the movement of funds or assets during this time period may be subject to review and reversal by the Oversight Board upon appointment of the Oversight Board's full membership.

(d) **IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS.**—In taking actions under this Act, the Oversight Board shall not exercise applicable authorities to impede territorial actions taken to—

(1) comply with a court-issued consent decree or injunction, or an administrative order or settlement with a Federal agency, with respect to Federal programs;

(2) implement a federally authorized or federally delegated program; or

(3) implement territorial laws, which are consistent with a certified Fiscal Plan, that execute Federal requirements and standards.

SEC. 205. RECOMMENDATIONS ON FINANCIAL STABILITY AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Oversight Board may at any time submit recommendations to the Governor or the Legislature on actions the territorial government may take to ensure compliance with the Fiscal Plan, or to otherwise promote the financial stability, economic growth, management responsibility, and service delivery efficiency of the territorial government, including recommendations relating to—

(1) the management of the territorial government's financial affairs, including economic forecasting and multiyear fiscal forecasting capabilities, information technology, placing controls on expenditures for personnel, reducing benefit costs, reforming procurement practices, and placing other controls on expenditures;

(2) the structural relationship of departments, agencies, and independent agencies within the territorial government;

(3) the modification of existing revenue structures, or the establishment of additional revenue structures;

(4) the establishment of alternatives for meeting obligations to pay for the pensions of territorial government employees;

(5) modifications or transfers of the types of services that are the responsibility of, and are delivered by the territorial government;

(6) modifications of the types of services that are delivered by entities other than the territorial government under alternative service delivery mechanisms;

(7) the effects of the territory's laws and court orders on the operations of the territorial government;

(8) the establishment of a personnel system for employees of the territorial government that is based upon employee performance standards;

(9) the improvement of personnel training and proficiency, the adjustment of staffing levels, and the improvement of training and performance of management and supervisory personnel; and

(10) the privatization and commercialization of entities within the territorial government.

(b) **RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of any recommendations submitted under subsection (a) that are within the authority of the territorial government to adopt, not later than 90 days after receiving the recommendations, the Governor or the Legislature (whichever has the authority to adopt the recommendation) shall submit a statement to the Oversight Board that provides notice as to whether the territorial government will adopt the recommendations.

(2) **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REQUIRED FOR ADOPTED RECOMMENDATIONS.**—If the Governor or the Legislature (whichever is applicable) notifies the Oversight Board under paragraph (1) that the territorial government will adopt any of the recommendations submitted under subsection (a), the Governor or the Legislature (whichever is applicable) shall include in the statement a written plan to implement the recommendation that includes—

(A) specific performance measures to determine the extent to which the territorial government has adopted the recommendation; and

(B) a clear and specific timetable pursuant to which the territorial government will implement the recommendation.

(3) **EXPLANATIONS REQUIRED FOR RECOMMENDATIONS NOT ADOPTED.**—If the Governor or the Legislature (whichever is applicable) notifies the Oversight Board under paragraph (1) that the territorial government will not adopt any recommendation submitted under subsection (a) that the territorial government has authority to adopt, the Governor or the Legislature shall include in the statement explanations for the rejection of the recommendations, and the Governor or the Legislature shall submit such statement of explanations to the President and Congress.

SEC. 206. OVERSIGHT BOARD DUTIES RELATED TO RESTRUCTURING.

(a) **REQUIREMENTS FOR RESTRUCTURING CERTIFICATION.**—The Oversight Board, prior to issuing a restructuring certification regarding an entity (as such term is defined in section 101 of title 11, United States Code), shall determine, in its sole discretion, that—

(1) the entity has made good-faith efforts to reach a consensual restructuring with creditors;

(2) the entity has—

(A) adopted procedures necessary to deliver timely audited financial statements; and

(B) made public draft financial statements and other information sufficient for any interested person to make an informed decision with respect to a possible restructuring;

(3) the entity is either a covered territory that has adopted a Fiscal Plan certified by the Oversight Board, a covered territorial instrumentality that is subject to a Territory Fiscal Plan certified by the Oversight Board, or a covered territorial instrumentality that has adopted an Instrumentality Fiscal Plan certified by the Oversight Board; and

(4)(A) no order approving a Qualifying Modification under section 601 has been entered with respect to such entity; or

(B) if an order approving a Qualifying Modification has been entered with respect to such entity, the entity is unable to make its debt payments notwithstanding the approved Qualifying Modification, in which case, all claims affected by the Qualifying Modification shall be subject to a title III case.

(b) **ISSUANCE OF RESTRUCTURING CERTIFICATION.**—The issuance of a restructuring certi-

fication under this section requires a vote of no fewer than 5 members of the Oversight Board in the affirmative, which shall satisfy the requirement set forth in section 302(2) of this Act.

SEC. 207. OVERSIGHT BOARD AUTHORITY RELATED TO DEBT ISSUANCE.

For so long as the Oversight Board remains in operation, no territorial government may, without the prior approval of the Oversight Board, issue debt or guarantee, exchange, modify, repurchase, redeem, or enter into similar transactions with respect to its debt.

SEC. 208. REQUIRED REPORTS.

(a) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than 30 days after the last day of each fiscal year, the Oversight Board shall submit a report to the President, Congress, the Governor and the Legislature, describing—

(1) the progress made by the territorial government in meeting the objectives of this Act during the fiscal year;

(2) the assistance provided by the Oversight Board to the territorial government in meeting the purposes of this Act during the fiscal year;

(3) recommendations to the President and Congress on changes to this Act or other Federal laws, or other actions of the Federal Government, that would assist the territorial government in complying with any certified Fiscal Plan;

(4) the precise manner in which funds allocated to the Oversight Board under section 107 and, as applicable, section 104(e) have been spent by the Oversight Board during the fiscal year; and

(5) any other activities of the Oversight Board during the fiscal year.

(b) **REPORT ON DISCRETIONARY TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENTS.**—Within six months of the establishment of the Oversight Board, the Governor shall submit a report to the Oversight Board documenting all existing discretionary tax abatement or similar tax relief agreements to which the territorial government, or any territorial instrumentality, is a party, provided that—

(1) nothing in this Act shall be interpreted to limit the power of the territorial government or any territorial instrumentality to execute or modify discretionary tax abatement or similar tax relief agreements, or to enforce compliance with the terms and conditions of any discretionary tax abatement or similar tax relief agreement, to which the territorial government or any territorial instrumentality is a party; and

(2) the members and staff of the Oversight Board shall not disclose the contents of the report described in this subsection, and shall otherwise comply with all applicable territorial and Federal laws and regulations regarding the handling of confidential taxpayer information.

(c) **QUARTERLY REPORTS OF CASH FLOW.**—The Oversight Board, when feasible, shall report on the amount of cash flow available for the payment of debt service on all notes, bonds, debentures, credit agreements, or other instruments for money borrowed whose enforcement is subject to a stay or moratorium hereunder, together with any variance from the amount set forth in the debt sustainability analysis of the Fiscal Plan under section 201(b)(1)(I).

SEC. 209. TERMINATION OF OVERSIGHT BOARD.

An Oversight Board shall terminate upon certification by the Oversight Board that—

(1) the applicable territorial government has adequate access to short-term and long-term credit markets at reasonable interest rates to meet the borrowing needs of the territorial government; and

(2) for at least 4 consecutive fiscal years—

(A) the territorial government has developed its Budgets in accordance with modified accrual accounting standards; and

(B) the expenditures made by the territorial government during each fiscal year did not exceed the revenues of the territorial government during that year, as determined in accordance with modified accrual accounting standards.

SEC. 210. NO FULL FAITH AND CREDIT OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The full faith and credit of the United States is not pledged for the payment of any principal of or interest on any bond, note, or other obligation issued by a covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality. The United States is not responsible or liable for the payment of any principal of or interest on any bond, note, or other obligation issued by a covered territory or covered territorial instrumentality.

(b) **SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.**—Any claim to which the United States is determined to be liable under this Act shall be subject to appropriations.

(c) **FUNDING.**—No Federal funds shall be authorized by this Act for the payment of any liability of the territory or territorial instrumentality.

SEC. 211. ANALYSIS OF PENSIONS.

(a) **DETERMINATION.**—If the Oversight Board determines, in its sole discretion, that a pension system of the territorial government is materially underfunded, the Oversight Board shall conduct an analysis prepared by an independent actuary of such pension system to assist the Oversight Board in evaluating the fiscal and economic impact of the pension cash flows.

(b) **PROVISIONS OF ANALYSIS.**—An analysis conducted under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an actuarial study of the pension liabilities and funding strategy that includes a forward looking projection of payments of at least 30 years of benefit payments and funding strategy to cover such payments;

(2) sources of funding to cover such payments;

(3) a review of the existing benefits and their sustainability; and

(4) a review of the system's legal structure and operational arrangements, and any other studies of the pension system the Oversight Board shall deem necessary.

(c) **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**—In any case, the analysis conducted under subsection (a) shall include information regarding the fair market value and liabilities using an appropriate discount rate as determined by the Oversight Board.

SEC. 212. INTERVENTION IN LITIGATION.

(a) **INTERVENTION.**—The Oversight Board may intervene in any litigation filed against the territorial government.

(b) **INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Oversight Board intervenes in a litigation under subsection (a), the Oversight Board may seek injunctive relief, including a stay of litigation.

(2) **NO INDEPENDENT BASIS FOR RELIEF.**—This section does not create an independent basis on which injunctive relief, including a stay of litigation, may be granted.

TITLE III—ADJUSTMENTS OF DEBTS**SEC. 301. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS; DEFINITIONS.**

(a) **SECTIONS APPLICABLE TO CASES UNDER THIS TITLE.**—Sections 101 (except as otherwise provided in this section), 102, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 112, 333, 344, 347(b), 349, 350(b), 351, 361, 362, 364(c), 364(d), 364(e), 364(f), 365, 366, 501, 502, 503, 504, 506, 507(a)(2), 509, 510, 524(a)(1), 524(a)(2), 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549(a), 549(c), 549(d), 550, 551, 552, 553, 555, 556, 557, 559, 560, 561, 562, 902 (except as otherwise provided in this section), 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 942, 944, 945, 946, 1102, 1103, 1109, 1111(b), 1122, 1123(a)(1), 1123(a)(2), 1123(a)(3), 1123(a)(4), 1123(a)(5), 1123(b), 1123(d), 1124, 1125, 1126(a), 1126(b), 1126(c), 1126(e), 1126(f), 1126(g), 1127(d), 1128, 1129(a)(3), 1129(a)(6), 1129(a)(8), 1129(a)(10), 1129(b)(1), 1129(b)(2)(A), 1129(b)(2)(B), 1142(b), 1143, 1144, 1145, and 1146(a) of title 11, United States Code, apply in a case under this title and section 930 of title 11, United States Code, applies in a case under this title; however, section 930 shall not apply in any case during the first 120 days after the date on which such case is commenced under this title.

(b) **MEANINGS OF TERMS.**—A term used in a section of title 11, United States Code, made applicable in a case under this title by subsection (a), has the meaning given to the term for the purpose of the applicable section, unless the term is otherwise defined in this title.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this title:

(1) **AFFILIATE.**—The term “affiliate” means, in addition to the definition made applicable in a case under this title by subsection (a)—

(A) for a territory, any territorial instrumentality; and

(B) for a territorial instrumentality, the governing territory and any of the other territorial instrumentalities of the territory.

(2) **DEBTOR.**—The term “debtor” means the territory or covered territorial instrumentality concerning which a case under this title has been commenced.

(3) **HOLDER OF A CLAIM OR INTEREST.**—The term “holder of a claim or interest”, when used in section 1126 of title 11, United States Code, made applicable in a case under this title by subsection (a)—

(A) shall exclude any Issuer or Authorized Instrumentality of the Territory Government Issuer (as defined under Title VI of this Act) or a corporation, trust or other legal entity that is controlled by the Issuer or an Authorized Territorial Instrumentality of the Territory Government Issuer, provided that the beneficiaries of such claims, to the extent they are not referenced in this subparagraph, shall not be excluded; and

(B) with reference to Insured Bonds, shall mean the monoline insurer insuring such Insured Bond to the extent such insurer is granted the right to vote Insured Bonds for purposes of directing remedies or consenting to proposed amendments or modifications as provided in the applicable documents pursuant to which such Insured Bond was issued and insured.

(4) **INSURED BOND.**—The term “Insured Bond” means a bond subject to a financial guarantee or similar insurance contract, policy and/or surety issued by a monoline insurer.

(5) **PROPERTY OF THE ESTATE.**—The term “property of the estate”, when used in a section of title 11, United States Code, made applicable in a case under this title by subsection (a), means property of the debtor.

(6) **STATE.**—The term “State” when used in a section of title 11, United States Code, made applicable in a case under this title by subsection (a) means State or territory when used in reference to the relationship of a State to the municipality of the State or the territorial instrumentality of a territory, as applicable.

(7) **TRUSTEE.**—The term “trustee”, when used in a section of title 11, United States Code, made applicable in a case under this title by subsection (a), means the Oversight Board, except as provided in section 926 of title 11, United States Code.

(d) **REFERENCE TO TITLE.**—Solely for purposes of this title, a reference to “this title”, “this chapter”, or words of similar import in a section of title 11, United States Code, made applicable in a case under this title by subsection (a) or to “this title”, “title 11”, “Chapter 9”, “the Code”, or words of similar import in the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure made applicable in a case under this title shall be deemed to be a reference to this title.

(e) **SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR.**—In determining whether claims are “substantially similar” for the purpose of section 1122 of title 11, United States Code, made applicable in a case under this title by subsection (a), the Oversight Board shall consider whether such claims are secured and whether such claims have priority over other claims.

(f) **OPERATIVE CLAUSES.**—A section made applicable in a case under this title by subsection (a) that is operative if the business of the debtor is authorized to be operated is operative in a case under this title.

SEC. 302. WHO MAY BE A DEBTOR.

An entity may be a debtor under this title if—

(1) the entity is—

(A) a territory that has requested the establishment of an Oversight Board or has had an Oversight Board established for it by the United States Congress in accordance with section 101 of this Act; or

(B) a covered territorial instrumentality of a territory described in paragraph (1)(A);

(2) the Oversight Board has issued a certification under section 206(b) of this Act for such entity; and

(3) the entity desires to effect a plan to adjust its debts.

SEC. 303. RESERVATION OF TERRITORIAL POWER TO CONTROL TERRITORY AND TERRITORIAL INSTRUMENTALITIES.

Subject to the limitations set forth in titles I and II of this Act, this title does not limit or impair the power of a covered territory to control, by legislation or otherwise, the territory or any territorial instrumentality thereof in the exercise of the political or governmental powers of the territory or territorial instrumentality, including expenditures for such exercise, whether or not a case has been or can be commenced under this title, but—

(1) a territory law prescribing a method of composition of indebtedness or a moratorium law, but solely to the extent that it prohibits the payment of principal or interest by an entity not described in section 109(b)(2) of title 11, United States Code, may not bind any creditor of a covered territory or any covered territorial instrumentality thereof that does not consent to the composition or moratorium;

(2) a judgment entered under a law described in paragraph (1) may not bind a creditor that does not consent to the composition; and

(3) unlawful executive orders that alter, amend, or modify rights of holders of any debt of the territory or territorial instrumentality, or that divert funds from one territorial instrumentality to another or to the territory, shall be preempted by this Act.

SEC. 304. PETITION AND PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO PETITION.

(a) **COMMENCEMENT OF CASE.**—A voluntary case under this title is commenced by the filing with the district court of a petition by the Oversight Board pursuant to the determination under section 206 of this Act.

(b) **OBJECTION TO PETITION.**—After any objection to the petition, the court, after notice and a hearing, may dismiss the petition if the petition does not meet the requirements of this title; however, this subsection shall not apply in any case during the first 120 days after the date on which such case is commenced under this title.

(c) **ORDER FOR RELIEF.**—The commencement of a case under this title constitutes an order for relief.

(d) **APPEAL.**—The court may not, on account of an appeal from an order for relief, delay any proceeding under this title in the case in which the appeal is being taken, nor shall any court order a stay of such proceeding pending such appeal.

(e) **VALIDITY OF DEBT.**—The reversal on appeal of a finding of jurisdiction shall not affect the validity of any debt incurred that is authorized by the court under section 364(c) or 364(d) of title 11, United States Code.

(f) **JOINT FILING OF PETITIONS AND PLANS PERMITTED.**—The Oversight Board, on behalf of debtors under this title, may file petitions or submit or modify plans of adjustment jointly if the debtors are affiliates; provided, however, that nothing in this title shall be construed as authorizing substantive consolidation of the cases of affiliated debtors.

(g) **JOINT ADMINISTRATION OF AFFILIATED CASES.**—If the Oversight Board, on behalf of a debtor and one or more affiliates, has filed separate cases and the Oversight Board, on behalf of the debtor or one of the affiliates, files a motion to administer the cases jointly, the court may order a joint administration of the cases.

(h) **PUBLIC SAFETY.**—This Act may not be construed to permit the discharge of obligations

arising under Federal police or regulatory laws, including laws relating to the environment, public health or safety, or territorial laws implementing such Federal legal provisions. This includes compliance obligations, requirements under consent decrees or judicial orders, and obligations to pay associated administrative, civil, or other penalties.

(i) **VOTING ON DEBT ADJUSTMENT PLANS NOT STAYED.**—Notwithstanding any provision in this title to the contrary, including sections of title 11, United States Code, incorporated by reference, nothing in this section shall prevent the holder of a claim from voting on or consenting to a proposed modification of such claim under title VI of this Act.

SEC. 305. LIMITATION ON JURISDICTION AND POWERS OF COURT.

Subject to the limitations set forth in titles I and II of this Act, notwithstanding any power of the court, unless the Oversight Board consents or the plan so provides, the court may not, by any stay, order, or decree, in the case or otherwise, interfere with—

(1) any of the political or governmental powers of the debtor;

(2) any of the property or revenues of the debtor; or

(3) the use or enjoyment by the debtor of any income-producing property.

SEC. 306. JURISDICTION.

(a) **FEDERAL SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION.**—The district courts shall have—

(1) except as provided in paragraph (2), original and exclusive jurisdiction of all cases under this title; and

(2) except as provided in subsection (b), and notwithstanding any Act of Congress that confers exclusive jurisdiction on a court or courts other than the district courts, original but not exclusive jurisdiction of all civil proceedings arising under this title, or arising in or related to cases under this title.

(b) **PROPERTY JURISDICTION.**—The district court in which a case under this title is commenced or is pending shall have exclusive jurisdiction of all property, wherever located, of the debtor as of the commencement of the case.

(c) **PERSONAL JURISDICTION.**—The district court in which a case under this title is pending shall have personal jurisdiction over any person or entity.

(d) **REMOVAL, REMAND, AND TRANSFER.**—

(1) **REMOVAL.**—A party may remove any claim or cause of action in a civil action, other than a proceeding before the United States Tax Court or a civil action by a governmental unit to enforce the police or regulatory power of the governmental unit, to the district court for the district in which the civil action is pending, if the district court has jurisdiction of the claim or cause of action under this section.

(2) **REMAND.**—The district court to which the claim or cause of action is removed under paragraph (1) may remand the claim or cause of action on any equitable ground. An order entered under this subsection remanding a claim or cause of action, or a decision not to remand, is not reviewable by appeal or otherwise by the court of appeals under section 158(d), 1291 or 1292 of title 28, United States Code, or by the Supreme Court of the United States under section 1254 of title 28, United States Code.

(3) **TRANSFER.**—A district court shall transfer any civil proceeding arising under this title, or arising in or related to a case under this title, to the district court in which the case under this title is pending.

(e) **APPEAL.**—

(1) An appeal shall be taken in the same manner as appeals in civil proceedings generally are taken to the courts of appeals from the district court.

(2) The court of appeals for the circuit in which a case under this title has venue pursuant to section 307 of this title shall have jurisdiction of appeals from all final decisions, judgments,

orders and decrees entered under this title by the district court.

(3) The court of appeals for the circuit in which a case under this title has venue pursuant to section 307 of this title shall have jurisdiction to hear appeals of interlocutory orders or decrees if—

(A) the district court on its own motion or on the request of a party to the order or decree certifies that—

(i) the order or decree involves a question of law as to which there is no controlling decision of the court of appeals for the circuit or of the Supreme Court of the United States, or involves a matter of public importance;

(ii) the order or decree involves a question of law requiring the resolution of conflicting decisions; or

(iii) an immediate appeal from the order or decree may materially advance the progress of the case or proceeding in which the appeal is taken; and

(B) the court of appeals authorizes the direct appeal of the order or decree.

(4) If the district court on its own motion or on the request of a party determines that a circumstance specified in clauses (i), (ii), or (iii) of paragraph (3)(A) exists, then the district court shall make the certification described in paragraph (3).

(5) The parties may supplement the certification with a short statement of the basis for the certification issued by the district court under paragraph (3)(A).

(6) Except as provided in section 304(d), an appeal of an interlocutory order or decree does not stay any proceeding of the district court from which the appeal is taken unless the district court, or the court of appeals in which the appeal is pending, issues a stay of such proceedings pending the appeal.

(7) Any request for a certification in respect to an interlocutory appeal of an order or decree shall be made not later than 60 days after the entry of the order or decree.

(f) **REALLOCATION OF COURT STAFF.**—Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the clerk of the court in which a case is pending shall reallocate as many staff and assistants as the clerk deems necessary to ensure that the court has adequate resources to provide for proper case management.

SEC. 307. VENUE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Venue shall be proper in—

(1) with respect to a territory, the district court for the territory or, for any territory that does not have a district court, the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii; and

(2) with respect to a covered territorial instrumentality, the district court for the territory in which the covered territorial instrumentality is located or, for any territory that does not have a district court, the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii.

(b) **ALTERNATIVE VENUE.**—If the Oversight Board so determines in its sole discretion, then venue shall be proper in the district court for the jurisdiction in which the Oversight Board maintains an office that is located outside the territory.

SEC. 308. SELECTION OF PRESIDING JUDGE.

(a) For cases in which the debtor is a territory, the Chief Justice of the United States shall designate a district court judge to sit by designation to conduct the case.

(b) For cases in which the debtor is not a territory, and no motion for joint administration of the debtor's case with the case of its affiliate territory has been filed or there is no case in which the affiliate territory is a debtor, the chief judge of the court of appeals for the circuit embracing the district in which the case is commenced shall designate a district court judge to conduct the case.

SEC. 309. ABSTENTION.

Nothing in this title prevents a district court in the interests of justice from abstaining from

hearing a particular proceeding arising in or related to a case under this title.

SEC. 310. APPLICABLE RULES OF PROCEDURE.

The Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure shall apply to a case under this title and to all civil proceedings arising in or related to cases under this title.

SEC. 311. LEASES.

A lease to a territory or territorial instrumentality shall not be treated as an executory contract or unexpired lease for the purposes of section 365 or 502(b)(6) of title 11, United States Code, solely by reason of the lease being subject to termination in the event the debtor fails to appropriate rent.

SEC. 312. FILING OF PLAN OF ADJUSTMENT.

(a) **EXCLUSIVITY.**—Only the Oversight Board, after the issuance of a certificate pursuant to section 104(j) of this Act, may file a plan of adjustment of the debts of the debtor.

(b) **DEADLINE FOR FILING PLAN.**—If the Oversight Board does not file a plan of adjustment with the petition, the Oversight Board shall file a plan of adjustment at the time set by the court.

SEC. 313. MODIFICATION OF PLAN.

The Oversight Board, after the issuance of a certification pursuant to section 104(j) of this Act, may modify the plan at any time before confirmation, but may not modify the plan so that the plan as modified fails to meet the requirements of this title. After the Oversight Board files a modification, the plan as modified becomes the plan.

SEC. 314. CONFIRMATION.

(a) **OBJECTION.**—A special tax payer may object to confirmation of a plan.

(b) **CONFIRMATION.**—The court shall confirm the plan if—

(1) the plan complies with the provisions of title 11 of the United States Code, made applicable to a case under this title by section 301 of this Act;

(2) the plan complies with the provisions of this title;

(3) the debtor is not prohibited by law from taking any action necessary to carry out the plan;

(4) except to the extent that the holder of a particular claim has agreed to a different treatment of such claim, the plan provides that on the effective date of the plan each holder of a claim of a kind specified in 507(a)(2) of title 11, United States Code, will receive on account of such claim cash equal to the allowed amount of such claim;

(5) any legislative, regulatory, or electoral approval necessary under applicable law in order to carry out any provision of the plan has been obtained, or such provision is expressly conditioned on such approval;

(6) the plan is feasible and in the best interests of creditors, which shall require the court to consider whether available remedies under the non-bankruptcy laws and constitution of the territory would result in a greater recovery for the creditors than is provided by such plan; and

(7) the plan is consistent with the applicable Fiscal Plan certified by the Oversight Board under title II.

(c) **CONFIRMATION FOR DEBTORS WITH A SINGLE CLASS OF IMPAIRED CREDITORS.**—If all of the requirements of section 314(b) of this title and section 1129(a) of title 11, United States Code, incorporated into this title by section 301 other than sections 1129(a)(8) and 1129(a)(10) are met with respect to a plan—

(1) with respect to which all claims are substantially similar under section 301(e) of this title;

(2) that includes only one class of impaired claims; and

(3) that was not accepted by such impaired class,

the court shall confirm the plan notwithstanding the requirements of such sections

1129(a)(8) and 1129(a)(10) of title 11, United States Code if the plan is fair and equitable with respect to such impaired class.

SEC. 315. ROLE AND CAPACITY OF OVERSIGHT BOARD.

(a) **ACTIONS OF OVERSIGHT BOARD.**—For the purposes of this title, the Oversight Board may take any action necessary on behalf of the debtor to prosecute the case of the debtor, including—

(1) filing a petition under section 304 of this Act;

(2) submitting or modifying a plan of adjustment under sections 312 and 313; or

(3) otherwise generally submitting filings in relation to the case with the court.

(b) **REPRESENTATIVE OF DEBTOR.**—The Oversight Board in a case under this title is the representative of the debtor.

SEC. 316. COMPENSATION OF PROFESSIONALS.

(a) After notice to the parties in interest and the United States Trustee and a hearing, the court may award to a professional person employed by the debtor (in the debtor's sole discretion), the Oversight Board (in the Oversight Board's sole discretion), a committee under section 1103 of title 11, United States Code, or a trustee appointed by the court under section 926 of title 11, United States Code—

(1) reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services rendered by the professional person, or attorney and by any paraprofessional person employed by any such person; and

(2) reimbursement for actual, necessary expenses.

(b) The court may, on its own motion or on the motion of the United States Trustee or any other party in interest, award compensation that is less than the amount of compensation that is requested.

(c) In determining the amount of reasonable compensation to be awarded to a professional person, the court shall consider the nature, the extent, and the value of such services, taking into account all relevant factors, including—

(1) the time spent on such services;

(2) the rates charged for such services;

(3) whether the services were necessary to the administration of, or beneficial at the time at which the service was rendered toward the completion of, a case under this chapter;

(4) whether the services were performed within a reasonable amount of time commensurate with the complexity, importance, and nature of the problem, issue, or task addressed;

(5) with respect to a professional person, whether the person is board certified or otherwise has demonstrated skill and experience in the restructuring field; and

(6) whether the compensation is reasonable based on the customary compensation charged by comparably skilled practitioners in cases other than cases under this title or title 11, United States Code.

(d) The court shall not allow compensation for—

(1) unnecessary duplication of services; or

(2) services that were not—

(A) reasonably likely to benefit the debtor; or

(B) necessary to the administration of the case.

(e) The court shall reduce the amount of compensation awarded under this section by the amount of any interim compensation awarded under section 317 of this title, and, if the amount of such interim compensation exceeds the amount of compensation awarded under this section, may order the return of the excess to the debtor.

(f) Any compensation awarded for the preparation of a fee application shall be based on the level and skill reasonably required to prepare the application.

SEC. 317. INTERIM COMPENSATION.

A debtor's attorney, or any professional person employed by the debtor (in the debtor's sole discretion), the Oversight Board (in the Oversight Board's sole discretion), a committee under section 1103 of title 11, United States Code, or a trustee appointed by the court under section 926 of title 11, United States Code, may apply to the court for an order for the payment of interim compensation for the reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by such person in the performance of such services.

(2) the Secretary of Labor, taking into account the assessment and report of the Comptroller General, provides a written determination to Congress that applying such rule to Puerto Rico would not have a negative impact on the economy of Puerto Rico.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act is intended, or may be construed—

(1) to limit the authority of Congress to exercise legislative authority over the territories pursuant to Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States;

(2) to authorize the application of section 104(f) of this Act (relating to issuance of subpoenas) to judicial officers or employees of territory courts;

(3) to alter, amend, or abrogate any provision of the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America (48 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.); or

(4) to alter, amend, or abrogate the treaties of cession regarding certain islands of American Samoa (48 U.S.C. 1661).

SEC. 402. RIGHT OF PUERTO RICO TO DETERMINE ITS FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS.

Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted to restrict Puerto Rico's right to determine its future political status, including by conducting the plebiscite as authorized by Public Law 113-76.

SEC. 403. FIRST MINIMUM WAGE IN PUERTO RICO.

Section 6(g) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(g)) is amended by striking paragraphs (2) through (4) and inserting the following:

“(2) In lieu of the rate prescribed by subsection (a)(1), the Governor of Puerto Rico, subject to the approval of the Financial Oversight and Management Board established pursuant to section 101 of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act, may designate a time period not to exceed four years during which employers in Puerto Rico may pay employees who are initially employed after the date of enactment of such Act a wage which is not less than the wage described in paragraph (1). Notwithstanding the time period designated, such wage shall not continue in effect after such Board terminates in accordance with section 209 of such Act.

“(3) No employer may take any action to displace employees (including partial displacements such as reduction in hours, wages, or employment benefits) for purposes of hiring individuals at the wage authorized in paragraph (1) or (2).

“(4) Any employer who violates this subsection shall be considered to have violated section 15(a)(3).

“(5) This subsection shall only apply to an employee who has not attained the age of 20 years, except in the case of the wage applicable in Puerto Rico, 25 years, until such time as the Board described in paragraph (2) terminates in accordance with section 209 of the Act described in such paragraph.”.

SEC. 404. APPLICATION OF REGULATION TO PUERTO RICO.

(a) **SPECIAL RULE.**—The regulations proposed by the Secretary of Labor relating to exemptions regarding the rates of pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees, and published in a notice in the Federal Register on July 6, 2015, and any final regulations issued related to such notice, shall have no force or effect in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico until—

(1) the Comptroller General of the United States completes the assessment and transmits the report required under subsection (b); and

(2) the Secretary of Labor, taking into account the assessment and report of the Comptroller General, provides a written determination to Congress that applying such rule to Puerto Rico would not have a negative impact on the economy of Puerto Rico.

(b) **ASSESSMENT AND REPORT.**—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall examine the economic conditions in Puerto Rico and shall transmit a report to Congress assessing the impact of applying the regulations described in subsection (a) to Puerto Rico, taking into consideration regional, metropolitan, and non-metropolitan salary and cost-of-living differences.

(c) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Bureau of the Census should conduct a study to determine the feasibility of expanding data collection to include Puerto Rico and the other United States territories in the Current Population Survey, which is jointly administered by the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and which is the primary source of labor force statistics for the population of the United States; and

(2) if necessary, the Bureau of the Census should request the funding required to conduct this feasibility study as part of its budget submission to Congress for fiscal year 2018.

SEC. 405. AUTOMATIC STAY UPON ENACTMENT.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **LIABILITY.**—The term “Liability” means a bond, loan, letter of credit, other borrowing title, obligation of insurance, or other financial indebtedness for borrowed money, including rights, entitlements, or obligations whether such rights, entitlements, or obligations arise from contract, statute, or any other source of law related to such a bond, loan, letter of credit, other borrowing title, obligation of insurance, or other financial indebtedness in physical or dematerialized form, of which—

(A) the issuer, obligor, or guarantor is the Government of Puerto Rico; and

(B) the date of issuance or incurrence precedes the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **LIABILITY CLAIM.**—The term “Liability Claim” means, as it relates to a Liability—

(A) right to payment, whether or not such right is reduced to judgment, liquidated, unliquidated, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, legal, equitable, secured, or unsecured; or

(B) right to an equitable remedy for breach of performance if such breach gives rise to a right to payment, whether or not such right to an equitable remedy is reduced to judgment, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, secured, or unsecured.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the establishment of an Oversight Board for Puerto Rico (i.e., the enactment of this Act) in accordance with section 101 operates with respect to a Liability as a stay, applicable to all entities (as such term is defined in section 101 of title 11, United States Code), of—

(1) the commencement or continuation, including the issuance or employment of process, of a judicial, administrative, or other action or proceeding against the Government of Puerto Rico that was or could have been commenced before the enactment of this Act, or to recover a Liability Claim against the Government of Puerto Rico that arose before the enactment of this Act;

(2) the enforcement, against the Government of Puerto Rico or against property of the Government of Puerto Rico, of a judgment obtained before the enactment of this Act;

(3) any act to obtain possession of property of the Government of Puerto Rico or of property from the Government of Puerto Rico or to exercise control over property of the Government of Puerto Rico;

(4) any act to create, perfect, or enforce any lien against property of the Government of Puerto Rico;

(5) any act to create, perfect, or enforce against property of the Government of Puerto Rico any lien to the extent that such lien secures a Liability Claim that arose before the enactment of this Act;

(6) any act to collect, assess, or recover a Liability Claim against the Government of Puerto Rico that arose before the enactment of this Act; and

(7) the setoff of any debt owing to the Government of Puerto Rico that arose before the enactment of this Act against any Liability Claim against the Government of Puerto Rico.

(c) **STAY NOT OPERABLE.**—The establishment of an Oversight Board for Puerto Rico in accordance with section 101 does not operate as a stay—

(1) solely under subsection (b)(1) of this section, of the continuation of, including the issuance or employment of process, of a judicial, administrative, or other action or proceeding against the Government of Puerto Rico that was commenced on or before December 18, 2015; or

(2) of the commencement or continuation of an action or proceeding by a governmental unit to enforce such governmental unit's or organization's police and regulatory power, including the enforcement of a judgment other than a money judgment, obtained in an action or proceeding by the governmental unit to enforce such governmental unit's or organization's police or regulatory power.

(d) **CONTINUATION OF STAY.**—Except as provided in subsections (e), (f), and (g) the stay under subsection (b) continues until the earlier of—

(1) the later of—

(A) the later of—

(i) February 15, 2017; or

(ii) six months after the establishment of an Oversight Board for Puerto Rico as established by section 101(b);

(B) the date that is 75 days after the date in subparagraph (A) if the Oversight Board delivers a certification to the Governor that, in the Oversight Board's sole discretion, an additional 75 days are needed to seek to complete a voluntary process under title VI of this Act with respect to the government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any of its territorial instrumentalities; or

(C) the date that is 60 days after the date in subparagraph (A) if the district court to which an application has been submitted under subparagraph 601(m)(1)(D) of this Act determines, in the exercise of the court's equitable powers, that an additional 60 days are needed to complete a voluntary process under title VI of this Act with respect to the government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any of its territorial instrumentalities; or

(2) with respect to the government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any of its territorial instrumentalities, the date on which a case is filed by or on behalf of the government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any of its territorial instrumentalities, as applicable, under title III.

(e) **JURISDICTION, RELIEF FROM STAY.**—

(1) The United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction of any civil actions arising under or related to this section.

(2) On motion or action filed by a party in interest and after notice and a hearing, the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, for cause shown, shall grant relief from the stay provided under subsection (b) of this section.

(f) **TERMINATION OF STAY; HEARING.**—Forty-five days after a request under subsection (e)(2) for relief from the stay of any act against property of the Government of Puerto Rico under subsection (b), such stay is terminated with respect to the party in interest making such request, unless the court, after notice and a hearing, orders such stay continued in effect pending the conclusion of, or as a result of, a final

hearing and determination under subsection (e)(2). A hearing under this subsection may be a preliminary hearing, or may be consolidated with the final hearing under subsection (e)(2). The court shall order such stay continued in effect pending the conclusion of the final hearing under subsection (e)(2) if there is a reasonable likelihood that the party opposing relief from such stay will prevail at the conclusion of such final hearing. If the hearing under this subsection is a preliminary hearing, then such final hearing shall be concluded not later than thirty days after the conclusion of such preliminary hearing, unless the thirty-day period is extended with the consent of the parties in interest or for a specific time which the court finds is required by compelling circumstances.

(g) **RELIEF TO PREVENT IRREPARABLE DAMAGE.**—Upon request of a party in interest, the court, with or without a hearing, shall grant such relief from the stay provided under subsection (b) as is necessary to prevent irreparable damage to the interest of an entity in property, if such interest will suffer such damage before there is an opportunity for notice and a hearing under subsection (e) or (f).

(h) **ACT IN VIOLATION OF STAY IS VOID.**—Any order, judgment, or decree entered in violation of this section and any act taken in violation of this section is void, and shall have no force or effect, and any person found to violate this section may be liable for damages, costs, and attorneys' fees incurred in defending any action taken in violation of this section, and the Oversight Board or the Government of Puerto Rico may seek an order from the court enforcing the provisions of this section.

(i) **GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO.**—For purposes of this section, the term "Government of Puerto Rico", in addition to the definition set forth in section 5(11) of this Act, shall include—

(1) the individuals, including elected and appointed officials, directors, officers of and employees acting in their official capacity on behalf of the Government of Puerto Rico; and

(2) the Oversight Board, including the directors and officers of and employees acting in their official capacity on behalf of the Oversight Board.

(j) **NO DEFAULT UNDER EXISTING CONTRACTS.**—

(1) Notwithstanding any contractual provision or applicable law to the contrary and so long as a stay under this section is in effect, the holder of a Liability Claim or any other claim (as such term is defined in section 101 of title 11, United States Code) may not exercise or continue to exercise any remedy under a contract or applicable law in respect to the Government of Puerto Rico or any of its property—

(A) that is conditioned upon the financial condition of, or the commencement of a restructuring, insolvency, bankruptcy, or other proceeding (or a similar or analogous process) by, the Government of Puerto Rico, including a default or an event of default thereunder; or

(B) with respect to Liability Claims—

(i) for the non-payment of principal or interest; or

(ii) for the breach of any condition or covenant.

(2) The term "remedy" as used in paragraph (1) shall be interpreted broadly, and shall include any right existing in law or contract, including any right to—

(A) setoff;

(B) apply or appropriate funds;

(C) seek the appointment of a custodian (as such term is defined in section 101(11) of title 11, United States Code);

(D) seek to raise rates; or

(E) exercise control over property of the Government of Puerto Rico.

(3) Notwithstanding any contractual provision or applicable law to the contrary and so long as a stay under this section is in effect, a contract to which the Government of Puerto Rico is a party may not be terminated or modi-

fied, and any right or obligation under such contract may not be terminated or modified, solely because of a provision in such contract is conditioned on—

(A) the insolvency or financial condition of the Government of Puerto Rico at any time prior to the enactment of this Act;

(B) the adoption of a resolution or establishment of an Oversight Board pursuant to section 101 of this Act; or

(C) a default under a separate contract that is due to, triggered by, or a result of the occurrence of the events or matters in paragraph (1)(B).

(4) Notwithstanding any contractual provision to the contrary and so long as a stay under this section is in effect, a counterparty to a contract with the Government of Puerto Rico for the provision of goods and services shall, unless the Government of Puerto Rico agrees to the contrary in writing, continue to perform all obligations under, and comply with the terms of, such contract, provided that the Government of Puerto Rico is not in default under such contract other than as a result of a condition specified in paragraph (3).

(k) **EFFECT.**—This section does not discharge an obligation of the Government of Puerto Rico or release, invalidate, or impair any security interest or lien securing such obligation. This section does not impair or affect the implementation of any restructuring support agreement executed by the Government of Puerto Rico to be implemented pursuant to Puerto Rico law specifically enacted for that purpose prior to the enactment of this Act or the obligation of the Government of Puerto Rico to proceed in good faith as set forth in any such agreement.

(l) **PAYMENTS ON LIABILITIES.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Government of Puerto Rico from making any payment on any Liability when such payment becomes due during the term of the stay, and to the extent the Oversight Board, in its sole discretion, determines it is feasible, the Government of Puerto Rico shall make interest payments on outstanding indebtedness when such payments become due during the length of the stay.

(m) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) A combination of severe economic decline, and, at times, accumulated operating deficits, lack of financial transparency, management inefficiencies, and excessive borrowing has created a fiscal emergency in Puerto Rico.

(2) As a result of its fiscal emergency, the Government of Puerto Rico has been unable to provide its citizens with effective services.

(3) The current fiscal emergency has also affected the long-term economic stability of Puerto Rico by contributing to the accelerated outmigration of residents and businesses.

(4) A comprehensive approach to fiscal, management, and structural problems and adjustments that exempts no part of the Government of Puerto Rico is necessary, involving independent oversight and a Federal statutory authority for the Government of Puerto Rico to restructure debts in a fair and orderly process.

(5) Additionally, an immediate—but temporary—stay is essential to stabilize the region for the purposes of resolving this territorial crisis.

(A) The stay advances the best interests common to all stakeholders, including but not limited to a functioning independent Oversight Board created pursuant to this Act to determine whether to appear or intervene on behalf of the Government of Puerto Rico in any litigation that may have been commenced prior to the effectiveness or upon expiration of the stay.

(B) The stay is limited in nature and narrowly tailored to achieve the purposes of this Act, including to ensure all creditors have a fair opportunity to consensually renegotiate terms of repayment based on accurate financial information that is reviewed by an independent authority or, at a minimum, receive a recovery from the Government of Puerto Rico equal to their best

possible outcome absent the provisions of this Act.

(6) Finally, the ability of the Government of Puerto Rico to obtain funds from capital markets in the future will be severely diminished without congressional action to restore its financial accountability and stability.

(n) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this section are to—

(1) provide the Government of Puerto Rico with the resources and the tools it needs to address an immediate existing and imminent crisis;

(2) allow the Government of Puerto Rico a limited period of time during which it can focus its resources on negotiating a voluntary resolution with its creditors instead of defending numerous, costly creditor lawsuits;

(3) provide an oversight mechanism to assist the Government of Puerto Rico in reforming its fiscal governance and support the implementation of potential debt restructuring;

(4) make available a Federal restructuring authority, if necessary, to allow for an orderly adjustment of all of the Government of Puerto Rico's liabilities; and

(5) benefit the lives of 3.5 million American citizens living in Puerto Rico by encouraging the Government of Puerto Rico to resolve its longstanding fiscal governance issues and return to economic growth.

(o) **VOTING ON VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS NOT STAYED.**—Notwithstanding any provision in this section to the contrary, nothing in this section shall prevent the holder of a Liability Claim from voting on or consenting to a proposed modification of such Liability Claim under title VI of this Act.

SEC. 406. PURCHASES BY TERRITORY GOVERNMENTS.

The text of section 302 of the Omnibus Insular Areas Act of 1992 (48 U.S.C. 1469e), is amended to read as follows: “The Governments of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands are authorized to make purchases through the General Services Administration.”.

SEC. 407. PROTECTION FROM INTER-DEBTOR TRANSFERS.

(a) **PROTECTION OF CREDITORS.**—While an Oversight Board for Puerto Rico is in existence, if any property of any territorial instrumentality of Puerto Rico is transferred in violation of applicable law under which any creditor has a valid pledge of, security interest in, or lien on such property, or which deprives any such territorial instrumentality of property in violation of applicable law assuring the transfer of such property to such territorial instrumentality for the benefit of its creditors, then the transferee shall be liable for the value of such property.

(b) **ENFORCEABILITY.**—A creditor may enforce rights under this section by bringing an action in the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico after the expiration or lifting of the stay of section 405, unless a stay under title III is in effect.

SEC. 408. GAO REPORT ON SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS IN PUERTO RICO.

Section 15 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) **GAO REPORT ON SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS IN PUERTO RICO.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report on the application and utilization of contracting activities of the Administration (including contracting activities relating to HUBZone small business concerns) in Puerto Rico. The report shall also identify any provisions of Federal law that may create an obstacle to the efficient implementation of such contracting activities.”.

SEC. 409. CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH IN PUERTO RICO.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established within the legislative branch a Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico (hereinafter referred to as the “Task Force”).

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Task Force shall be composed of eight members as follows:

(1) One member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) One member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(3) One member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(4) One member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(5) One member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(6) One member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

(7) One member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, in coordination with the ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(8) One member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, in coordination with the ranking minority member of the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

(c) **DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.**—All appointments to the Task Force shall be made not later than 15 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) **CHAIR.**—The Speaker shall designate one Member to serve as chair of the Task Force.

(e) **VACANCIES.**—Any vacancy in the Task Force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(f) **STATUS UPDATE.**—Between September 1, 2016, and September 15, 2016, the Task Force shall provide a status update to the House and Senate that includes—

(1) information the Task Force has collected; and

(2) a discussion on matters the chairman of the Task Force deems urgent for consideration by Congress.

(g) **REPORT.**—Not later than December 31, 2016, the Task Force shall issue a report of its findings to the House and Senate regarding—

(1) impediments in current Federal law and programs to economic growth in Puerto Rico including equitable access to Federal health care programs;

(2) recommended changes to Federal law and programs that, if adopted, would serve to spur sustainable long-term economic growth, job creation and attract investment in Puerto Rico;

(3) the economic effect of Administrative Order No. 346 of the Department of Health of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (relating to natural products, natural supplements, and dietary supplements) or any successor or substantially similar order, rule, or guidance of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

(4) additional information the Task Force deems appropriate.

(h) **CONSENSUS VIEWS.**—To the greatest extent practicable, the report issued under subsection

(f) shall reflect the shared views of all eight Members, except that the report may contain dissenting views.

(i) **HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.**—The Task Force may, for the purpose of carrying out this section, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence as the Task Force considers appropriate. If the Task Force holds hearings, at least one such hearing must be held in Puerto Rico.

(j) **STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION.**—In carrying out its duties, the Task Force shall consult with the Puerto Rico Legislative Assembly, the Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development and Commerce, and the private sector of Puerto Rico.

(k) **RESOURCES.**—The Task Force shall carry out its duties by utilizing existing facilities, services, and staff of the House of Representatives and Senate, except that no additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section.

(l) **TERMINATION.**—The Task Force shall terminate upon issuing the report required under subsection (f).

SEC. 410. REPORT.

The Comptroller General shall submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate describing—

(1) the conditions which led to the level of debt per capita and based upon overall economic activity;

(2) how actions of the territorial government improved or impaired the territory's financial conditions; and

(3) recommendations on non-fiscal actions, nor policies that would imperil America's homeland and national security, that could be taken by Congress or the Administration to avert future indebtedness of territories, States or local units of government while respecting sovereignty and constitutional parameters.

TITLE V—PUERTO RICO INFRASTRUCTURE REVITALIZATION

SEC. 501. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **ACT 76.**—The term “Act 76” means Puerto Rico Act 76-2000 (3 L.P.R.A. 1931 et seq.), approved on May 5, 2000, as amended.

(2) **CRITICAL PROJECT.**—The term “Critical Project” means a project identified under the provisions of this title and intimately related to addressing an emergency whose approval, consideration, permitting, and implementation shall be expedited and streamlined according to the statutory process provided by Act 76, or otherwise adopted pursuant to this title.

(3) **ENERGY COMMISSION OF PUERTO RICO.**—The term “Energy Commission of Puerto Rico” means the Puerto Rico Energy Commission as established by Subtitle B of Puerto Rico Act 57-2014.

(4) **ENERGY PROJECTS.**—The term “Energy Projects” means those projects addressing the generation, distribution, or transmission of energy.

(5) **EMERGENCY.**—The term “emergency” means any event or grave problem of deterioration in the physical infrastructure for the rendering of essential services to the people, or that endangers the life, public health, or safety of the population or of a sensitive ecosystem, or as otherwise defined by section 1 of Act 76 (3 L.P.R.A. 1931). This shall include problems in the physical infrastructure for energy, water, sewer, solid waste, highways or roads, ports, telecommunications, and other similar infrastructure.

(6) **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD.**—The term “Environmental Quality Board” means the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board, a board within the executive branch of the Government of Puerto Rico as established by section 7 of Puerto Rico Act 416-2004 (12 L.P.R.A. 8002a).

(7) **EXPEDITED PERMITTING PROCESS.**—The term “Expedited Permitting Process” means a Puerto Rico Agency’s alternate procedures, conditions, and terms mirroring those established under Act 76 (3 L.P.R.A. 1932) and pursuant to this title shall not apply to any Federal law, statute, or requirement.

(8) **GOVERNOR.**—The term “Governor” means the Governor of Puerto Rico.

(9) **INTERAGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL SUBCOMMITTEE.**—The term “Interagency Environmental Subcommittee” means the Interagency Subcommittee on Expedited Environmental Regulations as further described by section 504.

(10) **LEGISLATURE.**—The term “Legislature” means the Legislature of Puerto Rico.

(11) **PLANNING BOARD.**—The term “Planning Board” means the Puerto Rico Planning Board, a board within the executive branch of the Government of Puerto Rico established by Puerto Rico Act 75–1975 (23 L.P.R.A. 62 et seq.).

(12) **PROJECT SPONSOR.**—The term “Project Sponsor” means a Puerto Rico Agency or private party proposing the development of an existing, ongoing, or new infrastructure project or Energy Project.

(13) **PUERTO RICO AGENCY OR AGENCIES.**—The terms “Puerto Rico Agency” or “Puerto Rico Agencies” means any board, body, board of examiners, public corporation, commission, independent office, division, administration, bureau, department, authority, official, person, entity, municipality, or any instrumentality of Puerto Rico, or an administrative body authorized by law to perform duties of regulating, investigating, or that may issue a decision, or with the power to issue licenses, certificates, permits, concessions, accreditations, privileges, franchises, except the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Legislature and the judicial branch.

(14) **PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY.**—The term “Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority” means the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority established by Puerto Rico Act 83–1941.

SEC. 502. POSITION OF REVITALIZATION COORDINATOR.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established, under the Oversight Board, the position of the Revitalization Coordinator.

(b) **APPOINTMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Revitalization Coordinator shall be appointed by the Governor as follows:

(A) Prior to the appointment of the Revitalization Coordinator and within 60 days of the appointment of the full membership of the Oversight Board, the Oversight Board shall submit to the Governor no less than three nominees for appointment.

(B) In consultation with the Oversight Board, not later than 10 days after receiving the nominations under subparagraph (A), the Governor shall appoint one of the nominees as the Revitalization Coordinator. Such appointment shall be effective immediately.

(C) If the Governor fails to select a Revitalization Coordinator, the Oversight Board shall, by majority vote, appoint a Revitalization Coordinator from the list of nominees provided under paragraph (A).

(2) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—In selecting nominees under paragraph (1)(A), the Oversight Board shall only nominate persons who—

(A) have substantial knowledge and expertise in the planning, predevelopment, financing, development, operations, engineering, or market participation of infrastructure projects, provided that stronger consideration may be given to candidates who have experience with Energy Projects and the laws and regulations of Puerto Rico that may be subject to an Expedited Permitting Process;

(B) does not currently provide, or in the preceding 3 calendar years provided, goods or services to the government of Puerto Rico (and, as applicable, is not the spouse, parent, child, or

sibling of a person who provides or has provided goods and services to the government of Puerto Rico in the preceding 3 calendar years); and

(C) shall not be an officer, employee of, or former officer or employee of the government of Puerto Rico in the preceding 3 calendar years.

(3) **COMPENSATION.**—The Revitalization Coordinator shall be compensated at an annual rate determined by the Oversight Board sufficient in the judgment of the Oversight Board to obtain the services of a person with the skills and experience required to discharge the duties of the position, but such compensation shall not exceed the annual salary of the Executive Director.

(c) **ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL.**—The Executive Director of the Oversight Board may assign Oversight Board personnel to assist the Revitalization Coordinator.

(d) **REMOVAL.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Revitalization Coordinator may be removed for any reason, in the Oversight Board’s discretion.

(2) **TERMINATION OF POSITION.**—Upon the termination of the Oversight Board pursuant to section 209 of this Act, the position of the Revitalization Coordinator shall terminate.

SEC. 503. CRITICAL PROJECTS.

(a) **IDENTIFICATION OF PROJECTS.**—

(1) **PROJECT SUBMISSION.**—Any Project Sponsor may submit, so long as the Oversight Board is in operation, any existing, ongoing, or proposed project to the Revitalization Coordinator. The Revitalization Coordinator shall require such submission to include—

(A) the impact the project will have on an emergency;

(B) the availability of immediate private capital or other funds, including loan guarantees, loans, or grants to implement, operate, or maintain the project;

(C) the cost of the project and amount of Puerto Rico government funds, if any, necessary to complete and maintain the project;

(D) the environmental and economic benefits provided by the project, including the number of jobs to be created that will be held by residents of Puerto Rico and the expected economic impact, including the impact on ratepayers, if applicable;

(E) the status of the project if it is existing or ongoing; and

(F) in addition to the requirements found in subparagraphs (A) through (E), the Revitalization Coordinator may require such submission to include any or all of the following criteria that assess how the project will—

(i) reduce reliance on oil for electric generation in Puerto Rico;

(ii) improve performance of energy infrastructure and overall energy efficiency;

(iii) expedite the diversification and conversion of fuel sources for electric generation from oil to natural gas and renewables in Puerto Rico as defined under applicable Puerto Rico laws;

(iv) promote the development and utilization of energy sources found on Puerto Rico;

(v) contribute to transitioning to privatized generation capacities in Puerto Rico;

(vi) support the Energy Commission of Puerto Rico in achievement of its goal of reducing energy costs and ensuring affordable energy rates for consumers and business; or

(vii) achieve in whole or in part the recommendations, if feasible, of the study in section 505(d) of this title to the extent such study is completed and not inconsistent with studies or plans otherwise required under Puerto Rico laws.

(2) **IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT PUERTO RICO AGENCIES.**—Within 20 days of receiving a project submission under paragraph (1), the Revitalization Coordinator shall, in consultation with the Governor, identify all Puerto Rico Agencies that will have a role in the permitting, approval, authorizing, or other activity related to the development of such project submission.

(3) **EXPEDITED PERMITTING PROCESS.**—

(A) **SUBMISSION OF EXPEDITED PERMITTING PROCESS.**—Not later than 20 days after receiving a project submission, each Puerto Rico Agency identified in paragraph (1) shall submit to the Revitalization Coordinator the Agency’s Expedited Permitting Process.

(B) **FAILURE TO PROVIDE EXPEDITED PERMITTING PROCESS.**—If a Puerto Rico Agency fails to provide an Expedited Permitting Process within 20 days of receiving a project submission, the Revitalization Coordinator shall consult with the Governor to develop within 20 days an Expedited Permitting Process for the Agency.

(C) **IMPLEMENTATION AND PRIORITIZATION.**—The Revitalization Coordinator shall require Puerto Rico Agencies to implement the Expedited Permitting Process for Critical Projects. Critical Projects shall be prioritized to the maximum extent possible in each Puerto Rico Agency regardless of any agreements transferring or delegating permitting authority to any other Territorial Instrumentality or municipality.

(b) **CRITICAL PROJECT REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For each submitted project, the Revitalization Coordinator in consultation with the Governor and relevant Puerto Rico Agencies identified in subsection (a)(2) shall develop a Critical Project Report within 60 days of the project submission, which shall include:

(A) An assessment of how well the project meets the criteria in subsection (a)(1).

(B) A recommendation by the Governor whether the project should be considered a Critical Project. If the Governor fails to provide a recommendation during the development of the Critical Project Report, the failure shall constitute a concurrence with the Revitalization Coordinator’s recommendation in subparagraph (E).

(C) In the case of a project that may affect the implementation of Land-Use Plans, as defined by Puerto Rico Act 550–2004, a determination by the Planning Board will be required within the 60-day timeframe. If the Planning Board determines such project will be inconsistent with relevant Land-Use Plans, then the project will be deemed ineligible for Critical Project designation.

(D) In the case of an Energy Project that will connect with the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority’s transmission or distribution facilities, a recommendation by the Energy Commission of Puerto Rico, if the Energy Commission determines such Energy Project will affect an approved Integrated Resource Plan, as defined under Puerto Rico Act 54–2014. If the Energy Commission determines the Energy Project will adversely affect an approved Integrated Resource Plan, then the Energy Commission shall provide the reasons for such determination and the Energy Project shall be ineligible for Critical Project designation, provided that such determination must be made during the 60-day timeframe for the development of the Critical Project Report.

(E) A recommendation by the Revitalization Coordinator whether the project should be considered a Critical Project.

(2) **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT.**—Immediately following the completion of the Critical Project Report, the Revitalization Coordinator shall make such Critical Project Report public and allow a period of 30 days for the submission of comments by residents of Puerto Rico specifically on matters relating to the designation of a project as a Critical Project. The Revitalization Coordinator shall respond to the comments within 30 days of closing the coming period and make the responses publicly available.

(3) **SUBMISSION TO OVERSIGHT BOARD.**—Not later than 5 days after the Revitalization Coordinator has responded to the comments under paragraph (2), the Revitalization Coordinator shall submit the Critical Project Report to the Oversight Board.

(c) **ACTION BY THE OVERSIGHT BOARD.**—Not later than 30 days after receiving the Critical

Project Report, the Oversight Board, by majority vote, shall approve or disapprove the project as a Critical Project, if the Oversight Board—

(1) approves the project, the project shall be deemed a Critical Project; and

(2) disapproves the project, the Oversight Board shall submit to the Revitalization Coordinator in writing the reasons for disapproval.

SEC. 504. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(a) CREATION OF INTERAGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL SUBCOMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Revitalization Coordinator is appointed, the Interagency Environmental Subcommittee shall be established and shall evaluate environmental documents required under Puerto Rico law for any Critical Project within the Expedited Permitting Process established by the Revitalization Coordinator under section 503(a)(3).

(2) COMPOSITION.—The Interagency Environmental Subcommittee shall consist of the Revitalization Coordinator, and a representative selected by the Governor in consultation with the Revitalization Coordinator representing each of the following agencies: The Environmental Quality Board, the Planning Board, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, and any other Puerto Rico Agency determined to be relevant by the Revitalization Coordinator.

(b) LENGTH OF EXPEDITED PERMITTING PROCESS.—With respect to a Puerto Rico Agency's activities related only to a Critical Project, such Puerto Rico Agency shall operate as if the Governor has declared an emergency pursuant to section 2 of Act 76 (3 L.P.R.A. 1932). Section 12 of Act 76 (3 L.P.R.A. 1942) shall not be applicable to Critical Projects. Furthermore, any transactions, processes, projects, works, or programs essential to the completion of a Critical Project shall continue to be processed and completed under such Expedited Permitting Process regardless of the termination of the Oversight Board under section 209.

(c) EXPEDITED PERMITTING PROCESS COMPLIANCE.—

(1) WRITTEN NOTICE.—A Critical Project Sponsor may in writing notify the Oversight Board of the failure of a Puerto Rico Agency or the Revitalization Coordinator to adhere to the Expedited Permitting Process.

(2) FINDING OF FAILURE.—If the Oversight Board finds either the Puerto Rico Agency or Revitalization Coordinator has failed to adhere to the Expedited Permitting Process, the Oversight Board shall direct the offending party to comply with the Expedited Permitting Process. The Oversight Board may take such enforcement action as necessary as provided by section 104(l).

(d) REVIEW OF LEGISLATURE ACTS.—

(1) SUBMISSION OF ACTS TO OVERSIGHT BOARD.—Pursuant to section 204(a), the Governor shall submit to the Oversight Board any law duly enacted during any fiscal year in which the Oversight Board is in operation that may affect the Expedited Permitting Process.

(2) FINDING OF OVERSIGHT BOARD.—Upon receipt of a law under paragraph (1), the Oversight Board shall promptly review whether the law would adversely impact the Expedited Permitting Process and, upon such a finding, the Oversight Board may deem such law to be significantly inconsistent with the applicable Fiscal Plan.

(e) ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—No Puerto Rico Agency may include in any certificate, right-of-way, permit, lease, or other authorization issued for a Critical Project any term or condition that may be permitted, but is not required, by any applicable Puerto Rico law, if the Revitalization Coordinator determines the term or condition would prevent or impair the expeditious construction, operation, or expansion of the Critical Project. The Revitalization Coordinator may request a

Puerto Rico Agency to include in any certificate, right-of-way, permit, lease, or other authorization, a term or condition that may be permitted in accordance with applicable laws if the Revitalization Coordinator determines such inclusion would support the expeditious construction, operation, or expansion of any Critical Project.

(f) DISCLOSURE.—All Critical Project reports, and justifications for approval or rejection of Critical Project status, shall be made publicly available online within 5 days of receipt or completion.

SEC. 505. FEDERAL AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) FEDERAL POINTS OF CONTACT.—At the request of the Revitalization Coordinator and within 30 days of receiving such a request, each Federal agency with jurisdiction over the permitting, or administrative or environmental review of private or public projects in Puerto Rico, shall name a Point of Contact who will serve as that agency's liaison with the Revitalization Coordinator.

(b) FEDERAL GRANTS AND LOANS.—For each Critical Project with a pending or potential Federal grant, loan, or loan guarantee application, the Revitalization Coordinator and the relevant Point of Contact shall cooperate with each other to ensure expeditious review of such application.

(c) EXPEDITED REVIEWS AND ACTIONS OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—All reviews conducted and actions taken by any Federal agency relating to a Critical Project shall be expedited in a manner consistent with completion of the necessary reviews and approvals by the deadlines under the Expedited Permitting Process, but in no way shall the deadlines established through the Expedited Permitting Process be binding on any Federal agency.

(d) TRANSFER OF STUDY OF ELECTRIC RATES.—Section 9 of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (48 U.S.C. 1492a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5), by inserting “, except that, with respect to Puerto Rico, the term means, the Secretary of Energy” after “Secretary of the Interior”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “(except in the case of Puerto Rico, in which case not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act)” after “of this Act”; and

(B) by inserting “(except in the case of Puerto Rico)” after “Empowering Insular Communities activity”.

SEC. 506. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) DEADLINE FOR FILING OF A CLAIM.—A claim arising under this title must be brought no later than 30 days after the date of the decision or action giving rise to the claim.

(b) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.—The District Court for the District of Puerto Rico shall set any action brought under this title for expedited consideration, taking into account the interest of enhancing Puerto Rico's infrastructure for electricity, water and sewer services, roads and bridges, ports, and solid waste management to achieve compliance with local and Federal environmental laws, regulations, and policies while ensuring the continuity of adequate services to the people of Puerto Rico and Puerto Rico's sustainable economic development.

SEC. 507. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

Nothing in this title is intended to change or alter any Federal legal requirements or laws.

TITLE VI—CREDITOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

SEC. 601. CREDITOR COLLECTIVE ACTION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this title:

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR.—The term “Administrative Supervisor” means the Oversight Board established under section 101.

(2) AUTHORIZED TERRITORIAL INSTRUMENTALITY.—The term “Authorized Territorial Instrumentality” means a covered territorial in-

strumentality authorized in accordance with subsection (e).

(3) CALCULATION AGENT.—The term “Calculation Agent” means a calculation agent appointed in accordance with subsection (k).

(4) CAPITAL APPRECIATION BOND.—The term “Capital Appreciation Bond” means a Bond that does not pay interest on a current basis, but for which interest amounts are added to principal over time as specified in the relevant offering materials for such Bond, including that the accreted interest amount added to principal increases daily.

(5) CONVERTIBLE CAPITAL APPRECIATION BOND.—The term “Convertible Capital Appreciation Bond” means a Bond that does not pay interest on a current basis, but for which interest amounts are added to principal over time as specified in the relevant offering materials and which converts to a current pay bond on a future date.

(6) INFORMATION AGENT.—The term “Information Agent” means an information agent appointed in accordance with subsection (l).

(7) INSURED BOND.—The term “Insured Bond” means a bond subject to a financial guarantee or similar insurance contract, policy or surety issued by a monoline insurer.

(8) ISSUER.—The term “Issuer” means, as applicable, the Territory Government Issuer or an Authorized Territorial Instrumentality that has issued or guaranteed at least one Bond that is Outstanding.

(9) MODIFICATION.—The term “Modification” means any modification, amendment, supplement or waiver affecting one or more series of Bonds, including those effected by way of exchange, repurchase, conversion, or substitution.

(10) OUTSTANDING.—The term “Outstanding,” in the context of the principal amount of Bonds, shall be determined in accordance with subsection (b).

(11) OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL.—The term “Outstanding Principal” means—

(A) for a Bond that is not a Capital Appreciation Bond or a Convertible Capital Appreciation Bond, the outstanding principal amount of such Bond; and

(B) for a Bond that is a Capital Appreciation Bond or a Convertible Capital Appreciation Bond, the current accreted value of such Capital Appreciation Bond or a Convertible Capital Appreciation Bond, as applicable.

(12) POOL.—The term “Pool” means a pool established in accordance with subsection (d).

(13) QUALIFYING MODIFICATION.—The term “Qualifying Modification” means a Modification proposed in accordance with subsection (g).

(14) SECURED POOL.—The term “Secured Pool” means a Pool established in accordance with subsection (d) consisting only of Bonds that are secured by a lien on property, provided that the inclusion of a Bond Claim in such Pool shall not in any way limit or prejudice the right of the Issuer, the Administrative Supervisor, or any creditor to recharacterize or challenge such Bond Claim, or any purported lien securing such Bond Claim, in any other manner in any subsequent proceeding in the event a proposed Qualifying Modification is not consummated.

(15) TERRITORY GOVERNMENT ISSUER.—The term “Territory Government Issuer” means the Government of Puerto Rico or such covered territory for which an Oversight Board has been established pursuant to section 101.

(b) OUTSTANDING BONDS.—In determining whether holders of the requisite principal amount of Outstanding Bonds have voted in favor of, or consented to, a proposed Qualifying Modification, a Bond will be deemed not to be outstanding, and may not be counted in a vote or consent solicitation for or against a proposed Qualifying Modification, if on the record date for the proposed Qualifying Modification—

(1) the Bond has previously been cancelled or delivered for cancellation or is held for reissuance but has not been reissued;

(2) the Bond has previously been called for redemption in accordance with its terms or previously become due and payable at maturity or otherwise and the Issuer has previously satisfied its obligation to make, or provide for, all payments due in respect of the Bond in accordance with its terms;

(3) the Bond has been substituted with a security of another series; or

(4) the Bond is held by the Issuer or by an Authorized Territorial Instrumentality of the Territory Government Issuer or by a corporation, trust or other legal entity that is controlled by the Issuer or an Authorized Territorial Instrumentality of the Territory Government Issuer, as applicable.

For purposes of this subsection, a corporation, trust or other legal entity is controlled by the Issuer or by an Authorized Territorial Instrumentality of the Territory Government Issuer if the Issuer or an Authorized Territorial Instrumentality of the Territory Government Issuer, as applicable, has the power, directly or indirectly, through the ownership of voting securities or other ownership interests, by contract or otherwise, to direct the management of or elect or appoint a majority of the board of directors or other persons performing similar functions in lieu of, or in addition to, the board of directors of that legal entity.

(c) **CERTIFICATION OF DISENFRANCHISED BONDS.**—Prior to any vote on, or consent solicitation for, a Qualifying Modification, the Issuer shall deliver to the Calculation Agent a certificate signed by an authorized representative of the Issuer specifying any Bonds that are deemed not to be Outstanding for the purpose of subsection (b) above.

(d) **DETERMINATION OF POOLS FOR VOTING.**—The Administrative Supervisor, in consultation with the Issuer, shall establish Pools in accordance with the following:

(1) Not less than one Pool shall be established for each Issuer.

(2) A Pool that contains one or more Bonds that are secured by a lien on property shall be a Secured Pool.

(3) The Administrative Supervisor shall establish Pools according to the following principles:

(A) For each Issuer that has issued multiple Bonds that are distinguished by specific provisions governing priority or security arrangements, including Bonds that have been issued as general obligations of the Territory Government Issuer to which the Territory Government Issuer pledged the full or good faith, credit, and taxing power of the Territory Government Issuer, separate Pools shall be established corresponding to the relative priority or security arrangements of each holder of Bonds against each Issuer, as applicable, provided, however, that the term “priority” as used in this section shall not be understood to mean differing payment or maturity dates.

(B) For each Issuer that has issued senior and subordinated Bonds, separate Pools shall be established for the senior and subordinated Bonds corresponding to the relative priority or security arrangements.

(C) For each Issuer that has issued multiple Bonds, for at least some of which a guarantee of repayment has been provided by the Territory Government Issuer, separate Pools shall be established for such guaranteed and non-guaranteed Bonds.

(D) Subject to the other requirements contained in this section, for each Issuer that has issued multiple Bonds, for at least some of which a dedicated revenue stream has been pledged for repayment, separate Pools for such Issuer shall be established as follows—

(i) for each dedicated revenue stream that has been pledged for repayment, not less than one Secured Pool for Bonds for which such revenue stream has been pledged, and separate Secured Pools shall be established for Bonds of different priority; and

(ii) not less than one Pool for all other Bonds issued by the Issuer for which a dedicated revenue stream has not been pledged for repayment.

(E) The Administrative Supervisor shall not place into separate Pools Bonds of the same Issuer that have identical rights in security or priority.

(4) Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this subsection, a preexisting voluntary agreement may classify Insured Bonds and uninsured bonds in different Pools and provide different treatment thereof so long as the preexisting voluntary agreement has been agreed to by—

(A) holders of a majority in amount of all uninsured bonds outstanding in the modified Pool; and

(B) holders (including insurers with power to vote) of a majority in amount of all Insured Bonds.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF TERRITORIAL INSTRUMENTALITIES.**—A covered territorial instrumentality is an Authorized Territorial Instrumentality if it has been specifically authorized to be eligible to avail itself of the procedures under this section by the Administrative Supervisor.

(f) **INFORMATION DELIVERY REQUIREMENT.**—Before solicitation of acceptance or rejection of a Modification under subsection (h), the Issuer shall provide to the Calculation Agent, the Information Agent, and the Administrative Supervisor, the following information—

(1) a description of the Issuer's economic and financial circumstances which are, in the Issuer's opinion, relevant to the request for the proposed Qualifying Modification, a description of the Issuer's existing debts, a description of the impact of the proposed Qualifying Modification on the territory's or its territorial instrumentalities' public debt;

(2) if the Issuer is seeking Modifications affecting any other Pools of Bonds of the Territory Government Issuer or its Authorized Territorial Instrumentalities, a description of such other Modifications;

(3) if a Fiscal Plan with respect to such Issuer has been certified, the applicable Fiscal Plan certified in accordance with section 201; and

(4) such other information as may be required under applicable securities laws.

(g) **QUALIFYING MODIFICATION.**—A Modification is a Qualifying Modification if—

(1) the Issuer proposing the Modification has consulted with holders of Bonds in each Pool of such Issuer prior to soliciting a vote on such Modification;

(2) each exchanging, repurchasing, converting, or substituting holder of Bonds of any series in a Pool affected by that Modification is offered the same amount of consideration per amount of principal, the same amount of consideration per amount of interest accrued but unpaid and the same amount of consideration per amount of past due interest, respectively, as that offered to each other exchanging, repurchasing, converting, or substituting holder of Bonds of any series in a Pool affected by that Modification (or, where a menu of instruments or other consideration is offered, each exchanging, repurchasing, converting, or substituting holder of Bonds of any series in a Pool affected by that Modification is offered the same amount of consideration per amount of principal, the same amount of consideration per amount of interest accrued but unpaid and the same amount of consideration per amount of past due interest, respectively, as that offered to each other exchanging, repurchasing, converting, or substituting holder of Bonds of any series in a Pool affected by that Modification electing the same option under such menu of instruments);

(3) the Modification is certified by the Administrative Supervisor as being consistent with the requirements set forth in section 104(i)(1) and is in the best interests of the creditors and is feasible; or

(4) notwithstanding paragraphs (1) through (3), the Administrative Supervisor has issued a certification that—

(A) the requirements set forth in section 104(i)(2) have been satisfied; or

(B) the Modification is consistent with a restructuring support or similar agreement to be implemented pursuant to the law of the covered territory executed by the Issuer prior to the establishment of an Oversight Board for the relevant territory.

(h) **SOLICITATION.**—

(1) Upon receipt of a certification from the Administrative Supervisor under subsection (g), the Information Agent shall, if practical and except as provided in paragraph (2), submit to the holders of any Outstanding Bonds of the relevant Issuer, including holders of the right to vote such Outstanding Bonds, the information submitted by the relevant Issuer under subsection (f)(1) in order to solicit the vote of such holders to approve or reject the Qualifying Modification.

(2) If the Information Agent is unable to identify the address of holders of any Outstanding Bonds of the relevant Issuer, the Information Agent may solicit the vote or consent of such holders by—

(A) delivering the solicitation to the paying agent for any such Issuer or Depository Trust Corporation if it serves as the clearing system for any of the Issuer's Outstanding Bonds; or

(B) delivering or publishing the solicitation by whatever additional means the Information Agent, after consultation with the Issuer, deems necessary and appropriate in order to make a reasonable effort to inform holders of any Outstanding Bonds of the Issuer which may include, notice by mail, publication in electronic media, publication on a website of the Issuer, or publication in newspapers of national circulation in the United States and in a newspaper of general circulation in the territory.

(i) **WHO MAY PROPOSE A MODIFICATION.**—For each Issuer, a Modification may be proposed to the Administrative Supervisor by the Issuer or by one or more holders of the right to vote the Issuer's Outstanding Bonds. To the extent a Modification proposed by one or more holders of the right to vote Outstanding Bonds otherwise complies with the requirements of this title, the Administrative Supervisor may accept such Modification on behalf of the Issuer, in which case the Administrative Supervisor will instruct the Issuer to provide the information required in subsection (f).

(j) **VOTING.**—For each Issuer, any Qualifying Modification may be made with the affirmative vote of the holders of the right to vote at least two-thirds of the Outstanding Principal amount of the Outstanding Bonds in each Pool that have voted to approve or reject the Qualifying Modification, provided that holders of the right to vote not less than a majority of the aggregate Outstanding Principal amount of all the Outstanding Bonds in each Pool have voted to approve the Qualifying Modification. The holder of the right to vote the Outstanding Bonds that are Insured Bonds shall be the monoline insurer insuring such Insured Bond to the extent such insurer is granted the right to vote Insured Bonds for purposes of directing remedies or consenting to proposed amendments or modifications as provided in the applicable documents pursuant to which such Insured Bond was issued and insured.

(k) **CALCULATION AGENT.**—For the purpose of calculating the principal amount of the Bonds of any series eligible to participate in such a vote or consent solicitation and tabulating such votes or consents, the Territory Government Issuer may appoint a Calculation Agent for each Pool reasonably acceptable to the Administrative Supervisor.

(l) **INFORMATION AGENT.**—For the purpose of administering a vote of holders of Bonds, including the holders of the right to vote such Bonds, or seeking the consent of holder of

Bonds, including the holders of the right to vote such Bonds, to a written action under this section, the Territory Government Issuer may appoint an Information Agent for each Pool reasonably acceptable to the Administrative Supervisor.

(m) **BINDING EFFECT.**—

(1) A Qualifying Modification will be conclusive and binding on all holders of Bonds whether or not they have given such consent, and on all future holders of those Bonds whether or not notation of such Qualifying Modification is made upon the Bonds, if—

(A) the holders of the right to vote the Outstanding Bonds in every Pool of the Issuer pursuant to subsection (f) have consented to or approved the Qualifying Modification;

(B) the Administrative Supervisor certifies that—

(i) the voting requirements of this section have been satisfied;

(ii) the Qualifying Modification complies with the requirements set forth in section 104(i)(1); and

(iii) except for such conditions that have been identified in the Qualifying Modification as being non-waivable, any conditions on the effectiveness of the Qualifying Modification have been satisfied or, in the Administrative Supervisor's sole discretion, satisfaction of such conditions has been waived;

(C) with respect to a Bond Claim that is secured by a lien on property and with respect to which the holder of such Bond Claim has rejected or not consented to the Qualifying Modification, the holder of such Bond—

(i) retains the lien securing such Bond Claims; or

(ii) receives on account of such Bond Claim, through deferred cash payments, substitute collateral, or otherwise, at least the equivalent value of the lesser of the amount of the Bond Claim or of the collateral securing such Bond Claim; and

(D) the district court for the territory or, for any territory that does not have a district court, the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii, has, after reviewing an application submitted to it by the applicable Issuer for an order approving the Qualifying Modification, entered an order that the requirements of this section have been satisfied.

(2) Upon the entry of an order under paragraph (1)(D), the conclusive and binding Qualifying Modification shall be valid and binding on any person or entity asserting claims or other rights, including a beneficial interest (directly or indirectly, as principal, agent, counterpart, subrogee, insurer or otherwise) in respect of Bonds subject to the Qualifying Modification, any trustee, any collateral agent, any indenture trustee, any fiscal agent, and any bank that receives or holds funds related to such Bonds. All property of an Issuer for which an order has been entered under paragraph (1)(D) shall vest in the Issuer free and clear of all claims in respect of any Bonds of any other Issuer. Such Qualifying Modification will be full, final, complete, binding, and conclusive as to the territorial government Issuer, other territorial instrumentalities of the territorial government Issuer, and any creditors of such entities, and should not be subject to any collateral attack or other challenge by any such entities in any court or other forum. Other than as provided herein, the foregoing shall not prejudice the rights and claims of any party that insured the Bonds, including the right to assert claims under the Bonds as modified following any payment under the insurance policy, and no claim or right that may be asserted by any party in a capacity other than holder of a Bond affected by the Qualifying Modification shall be satisfied, released, discharged, or enjoined by this provision.

(n) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—

(1) The district court for the territory or, for any territory that does not have a district court,

the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over civil actions arising under this section.

(2) Notwithstanding section 106(e), there shall be a cause of action to challenge unlawful application of this section.

(3) The district court shall nullify a Modification and any effects on the rights of the holders of Bonds resulting from such Modification if and only if the district court determines that such Modification is manifestly inconsistent with this section.

SEC. 602. APPLICABLE LAW.

In any judicial proceeding regarding this title, Federal, State, or territorial laws of the United States, as applicable, shall govern and be applied without regard or reference to any law of any international or foreign jurisdiction.

TITLE VII—SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING PERMANENT, PRO-GROWTH FISCAL REFORMS

SEC. 701. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING PERMANENT, PRO-GROWTH FISCAL REFORMS.

It is the sense of the Congress that any durable solution for Puerto Rico's fiscal and economic crisis should include permanent, pro-growth fiscal reforms that feature, among other elements, a free flow of capital between possessions of the United States and the rest of the United States.

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in House Report 114-610. Each such 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 MR. BISHOP OF UTAH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 114-610.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. 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 3, line 14, strike "If" and insert "(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), if".

Page 3, after line 20, insert the following:

(b) **UNIFORMITY.**—If a court holds invalid any provision of this Act or the application thereof on the ground that the provision fails to treat similarly situated territories uniformly, then the court shall, in granting a remedy, order that the provision of this Act or the application thereof be extended to any other similarly situated territory, provided that the legislature of that territory adopts a resolution signed by the territory's governor requesting the establishment and organization of a Financial Oversight and Management Board pursuant to section 101.

Page 9, strike lines 24 and 25.

Page 10 strike lines 1 through 7, and insert the following:

(1) **PUERTO RICO.**—A Financial Oversight and Management Board is hereby established for Puerto Rico.

Page 10, line 8, strike "(3)" and insert "(2)".

Page 12, line 22, strike "must" and insert "shall".

Page 14, line 6, insert ", non-overlapping" after "from a separate".

Page 16, lines 15 through 16, strike "September 30, 2016" and insert "September 1, 2016".

Page 16, line 18, strike "December 1, 2016" and insert "September 15, 2016".

Page 19, line 4, strike "subsection" and insert "Act".

Page 20, line 5, insert "and any professionals the Oversight Board determines necessary" after "voting members".

Page 29, line 9, insert "until an order approving the Qualifying Modification has been entered pursuant to section 601(m)(1)(D) of this Act" after "such agreement".

Page 29, strike lines 10 through 18 and insert the following:

(3) **PREEXISTING VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS.**—Any voluntary agreement that the territorial government or any territorial instrumentality has executed before May 18, 2016, with holders of a majority in amount of Bond Claims that are to be affected by such agreement to restructure such Bond Claims shall be deemed to be in conformance with the requirements of this subsection.

Page 32, line 11, strike "The Government of Puerto Rico" and insert "a covered territory".

Page 34, strike line 19 through page 35, line 3 and insert the following:

(b) **FUNDING.**—The Oversight Board shall use its powers with respect to the Territory Budget of the covered territory to ensure that sufficient funds are available to cover all expenses of the Oversight Board.

(1) **PERMANENT FUNDING.**—Within 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the territorial government shall designate a dedicated funding source, not subject to subsequent legislative appropriations, sufficient to support the annual expenses of the Oversight Board as determined in the Oversight Board's sole and exclusive discretion.

(2)(A) **INITIAL FUNDING.**—On the date of establishment of an Oversight Board in accordance with section 101(b) and on the 5th day of each month thereafter, the Governor of the covered territory shall transfer or cause to be transferred the greater of \$2,000,000 or such amount as shall be determined by the Oversight Board pursuant to subsection (a) to a new account established by the territorial government, which shall be available to and subject to the exclusive control of the Oversight Board, without any legislative appropriations of the territorial government.

(B) **TERMINATION.**—The initial funding requirements under subparagraph (A) shall terminate upon the territorial government designating a dedicated funding source not subject to subsequent legislative appropriations under paragraph (1).

(3) **REMISSION OF EXCESS FUNDS.**—If the Oversight Board determines in its sole discretion that any funds transferred under this subsection exceed the amounts required for the Oversight Board's operations as established pursuant to subsection (a), any such excess funds shall be periodically remitted to the territorial government.

Page 35, line 15, strike "or on" and insert "on".

Page 35, line 15, insert ", or against" after "behalf of".

Page 35, line 17 and 18, strike "no conflict of interest exists" and insert "the representation complies with the applicable professional rules of conduct governing conflicts of interests".

Page 60, line 7, insert "(A)" before "During the period".

Page 60, line 18, strike "reversal" and insert "rescission".

Page 60, line 19, insert at the end the following:

(B) Upon appointment of the Oversight Board's full membership, the Oversight

Board may review, and in its sole discretion, rescind, any law that—

(i) was enacted during the period between, with respect to Puerto Rico, May 4, 2016; or with respect to any other territory, 45 days prior to the establishment of the Oversight Board for such territory, and the date of appointment of all members and the Chair of the Oversight Board; and

(ii) alters pre-existing priorities of creditors in a manner outside the ordinary course of business or inconsistent with the territory's constitution or the laws of the territory as of, in the case of Puerto Rico, May 4, 2016, or with respect to any other territory, 45 days prior to the establishment of the Oversight Board for such territory;

but such rescission shall only be to the extent that the law alters such priorities.

Page 73, strike line 22, and insert “be excluded, and that, for each excluded trust or other legal entity, the court shall, upon the request of any participant or beneficiary of such trust or entity, at any time after the commencement of the case, order the appointment of a separate committee of creditors pursuant to section 1102(a)(2) of title 11, United States Code; and”.

Page 75, line 2, insert at the end the following: “The term ‘trustee’ as described in this paragraph does not mean the U.S. Trustee, an official of the United States Trustee Program, which is a component of the United States Department of Justice.”.

Page 75, line 8, insert “‘Chapter 11,’” after “‘Chapter 9’”.

Page 76, line 22, insert “but” after “for such exercise.”.

Page 76, line 23, strike “, but”.

Page 84, line 23, insert “(1)” before “If the Oversight Board”.

Page 85, after line 2, insert the following:

(2) With respect to paragraph (1), the Oversight Board may consider, among other things—

(A) the resources of the district court to adjudicate a case or proceeding; and

(B) the impact on witnesses who may be called in such a case or proceeding.

Page 88, line 7, strike “IMPAIRED CREDITORS” and insert “CLAIMS”.

Page 88, line 14, insert “claims, which claims are” after “only one class of”.

Page 88, line 21, insert “and does not discriminate unfairly” after “table”.

Page 94, line 10, insert “(29 U.S.C. 215(a)(3))” after “section 15(a)(3)”.

Page 111, line 1, strike “180 days” and insert “one year”.

Page 115, line 24, insert “, which should be analyzed,” after “level of debt”.

Page 116, lines 4 and 5, strike “nor policies that would” and insert “or policies that would not”.

Page 116, line 8, strike “States or local units of government”.

Page 121, lines 7 and 8, strike “, or in the preceding 3 calendar years provided,”.

Page 142, line 2, strike “a preexisting voluntary agreement” and insert “solely with respect to a preexisting voluntary agreement as described in section 104(i)(3) of this Act, such voluntary agreement”.

Page 143, line 16, strike “if—” and insert “if one of the following processes has occurred:”.

Page 143, line 17, strike “the Issuer” and insert “CONSULTATION PROCESS.—(A) The Issuer”.

Page 143, line 20, strike “(2)” and insert “(B)”.

Page 144, line 17, insert “and” after the semicolon.

Page 144, line 18, strike “(3)” and insert “(C)”.

Page 144, line 21, strike “; or” and insert a period.

Page 144, lines 22 through 23, strike “(4) notwithstanding paragraphs (1) through (3), the” and insert the following:

(2) VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT PROCESS.—The Page 145, line 2, insert “and section 601(g)(1)(B)” after “104(i)(2)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 770, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, this is the proverbial manager's amendment. It does have four significant elements that I think people ought to be aware of in this particular amendment.

Thanks to a lot of work from Mr. MACARTHUR and some others, we have an opt-in provision in this piece of legislation for the other territories. However, if a court finding removes the opt-in provision and finds it to be unconstitutional, it then does have a reverse severability clause that would reinstate the opt-in for other territories so there would not be a constitutional issue.

We do have a funding mechanism in this bill to make sure that the oversight board is up and running properly as we begin. It also has the ability for the oversight board to give them the authority to review and rescind any laws passed by the territory between May 4 and the date of its full appointment of membership if those actions alter the priorities of repayment and move things around in a controversial way.

Finally, and probably most important, the amendment also includes a moving up of the timetable for appointment to the board. This simply says the President will have the appointment of the board up and running by September 15 of this year, and no later than that.

This, I think, has some other technical amendments that truly are technical, but those are four substantive amendments in the manager's amendment that help make this what we intend it to be and get us up and running very quickly.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF MISSOURI

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 114-610.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. 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 61, line 4, strike “or”.

Page 61, line 7, strike the period and insert “; or”.

Page 61, after line 7, insert:

(4) preserve and maintain federally funded mass transportation assets.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 770, the gentleman

from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment which ensures federally funded public transportation systems are considered an essential service as Puerto Rico works to address its debt crisis.

Mr. Chairman, public transportation services in Puerto Rico are provided by a fully automated rapid rail line known as Tren Urbano. The system serves 8.5 million customers each year, providing access to three universities, the main medical center in Puerto Rico, and major financial centers in its capital.

Construction of Tren Urbano was funded by the United States Government through a Federal Transit Administration grant. In fact, of the total \$2.2 billion price tag, over \$800 million came from Federal grants, and another \$300 million came from a TIFIA loan. These are taxpayer investments we cannot let go to waste, and this amendment is simply a fiscally responsible way to make sure that that doesn't happen.

Failure to maintain Puerto Rico's mass transit system would cause Tren Urbano to fall into disrepair. We have seen just how disruptive those problems can be right here in our Nation's Capital. As the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, I recently held a hearing on the safety and reliability of the Metro system here in D.C. Repairs to the Metro have added to congestion problems in this city, and it has caused an untold amount in lost worker productivity. We do not want to see the same problems in Puerto Rico. We want to make sure that that doesn't happen. We don't want to see those same problems, especially given the economic situation they are facing.

Over the last several years, the Government of Puerto Rico has struggled to pay for Tren Urbano's operations. At times, outstanding debt for operations has exceeded \$20 million. Nevertheless, with the aid of FTA preventive maintenance grants, revenues from passenger fares, and funds from the Puerto Rican Highway and Transportation Authority, Tren Urbano has been able to continue serving the residents of Puerto Rico. It is critical we ensure Tren Urbano is treated as an essential service so that we can protect the hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars that are already invested in the system.

Mr. Chairman, this doesn't prioritize anything. It doesn't put anything at the top of the list. It just simply says that it is going to be a part of this process, so we do not lose that investment.

Mr. CAPUANO. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to step up and basically add my name to this and my support and say it is a good amendment. It should pass.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. I yield to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I also want to support this amendment. Everything is fine with me too.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. JOLLY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 114-610.

Mr. JOLLY. 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 114, line 11, insert “, reduce child poverty,” before “and attract”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 770, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Chairman, section 409 of this very important legislation creates a congressional task force on economic growth in Puerto Rico. The intent of the task force is to study barriers to economic growth, report back to Congress on changes in Federal law that would spur long-term, sustainable economic growth, job creation, and also attract investment in Puerto Rico. However, in my opinion, the section could be improved by also studying the impact and recommended changes on child poverty on the island of Puerto Rico.

Nearly 60 percent of children under 18 live below the poverty level in Puerto Rico, and roughly 80 percent live in high poverty areas. That is in comparison to only 11 percent who live in high poverty areas here in the continental United States.

This very simple amendment would add to the requirements of the congressional task force that they report back on recommended changes to address and reduce child poverty in the territory.

This amendment has been endorsed by an organization of roughly 600 national and local religious bodies, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., Catholic Charities, the Union for Reform Judaism.

Additionally, on Tuesday of this week, San Juan Archbishop Roberto Gonzalez Nieves called on Congress to specifically address child poverty in this bill.

Much of the debate has centered around balancing the interests and needs of bondholders and lenders with those of pensioners. I would ask that this body also consider the impact on the least among us. We are all called to serve each other.

This is an opportunity for this body to reflect not just the vision of our Founders, but the calling of our Creator in doing so. These children are American citizens. Their plight deserves our explicit attention.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition to this amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI), the commissioner from Puerto Rico.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Chairman, I thank Congressman GRIJALVA.

I rise to support this thoughtful amendment and to thank its authors, Congressman JOLLY and Congressman CURBELO, both from Florida.

Florida is home to over 1 million individuals of Puerto Rican birth or descent, and will soon pass New York as the State with the largest Puerto Rican population. Many of the Puerto Rican families in Florida are recent arrivals, having relocated from Puerto Rico to the Sunshine State in search of the equality and economic opportunity that they lack on the island.

□ 1715

I also want to thank the organization Jubilee USA, which has been a constructive player in the debate over PROMESA.

This amendment requires the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico, created by section 409 of the bill, to report on recommended changes to Federal policy that would reduce child poverty in Puerto Rico.

I do not want to prejudge the work of the task force, so I will simply say this: poverty in Puerto Rico, including child poverty, is far higher than in any State in the Nation, and it has been far higher for as long as statistics have been available. This demonstrates that the problem is structural in nature. It is rooted in the unequal treatment that Puerto Rico receives under key Federal antipoverty programs, which is only permissible because Puerto Rico is a territory rather than a State. To reduce poverty, we must end unequal treatment, and to end unequal treatment, Puerto Rico must discard its ter-

ritory status in favor of statehood or nationhood.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO).

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chair, I was not planning to speak, but when I heard Bishop Gonzalez' name mentioned, I had to say something because he was my parish priest at two different parishes in the Bronx. I know of his work, and if he wants this discussed, then it is something I should rise to and support. He always cared about child poverty in the Bronx when he was my parish priest. Now, as I tell him he is a big shot in Puerto Rico, he is still doing the right thing by God's work.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, in closing, let me thank and commend the gentleman from Florida for this very good amendment. I think it dovetails with the rest of the legislation very well as the gentleman addresses some of the indices in Puerto Rico that require attention—the challenges around poverty that the Puerto Rican people are facing. It is not often in this Chamber that we talk about poverty. The gentleman is to be commended, and I support the amendment.

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Chair, in closing, I urge my colleagues to support this very important amendment.

Do the right thing for the very least among us—those children on the island who are facing significant challenges of poverty—so that we, as a body, might respond better to the right policies that address their very real needs. I urge the passage of this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. BYRNE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 114-610.

Mr. BYRNE. 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 115, line 20, strike “The” and insert “Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 770, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman BISHOP for his leadership on this issue. This has not been an easy task, but he has provided great leadership, and I appreciate it.

I also thank Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana and Mr. POLIS for their amendment at the committee level, which requires a report from the Government Accountability Office that outlines how Puerto Rico reached this point of fiscal insolvency.

My amendment is very straightforward. It would simply set a deadline for the GAO to submit this report within 18 months of the enactment of this bill. Mr. GRAVES and Mr. POLIS are cosponsors of my amendment, and they agree that setting a deadline is important.

We must figure out how Puerto Rico got to this point in order to avoid another territory's finding itself in a similar position at some point down the road. I believe having this report and receiving it in a timely manner will, hopefully, go a long way towards preventing a similar situation in the future. This amendment is about accountability, and I urge its adoption.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. BYRNE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 114-610.

Mr. BYRNE. 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 116, after line 10, insert the following:
SEC. 411. REPORT ON TERRITORIAL DEBT.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and thereafter not less than once every two years, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the public debt of each territory, including—

(1) the historical levels of each territory's public debt, current amount and composition of each territory's public debt, and future projections of each territory's public debt;

(2) the historical levels of each territory's revenue, current amount and composition of each territory's revenue, and future projections of each territory's revenue;

(3) the drivers and composition of each territory's public debt;

(4) the effect of Federal laws, mandates, rules, and regulations on each territory's public debt; and

(5) the ability of each territory to repay its public debt.

(b) MATERIALS.—The government of each territory shall make available to the Comptroller General of the United States all materials necessary to carry out this section.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 770, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chair, as we have heard over and over again today, this Congress has plenary authority over our territories. Over the course of the

last century, this body has rightly delegated this power to provide for home rule for our territories. However, it is abundantly clear that this delegation of power has resulted in no oversight by the Federal Government over the debts that our territories are running up.

In this particular case, out of the blue, we have been told by the United States Treasury that it is our constitutional responsibility to do something to save a territory from years of its own fiscal irresponsibility. For years, the entire Federal Government was, essentially, asleep at the wheel as one of our territories ran up huge, unsustainable debts until the day arose when the territory could no longer pay.

Mr. Chair, I have absolutely no interest in interfering with the home rule of our territories. However, delegated authority can be abused. If we have a constitutional responsibility to intervene to prevent territorial insolvency, we certainly should exercise at least minimal oversight into the large debts that some of our territories are running up.

My amendment is simple. It requires a biennial report to Congress on the debt of each territory, the drivers of each territory's debt, the effect of Federal policy on each territory's debt, and the ability of each territory to repay its debt. This will help us provide that minimal oversight.

Unfortunately, Mr. Chair, the very agency that is coming to Congress and asking us to help Puerto Rico—the United States Treasury—has refused to provide this report to Congress, claiming it lacks resources. Let's be clear. The Department of the Treasury was appropriated \$11.9 billion for this fiscal year, and they claim a lack of resources to put together a simple report on five tiny territories. That is astonishing. It is also irresponsible.

In response to the Department of the Treasury, I offered a compromise. I would take one Treasury report on territorial debt if the Treasury would simply agree to monitor and advise us of what is going on with these territorial governments and what we should do to prevent insolvency.

According to the Treasury, this was even worse. It would represent an unprecedented expansion into the finances and solvency of a U.S. subsovereign. Apparently, this administration doesn't like the Territories Clause of the Constitution unless it is being used at the very last minute to save Puerto Rico.

I don't blame Puerto Rico for this. I blame the United States Treasury for this. If the United States Treasury is unwilling to do its job, I have changed the text of my amendment to require the GAO to put together this biennial report, and I look forward to seeing its results.

Last night, Mr. Chair, in the Rules Committee meeting, we heard testimony from the representatives of two other territories, who told us that they are concerned that their territories are

sliding in the same direction as Puerto Rico's while the Treasury Department sleeps. Since the Treasury Department won't take responsibility and do its job, we are going to do our job through the GAO.

I hope my colleagues will join me in doing something to fix this problem before another crisis is upon us. Perhaps, then, we can even get the Treasury and the rest of the Federal Government to wake up. If they don't, I will have a lot less sympathy the next time they come asking for our help.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, this amendment requires the GAO to submit reports every 2 years to the Congress about the public debt and about the ability to pay that debt of all U.S. territories. While the debt crisis in Puerto Rico is, indeed, serious and real, there is no indication that any other territory faces a similar crisis.

The base bill already includes reporting requirements. Requiring more reporting to cover the territories is unwarranted as well as being a waste of the GAO's limited time to provide more important reports to Congress.

A number of States and localities on the mainland face much more precarious budget situations than do the other territories. We don't need any more focus on U.S. territories when there is no reason to believe such onerous reporting is really required or justified.

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, there is an old line from the play "1776," when Stephen Hopkins says:

Mr. Chair, I have never seen, heard, or smelled an issue so dangerous it couldn't be talked about. Hell, yes. I am for debating anything.

This is one of those situations in which you have never seen, heard, or smelled anything that shouldn't be studied. The information could be vital, and it could be helpful. For that, I endorse and support this amendment.

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chair, I listened to the gentleman's comments, and I have to tell you, if there is enough in this bill for the reporting, why did the Treasury not say that to us? They didn't say that to us because they know there needs to be a report done. They just don't want to take the responsibility for doing it.

I think this amendment is definitely necessary for us to make sure we are doing our job in exercising our constitutional responsibility.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chair, I didn't know anything about this, and the vast majority of the Members didn't know anything about this problem before it was thrust upon us over the last several weeks.

The irresponsibility of the Treasury Department in not giving this information to us months ago when they knew it was happening or when they should have known it was happening underscores the need for this. I am putting it on the GAO in this particular amendment, but in the years to come, we need to expect the Treasury to do its job, because it has failed to do so in this circumstance.

I ask the House to adopt my amendment.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, a recent report from the U.S. Public Interest Research Group Education Fund rated all 50 States on whether they made transparent budget and spending information available to the public. My own State of Arizona received a grade of a B, so we have some work to do there. The State of Alabama, however, received the grade of a D, placing it fourth from the bottom of all States.

From that, it seems clear, if our goal is budget and spending transparency, perhaps our focus should be on our States on the mainland and not on the territories, because that seems to be where there is a verifiable problem.

This amendment is unwarranted, and it does not need to be included in the legislation.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. DUFFY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 114-610.

Mr. DUFFY. 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 116, after line 10, insert the following:
SEC. 411. EXPANSION OF HUBZONES IN PUERTO RICO.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) Section 3(p)(4)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p)(4)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) QUALIFIED CENSUS TRACT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified census tract’ has the meaning given that term in section 42(d)(5)(B)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—For any metropolitan statistical area in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the term ‘qualified census tract’ has the meaning given that term in section 42(d)(5)(B)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as applied without regard to subclause (II) of such section, except that this clause shall only apply—

“(I) 10 years after the date that the Administrator implements this clause, or

“(II) the date on which the Financial Oversight and Management Board for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico created by the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act ceases to exist, whichever event occurs first.”.

(2) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall issue regulations to implement the amendment made by paragraph (1) not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) IMPROVING OVERSIGHT.—

(1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall develop and implement criteria and guidance on using a risk-based approach to requesting and verifying information from entities applying to be designated or recertified as qualified HUBZone small business concerns (as defined in section 3(p)(5) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p)(5))).

(2) ASSESSMENT.—Not later 1 year after the date on which the criteria and guidance described in paragraph (1) is implemented, the Comptroller General of the United States shall begin an assessment of such criteria and guidance. Not later than 6 months after beginning such an assessment, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives that includes—

(A) an assessment of the criteria and guidance issued by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration in accordance with paragraph (1);

(B) an assessment of the implementation of the criteria and guidance issued by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration in accordance with paragraph (1);

(C) an assessment as to whether these measures have successfully ensured that only qualified HUBZone small business concerns are participating in the HUBZone program under section 31 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657a);

(D) an assessment as to whether the reforms made by the criteria and guidance implemented under paragraph (1) have resulted in job creation in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

(E) recommendations on how to improve controls in the HUBZone program.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 770, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chair, the Puerto Rico unemployment rate is double the national average. Nearly one in every two residents lives below the poverty line. Economic growth is in the negative. We have heard about that all day today. Now, PROMESA will stop the bleeding, but there isn't an easy solution to jump-start the economy. We have a down payment in a commission, but this is, I think, a real step in the direction of trying to kick-start economic growth.

My amendment, with my colleague from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI), will provide modest assistance to Puerto Rico by removing an impediment to the Small Business Administration's HUBZone program that limits the

number of businesses on the island that are eligible for the program.

This idea was brought to me by my friend Jaime Perello, the speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico, and it is a good one. What does it do? The HUBZone program is a small business, Federal contracting assistance program, whose primary objective is job creation and increasing capital investment in distressed communities.

□ 1730

Now, there is a 20 percent cap. So that 20 percent cap for this program might not affect Minneapolis or Chicago or Milwaukee because you don't even have 20 percent of the communities that are distressed.

However, in Puerto Rico you have far more than 20 percent of the communities that are distressed. You have 80 percent of them that are distressed. So by removing this cap, you have a larger part of the community that qualifies to access this program.

This is, I think, a very good solution and downpayment on economic growth and investment in Puerto Rico. Not only that, but there have been some noted problems with the program. GAO has made some recommendations. We have solidified those recommendations in this bill not just for Puerto Rico, but for the Nation as a whole to make sure there are better checks and balances in the HUBZone program.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I rise reluctantly in opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

The House Small Business Committee that I happen to chair has jurisdiction over the SBA's HUBZone program. Our committee has not yet had the opportunity to have oversight hearings on the program during this session, and I don't believe it would be prudent to adopt this amendment until the committee has had the opportunity to perform its due diligence.

In discussions with interested parties during the development of this legislation, I suggested language that would require the GAO to issue a report on Small Business Administration programs in Puerto Rico, including contract activities relating to HUBZone small businesses concerns. That language is contained in the underlying text. That report, coupled with committee oversight work, I believe, will ensure that what Congress ultimately does will, in fact, help Puerto Rico's small businesses.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chair, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI).

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by thanking Congressman DUFFY for his outstanding work on this bill and on this particular

amendment. I also want to thank Congressman DON YOUNG, a steadfast champion for fair treatment for Puerto Rico who is also a cosponsor of this amendment.

The primary purpose of this amendment is to increase small business activity and promote job creation in Puerto Rico.

The HUBZone program supports economically distressed communities throughout the Nation. If the poverty rate or median income in a census tract meets a certain threshold, it is designated as a qualified census tract. Small businesses located in a qualified census tract can compete for Federal contracts with preference, assuming they meet all other criteria established by law.

However, there is a statutory cap which prevents the combined population of the qualified census tracts within a metropolitan statistical area from exceeding 20 percent of the total population of that area. Although the cap applies nationwide, it has a uniquely negative impact in Puerto Rico. Small firms located in over 60 municipalities in Puerto Rico cannot take advantage of the HUBZone program solely because of the cap. No other U.S. State or territory comes anywhere close to being as adversely affected by the cap as Puerto Rico.

To promote economic development in Puerto Rico, which is absolutely essential if the territory is going to prosper, our amendment would remove the cap for Puerto Rico for 10 years or until the independent oversight board established by the legislation terminates, whichever occurs first. Based on the best available statistics, this amendment ensures that small firms located in over 80 percent of the census tracts in Puerto Rico may be eligible to compete with preference for Federal contracts, which should create additional employment opportunities on the island. The amendment will only extend the HUBZone programs to those census tracts in Puerto Rico that would have qualified for the program in the absence of the cap. So it does not constitute an unwarranted expansion of the HUBZone program.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chair, who has the right to close?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio has the right to close.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the comments by Chairman CHABOT, and I would just note that I know his committee hasn't had oversight hearings on this issue. The GAO has done extensive studies, and the Small Business Administration has not implemented those recommendations. I think the most salient recommendations made by the GAO have been included in this bill and go a long way to improving the program, but if we are going to fix Puerto Rico, debt restructuring is imperative.

This oversight board is key, but we need economic growth. And I think

this is the right downpayment to help kick-start some economic growth on the island, that the people in Puerto Rico know that we understand that. And we are taking one small step today to show that we are going to help them get from that 20 percent cap to allow 80 percent of the island to access this HUBZone program because we care about growth, we care about opportunity, and we care about jobs on the island.

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. SERRANO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 114-610.

Mr. SERRANO. 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:

At the end of title IV, insert the following:

SEC. 411. DETERMINATION ON DEBT.

Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted to restrict—

(1) the ability of the Puerto Rico Commission for the Comprehensive Audit of the Public Credit to file its reports; or

(2) the review and consideration of the Puerto Rico Commission's findings by Puerto Rico's government or an Oversight Board for Puerto Rico established under section 101.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 770, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, this amendment offered by Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and myself would help clarify that this legislation would not impact the work being done by the Puerto Rico Commission for the Comprehensive Audit of the Public Credit.

This entity, set up by Puerto Rico's Government, is in the process of examining the massive debt that has been accrued by the territory. In a preliminary report, the commission recently found that a small portion of the debt may have been illegally issued by the government of Puerto Rico, and they need to further examine the issue and its implications.

This amendment simply preserves the ability of this commission to continue their work and for either the government or the oversight board to review and consider any findings that the commission might have. The work being done by the commission could significantly assist both the oversight board and the Puerto Rican Government as the island tries to get back on its feet.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition, even though I am not opposed to this particular amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chair, I want to make it very clear that this particular amendment does not override the authority of the oversight board. But because of that, I do support the amendment, and I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), my sister from Yabucoa, Puerto Rico.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chair, I represent New York's Seventh Congressional District.

I rise in strong support of the Serrano-Velázquez amendment. Throughout the course of this entire saga, it has become increasingly clear that Puerto Rico's debt is not fully understood. The island has issued 18 different classes of debt—from general obligation to COFINA, to GDB, to utility bonds. Various local and State laws are involved, and the result is a web of confusion.

To address this, the Puerto Rico Commission for the Comprehensive Audit of the Public Credit was created to examine all of the island's debt, something that is very much needed. The audit will not only inform the people of Puerto Rico, but also, in many ways, will assist the oversight board in carrying out its mission. Analyzing and assessing all of the island's \$70 billion in debt is long overdue.

Recently, the commission released a preliminary report finding that a small, yet significant, amount of the debt may have violated the island's constitution. Such a finding is meaningful and could have ramifications for this legislation's implementation.

Our amendment ensures that the underlying bill will not prevent the commission from finishing its important work while also allowing the local government and the oversight board to consider these findings if they so chose.

In summary, this amendment would allow for much-needed sunlight to be shown on the island's financial situation.

I urge Members to support this amendment.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chair, I urge everyone to vote for the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MRS. TORRES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 114-610.

Mrs. TORRES. 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:

Strike section 403 (and redesignate succeeding sections and conform the table of contents accordingly).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 770, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

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

Mr. Chairman, the bill, as it is currently written, allows the minimum wage for workers 25 years and under to be lowered to abysmal \$4.25 for 4 years for as long as the oversight board is in place. It also fails to specify whether this reduction is limited to one 4-year period or if the request can be made over and over again, essentially keeping the lower wage indefinitely.

My amendment would strip this provision from the bill. In today's dollars, American workers haven't had a minimum wage this low since the 1940s. The young men and women of Puerto Rico are American citizens, and they don't deserve to be treated like second-class workers.

These aren't high school students with summer jobs. They are young people setting off on their careers, many of them struggling to pay off student loan debt and become self-sufficient. Lowering the wage only adds insult to injury and sends the wrong statement about whether we value Puerto Ricans as equal Americans.

The island is already experiencing a mass exodus of young people. Lowering wages will only make more young people want to leave, having a detrimental impact on Puerto Rico's current and future workforce, its tax base, and its ability to pay off its debt, ultimately digging them into a deeper hole.

If we want to help Puerto Rico overcome this current crisis, we need to make sure the island is a place where young people can see a future for themselves, start a family, and work to grow a business, not a place that devalues their work and their contributions.

The minimum wage provision in this bill is bad for these young workers and is bad for Puerto Rico.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I claim time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I respectfully rise in opposition to the amendment by my colleague from California because this is exactly the kind of thinking that led Puerto Rico into the fiscal situation in which they now find themselves.

As we all know, one thing that would help address Puerto Rico's fiscal crisis is a stronger, more vibrant local economy. That is why this legislation in-

cludes a number of provisions aimed at helping local businesses expand and hire new workers. This amendment would strike an entire provision from the bill, a provision that is pro-growth and aimed at revitalizing local businesses and the Puerto Rican economy as a whole.

Section 403 is a provision that will make it easier for young workers to find jobs and start their careers. The legislation gives the Governor of Puerto Rico the authority, subject to the approval of the oversight board, to adjust the minimum wage for new workers under the age of 25. Current law already allows employers to offer what is known as a youth opportunity wage for up to 90 days. This legislation simply extends the time period in Puerto Rico to 4 years, an idea that was first recommended in 2012 by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, which noted then that younger workers were "in danger of becoming disconnected from the labor market."

This recommended change will support economic growth and provide more job opportunities for the local workforce, particularly younger workers and workers with fewer skills. These are commonsense policies that will help address Puerto Rico's fiscal crisis by supporting a stronger, more prosperous local economy.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and support the underlying legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

□ 1745

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, we are talking about a minimum wage of \$4.25 an hour. That is less than \$700 per month. Tell me how anybody can survive anywhere on the island of Puerto Rico on less than \$700 a month. It simply isn't possible. The cost of living in San Juan is no lower than it is in Orlando, or much of the mainland for that matter.

I don't know where you can even find a one-bedroom apartment for \$700 a month that would be worth living in. I don't know how you can pay for lunch and dinner and breakfast for \$700 a month. I don't know how you can find health coverage for \$700 a month. I don't know how you can find transportation to get to that job for \$700 a month. I just don't get it. Any one of these things would be enough to break the budget and put you into bankruptcy if you are only making \$700 a month, and that is before you even have to pay taxes.

What we are doing is we are taking a Spanish-speaking population, 3.5 million of them, and we are condemning them to low wages to the point where 45-year-old men will lose their jobs to 20-year-old sons because the 20-year-old sons are forced to work for only \$4.25.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. GRAYSON. This is the lesson that we are teaching those young men and women who we are supposedly trying to help. The lesson is this: hop on an airplane from San Juan to my district in Orlando for \$168, and you can get a 70 percent increase in your wages because that is what the difference is already under current law between what you are talking about, a \$4.25 hourly wage and \$7.25 that you can earn legally—it is actually more than that under State law—in Orlando. That is not teaching people how to work. It is teaching people to disrespect work.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Chairman, someone living in Puerto Rico needs to make \$9.25 an hour to afford a one-bedroom apartment. If the wage is lowered to \$4.25, not even two earners could afford to live there.

Mr. Chairman, there is no question that Puerto Rico will need to make sacrifices, but it can't do so on the backs of its young workforce, American citizens. This provision does not fix Puerto Rico's problems, and in the long run, it makes them worse.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment so that Puerto Rico's recovery doesn't come at the expense of young, hardworking Americans.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 196, noes 225, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 287]

AYES—196

Adams	Castor (FL)	DeSaulnier
Aguilar	Castro (TX)	Deutch
Ashford	Chu, Judy	Dingell
Bass	Cicilline	Doggett
Beatty	Clark (MA)	Dold
Becerra	Clarke (NY)	Donovan
Bera	Cleaver	Doyle, Michael
Beyer	Clyburn	F.
Bishop (GA)	Cohen	Duckworth
Blumenauer	Connolly	Edwards
Bonamici	Conyers	Ellison
Bost	Cooper	Engel
Boyle, Brendan	Costa	Eshoo
F.	Costello (PA)	Esty
Brady (PA)	Courtney	Fattah
Brown (FL)	Crowley	Fitzpatrick
Brownley (CA)	Cuellar	Foster
Bustos	Cummings	Frankel (FL)
Butterfield	Davis (CA)	Fudge
Capps	Davis, Danny	Gabbard
Capuano	DeFazio	Gallego
Cardenas	DeGette	Garamendi
Carney	Delaney	Gibson
Carson (IN)	DeLauro	Graham
Cartwright	DelBene	Grayson

Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeback
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey

Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz

Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—225

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)

Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador

LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCauley
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble

Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions

Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker

Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—13

Barletta
Clay
Farr
Fincher
Franks (AZ)

Hardy
Herrera Beutler
Hinojosa
Lie, Ted
Luetkemeyer

Payne
Sires
Takai

□ 1811

Messrs. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, NUGENT, and Ms. GRANGER changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. NOLAN changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of the substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DOLD) having assumed the chair, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, 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. 5278) to establish an Oversight Board to assist the Government of Puerto Rico, including instrumentalities, in managing its public finances, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 770, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on adoption of the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on passage will be followed by a 5-minute vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 297, noes 127, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 288]

AYES—297

Adams
Aguilar
Amodei
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Brady (TX)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (TN)

Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loeback
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey

Lucas
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Matsui
McCarthy
McCauley
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
McSally
Meeks
Meng
Moolenaar
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Reichert
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano

Sessions	Thompson (PA)	Walters, Mimi
Sewell (AL)	Thornberry	Watson Coleman
Sherman	Tipton	Webster (FL)
Shimkus	Titus	Welch
Simpson	Tonko	Wenstrup
Sinema	Trott	Westerman
Slaughter	Tsongas	Whitfield
Smith (NE)	Turner	Williams
Smith (NJ)	Upton	Wilson (FL)
Smith (WA)	Valadao	Wilson (SC)
Stefanik	Van Hollen	Womack
Stewart	Veasey	Woodall
Stivers	Velázquez	Yarmuth
Stutzman	Visclosky	Young (AK)
Swalwell (CA)	Wagner	Young (IA)
Takano	Walden	Young (IN)
Thompson (CA)	Walker	Zinke
Thompson (MS)	Walorski	

NOES—127

Abraham	Gosar	Norcross
Aderholt	Gowdy	Olson
Allen	Guinta	Palazzo
Amash	Gutiérrez	Palmer
Ashford	Hartzler	Pearce
Babin	Hastings	Perry
Barr	Heck (NV)	Peterson
Becerra	Hice, Jody B.	Poe (TX)
Billirakis	Holding	Poliquin
Black	Hudson	Pompeo
Blackburn	Huelskamp	Ratcliffe
Blum	Hultgren	Reed
Boustany	Issa	Renacci
Boyle, Brendan F.	Jenkins (WV)	Richmond
Brady (PA)	Johnson, Sam	Rigell
Brat	Jones	Rogers (AL)
Bridenstine	Jordan	Rohrabacher
Brooks (AL)	Joyce	Rooney (FL)
Buck	Kelly (MS)	Rouzer
Burgess	Kelly (PA)	Rush
Carter (TX)	King (IA)	Ryan (OH)
Clawson (FL)	Knight	Sanford
Cook	Lamborn	Sanford
Crawford	Lance	Schakowsky
Davidson	LoBiondo	Shuster
Davis, Danny	Long	Smith (MO)
Davis, Rodney	Lynch	Smith (TX)
DeSantis	Marino	Speier
DesJarlais	Massie	Tiberi
Duncan (SC)	McClintock	Torres
Ellmers (NC)	McMorris	Vargas
Emmer (MN)	Rodgers	Vela
Farenthold	Meadows	Walberg
Fattah	Meehan	Walz
Fleischmann	Messer	Wasserman
Fleming	Mica	Schultz
Flores	Miller (FL)	Waters, Maxine
Forbes	Miller (MI)	Weber (TX)
Franks (AZ)	Mooney (WV)	Westmoreland
Fudge	Mullin	Wittman
Gibson	Mulvaney	Yoder
Gohmert	Neugebauer	Yoho
Goodlatte	Newhouse	Zeldin
	Nolan	

NOT VOTING—11

Barletta	Herrera Beutler	Payne
Farr	Hinojosa	Sires
Fincher	Lieu, Ted	Takai
Hardy	Luetkemeyer	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1820

Mr. ASHFORD changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 283—I would have voted “yes.” Rollcall No. 284—I would have voted “yes.” Rollcall No. 285—I would have voted “yes.” Rollcall No. 286—I would have voted “yes.” Rollcall No. 287—I would have voted “no.” Rollcall No. 288—I would have voted “no.”

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN EN-GROSSMENT OF H.R. 5278, PUERTO RICO OVERSIGHT, MANAGEMENT, AND ECONOMIC STABILITY ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of H.R. 5278, the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, and cross-references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to accurately reflect the actions of the House.

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

There was no objection.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 2328

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 135

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill S. 2328, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following correction: Amend the long title so as to read “An Act to establish an Oversight Board to assist the Government of Puerto Rico, including instrumentalities, in managing its public finances, and for other purposes.”

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, June 8, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules

of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for documents, issued by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

WILL PLASTER,
Chief Administrative Officer.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5325, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 771 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. 5325.

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

□ 1828

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. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, with Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana 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.

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The overarching goal of the bill we are considering here today is to ensure that we continue to preserve the beauty, enhance the security, and improve the institutions of the United States Capitol complex. I am glad to report that we have accomplished our mission, and we have done it in a way that respects taxpayers. By making tough choices, this bill demonstrates the great work that Congress can do even during a time of lean budgets.

The American people will be proud to know that this bill continues to use a zero-based budgeting approach. That means each legislative branch agency was required to justify its budget from scratch. This practice curbs wasteful

spending and safeguards taxpayer dollars.

Another part of our effort to respect taxpayers was the orderly shutdown of the Open World Leadership Center, which is outdated, and a multimillion-dollar-a-year program that no longer will exist.

Additionally, we continue the freeze on Members' pay. Now, this was a simple decision for me. If our constituents aren't getting a raise in this economy, then we shouldn't either.

Now, it is also worth noting that the Capitol Dome Restoration project is on time and it is under budget. In fact, my office has had a little fun with this, posting pictures each day on social media of the progress of the scaffolding coming off the dome, using the hashtag "Free the Dome."

We also have a family-themed bill this year. We have worked with Members on both sides of the aisle to make certain that baby-changing stations are available throughout all the House office buildings and in the Capitol. Visiting the Capitol with a new baby can be difficult enough. Young mothers and fathers traveling with their children in tow should have the appropriate facilities available to them, and now they will.

□ 1830

Additionally, with so many mothers-to-be working for the House of Rep-

resentatives through their pregnancies, the committee wants to ensure that these working moms have access to convenient parking.

Of course, we have also carried on the new tradition of sledding on Capitol Hill. Again this winter, children and adults alike living in the area can sled on the west front of the Capitol—something that, unfortunately, was banned before we changed it last year.

Simply put, this bill makes the Capitol more inviting and accessible to young families.

I would, of course, like to thank the ranking member for her role throughout the process of writing this bill and all the members of our committee for their hard work and their valuable contributions. In seeing this bill through the committee process, a good bill was made even better. Together, we have received and worked through more than 200 submissions from Republicans and Democrats, appropriators and non-appropriators, many of which we have included in this legislation.

We continued conversations with Members of both the majority and the minority up to and through full committee markup, and saw an amendment process that incorporated proposals from both sides of the aisle, including additional resources to better serve our constituents, increased savings dedicated to the Historic Buildings Revital-

ization Trust Fund, and support for efforts to enhance the security of the Capitol campus.

I would also like to thank all of the staff on both sides of the aisle who have worked on the bill this year. In particular, I am appreciative of the hard work Liz Dawson, Tim Monahan and Shalanda Young, and, of course, Jenny Panone who really stepped up to the plate after we lost our good friend, Chuck Turner.

As a longtime professional staff member of this subcommittee, Chuck has been missed this appropriations season. The appropriations family just isn't the same without him, and I want to express my continued sympathies to his family, his friends, and those he worked so closely with all these years.

I would also like to thank Jason Murphy and John Donnelly in my personal office, as well Sarah Arkin and Rosalyn Kumar from Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ's office.

Finally, I would like to note the important contributions that Congressman SAM FARR and Congressman SCOTT RIGELL both have made to our subcommittee. Their hard work and dedication has been extremely valuable, and they will be dearly missed by our subcommittee and by this body.

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

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2017 (H.R. 5325)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH					
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES					
Payment to Widows and Heirs of Deceased Members of Congress (Public Law 114-53, Sec. 143) 1/.....	174	---	---	-174	---
Salaries and Expenses					
House Leadership Offices					
Office of the Speaker.....	6,645	6,645	6,645	---	---
Office of the Majority Floor Leader.....	2,180	2,180	2,180	---	---
Office of the Minority Floor Leader.....	7,114	7,114	7,114	---	---
Office of the Majority Whip.....	1,887	1,887	1,887	---	---
Office of the Minority Whip.....	1,460	1,460	1,480	---	---
Republican Conference.....	1,505	1,505	1,505	---	---
Democratic Caucus.....	1,487	1,487	1,487	---	---
Subtotal, House Leadership Offices.....	22,278	22,278	22,278	---	---
Members' Representational Allowances Including Members' Clerk Hire, Official Expenses of Members, and Official Mail					
Expenses.....	554,318	554,318	562,632	+8,314	+8,314
Committee Employees					
Standing Committees, Special and Select.....	123,903	127,053	127,053	+3,150	---
Committee on Appropriations (including studies and investigations).....	23,271	23,271	23,271	---	---
Subtotal, Committee employees.....	147,174	150,324	150,324	+3,150	---
Salaries, Officers and Employees					
Office of the Clerk.....	24,981	26,411	26,268	+1,287	-143
Office of the Sergeant at Arms.....	14,827	15,571	15,505	+678	-66
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.....	117,165	117,165	117,165	---	---
Office of the Inspector General.....	4,742	4,987	4,963	+221	-24
Office of General Counsel.....	1,413	1,451	1,444	+31	-7
Office of the Parliamentarian.....	1,975	2,010	1,999	+24	-11
Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House.....	3,120	3,182	3,167	+47	-15
Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House.....	8,353	8,979	8,979	+626	---
Office of Interparliamentary Affairs.....	814	814	814	---	---
Other authorized employees.....	1,142	1,188	1,183	+41	-3
Subtotal, Salaries, officers and employees.....	178,532	181,756	181,487	+2,955	-269
Allowances and Expenses					
Supplies, materials, administrative costs and Federal tort claims.....	3,625	3,625	3,625	---	---
Official mail for committees, leadership offices, and administrative offices of the House.....	190	190	190	---	---
Government contributions.....	251,629	251,630	245,334	-6,295	-6,296
Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery.....	16,217	16,217	16,217	---	---
Transition activities.....	2,084	2,084	2,084	---	---
Wounded Warrior program.....	2,500	2,500	2,500	---	---
Office of Congressional Ethics.....	1,467	1,667	1,658	+191	-9
Miscellaneous items.....	720	720	720	---	---
Subtotal, Allowances and expenses.....	278,432	278,633	272,328	-6,104	-6,305
Total, House of Representatives (discretionary)...	1,180,734	1,187,309	1,189,049	+8,315	+1,740
Total, House of Representatives (mandatory).....	174	---	---	-174	---

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2017 (H.R. 5325)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
JOINT ITEMS					
Joint Economic Committee.....	4,203	4,203	4,203	---	---
Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies of 2017.....	1,250	---	---	-1,250	---
Joint Committee on Taxation.....	10,095	11,540	10,095	---	-1,445
Office of the Attending Physician					
Medical supplies, equipment, expenses, and allowances...	3,784	3,838	3,838	+54	---
Office of Congressional Accessibility Services.....	1,400	1,429	1,429	+29	---
Total, Joint items.....	20,732	21,010	19,565	-1,167	-1,445
CAPITOL POLICE					
Salaries.....	309,000	333,128	325,300	+16,300	-7,828
General expenses.....	66,000	76,460	66,000	---	-10,460
Total, Capitol Police.....	375,000	409,588	391,300	+16,300	-18,288
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE					
Salaries and expenses.....	3,959	4,315	3,959	---	-356
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE					
Salaries and expenses.....	46,500	47,637	46,500	---	-1,137
ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL (AOC)					
Capital Construction and Operations.....	91,589	103,850	88,542	-3,047	-15,108
Capitol building.....	46,737	44,010	33,005	-13,732	-11,005
Capitol grounds.....	11,880	13,083	12,626	+946	-257
House of Representatives buildings:					
House office buildings.....	174,962	189,528	187,481	+12,519	-2,047
House Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund..	10,000	10,000	17,000	+7,000	+7,000
Capitol Power Plant.....	103,722	114,765	113,480	+9,758	-1,285
Offsetting collections.....	-9,000	-9,000	-9,000	---	---
Subtotal, Capitol Power Plant.....	94,722	105,765	104,480	+9,758	-1,285
Library buildings and grounds.....	40,689	65,959	47,080	+6,391	-18,879
Capitol police buildings, grounds and security.....	25,434	37,513	26,697	+1,263	-10,816
Botanic Garden.....	12,113	15,081	14,067	+1,954	-1,014
Capitol Visitor Center.....	20,557	21,306	20,557	---	-749
Total, Architect of the Capitol.....	528,683	605,895	551,735	+23,052	-54,160
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS					
Salaries and expenses.....	425,971	479,235	449,971	+24,000	-29,264
Authority to spend receipts.....	-6,350	-6,350	-8,360	---	---
Subtotal, Salaries and expenses.....	419,621	472,885	443,621	+24,000	-29,264
Copyright Office, Salaries and expenses.....	58,875	74,026	68,827	+9,952	-5,199
Authority to spend receipts.....	-35,777	-38,548	-37,198	-1,421	+2,350
Prior year unobligated balances.....	---	-6,147	-4,531	-4,531	+1,616
Subtotal, Copyright Office.....	23,098	28,331	27,098	+4,000	-1,233
Congressional Research Service, Salaries and expenses...	106,945	114,408	107,945	+1,000	-6,463
Books for the blind and physically handicapped, Salaries and expenses.....	50,248	51,591	50,248	---	-1,343
Total, Library of Congress.....	599,912	667,215	628,912	+29,000	-38,303

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2017 (H.R. 5325)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE					
Congressional publishing	79,736	79,736	79,736	---	---
Public Information Programs of the Superintendent of Documents, Salaries and expenses.....	30,500	29,500	29,500	-1,000	---
Government Publishing Office Business Operations Revolving Fund	8,832	7,832	7,832	+1,000	---
Total, Government Publishing Office	117,068	117,068	117,068	---	---
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE					
Salaries and expenses.....	558,450	591,175	556,450	---	-34,725
Offsetting collections.....	-25,450	-23,350	-23,350	+2,100	---
Total, Government Accountability Office.....	531,000	567,825	533,100	+2,100	-34,725
OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER TRUST FUND					
Payment to the Open World Leadership Center (OWLC) Trust Fund.....	5,600	5,800	1,000	-4,600	-4,800
JOHN C. STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT					
Stennis Center for Public Service.....	430	430	430	---	---
GENERAL PROVISIONS					
AOC Working Capital Fund (CBO estimate).....	---	1,000	---	---	-1,000
Scorekeeping adjustment (CBO estimate) 2/.....	-1,000	---	-1,000	---	-1,000
Grand total.....	3,408,792	3,635,092	3,481,618	+72,826	-153,474
Discretionary.....	(3,408,618)	(3,635,092)	(3,481,618)	(+73,000)	(-153,474)
Mandatory 1/.....	(174)	---	---	(-174)	---
1/ FY2016 funds provided in Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-53)					
2/ FY2016 is Sec. 9 of Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113)					

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2017 (H.R. 5325)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
RECAPITULATION					
House of Representatives (discretionary).....	1,180,734	1,187,309	1,189,049	+8,315	+1,740
House of Representatives (mandatory) 1/.....	174	---	---	-174	---
Joint Items.....	20,732	21,010	19,565	-1,167	-1,445
Capitol Police.....	375,000	409,588	391,300	+16,300	-18,288
Office of Compliance.....	3,959	4,315	3,959	---	-356
Congressional Budget Office.....	48,500	47,637	46,500	---	-1,137
Architect of the Capitol.....	528,683	605,895	551,735	+23,052	-54,160
Library of Congress.....	599,912	667,215	628,912	+29,000	-38,303
Government Publishing Office.....	117,068	117,068	117,068	---	---
Government Accountability Office.....	531,000	567,825	533,100	+2,100	-34,725
Open World Leadership Center.....	5,600	5,600	1,000	-4,600	-4,600
Stennis Center for Public Service.....	430	430	430	---	---
General Provisions 2/.....	-1,000	1,000	-1,000	---	-2,000
Prior year outlays.....	---	---	---	---	---
Grand total.....	3,408,792	3,635,092	3,481,618	+72,826	-153,474
Discretionary.....	(3,408,618)	(3,635,092)	(3,481,618)	(+73,000)	(-153,474)
Mandatory 1/.....	(174)	---	---	(-174)	---

1/ FY2016 funds provided in Continuing Appropriations
Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-53)
2/ FY2016 is Sec. 9 of Consolidated Appropriations Act,
2016 (Public Law 114-113)

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

Mr. Chairman, the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill is a total of \$3.481 billion—\$72 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted bill.

I thank our full committee chairman, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, for understanding the challenges posed by years of cuts and providing an allocation to begin rebuilding the capacity of Congress to do the people's work.

Chairman GRAVES funded critical investments with the additional allocation. He knows that if we were only discussing funding today, I would be with him in protecting the good work of the subcommittee.

Specifically, I am pleased with the critical investments in the Copyright Modernization Project and the Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund.

The bill provides the Copyright Modernization Project with a 17 percent increase. This critical funding will enable the Copyright Office to hire the necessary staff to begin to make technological advancements to improve the way they do business. It is unacceptable in the year 2016 that copyright users have to make certain requests via paper in the 21st century. That is inefficient and a drag on commerce that is dependent on the copyright system.

There is also report language included that makes it clear that the Library of Congress shall continue to defer to the Register of Copyrights on all copyright-related issues. While the Copyright Office is within the Library of Congress, it has unique functions that make it necessary to have a strong leader that can answer to Congress and the copyright community when issues arise. The Register of Copyrights should have the freedom to make decisions and be responsive to the copyright community.

I am also happy to see increased funding for the Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund. This is the same fund that we used to save for the downpayment on the Cannon Building Restoration.

This bill provides \$17 million for the fund, which is \$7 million above fiscal year 2016 funding. I thank the chairman for working with me to sustain this important program.

We started the trust fund after the construction of the Capitol Visitor Center. That project was over budget by fourfold, and its management was, frankly, an embarrassment. It was an example of ballooning government projects that pull resources away from other worthy initiatives.

The trust fund was created to avoid the pitfalls of the CVC project by creating a reserve of funds that can be used for future large-scale projects. We must put on our forward-thinking caps and look 10 to 20 years down the road so that we save appropriately for large-scale projects. This long-term thinking will ensure that our smallest appro-

priations bill—the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill—does not have to absorb such large projects to the detriment of other worthy programs.

While there are many positives in this bill, Mr. Chairman, there are also issues that must be addressed as we move through the process. One particularly troublesome issue is that the report accompanying this bill includes language seeking to influence the Library of Congress' process to change its subject headings related to immigration.

The Library of Congress decided in March of this year to begin using the terms "noncitizens" and "unauthorized immigration" for cataloging purposes. They did so after being petitioned by Dartmouth College in 2014—a petition they turned down initially—and then again by the American Library Association earlier this year.

In January of this year, the American Library Association adopted a resolution calling on the Library of Congress to change the heading "illegal aliens" to "undocumented immigrants."

Now, these are search terms. The Library of Congress uses subject headings to help researchers be able to find topics based on what they are appropriately to be called. The Library did not adopt the term "undocumented immigrants" but chose to begin to use the two phrases "noncitizens" and "unauthorized immigration." These new subject headings are still in the process of being considered, as the public will have 60 days to comment on them.

The fact that this project is ongoing makes the inclusion of report language even more problematic.

How can the Library of Congress be expected to go through a fair and open comment period with this language included in the report accompanying the appropriations bill?

My side of the aisle could have certainly pushed to have the Library of Congress reconsider its decision after the Dartmouth petition was turned down in 2014 because many Democrats and Republicans believe that the term "illegal alien" labels a group of people based on a misconception that an immigrant's presence in our Nation is a criminal violation, but we allowed the process to work because the Library of Congress is in the business of language and nomenclature and should be free to make these decisions without political interference. Congress should not be setting ourselves up as the word police.

Let's be clear: this puts the Library of Congress front and center on one of our Nation's most contentious and emotional political issues. Over the years, as ranking member, this is certainly not the first time I find myself in disagreement with the chairman on a particular issue. However, I have been able to work closely with the chairman of this subcommittee to move the bill and the process forward.

And though I have been committed as always to resolving our policy dif-

ferences, the politicization of the Library of Congress in order to perpetuate a misconception about immigrants in our country is simply an issue on which my principles will not allow me to bend an inch.

This language is not necessary, it is not appropriate, and it jeopardizes the work of our Nation's oldest Federal cultural institution and the research arm of this body.

The Library of Congress makes thousands of changes to its subject headings every year. At one time, "Negro" was a subject heading, but when it became pejorative, they changed it to "Afro American," and eventually the term used today, "African American."

The chairman and other Republican members emphasize that they are the Library of Congress—emphasis on Congress—and we should dictate to them what terms they use in their subject headings.

Well, I ran for Congress, not word police. We should leave search terms for researchers to the experts and not politicize this bill that simply funds the legislative branch.

I am also concerned that under this bill, the Capitol Police budget increases by \$325.3 million. This would increase funding for the Capitol Police by 5 percent, above the 8 percent increase they received in the current fiscal year.

We value and respect the officers on staff, but I think many Members will join me in raising a skeptical eye when they realize this bill would add 72 new officers and bring the total number of officers to close to 1,900.

Just as mayors and city councils across the country have to balance law enforcement with other city services like repairing aging infrastructure, so must Congress. In the near future, the congressional leadership and committees of jurisdiction will need to have a serious discussion about the appropriate size of the Capitol Police. The officers I speak to don't complain about not having enough officers, but, rather, about decisions on how the officers they do have are deployed by police leadership. It is fiscally irresponsible to grow the police at this rate.

Also, as Member and committee budgets have been cut, Congress has had to rely on support agencies to fill the gaps in staff expertise. One of those agencies, Mr. Chairman, is the Congressional Research Service, or CRS.

CRS was funded in the bill at \$107.9 million, \$1 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. At the level included in the bill, CRS remains \$4.6 million below the fiscal year 2010 levels. According to CRS, recent funding levels have led to a loss of 13 percent of its purchasing power since 2010.

The \$1 million increase provided by this bill will not cover mandatory pay for CRS' current staff. CRS' budget request sought to rebuild the agency. They asked for two defense policy staff,

five health policy staff, three education policy staff, two budget and appropriation staff, four technology policy staff, and two data management and analysis staff. None of those staffs will be funded under the bill before us, therefore, denying Congress of an unbiased analysis of these critical policy areas.

Before concluding, Mr. Chairman, I also want to join the chairman in acknowledging the loss of our beloved Chuck Turner. I had the privilege of working with Chuck when I was the chairman of this committee, and he has served both sides of the aisle with integrity, commitment, and love of this institution. His loss was tremendous for the entire appropriations family, and he will be greatly missed on both sides of the aisle.

I also want to issue a big thanks to Liz Dawson, the majority clerk and her staff, Jenny Panone and Tim Monahan. Many thanks as well to Jason Murphy with Chairman GRAVES' personal office. Thank you to my team, Shalanda Young on the committee's minority staff who has worked tirelessly on those issues. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to my personal staff, Rosalyn Kumar and Sarah Arkin.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the full Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill that is before us. This is the third of the 12 bills to make it to the floor. We have passed eight of the bills through the full committee, and 10 of them through the subcommittees. But this bill provides the important funding that Congress needs to do our work on behalf of the American people.

From maintaining the hallowed halls of this very building, to providing services for our constituents, to funding the agencies that keep us informed and in check, the \$3.48 billion in this bill supports the largest and freest democracy the world has ever known.

In total, our funding is increased slightly—\$73 million above current levels. That increase is directed to essential health and safety improvements to aging or damaged facilities as well as to the Capitol Police to protect Members, staff, and our visitors.

At the same time, this bill keeps the belt tight, continuing our trajectory of trimming funding for the House of Representatives by 13.2 percent since 2011 and extending the pay freeze for Members of Congress. The funds provided for House operations will allow Members of Congress to continue serving the American people to the fullest extent and representing their voices in Washington, D.C.

For the thousands and thousands of people who enter this Capitol complex

each day—be it visitors, staff, or Members themselves—safety is of the utmost importance.

As we have seen recently, the brave men and women of the Capitol Police force must remain vigilant and well-equipped to secure the Capitol complex. The bill funds the Capitol Police at \$391.3 million—that is \$16.3 million above current levels—to enhance security and maintain public access to this complex.

To ensure the safety of the buildings in the Capitol complex, which, as we know, has historic but aging facilities, the legislation provides \$551 million for the Architect of the Capitol. That includes ongoing rehab projects as well as deferred maintenance.

In addition, the bill provides funding for the congressional support agencies that we rely on each day to do our jobs. That includes \$533 million for the Government Accountability Office, which provides Congress with accurate reporting on how tax dollars are spent, and \$629 million for the Library of Congress.

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Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill that targets funds to critical operations while keeping a close eye on every tax dollar spent.

I want to thank Chairman GRAVES for his hard work to ensure that every dollar in this bill helps make the people's House run efficiently and productively. I also want to thank Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and all of the subcommittee members and staff for their efforts that brought this bill to the floor. Finally, I do want to specify a thanks to our staff for their knowledge and expertise and passion for this place throughout this process.

As we continue our important work on the 2017 appropriations bills, I am proud to support good bills like this one, bills that fulfill their mission in a responsible, targeted way.

I urge all Members to support this bill as well.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to acknowledge the presence of Chairman GRAVES' lovely daughter, because it is always nice as a parent to have your children with you while you are doing your work. So welcome to the House of Representatives.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), our ranking member of the full Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And I thank Chairman GRAVES and Chairman ROGERS. It is a pleasure for me to work here with all of them.

However, in the fiscal year 2017 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill, the House majority has put its political interests first with a process that limits amendments based on a fear of another embarrassing failure, like the Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which the House rejected 2 weeks ago.

The legislative branch bill contains a number of important services that allow the public to safely visit the U.S. Capitol and for Members to respond to the needs of their constituents. The bill would provide modest increases for the first time in years, including more funding for the Library of Congress, Capitol Police, Architect of the Capitol, and the Members' Representational Allowance.

These increases are badly needed. The legislative branch bill has remained essentially flat for several years, despite the steadily growing needs of this institution, including staff shortages, enhanced security, repairs to aging buildings and infrastructure, and preservation at the Library of Congress, among others.

Unfortunately, rather than focus on these institutions' value to the public, House Republicans went out of their way to include provisions that ignore these issues, and instead push a partisan agenda that wastes taxpayer dollars.

First of all, House Republicans inserted language meant to appease the most extreme members of their conference by directing the Library of Congress to use the term "illegal alien" in its subject headings for searches rather than the Library's preferred "noncitizens" or "unauthorized immigration." This unnecessary interference into the routine work of the Library of Congress politicizes a change meant to help provide the most up-to-date, thorough information.

The inclusion of such language is sadly nothing new for the subcommittee. In the past few years, the majority has spent close to \$7 million on a partisan, political Benghazi investigation; \$2.3 million defending the Defense of Marriage Act; and is now engaging in shameful, unprecedented attacks on biomedical researchers and women's health.

Frankly, I am outraged at how the majority on the Select Investigative Panel is conducting its business. The majority's witch hunt of researchers, including scientists, physicians, and even graduate students, will have real consequences that harm medical advances, and are nothing more than a political charade and waste of taxpayer money. Their request for information and subpoenas without any assertion of wrongdoing are an abuse of authority, a violation of House oversight practices, and a page out of the McCarthy-era bullying tactics that are a stain on our legislative process. The panel should be disbanded immediately.

It is unacceptable that we cannot move appropriation bills forward in a bipartisan manner because Republicans would rather play partisan politics with taxpayer dollars than deal with the pressing challenges facing this institution and this country.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before I recognize my friend from Illinois, I have the deepest respect for

the ranking member of the full committee, Mrs. LOWEY. I know that she represents what she believes very well and eloquently.

But I must point out for clarification, for the RECORD, really what the report language says. I think that is important. I think words are important. I listened very intently to what was shared a minute ago that this committee is directing the Library of Congress to use certain words. She even used certain terms that she said we are prescribing them to use, such as “illegal alien” or “illegal immigrant.” In fact, this is what the committee passed in subcommittee and full committee.

It says:

“To the extent practicable, the committee instructs the Library to maintain certain subject headings that reflect terminology used in title 8, United States Code.”

Now, I read it several times and I saw it in committee, but nowhere in there do I see any specific terms used. It just says can you be consistent with U.S. Code.

I will point out that we are Congress, and they are the Library of Congress. We write laws, and it is important that the Library of Congress reference and refer to the laws that we have written.

I will also note that the gentlewoman is also a Member of Congress and has the full ability—and since the subcommittee meeting when we had this first discussion, I have yet to see the bill she has introduced to change any terminology in the U.S. Code. I have not seen it. I don't know, Mr. Chairman, if you have seen it. I have not seen it, and I look forward to seeing it.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I thank the gentleman.

Will the gentleman point out to the House of Representatives what is referenced in the U.S. Code to which the report refers?

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Title 8 of the U.S. Code has a lot of terminology in there.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. What is the term that is referenced in that section?

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. There is not one single term that is used in that Code. In fact, there are multiple terms. I would ask, and maybe encourage, the gentlewoman to read that.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I have, and it refers specifically to the term “illegal alien.” That is how it is referenced in the United States Code.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. In addition to other terms.

Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I just want to make sure that the committee understands that the report language just directs the Library of Congress to be consistent with the laws of this land when they have subject headings. That is not too much to ask.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), my good friend.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I really would like to thank Chairman GRAVES for his leadership on this issue.

I think the debate this evening shows us what part of the problem is when we try and follow our Forefathers' constitutional appropriations process to spend money wisely that the taxpayers send to Washington, D.C., to spend it wisely on their behalf.

It is tertiary issues that bog down the debate, instead of talking about doing what is right for the upwards of 5 million families that tour our Capitol Grounds each and every year. It becomes a political debate, rather than a debate on how to effectively use taxpayer dollars to ensure that one of the most popular destinations for families, hardworking families, to spend their money to vacation right here in the Capitol, to make sure we spend that wisely so that they have better facilities. That is exactly what this bill does, Mr. Chairman.

I want to, again, thank all of those who served on this subcommittee from both sides of the aisle, because we have to get back to the vision that our Forefathers have put forth on how we should spend money in this House, and how we regain the power of the purse.

As I said, upwards of 5 million families from across the Nation come see their government at work each year. I am pleased this bill contains report language that will make it easier for families with infants and small children to visit the Capitol, House and Senate office buildings by implementing additional changing stations and other family-friendly improvements throughout this Capitol Hill complex.

Mr. Chairman, I say this as the father of twin boys. Trust me, changing stations when they were younger were very, very important. We should make it as easy as possible for families with young children to visit and explore Capitol Hill and our complexes. Minor improvements and changes along these lines can make a huge difference in improving the experience for visitors.

I look forward to working with the Architect of the Capitol in my capacity as a member of the Committee on House Administration to complete these important changes. I will continue to look for ways to work in a bipartisan manner to make our Capitol family-friendly.

Mr. Chairman, I urge passage of this bill.

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

I will point out that title 8 of the U.S. Code specifically references the term “illegal aliens.” The purpose of referencing it that way in this legislation is specifically so that the majority can require the Library of Congress to continue to use the term “illegal alien” in their subject heading. We are being a little too cute by half here, and we are simply not going to let the majority get away with it.

I will also point out that Congressman JOAQUIN CASTRO is the sponsor of legislation that would do exactly what the chairman just suggested. He has legislation that would change the term “illegal alien” in title 8 of the U.S. Code.

Instead of dealing with a political issue in the midst of an unrelated appropriations bill, we should allow the legislative process to work under regular order and have that bill move through the process.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to follow up on that just for a moment.

I am glad to hear there is legislation to address their concerns. I think that is the appropriate way. What better way to make that legislation more applicable than to identify here in this report language that whatever is referenced in title 8 could be used. I think that is the right way to go forward.

But to suggest that asking the Library of Congress to use terms that are consistent with the laws of this land that this body has voted on, that the Senate has voted on, and that the President of the United States has signed into law is, in some way, pejorative; words that have been used by the Supreme Court just in recent weeks are pejorative, inflammatory, and dehumanizing, I would suggest to the minority that even some of the most liberal justices have used the term “illegal alien” or “illegal immigrant” just in the last couple of weeks and they are not racist, they are not using negative terms, they are not dehumanizing any individual, they are using U.S. law terminology.

I can understand the disagreement with the terms, I can respect that, but that is the law. I have yet to see or hear what their proper terminology would be for somebody who does not abide by the laws of the land and what that would be.

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

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

I will point out that it is not a criminal act to be in the United States as an immigrant. The suggestion in the 21st century that the term “illegal alien” is an appropriate one is similar to suggesting that we continue to use the term “Negro.”

We evolve in this country, and it is understandable that someone who was not a member of a group of immigrants wouldn't understand that that term could feel pejorative. So we, as a responsible body, should evolve as society evolves.

To continue to insist that the Library of Congress by law use a pejorative term that they have been petitioned to change by the American Library Association so that researchers can search for the appropriate term

when they are doing research is truly unbelievable. To be so committed to racist and bigoted terms that really have no place in the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill is outrageous.

That is why this language should have been deleted. I think it is truly unfortunate that the majority did not have at least the courage to allow my amendment and Congressman CASTRO's amendment to be made in order so that we could have a proper debate on this subject on the floor of the House of Representatives.

□ 1900

I will point out and remind the chairman that my amendment that would have done just that only was defeated in the Appropriations Committee by one vote. So this is not a slam dunk when it comes to your side of the aisle either. It would have been nice to give your colleagues an opportunity to have had that discussion.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

If I heard the ranking member correctly, she said that somebody who is undocumented in this country, who is not from this country, is not here illegally. I thought I heard that, and I hope I heard that incorrectly.

I will point out that the Immigration and Nationality Act, section 237(a)(1)(b) reads, in fact—and this is law that was voted on by this body and that was signed into law by the President of the United States, who was elected by the people—that aliens who are present in the U.S. in violation of immigration code are breaking the law and are deportable. That is U.S. law. That is not the majority's opinion; that is not a party's opinion; that is not an individual's opinion. That is the law of this land. Now, you can disagree with those laws, and you can disagree with the terminology, but that is the law.

That is the law, in fact, to the point that, in *Arizona v. United States*, in 2012, Justice Sotomayor asked:

So how—where do they get the records that show that this person is an illegal alien that is not authorized to be here?

Was she being racist? pejorative? demeaning? dehumanizing? I don't think so. I don't agree with all of her decisions, but I don't believe that that was her intent when she broached that question there.

I will point out this provision—maybe I should read it again. I will read it again for the ranking member.

To the extent practicable, the committee instructs the Library to maintain certain subject headings that reflect terminology used in title VIII of the United States Code.

That is all it says. It is right here. There is nothing so demeaning about that. This provision, in fact, was created in consultation, Mr. Chair, with the Library of Congress. Imagine that.

In working with the Library of Congress, we were able to come up with that language. Existing subject headings, including the term “illegal alien,” have been used for years and have been enshrined in law for 100 years. This is nothing new. Supreme Court Justices, as I have pointed out, have used it time and time and time again.

Now, if the Library of Congress adopted the practice of responding to every instance in which there is a perceived offensive phrase, it would impact their ability to prioritize the quality of service they provide to patrons every day. We are, actually, helping the Library here. We are not telling them what words to use. We are just saying, hey, be consistent with U.S. law. That keeps it pretty simple, I believe.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before we passed the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act in the 1960s and when we had the Jim Crow laws, which were an unfortunate stain on our history, there were plenty of people who said that the laws that were in place were doing a favor to Negroes, which is the way they were referred to at the time. For the chairman to suggest that we are doing the Library of Congress a favor by requiring them to continue to use a term that they have been petitioned to stop using, “illegal alien,” is insensitive, inappropriate, outdated, and political.

This is the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill. We are supposed to be discussing how to fund the functions of the legislative branch, and we have just spent an extraordinary amount of time debating the immigration debate that has been raging in this country for far too long.

I guess I shouldn't be surprised that the majority believes that we should continue to label people as “illegal.” People aren't illegal. Acts that are committed are illegal, but people are not illegal, Mr. Chair. That is, simply, why the American Library Association, the umbrella policy organization for libraries across this country, has petitioned the Library of Congress to change the use of the term “illegal alien.”

What the majority is doing here, as I said, is setting Congress up as the word police. Where are we going to stop? There are thousands of subject headings that they change at the Library of Congress every year. I can't imagine how many pages this bill will be when we start referencing and spending time arguing over what they call each of those. It is inappropriate; it is unacceptable; it is a complete waste of time. It injects politics into a bill that usually and, most often, doesn't have it.

It is unfortunate that the funding of the Planned Parenthood select com-

mittee and that the funding of the Benghazi Select Committee have continued to politicize a bill that should, simply, be an effort for us to make sure that we can sustain the most significant beacon of democracy that the world has ever seen.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is remarkable that we are actually spending so much time on this; but we must point out to the constituency who is watching that we have had 7½ years of an executive who wants to ignore our laws. We have had 7½ years of overreach by the executive branch, of its totally ignoring the laws that have been passed by this body, and just poking us in the eye, saying, I don't care about the legislative branch. I don't care about that legislative body. I don't care about the laws of the land. In fact, I will ignore them, and I will instruct my agencies to do something different.

Yet, I hear it again from the minority that they want to ignore the words, the terms, the identifications, the definitions of the very laws of this land. What message does that send to the youth of our country? What message does that send to law-abiding citizens in our country, that there is a party in Washington, D.C., that, for whatever reason, wants to pick and choose which laws they want to uphold and defend, or which laws or words or terms or definitions in the laws that they will acknowledge or not acknowledge?

We are a Nation of laws. Whether we agree with the laws or we don't, whether we agree with the terminology or we don't, we have all been elected by 700,000-plus constituency districts in which we can change those laws if we choose. This is the opportunity to do it for the minority party if they like. In fact, throughout our laws, these terms are used. Whether they are agreeable terms or not by the minority, those are the words that are in our laws.

I think we can all agree that the term “illegal alien” does not mean the human being is illegal. This is not an effort to demean anyone. We don't even identify what terms the Library must use. We just say, Hey, please be consistent with U.S. Code. That is it. The simple fact is that immigrants, if they have entered this country illegally, are, in fact, illegal immigrants. According to U.S. Code, U.S. laws, they have committed a crime. It is not the job of this committee's to create an alternate reality whatsoever. The laws are the laws.

Thankfully, the Supreme Court sees it the same way. We have Justice Sotomayor as using the term “illegal alien” a half a dozen times and the published opinion written by Justice Kennedy, and he joined the Court's more liberal block as well, using it a number of times. It is very consistent.

I recall it was, maybe, a year or two that the ranking member, on a different occasion, disagreed with me on another term. It was "ObamaCare." We were having a debate about policies, Mr. Chair, and I used the term "ObamaCare." She found it offensive, pejorative maybe, very negative, demeaning, used in a negative light. I believe she tried to strike my words during that time. So, if anybody is trying to be word police in this body, maybe it is the ranking member, who has a history of it.

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

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman will state her parliamentary inquiry.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Is it not appropriate for the ranking member and the chairman, when we are debating, to go through the Chair when we are having that debate?

The CHAIR. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I would ask that you remind the chairman to do so, please.

The CHAIR. Members have been reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would point out that the gentleman from Georgia is absolutely correct. I did raise that concern, and I thought it was appropriate to raise the concern that the way the majority meant the term "ObamaCare," as applied at the time, was intended to be pejorative. Then President Obama embraced the term; so we evolved because President Obama decided that he liked that his name would be associated with making sure that 20 million people who now have health insurance but who didn't before would be associated with his name.

That is all that the American Library Association and the Library of Congress are asking with regard to the people who are labeled as "illegal aliens." The gentleman from Georgia, it would be understood, is not someone who is labeled that way, so, perhaps, it is understandable that he would not understand why that was offensive. The American Library Association and the Library of Congress have recognized that the evolution beyond using a term that has been determined to be pejorative is essential. That is called progress. That is called tolerance.

Unfortunately, the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill, through the reference to title VIII in the United States Code, requires, in this bill, the Library of Congress to continue to use the term "illegal alien." It is inappropriate, unfortunate, and it should be deleted. We should have had an opportunity to debate an amendment to have allowed that to happen.

The majority chooses to hide the fact. I mean, I wish they would have

just owned up to it. Mr. Chair, they should have just put it right up in the bill. I don't know why they didn't. If they think it is the right thing to do, they should have just put that term right in the bill and spelled out that they expect the Library of Congress to continue to use it. Hiding behind title VIII of the U.S. Code shows that they don't have, necessarily, the courage of their convictions to stand up for that term. Why? Because there are a whole lot of people in this country who think it is offensive, including me and the Members of my party.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am sorry this is taking so long tonight to reach the admission by the ranking member that this term does not exist in this bill. I mean, she just said it: Why didn't they just be more explicit? Why didn't he just use the term? In fact, they are hiding behind U.S. Code. That is what I just heard from the ranking member.

As Americans, we don't hide behind the U.S. Code. The U.S. Code is our defense; it is our shield. The laws of this land are what protect us from one from another; so to suggest that one is hiding behind it when, in fact, we are defended by it is really amazing to hear tonight.

I am pleased to hear, though, that the ranking member has acknowledged that nowhere in this legislation do we direct the Library of Congress to use any term other than what is found in and is consistent with the U.S. Code.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

What I suggested was that, because the majority realizes that the term "illegal alien" is not something that is appropriate to continue to use as a subject heading, if they had spelled it straight out in the bill rather than hiding what their true intention was behind the reference to the U.S. Code, they probably would have had to have answered a little bit more closely to the fact that they were making this effort.

Now we have been able to at least have this discussion, and I am intentionally using most of my time to be able to shine a spotlight on the fact that the majority wishes to continue to label people as "illegal," wishes to continue to politicize the legislative branch appropriations bill to inject the immigration debate into the funding of the legislative branch, and to set themselves up as the word police with regard to subject headings.

This is what we need our colleagues to wrap their minds around, Mr. Chair—requiring the Library to continue to use an offensive term in their subject headings so that researchers can't use the term that the American Library Association has deemed more

appropriate and not offensive. Instead, they insist on continuing to use an offensive term.

□ 1915

That is unacceptable. It is inappropriate. We are going to continue to insist, and I will not be able to support this legislation as a result of the insistence of the majority on labeling an entire group of people "illegal" and politicizing this bill when the Library of Congress should be allowed to let the process work that works for thousands of other changes to their subject headings.

I will also point out, Mr. Chairman, that we do embrace evolution of terminology here. Just in May, a few weeks ago, we finally deleted the last vestiges of the terms "Oriental" and "Negro" from the United States Code. So we do have a process by which we take legislation like that that has been introduced by Congressman JOAQUIN CASTRO, and we allow it to move through the process. That is the appropriate way that we deal with discussion about changes in terminology in the code. We don't do it in the legislative branch bill. And that is exactly what the majority is doing by insisting that the Library of Congress continue to use that offensive term "illegal alien."

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I recognize this has been an exciting and tantalizing debate this evening.

Whenever the gentlewoman from Florida is ready to close, I will be ready as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida has 7 minutes remaining.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

I think it is unfortunate that myself and my colleagues on our side of the aisle don't feel that we can lend our support to this legislation for a variety of reasons. First, there has been an overwhelming injection of politics into what should be an otherwise solid piece of legislation in which we have done a lot of good work to make sure that the functions of the legislative branch are able to make sure that we can exercise our roles and responsibilities as Members of the legislative branch.

Unfortunately, due to the funding of the select committee on Planned Parenthood, which continues the witch hunt into an organization that simply exists to provide millions of women access to quality health care, in which there has been absolutely no evidence whatsoever that there was any wrongdoing, the majority continues to insist on funding the witch hunt that is designed to prevent women from getting access to quality, affordable health care.

It also continues funding for the Select Committee on Benghazi, an investigation in which the majority has actually admitted that they found absolutely no wrongdoing. Yet they have not disbanded the committee, and they continue to provide funding for it in this bill.

Lastly, as we have been able to spend a few minutes debating here on the floor, this bill tragically sets the legislative branch up as the word police and Members of Congress as the watchful sentries over the uses of the terms and subject headings at the Library of Congress. I am glad that we are really carefully protecting the card catalog in the Library of Congress to make sure that we can continue to use offensive terms when researchers look them up in the Library of Congress, like “illegal alien.”

This bill makes sure that, instead of evolving, instead of moving forward, instead of letting professionals who work in libraries decide what terms should be used in their subject headings, Congress is going to establish ourselves as the word police, politicize something where we should not inject politics, and label people as “illegal.”

Again, I will reiterate that there should have been an opportunity for us to debate this issue separately. I am glad we have had an opportunity to discuss it here and to expose the majority for wanting to continue a bigoted, offensive term as the subject heading in the Library of Congress.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

We have heard a lot tonight about why the minority is opposed to this bill. They are opposed to this bill because of what is not in it. Do you notice that? It is because of what is not in it.

They have yet to talk about the great things, the good things, and what this bill really is about. In fact, they are going to oppose this bill, as they did last year, just because of things that don't exist, that are absent.

I will point out, and I want to remind the chairman and the committee, that this is really a good piece of legislation. It is very family friendly, which is one of our major focuses. We have thousands and thousands of visitors each year that come and visit this place, this Capitol Building, this historic beacon of hope for our country and for the world. Visitors come and visit our offices and tour the facilities, and we want it to be family friendly, safe and secure, and a welcoming environment. That is what this bill achieves.

It does that by providing something that is unique, something that I was very passionate about in my days in the State of Georgia, and that is doing zero-based budgeting, something very unique. It is not done in all the other appropriations bills, but it is done in this one, where every agency starts

from zero and justifies each expense forward. That is what our constituents expect.

It even does it by eliminating the Open World Center, zeroing out, winding down, and eliminating a program that was well-intended back in the 1980s when it was first founded. But it is time to wind it down, move on, and use those dollars for something else, changing priorities. That is what this committee was focused on.

It continues the Member pay freeze. As I stated earlier, when our constituents aren't getting a raise in this economy, the Obama economy, then I don't believe we should be getting a raise either. It eliminates that. It freezes that.

We do this by also cutting the House budget by 13.2 percent since Republicans took the majority. That is something we don't share enough of. The House has taken the necessary steps to lead by example in cutting our budgets by 13.2 percent since taking the majority in 2010. I can't say the same about the Senate. I can't say the same about the executive branch, nor the judicial. But we can say that about our side, because we are leading by example.

Then it has a strong focus on constituent services. We were able to provide additional resources for all Members, Republican and Democrat alike, from all corners of this country and from all the territories to make sure that they have the resources necessary to meet the needs of their constituents, because that is really one of our number one priorities back in our districts and from our offices here is to provide the services to our constituency.

We have heard a lot tonight about the Library of Congress. Look, the Library of Congress has a great history, a great heritage, and provides a tremendous service. It has a history of providing law services to this body and to the Senate over the years as well as constituencies that come and do research. It does a great job.

All we have done in this bill is say, as you do your subject headings, just make sure it is consistent with U.S. Code, be consistent with the laws of this land. That way, those who are searching topics are searching topics that are consistent with what is being debated in the Supreme Court, what is being debated in other courts throughout the country because they are using the laws of this land as they try various cases. So why not just use terminology that is consistent with the Code that this body and that the Senate and that a President has signed into law at some point.

Mr. Chair, I want to commend to this body and to the committee the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill. It is a good bill to be supported and to be proud of and to know that you are going to be able to take care of your constituents better. And we have got a great family-friendly, safe, and secure environment for them to come and visit.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. BYRNE). All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5325

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses of the House of Representatives, \$1,189,050,766, as follows:

HOUSE LEADERSHIP OFFICES

For salaries and expenses, as authorized by law, \$22,278,891, including: Office of the Speaker, \$6,645,417, including \$25,000 for official expenses of the Speaker; Office of the Majority Floor Leader, \$2,180,048, including \$10,000 for official expenses of the Majority Leader; Office of the Minority Floor Leader, \$7,114,471, including \$10,000 for official expenses of the Minority Leader; Office of the Majority Whip, including the Chief Deputy Majority Whip, \$1,886,632, including \$5,000 for official expenses of the Majority Whip; Office of the Minority Whip, including the Chief Deputy Minority Whip, \$1,459,639, including \$5,000 for official expenses of the Minority Whip; Republican Conference, \$1,505,426; Democratic Caucus, \$1,487,258: *Provided*, That such amount for salaries and expenses shall remain available from January 3, 2017 until January 2, 2018.

MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES

INCLUDING MEMBERS' CLERK HIRE, OFFICIAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS, AND OFFICIAL MAIL

For Members' representational allowances, including Members' clerk hire, official expenses, and official mail, \$562,632,498.

COMMITTEE EMPLOYEES

STANDING COMMITTEES, SPECIAL AND SELECT

For salaries and expenses of standing committees, special and select, authorized by House resolutions, \$127,053,373: *Provided*, That such amount shall remain available for such salaries and expenses until December 31, 2018, except that \$3,150,200 of such amount shall remain available until expended for committee room upgrading.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

For salaries and expenses of the Committee on Appropriations, \$23,271,004, including studies and examinations of executive agencies and temporary personal services for such committee, to be expended in accordance with section 202(b) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and to be available for reimbursement to agencies for services performed: *Provided*, That such amount shall remain available for such salaries and expenses until December 31, 2018.

SALARIES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

For compensation and expenses of officers and employees, as authorized by law, \$181,487,000, including: for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Clerk, including the positions of the Chaplain and the Historian, and including not more than \$25,000 for official representation and reception expenses, of which not more than \$20,000 is for the Family Room and not more than \$2,000 is for the Office of the Chaplain, \$26,268,000; for

salaries and expenses of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, including the position of Superintendent of Garages and the Office of Emergency Management, and including not more than \$3,000 for official representation and reception expenses, \$15,505,000, of which \$5,618,902 shall remain available until expended; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer including not more than \$3,000 for official representation and reception expenses, \$117,165,000, of which \$2,120,000 shall remain available until expended; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Inspector General, \$4,963,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the General Counsel, \$1,444,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Parliamentarian, including the Parliamentarian, \$2,000 for preparing the Digest of Rules, and not more than \$1,000 for official representation and reception expenses, \$1,999,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House, \$3,167,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House, \$8,979,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, \$814,000; and for other authorized employees, \$1,183,000.

ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

For allowances and expenses as authorized by House resolution or law, \$272,328,000, including: supplies, materials, administrative costs and Federal tort claims, \$3,625,000; official mail for committees, leadership offices, and administrative offices of the House, \$190,000; Government contributions for health, retirement, Social Security, and other applicable employee benefits, \$245,334,000, to remain available until March 31, 2018; Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery, \$16,217,000, of which \$5,000,000 shall remain available until expended; transition activities for new Members and staff \$2,084,000, to remain available until expended; Wounded Warrior Program \$2,500,000, to remain available until expended; Office of Congressional Ethics, \$1,658,000; and miscellaneous items including purchase, exchange, maintenance, repair and operation of House motor vehicles, interparliamentary receptions, and gratuities to heirs of deceased employees of the House, \$720,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

REQUIRING AMOUNTS REMAINING IN MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES TO BE USED FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION OR TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEBT

SEC. 101. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts appropriated under this Act for "HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—SALARIES AND EXPENSES—MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES" shall be available only for fiscal year 2017. Any amount remaining after all payments are made under such allowances for fiscal year 2017 shall be deposited in the Treasury and used for deficit reduction (or, if there is no Federal budget deficit after all such payments have been made, for reducing the Federal debt, in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury considers appropriate).

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives shall have authority to prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

(c) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term "Member of the House of Representatives" means a Representative in, or a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.

DELIVERY OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SEC. 102. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to deliver a printed copy of a bill, joint resolution, or resolution to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or

Resident Commissioner to the Congress) unless the Member requests a copy.

DELIVERY OF CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

SEC. 103. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to deliver a printed copy of any version of the Congressional Record to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress).

LIMITATION ON AMOUNT AVAILABLE TO LEASE VEHICLES

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives to make any payments from any Members' Representational Allowance for the leasing of a vehicle, excluding mobile district offices, in an aggregate amount that exceeds \$1,000 for the vehicle in any month.

LIMITATION ON PRINTED COPIES OF U.S. CODE TO HOUSE

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide an aggregate number of more than 50 printed copies of any edition of the United States Code to all offices of the House of Representatives.

DELIVERY OF REPORTS OF DISBURSEMENTS

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to deliver a printed copy of the report of disbursements for the operations of the House of Representatives under section 106 of the House of Representatives Administrative Reform Technical Corrections Act (2 U.S.C. 5535) to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress).

DELIVERY OF DAILY CALENDAR

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to deliver to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) a printed copy of the Daily Calendar of the House of Representatives which is prepared by the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

DELIVERY OF CONGRESSIONAL PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to deliver a printed copy of the Congressional Pictorial Directory to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress).

ADJUSTMENTS TO COMPENSATION

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no adjustment shall be made under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501) (relating to cost of living adjustments for Members of Congress) during fiscal year 2017.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL TO ACCOMPANY MEMBERS OF HOUSE LEADERSHIP

SEC. 110. (a) TRAVEL AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Capitol Police may travel outside of the United States for official duty if—

(A) that travel is with, or in preparation for, travel of a Member of the House of Representatives who holds a position in a House Leadership Office, including travel of the Member as part of a congressional delegation; and

(B) the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives gives prior approval to the travel of the member of the Capitol Police.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term "House Leadership office" means an office of the House of Representatives for which the appropriation for salaries and expenses of the office for the year involved is provided under the heading "House Leadership Offices" in the act making appro-

priations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year involved;

(B) the term "Member of the House of Representatives" includes a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress; and

(C) the term "United States" means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the territories and possessions of the United States.

(b) REIMBURSEMENT FROM SERGEANT AT ARMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives, the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives shall reimburse the Capitol Police for the overtime pay, travel, and related expenses of any member of the Capitol Police who travels under the authority of this section.

(2) USE OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—Any amounts received by the Capitol Police for reimbursements under paragraph (1) shall be credited to the accounts established for the general expenses or salaries of the Capitol Police, and shall be available to carry out the purposes of such accounts during the fiscal year in which the amounts are received and the following fiscal year.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2017 and each succeeding fiscal year.

JOINT ITEMS

For Joint Committees, as follows:

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

For salaries and expenses of the Joint Economic Committee, \$4,203,000, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

For salaries and expenses of the Joint Committee on Taxation, \$10,095,000, to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

For other joint items, as follows:

OFFICE OF THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

For medical supplies, equipment, and contingent expenses of the emergency rooms, and for the Attending Physician and his assistants, including:

(1) an allowance of \$2,175 per month to the Attending Physician;

(2) an allowance of \$1,300 per month to the Senior Medical Officer;

(3) an allowance of \$725 per month each to three medical officers while on duty in the Office of the Attending Physician;

(4) an allowance of \$725 per month to 2 assistants and \$580 per month each not to exceed 11 assistants on the basis heretofore provided for such assistants; and

(5) \$2,780,000 for reimbursement to the Department of the Navy for expenses incurred for staff and equipment assigned to the Office of the Attending Physician, which shall be advanced and credited to the applicable appropriation or appropriations from which such salaries, allowances, and other expenses are payable and shall be available for all the purposes thereof, \$3,838,000, to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, \$1,429,000, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

CAPITOL POLICE

SALARIES

For salaries of employees of the Capitol Police, including overtime, hazardous duty pay, and Government contributions for health, retirement, social security, professional liability insurance, and other applicable employee benefits, \$325,300,000 of which

overtime shall not exceed \$35,305,000 unless the Committee on Appropriations of the House and Senate are notified, to be disbursed by the Chief of the Capitol Police or his designee.

GENERAL EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Capitol Police, including motor vehicles, communications and other equipment, security equipment and installation, uniforms, weapons, supplies, materials, training, medical services, forensic services, stenographic services, personal and professional services, the employee assistance program, the awards program, postage, communication services, travel advances, relocation of instructor and liaison personnel for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and not more than \$5,000 to be expended on the certification of the Chief of the Capitol Police in connection with official representation and reception expenses, \$66,000,000, to be disbursed by the Chief of the Capitol Police or his designee: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the cost of basic training for the Capitol Police at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center for fiscal year 2017 shall be paid by the Secretary of Homeland Security from funds available to the Department of Homeland Security.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

AUTHORITY TO DISPOSE OF FORFEITED AND ABANDONED PROPERTY AND TO ACCEPT SURPLUS OR OBSOLETE PROPERTY OFFERED BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

SEC. 1001. (a) Section 1003(a) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2003 (2 U.S.C. 1906(a)) is amended by striking “surplus or obsolete property of the Capitol Police” and inserting the following: “surplus or obsolete property of the Capitol Police, and property which is in the possession of the Capitol Police because it has been disposed, forfeited, voluntarily abandoned, or unclaimed.”.

(b) Upon notifying the Committees of Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate, the United States Capitol Police may accept surplus or obsolete property offered by another Federal department, agency, or office.

(c) This section and the amendment made by this section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2017 and each succeeding fiscal year.

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Compliance, as authorized by section 305 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1385), \$3,959,000, of which \$450,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That not more than \$500 may be expended on the certification of the Executive Director of the Office of Compliance in connection with official representation and reception expenses.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses necessary for operation of the Congressional Budget Office, including not more than \$6,000 to be expended on the certification of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office in connection with official representation and reception expenses, \$46,500,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

ESTABLISHMENT OF SENIOR LEVEL POSITIONS

SEC. 1101. (a) Notwithstanding the fourth sentence of section 201(b) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 601(b)), the Director of the Congressional Budget Office may establish

and fix the compensation of senior level positions in the Congressional Budget Office to meet critical scientific, technical, professional, or executive needs of the Office.

(b) **LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION.**—The annual rate of pay for any position established under this section may not exceed the annual rate of pay for level II of the Executive Schedule.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2017 and each succeeding fiscal year.

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS

For salaries for the Architect of the Capitol, and other personal services, at rates of pay provided by law; for all necessary expenses for surveys and studies, construction, operation, and general and administrative support in connection with facilities and activities under the care of the Architect of the Capitol including the Botanic Garden; electrical substations of the Capitol, Senate and House office buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Architect of the Capitol; including furnishings and office equipment; including not more than \$5,000 for official reception and representation expenses, to be expended as the Architect of the Capitol may approve; for purchase or exchange, maintenance, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle, \$88,542,234, of which \$5,268,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021.

CAPITOL BUILDING

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol, \$33,005,499, of which \$9,005,499 shall remain available until September 30, 2021.

CAPITOL GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for care and improvement of grounds surrounding the Capitol, the Senate and House office buildings, and the Capitol Power Plant, \$12,826,000, of which \$2,946,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021.

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the House office buildings, \$187,481,000, of which \$61,404,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021, and of which \$62,000,000 shall remain available until expended for the restoration and renovation of the Cannon House Office Building.

In addition, for a payment to the House Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund, \$17,000,000, to remain available until expended.

CAPITOL POWER PLANT

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol Power Plant; lighting, heating, power (including the purchase of electrical energy) and water and sewer services for the Capitol, Senate and House office buildings, Library of Congress buildings, and the grounds about the same, Botanic Garden, Senate garage, and air conditioning refrigeration not supplied from plants in any of such buildings; heating the Government Publishing Office and Washington City Post Office, and heating and chilled water for air conditioning for the Supreme Court Building, the Union Station complex, the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building and the Folger Shakespeare Library, expenses for which shall be advanced or reimbursed upon request of the Architect of the Capitol and amounts so received shall be deposited into the Treasury to the credit of this appropriation, \$104,480,000, of which \$27,339,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That not more than \$9,000,000 of the funds credited or to be reimbursed to this ap-

propriation as herein provided shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2017.

LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for the mechanical and structural maintenance, care and operation of the Library buildings and grounds, \$47,080,000, of which \$22,137,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021.

CAPITOL POLICE BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND SECURITY

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of buildings, grounds and security enhancements of the United States Capitol Police, wherever located, the Alternate Computing Facility, and Architect of the Capitol security operations, \$26,697,000, of which \$9,164,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021.

BOTANIC GARDEN

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Botanic Garden and the nurseries, buildings, grounds, and collections; and purchase and exchange, maintenance, repair, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle; all under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library, \$14,067,000; of which \$4,054,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, the Architect may obligate and expend such sums as may be necessary for the maintenance, care and operation of the National Garden established under section 307E of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1989 (2 U.S.C. 2146), upon vouchers approved by the Architect of the Capitol or a duly authorized designee.

CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

For all necessary expenses for the operation of the Capitol Visitor Center, \$20,557,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

NO BONUSES FOR CONTRACTORS BEHIND SCHEDULE OR OVER BUDGET

SEC. 1201. None of the funds made available in this Act for the Architect of the Capitol may be used to make incentive or award payments to contractors for work on contracts or programs for which the contractor is behind schedule or over budget, unless the Architect of the Capitol, or agency-employed designee, determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant within the overall scope of the project and/or program.

SCRIMS

SEC. 1202. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for scrims containing photographs of building facades during restoration or construction projects performed by the Architect of the Capitol.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

SEC. 1203. (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States a working capital fund (hereafter in this section referred to as the “Fund”) for the Architect of the Capitol.

(b) **AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.**—Amounts in the Fund shall be available to the Architect of the Capitol for such common agency services, activities, and equipment, such as construction, capital repairs, renovations, rehabilitation, maintenance of real property, and similar agency expenses, on a reimbursable basis within the Architect of the Capitol as the Architect determines to be appropriate, efficient, and economical.

(c) **CONTENTS.**—The capital of the Fund consists of—

(1) amounts appropriated to the Fund;

(2) the reasonable value of stocks of supplies, equipment, and other assets and inventories on order that the Architect transfers

to the fund, less related liabilities and unpaid obligations;

(3) receipts from the sale or exchange of property held in the Fund;

(4) all miscellaneous receipts compensating the Architect of the Capitol for loss or damage to any Government property under the Architect's jurisdiction or care, including but not limited to the United States Botanic Garden;

(5) reimbursements pursuant to subsection (d); and

(6) amounts transferred to the Fund pursuant to subsection (e).

(d) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Fund shall be reimbursed from available accounts of the Architect of the Capitol for supplies, materials, services, and related expenses, at rates which will approximate the full cost of operations, including—

(1) accrual of employee leave and benefits;

(2) depreciation of plant, property, and equipment; and

(3) overhead.

(e) TRANSFERS FROM OTHER ACCOUNTS.—The Architect is authorized to transfer amounts from other available Architect of the Capitol accounts to the Fund in this and each succeeding fiscal year as the Architect determines to be appropriate, efficient, and economical, subject to the approval of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, or both (as the case may be), in accordance with section 306 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1997 (2 U.S.C. 1862).

(f) CONTINUING AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts in the Fund are available without regard to fiscal year limitation.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2017 and each succeeding fiscal year.

AUTHORITY FOR A HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS SHUTTLE

SEC. 1204. (a) The proviso in the item relating to “Capitol Grounds” in title VI of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1977 (90 Stat. 1453; 2 U.S.C. 2163) is amended by striking “appropriated under this heading” and inserting “appropriated for any available account of the Architect of the Capitol”.

(b) The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2017 and each succeeding fiscal year.

USE OF EXPIRED FUNDS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

SEC. 1205. (a) Available balances of expired Architect of the Capitol appropriations shall be available to the Architect of the Capitol for reimbursing the Secretary of Labor for any amounts paid with respect to unemployment compensation payments for former employees of the Architect of the Capitol, not withstanding any other provision of law, without regard to the fiscal year for which the obligation to make such payments is incurred.

(b) This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2017 and each succeeding fiscal year.

FLAG OFFICE REVOLVING FUND

SEC. 1206. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a revolving fund to be known as the “Flag Office Revolving Fund” (in this section referred to as the “Fund”) for services provided by the Flag Office of the Architect of the Capitol (in this section referred to as the “Flag Office”).

(b) DEPOSIT OF FEES.—The Architect of the Capitol shall deposit any fees charged for services described in subsection (a) into the Fund.

(c) CONTENTS OF FUND.—The Fund shall consist of the following amounts:

(1) Amounts deposited by the Architect of the Capitol under subsection (b).

(2) Any other amounts received by the Architect of the Capitol which are attributable to services provided by the Flag Office.

(3) Such other amounts as may be appropriated under law.

(d) USE OF AMOUNTS IN FUND.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available for disbursement by the Architect of the Capitol, without fiscal year limitation, for expenses in connection with the services provided by the Flag Office, including—

(1) supplies, inventories, equipment, and other expenses; and

(2) the reimbursement of any applicable appropriations account for amounts used from such appropriations account to pay the salaries of employees of the Flag Office.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses of the Library of Congress not otherwise provided for, including development and maintenance of the Library's catalogs; custody and custodial care of the Library buildings; special clothing; cleaning, laundering and repair of uniforms; preservation of motion pictures in the custody of the Library; operation and maintenance of the American Folklife Center in the Library; preparation and distribution of catalog records and other publications of the Library; hire or purchase of one passenger motor vehicle; and expenses of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board not properly chargeable to the income of any trust fund held by the Board, \$449,971,000, of which not more than \$6,000,000 shall be derived from collections credited to this appropriation during fiscal year 2017, and shall remain available until expended, under the Act of June 28, 1902 (chapter 1301; 32 Stat. 480; 2 U.S.C. 150) and not more than \$350,000 shall be derived from collections during fiscal year 2017 and shall remain available until expended for the development and maintenance of an international legal information database and activities related thereto: *Provided*, That the Library of Congress may not obligate or expend any funds derived from collections under the Act of June 28, 1902, in excess of the amount authorized for obligation or expenditure in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That the total amount available for obligation shall be reduced by the amount by which collections are less than \$6,350,000: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, not more than \$12,000 may be expended, on the certification of the Librarian of Congress, in connection with official representation and reception expenses for the Overseas Field Offices: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, \$8,444,000 shall remain available until expended for the digital collections and educational curricula program: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, \$1,300,000 shall remain available until expended for upgrade of the Legislative Branch Financial Management System: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, \$4,039,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019 to complete the first of three phases of the shelving replacement in the Law Library's collection storage areas: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, \$24,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019 to migrate the Library's Primary Computing Facility (PCF) in the James Madison Building to an alternate PCF.

COPYRIGHT OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses of the Copyright Office, \$68,827,000, of which not more than \$31,269,000, to remain available until ex-

ended, shall be derived from collections credited to this appropriation during fiscal year 2017 under section 708(d) of title 17, United States Code: *Provided*, That the Copyright Office may not obligate or expend any funds derived from collections under such section, in excess of the amount authorized for obligation or expenditure in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That not more than \$5,929,000 shall be derived from collections during fiscal year 2017 under sections 111(d)(2), 119(b)(3), 803(e), 1005, and 1316 of such title: *Provided further*, That the total amount available for obligation shall be reduced by the amount by which collections are less than \$37,198,000: *Provided further*, That \$4,531,000 shall be derived from prior year unobligated balances: *Provided further*, That not more than \$100,000 of the amount appropriated is available for the maintenance of an “International Copyright Institute” in the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress for the purpose of training nationals of developing countries in intellectual property laws and policies: *Provided further*, That not more than \$6,500 may be expended, on the certification of the Librarian of Congress, in connection with official representation and reception expenses for activities of the International Copyright Institute and for copyright delegations, visitors, and seminars: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any provision of chapter 8 of title 17, United States Code, any amounts made available under this heading which are attributable to royalty fees and payments received by the Copyright Office pursuant to sections 111, 119, and chapter 10 of such title may be used for the costs incurred in the administration of the Copyright Royalty Judges program, with the exception of the costs of salaries and benefits for the Copyright Royalty Judges and staff under section 802(e).

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 203 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 166) and to revise and extend the Annotated Constitution of the United States of America, \$107,945,000: *Provided*, That no part of such amount may be used to pay any salary or expense in connection with any publication, or preparation of material therefor (except the Digest of Public General Bills), to be issued by the Library of Congress unless such publication has obtained prior approval of either the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

BOOKS FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses to carry out the Act of March 3, 1931 (chapter 400; 46 Stat. 1487; 2 U.S.C. 135a), \$50,248,000: *Provided*, That of the total amount appropriated, \$650,000 shall be available to contract to provide newspapers to blind and physically handicapped residents at no cost to the individual.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

REIMBURSABLE AND REVOLVING FUND ACTIVITIES

SEC. 1301. (a) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2017, the obligatory authority of the Library of Congress for the activities described in subsection (b) may not exceed \$188,188,000.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities referred to in subsection (a) are reimbursable and revolving fund activities that are funded from sources other than appropriations to the Library in appropriations Acts for the legislative branch.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NATIONAL COLLECTION STEWARDSHIP FUND

SEC. 1302. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States, as an account for the Librarian of Congress, the “Library of Congress National Collection Stewardship Fund” (hereafter in this section referred to as the “Fund”).

(b) CONTENTS OF FUND.—The Fund shall consist of the following amounts:

(1) Such amounts as may be transferred by the Librarian from available amounts appropriated for any fiscal year for the Library of Congress under the heading “Salaries and Expenses”.

(2) Such amounts as may be appropriated to the Fund under law.

(c) USE OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts in the Fund may be used by the Librarian as follows:

(1) The Librarian may use amounts directly for the purpose of preparing collection materials of the Library of Congress for long-term storage.

(2) The Librarian may transfer amounts to the Architect of the Capitol for the purpose of designing, constructing, altering, upgrading, and equipping collections preservation and storage facilities for the Library of Congress, or for the purpose of acquiring real property by lease for the preservation and storage of Library of Congress collections in accordance with section 1102 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2009 (2 U.S.C. 1823a).

(d) CONTINUING AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any amounts in the Fund shall remain available until expended.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Librarian shall submit a joint report on the Fund to the Joint Committee on the Library and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate.

(f) INITIAL 5-YEAR PLAN.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Librarian shall submit to the Joint Committee on the Library and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate a report providing a plan for expenditures from the Fund for the first 5 fiscal years of the Fund’s operation.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2017 and each succeeding fiscal year.

FILM PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

SEC. 1303. (a) NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION BOARD.—

(1) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 112 of the National Film Preservation Act of 1996 (2 U.S.C. 179v) is amended by striking “through fiscal year 2016” and inserting “through fiscal year 2026”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the National Film Preservation Act of 1996.

(b) NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION FOUNDATION.—Section 151711(a)(1)(C) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking “through 2016” and inserting “through 2026”.

SOUND RECORDING PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

SEC. 1304. (a) NATIONAL RECORDING PRESERVATION BOARD.—Section 133 of the National Recording Preservation Act of 2000 (2 U.S.C. 1743) is amended by striking “through fiscal year 2016” and inserting “through fiscal year 2026”.

(b) NATIONAL RECORDING PRESERVATION FOUNDATION.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 152411(a) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking “through fiscal year 2016” and inserting “through fiscal year 2026”.

(2) NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—Section 152403(b)(2)(A) of such title is amended by striking “nine directors” and inserting “12 directors”.

GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

CONGRESSIONAL PUBLISHING

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For authorized publishing of congressional information and the distribution of congressional information in any format; expenses necessary for preparing the semimonthly and session index to the Congressional Record, as authorized by law (section 902 of title 44, United States Code); publishing of Government publications authorized by law to be distributed to Members of Congress; and publishing, and distribution of Government publications authorized by law to be distributed without charge to the recipient, \$79,736,000: *Provided*, That this appropriation shall not be available for paper copies of the permanent edition of the Congressional Record for individual Representatives, Resident Commissioners or Delegates authorized under section 906 of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available for the payment of obligations incurred under the appropriations for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the 2-year limitation under section 718 of title 44, United States Code, none of the funds appropriated or made available under this Act or any other Act for printing and binding and related services provided to Congress under chapter 7 of title 44, United States Code, may be expended to print a document, report, or publication after the 27-month period beginning on the date that such document, report, or publication is authorized by Congress to be printed, unless Congress reauthorizes such printing in accordance with section 718 of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That any unobligated or unexpended balances in this account or accounts for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years may be transferred to the Government Publishing Office Business Operations Revolving Fund for carrying out the purposes of this heading, subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding sections 901, 902, and 906 of title 44, United States Code, this appropriation may be used to prepare indexes to the Congressional Record on only a monthly and session basis.

PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses of the public information programs of the Office of Superintendent of Documents necessary to provide for the cataloging and indexing of Government publications and their distribution to the public, Members of Congress, other Government agencies, and designated depository and international exchange libraries as authorized by law, \$29,500,000: *Provided*, That amounts of not more than \$2,000,000 from current year appropriations are authorized for producing and disseminating Congressional serial sets and other related publications for fiscal years 2015 and 2016 to depository and other designated libraries: *Provided further*, That any unobligated or unexpended balances in this account or accounts for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years may be transferred to the Government Publishing Office Business Operations Revolving Fund for carrying out the purposes of this heading, subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate.

GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE BUSINESS OPERATIONS REVOLVING FUND

For payment to the Government Publishing Office Business Operations Revolving Fund, \$7,832,000, to remain available until expended, for information technology development and facilities repair: *Provided*, That the Government Publishing Office is hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds available and in accordance with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 9104 of title 31, United States Code, as may be necessary in carrying out the programs and purposes set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for the Government Publishing Office Business Operations Revolving Fund: *Provided further*, That not more than \$7,500 may be expended on the certification of the Director of the Government Publishing Office in connection with official representation and reception expenses: *Provided further*, That the Business Operations Revolving Fund shall be available for the hire or purchase of not more than 12 passenger motor vehicles: *Provided further*, That expenditures in connection with travel expenses of the advisory councils to the Director of the Government Publishing Office shall be deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the Business Operations Revolving Fund shall be available for temporary or intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title: *Provided further*, That activities financed through the Business Operations Revolving Fund may provide information in any format: *Provided further*, That the Business Operations Revolving Fund and the funds provided under the heading “Public Information Programs of the Superintendent of Documents” may not be used for contracted security services at Government Publishing Office’s passport facility in the District of Columbia.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Government Accountability Office, including not more than \$12,500 to be expended on the certification of the Comptroller General of the United States in connection with official representation and reception expenses; temporary or intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of such title; hire of one passenger motor vehicle; advance payments in foreign countries in accordance with section 3324 of title 31, United States Code; benefits comparable to those payable under sections 901(5), (6), and (8) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4081(5), (6), and (8)); and under regulations prescribed by the Comptroller General of the United States, rental of living quarters in foreign countries, \$533,100,000: *Provided*, That, in addition, \$23,350,000 of payments received under sections 782, 791, 3521, and 9105 of title 31, United States Code, shall be available without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That this appropriation and appropriations for administrative expenses of any other department or agency which is a member of the National Intergovernmental Audit Forum or a Regional Intergovernmental Audit Forum shall be available to finance an appropriate share of either Forum’s costs as determined by the respective Forum, including necessary travel expenses of non-Federal

participants: *Provided further*, That payments hereunder to the Forum may be credited as reimbursements to any appropriation from which costs involved are initially financed.

OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER TRUST FUND

For a payment to the Open World Leadership Center Trust Fund for financing activities of the Open World Leadership Center under section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), \$1,000,000.

JOHN C. STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

For payment to the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Development Trust Fund established under section 116 of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Act (2 U.S.C. 1105), \$430,000.

TITLE II

GENERAL PROVISIONS

MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES

SEC. 201. No part of the funds appropriated in this Act shall be used for the maintenance or care of private vehicles, except for emergency assistance and cleaning as may be provided under regulations relating to parking facilities for the House of Representatives issued by the Committee on House Administration and for the Senate issued by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

FISCAL YEAR LIMITATION

SEC. 202. No part of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond fiscal year 2017 unless expressly so provided in this Act.

RATES OF COMPENSATION AND DESIGNATION

SEC. 203. Whenever in this Act any office or position not specifically established by the Legislative Pay Act of 1929 (46 Stat. 32 et seq.) is appropriated for or the rate of compensation or designation of any office or position appropriated for is different from that specifically established by such Act, the rate of compensation and the designation in this Act shall be the permanent law with respect thereto: *Provided*, That the provisions in this Act for the various items of official expenses of Members, officers, and committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, and clerk hire for Senators and Members of the House of Representatives shall be the permanent law with respect thereto.

CONSULTING SERVICES

SEC. 204. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract, under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued under existing law.

COSTS OF LBFMC

SEC. 205. Amounts available for administrative expenses of any legislative branch entity which participates in the Legislative Branch Financial Managers Council (LBFMC) established by charter on March 26, 1996, shall be available to finance an appropriate share of LBFMC costs as determined by the LBFMC, except that the total LBFMC costs to be shared among all participating legislative branch entities (in such allocations among the entities as the entities may determine) may not exceed \$2,000.

LIMITATION ON TRANSFERS

SEC. 206. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant

to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriation Act.

GUIDED TOURS OF THE CAPITOL

SEC. 207. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available to the Architect of the Capitol in this Act may be used to eliminate or restrict guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by employees and interns of offices of Members of Congress and other offices of the House of Representatives and Senate.

(b) At the direction of the Capitol Police Board, or at the direction of the Architect of the Capitol with the approval of the Capitol Police Board, guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by employees and interns described in subsection (a) may be suspended temporarily or otherwise subject to restriction for security or related reasons to the same extent as guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by the Architect of the Capitol.

COMPUTER NETWORK ACTIVITY

SEC. 208. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity to carry out criminal or Congressional investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 209. The amount by which the applicable allocation of new budget authority made by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, excluding Senate items, exceeds the amount of proposed new budget authority is \$0.

This Act may be cited as the "Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2017".

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in House Report 114-611. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered 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.

It is now order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 114-611.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. ELLISON

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 114-611.

Mr. ELLISON. 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 4, line 22, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 771, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, we can raise living standards for working families across this country if we use Federal dollars to create good jobs.

My amendment would reprogram funds to create an office of good jobs within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer. This office would help ensure that the House's procurement and contracting decisions encourage the creation of decently paid jobs, support collective bargaining rights, and encourage responsible employment practices. Our amendment does nothing to alter existing procurement, debarment, or contracting processes.

Right now, the U.S. Government is America's leading low-wage job creator, funding over 2 million poverty jobs through contracts, loans, and grants in corporate America. That is more than the total number of low-wage workers employed by Walmart and McDonald's combined.

Mr. Chairman, at this point, the Federal Government is leading the race to the bottom through its processes and its failure to capitalize on the procurement process. U.S. contract workers earn so little that nearly 40 percent use public assistance programs like food stamps and Section 8 to feed their families.

In other words, Mr. Chairman, because these jobs are paid so low that are funded by the Federal contracts, Uncle Sam has to subsidize these people, working people, because they are not getting paid enough by the Federal contractors that employ them.

To add insult to injury, many of these low-wage U.S. contract workers are driven deeper into poverty because their employers steal their wages and break other Federal labor laws. Treating the people who work with us here at the Capitol with dignity and respect is absolutely essential.

It is intended that the appropriation for the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer be used to establish an Office of Good Jobs aimed at ensuring that the Chief Administrative Officer's procurement decisions encourage the creation of decently paid jobs, collective bargaining rights, and responsible employment practices. The office's structure shall be substantially similar to the Centers for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships located within the Department of Education, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Labor, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of State, Small Business Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Corporation for National and Community Service, and U.S. Agency for International Development.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I know Mr. ELLISON is well-intended in

his amendment. In fact, his amendment was offered during the House debate on the Energy and Water Appropriations bill just recently, and it was rejected by an overwhelming majority on a bipartisan basis. In fact, the vote was 174-245. I know his intentions are well-meaning, and he speaks well of the topic, but this amendment is no more appropriate in this context than it was previously. It ignores the fact that Congress operates an entirely different procurement system than other Federal agencies.

The House has an established procurement process that is in place to ensure that all procurements are executed in a fair and a competitive manner. The function of this amendment would only add additional time to an already sound procurement process.

I oppose the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I support my colleague's amendment.

The aim of this amendment is to create an office of good jobs for the House within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer. This office would help ensure that the House makes contracting and employment decisions, encouraging the creation of decently paid jobs, implementation of fair labor practices, and responsible employment practices.

As the legislative branch, we ought to be setting an example for the Nation when it comes to contracting decisions. Members of Congress who are committed to creating good-paying jobs and supporting workers have a chance with this amendment to see those values reflected right where we work.

This office will help guide the legislative branch in making responsible contracting and employment decisions and do right by the countless men and women who help us perform the people's business each and every day.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment by voting "yes."

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota has 2 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I think this is a great example to show the openness of this process. In fact, this amendment was offered recently with the Energy and Water Appropriations bill and is applicable to be offered even here today. While I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment, I think it is just a good example of bipartisanship and this open process, of an orderly structured process to get our job done here.

However, this amendment doesn't achieve what we would hope it would, and that is why I have to rise in opposition.

I mean, it is clear that vendors that do business with the House are already reviewed against the GSA's excluding parties list, which includes businesses that are then precluded from doing business with the Federal Government for and, among other things, violating employees' legal employment rights.

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As written, this amendment fails to do really much of anything. It has no legislative effect. It fails to define what the office should examine, where in the House of Representatives organizational structure the office would reside, and what recourse, if any, a Member would have if he or she disagreed with a finding of the office.

Again, with that, I have to oppose the gentleman's amendment.

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, it is long past time, given this economy that we have, for the Congress of the United States to prioritize good jobs. The fact is that, if we have an agency, an office of good jobs making sure that everyone who we do business with is making sure that workers are paid fairly, that they get every penny that they earn, and that we are making sure that we prioritize good employers over the bad ones, this is exactly what we should be doing. We live in a time of 40 years of wage stagnation, and the Federal Government is deeply implicated in this wage stagnation. The Federal Government, the U.S. Congress should do something about it.

Mr. Chairman, let me tell you about a friend of mine named Vee. Vee has been a catering worker here at the House of Representatives for 27 years. She is 67 years old. She says she has next to nothing for retirement. She jokes that she will be working until half an hour before her funeral. In Vee's own words: We aren't looking for a handout; we are looking for a hand up.

No one who works for decades should be left without a secure retirement. Retirement insecurity isn't the only trouble she and her colleagues face. Some of them don't get healthcare benefits from their employer. Of the 50 catering workers serving Members and visitors to the Hill, only about half have access to year-round health care.

We need to make it clear to current and future contractors that we want them to put taxpayers' dollars in their contracts to use, taking care of Americans who are working for them. This will help raise living standards for all workers.

Let me tell you this, Mr. Chairman, when we see the Federal Government and we see State governments make good jobs the issue, the private sector falls in line. We have seen the Gap, even Walmart, talking about raising issues. Why? Because President Obama signed an executive order to say that anyone who works for a Federal contractor has to get paid at least \$10.10

an hour. That kind of leadership is what makes the Federal Government not the leader in the race to the bottom but the leader in the race to the top.

Vote "yes" on my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for the gentleman's time tonight and taking time on this late evening to express his passion and zeal for workers all across this country. However, with that, because of his amendment and, as I mentioned, the impact that it, in effect, really wouldn't have, I would have to oppose the gentleman's amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. ELLISON. 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 Minnesota will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 114-611.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. 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 17, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$100,000) (increased by \$100,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 771, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, there is a bike share revolution that is spreading across America. Over 70 systems are now operating in 104 cities, including, next month, my hometown of Portland, Oregon. Atlanta's system opened today. This is an opportunity to provide the bicycle in a more convenient form, where people can rent by the half hour, by the hour, by the day.

We find that research shows that the bike share is safer than regular bicycles. There have been no fatalities recorded in more than 35 million trips around the country so far. It is cheaper. It is a healthier form of transit. Low-cost memberships are available for low-income populations, for example, in Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia and Chicago.

The Nation's Capital is a model for bike share. Launched in 2010, there are now over 350 stations around the D.C. area. Daily ridership is over 9,000. Bike share members report annual savings

of \$700 to \$800 a year due to riding the bike share.

My amendment suggests that it is time for the Architect of the Capitol to have the Capitol Grounds included in this process, requiring a feasibility study on the installation and operation of bike share stations on the Capitol Grounds.

Right now, the nearest station to House Office Buildings is at the bottom of Capitol Hill, between the busy Independence Avenue and freeway on-ramps. It is not convenient to our staff. It is not convenient to the millions of visitors that come to Capitol Hill every year. Thinking for a moment about the problems we have got now with the Metro maintenance, every person that takes a bike share is one more person who is not on the road ahead of you or crowded into overcrowded facilities.

I respectfully suggest that this amendment be adopted, that we have \$100,000 within the Architect of the Capitol's budget to undertake this feasibility study to improve the quality of life, the health, and mobility in and around this vital area of our Nation's Capital. It is unfortunate that this intense area of activity is underserved. This amendment would help remedy that.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I don't claim the time in opposition to speak against it. In fact, I am supportive of the gentleman's amendment, and I appreciate him bringing this forward. As a cyclist myself, I can tell you, I understand the importance of making sure, on a campus such as this or in a town such as this or an area such as this, that there is plenty of availability, and the bike share facilities and locations are certainly around here, but we understand that there are some absences or vacancies in spaces near to this campus.

Saying all that, I do respect the Sergeant at Arms and the Capitol Police and some of their concerns that they have expressed, and I would hope that, as the Architect moves forward with a study such as this, that they would take those considerations into effect as well as they put their study together.

I thank the gentleman for his amendment.

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Blumenauer amendment to request a feasibility study on the installation and operation

of Capital Bikeshare stations on the Capitol Grounds. I would like to thank Mr. BLUMENAUER for his bike-partisan leadership over the years and for his work on this issue specifically. His passion for cycling is known to and appreciated by so many of us.

Mr. Chairman, Capital Bikeshare opened in 2010 in the District of Columbia and in Arlington, Virginia, which I am proud to represent. Since then, the system has grown steadily to include more than 350 stations. It has changed the way many people in this region travel. The U.S. Capitol receives millions of visitors every year, and millions more visit our offices to talk about their issues and concerns. These people are friends, families, and constituents. There are also guests of the United States from all over the world. Capital Bikeshare has been successful precisely because many of these visitors want to see our city up close, from the seat of a bicycle.

Expanding this very successful program to the Capitol Grounds is a great way to give tourists, local commuters, and our staffs an excellent transportation alternative, not to mention the benefits the bicycle has on the environment, individual health, and traffic congestion.

This need is especially great right now as the D.C.'s Metrorail system undergoes extensive, prolonged maintenance. This puts a real strain on all the other modes of transportation in the city.

Capital Bikeshare is beloved by D.C. residents and visitors alike, and we should be setting a strong example by supporting the program and welcoming stations in the place where we work, right here on the Capitol Grounds.

Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. BLUMENAUER for his leadership and urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. WELCH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 114-611.

Mr. WELCH. 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 17, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$500,000)".

Page 17, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$250,000)".

Page 17, line 23, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$250,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 771, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be here presenting this amendment. My cosponsor of this amendment, JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER, is unable to be here, but it is relevant. She had a baby 2 weeks ago—this is not her first child—and she is a breastfeeding mother.

This amendment is about creating the potential for the House Office Buildings and this Capitol to come into compliance with the General Services Administration guidelines for having breastfeeding stations available for women who need them. There are 7,000 women who work here. There are thousands of women who visit on a regular basis, and we don't have the stations that the women who visit the Capitol, work in the Capitol, work in the House Office Buildings, or visit need to be here in order to take care of their infant children.

It is just amazing to me. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER is someone we all admire. She can't be here—she wishes she was—but she is a big advocate of this. What this amendment would do is not cost new money, but it would allow a shift in money, \$500,000, from the capital construction and operations account to the Capitol Building and House Office Building accounts, appropriating \$250,000 each.

The fact is, why wouldn't we want to be in compliance with the GSA requirements as to the access to the breastfeeding stations for mothers who work and visit here?

Mr. Chair, my hope is that there will be broad bipartisan support to do something that I think all of us know needs to be done.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Will the gentleman yield?

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

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman for his thoughtful amendment. We are prepared to accept it, support it.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the ranking member of the committee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I join the chairman in supporting the gentleman's amendment. This amendment would add approximately 30 lactation rooms to the Capitol complex. Working mothers rely on these rooms—and I can speak from experience—to ensure that they can continue to work while breastfeeding their children.

This amendment rightfully recognizes that Congress must lead by example to ensure that women can be both moms and leaders in their field. In fact, my own office right now is serving as a lactation room, and that is because one of my wonderful staff is a nursing mom.

While I am happy to do that, it is our responsibility to maintain an environment where all of our employees feel comfortable, including working mothers. Our staff deserves to feel welcome

and secure when they are ready to return to work. We should be doing everything we can to encourage working moms to return to the workplace, and it must start here on Capitol Hill.

As we all know, the offices in which we work are inadequate for moms to pump. Our staff is many to an office with open-air cubicles. Having lactation rooms is mandatory, essential, if we want to keep talented women in the workplace.

I want to thank the gentleman for offering this amendment. I urge its support and appreciate the chairman's support.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman GRAVES. I appreciate his support of this amendment. I also want to thank the ranking member for her support. I also thank my cosponsors, Congresswoman MATSUI and Congresswoman FRANKEL, but I especially want to thank and congratulate Congresswoman HERRERA BEUTLER.

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Congressman WELCH for his leadership on this common sense amendment.

Working mothers are driving our economy forward. Two out of every three women are the sole or equal breadwinner in their households. Many of these women are juggling the responsibilities of caring for their children and supporting their family.

Having workplaces that accommodate the needs of our hard working American mothers makes our economy stronger. Businesses across the country have made important improvements in their work place standards for women. And the Federal government has too. In fact, the General Services Administration now requires that federal buildings have lactation stations for breastfeeding mothers.

But here in the U.S. Capitol we are not living up to these standards—at the expense of the thousands of women who work in the Capitol and the millions of women who pass through these grounds every day. We need to make working mothers' ability to contribute to our economy easier, not harder.

This amendment simply brings the House of Representatives into compliance with existing laws already on the books and would not require any new funding. It is a common sense step forward for working mothers.

Our Capitol is a symbol of our democracy and should set the highest example for the American people. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment which makes our Capitol more welcoming to all.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

The amendment was agreed to.

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The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 114-611.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 114-611.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. 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:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ (a) Each amount made available by this Act is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

(b) The reduction in subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to—

(1) accounts under the heading "Capitol Police";

(2) "Architect of the Capitol—Capitol Police Buildings, Grounds and Security"; or

(3) the amount provided for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms under the heading "House of Representatives—Salaries, Officers and Employees".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 771, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by thanking the committee for the hard work that they have put into this bill and for the way the House has approved reducing our budget over the last several years. If every department of the Federal Government were to be as active as we were in reducing our spending, our budget would be in better shape.

This bill provides a net total of \$3.482 billion in fiscal year 2017 base discretionary budget authority. That is \$153 million below the President's budget request, \$73 million above the enacted 2016 level, and \$140 million above the level proposed by the Appropriations Committee for fiscal year 2016.

However, I think there is more work that needs to be done. And thus, as I do for most of our appropriations bills, I am here with my 1 percent across-the-board spending reduction amendment.

It would reduce discretionary budget authority by \$31 million and outlays by \$28 million. It exempts the Capitol Police, the Architect of the Capitol, Capitol Police Buildings, Grounds and Security, and the Sergeant at Arms.

I am certainly aware that there is opposition to doing the penny-on-a-dollar cut. I have heard many times that cuts like this are damaging and we shouldn't do them, but I think that cutting an extra penny on every dollar not only goes to putting us on a better track, it helps to preserve our Nation's sovereignty for future generations.

When we have \$19.2 trillion in debt, our constituents are saying: What are you going to do about this?

Well, here is an action that we can take: making a penny-on-a-dollar cut and saving ourselves some more money—\$31 million—that will help to send the right message that, again, we are going to cut a little bit more, just as the families in our districts are doing.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I strongly oppose this amendment, as it takes a meat-ax approach to cutting this bill by \$31 million with an across-the-board cut of 1 percent.

The amendment exempts the Capitol Police and its buildings, as well as the Sergeant at Arms. It does not exempt our staff, including the offerer's own staff because it would cut the Members' Representational Allowance. It would also cut the Congressional Research Service, the Government Accountability Office, the Congressional Budget Office, committees of Congress, and the Office of Compliance.

The Legislative Branch bill, Mr. Chairman, has been flat for 3 years. And this bill finally provides a modest overall increase of 2.1 percent, but because we have not kept up with inflation, each year we are buying less and less for our dollar. The Congressional Research Service, for example, is still below FY 2010 levels and reports it has lost 13 percent of its purchasing power.

We can't continue to do more with less. There is a reason the perception of Congress is damaged. We are damaging our ability to write and analyze legislation and have serious debates because we take the politically expedient route, like the across-the-board cuts, because they play well during town halls. But if we bothered to explain the brain drain within the halls of Congress and the need to boost funding for staff to do oversight, I have the belief that our constituents would understand that.

If Members want a strong legislative branch to ensure oversight of the executive, this amendment should be defeated.

The cut to the MRA is one of the most egregious that would result from this amendment. I happen to think my staff contributes to the well-being of my constituents and are worth every penny we can afford to pay them after years of cuts to the MRA. The MRA is \$97 million less than it was in fiscal year 2010. This amendment would cut \$5.6 million more.

Mr. Chairman, you get the government you pay for, and I fear that this amendment would do nothing more than hurt the service we are able to provide to our constituents.

I urge defeat of the amendment.

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I will have to say that people do like across-the-board cuts. Indeed, many governors, Republican and Democrat alike, use these. From coast-to-coast, they have used these. And our constituents like them.

Take a look at the December 2012 POLITICO-George Washington University Battleground Tracking Poll. It shows 75 percent approve of them. January 2013, The Hill, 6-in-10 approve. Look at what happened in Oklahoma in December: a 3 percent across-the-board cut. In March, they did a 4 percent across-the-board cut.

Why is it that our governors do these?

They work. Department heads like to be able to go in there and find a way to cut a little bit more in that budget and still meet the needs that the people have said they want to see their government meet.

We have \$19.3 trillion in debt. We are working to get the cost of government down, but we have to do a little bit more. This is a way to engage rank-and-file Federal employees and to say to them: It is time for us to get our fiscal house in order.

A penny on the dollar is what our constituents are doing. We should do likewise. It is what our States are doing, because they can't crank the printing press. They can't go borrow money. They can't have more of our debt that is owned by China and Japan and OPEC and the entities that own our debt. They have to have balanced budget amendments. When I was in the Tennessee State Senate, we didn't go home until we had the budget in balance.

So I would encourage support of this amendment. It is a penny out of a dollar. It is another \$31 million in savings.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, as I said, this bill has already taken hit after hit. We are far below the levels that we were at in 2010. We have employees who deserve to be assured that we have enough respect for their professionalism that we are going to adequately fund their ability to do their jobs, which is to represent our constituents.

This amendment takes, as I said, a meat-ax approach rather than what the chairman and I worked together to do, which is to develop the substantive portions of this bill related to the funding of the legislative branch in a precisionlike way.

It doesn't make sense. I have never heard of polling that actually asks generic questions of constituents on whether they like or dislike across-the-board cuts. I am not sure what the purpose of electing Members of Congress is if we are going to just make indiscriminate, across-the-board decisions rather than use our brains and build consensus around the decisions that we make.

That is the type of approach that this amendment would take, and it is inappropriate. We need to make sure that we are adequately funding the legislative branch functions so that we can represent our constituents effectively.

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, the American people think they have taken hit after hit. And they have taken it right in the wallet. They are sick and tired of this. They feel like this economy has taken a meat-ax approach to their well-being. What they want to see is leadership that will work to get our spending habits under control here in Washington.

This is a great opportunity to lead by example and to say: A penny on the dollar, we are going to do it for the children and for future generations.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, the American people are appreciative and understand that we have been through 75 straight months of private sector job growth, that we have added 20 million people who didn't have health insurance before and who are now able to go to the doctor when they are sick, that we have cut the deficit by nearly three-quarters, and that we have made progress. And we need to continue to build on that progress and help more Americans have an opportunity to reach the middle class.

All of those things were accomplished through funding the legislative branch. And we need to appropriately fund it, adequately fund it, so we can effectively represent our constituents.

I urge defeat of this ill-advised amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. 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 gentlewoman from Tennessee will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 114-611.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Could the Chair inform the committee of what the intentions are tonight, about how many amendments we would move forward and how many for tomorrow?

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair has just announced that amendment No. 7 is now in order.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I have an additional parliamentary inquiry.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair would be prepared to entertain a motion to rise.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. AMODEI) having assumed the chair, Mr. BYRNE, 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. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal

year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to be here on the floor of the House this evening with my Congressional Progressive Caucus and LGBT Equality Caucus as we join millions of Americans around the country in celebrating Pride Month.

Pride Month offers an opportunity to celebrate the incredible achievements of the LGBT community and the progress we have made toward a society that accepts LGBT Americans as equals. It is a chance to honor the trailblazers and leaders that have contributed so much to the lives of LGBT individuals worldwide. And it gives us the space to remind one another that we are all humans, deserving of dignity, acceptance, and equal treatment.

The LGBT community, along with allies like myself, have fought to see the end of discriminatory laws and policies. We have applauded as society itself opens its arms. And we have watched as more and more LGBT "firsts" make their mark in public service, Hollywood, and every corner of our world.

□ 2000

From the Stonewall riots that set the stage for the pride celebrations that we have today, to the end of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in our Armed Forces, to the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, to the recent confirmation of the very first gay man to serve as Secretary of the Army, we have made clear, forward progress.

But even as we celebrate the countless achievements of the past few years, we must also acknowledge the continuing uphill battle for LGBT equality. This year has seen a deeply painful wave of laws passed by State legislatures and aimed at legalizing blatant discrimination against the LGBT communities.

There have been recent upticks in transgender violence and, just last week, a disgraceful move by a few Members on the other side of the aisle

to prevent the passage of an amendment that sought to prevent discrimination. That reminded us that we still have quite a bit of work to do.

That is why my colleagues and I support legislation like the Student Non-Discrimination Act, or the Safe Schools Improvement Act, or the Equality Act. That is why I remain committed to making sure that we eliminate every form of discrimination in our society.

Who you are and who you love shouldn't affect which jobs you are eligible for, who serves you in a restaurant, how much you make at work, or anything else about your life.

In a Nation founded upon the principles of personal freedom and individual rights, the word "equality" carries great weight. It should mean equal treatment, respect, and access, regardless of race, gender, education, income, sexual orientation, with no exceptions. And as a LGBT ally, I am determined to make that vision a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to present these few words on behalf of a community that has suffered so many discrimination attempts, so much disharmony, so many harmful experiences. Yet, this is a community of healthy, helpful, brilliant and introductory individuals.

We must make sure that this society, our society, our House, this great America, stands firm for the equal opportunity of all people; that it should have nothing to do with who we love or what our gender identity is. It should be what do we have to offer to make our society a better and healthy one.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding the time. I would like to thank the leadership for allowing the time. And, Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank my staff and the many members of the LGBT Caucus for helping us to produce H. Res. 772. This is the original LGBTQ Pride Month resolution, and I am very proud that persons have signed onto this resolution, so I want to thank all of the cosponsors, original cosponsors of the resolution.

I am grateful that the President of the United States has recognized Pride Month. President Obama has taken quantum leaps forward in helping us to realize this notion that all persons are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, and among them, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This is what Pride Month is really all about, these inalienable rights.

I am proud to align myself and proud to call myself an ally of the LGBT community. I am an ally of this community for many reasons. I would like to just share a few.

I have suffered invidious discrimination. I know what it is like to be decided as one who should stand in a different line. I know what it is like to be required to drink from the Colored

water fountain. I know what it is like to be required to sit in a different area in a theater. I know what it is like to have to ride in a certain place on a bus.

I have felt the sting of invidious discrimination, and my history dictates that I stand against invidious discrimination in any form against whomever. My history requires that I be where I am when it comes to helping others who are being discriminated against.

So I am proud to have this resolution that we have presented, and I am proud to have presented it because there is still great work to be done. We still have 28 States that allow someone to be fired for being gay, lesbian, or bisexual. No one should be fired because of who you happen to be. Your performance should determine your position in a place of work.

Unfortunately, in our country, we still have people who will look at someone and conclude that that person should not work in a certain position.

Dr. King reminded us that it was the content of character that determines the worth of a people, not what they look like, not what you think they may have as a preference in life, the content of character.

People should be judged upon their merits. They should ascend on merits, and they should fail on demerits, not what they look like or what you think their preferences are.

Twenty-eight States still allow people to be fired based upon what someone thinks about their sexuality, or if they should happen to announce their sexuality. Thirty States still allow someone to be fired for being trans.

How people behave, as long as they are obeying the law, should not be a means by which you can fire them. People have every right to be themselves.

To all of those who are heterosexual, as am I, we should think about what it would be like for us to have to pretend to be something other than that we are. People ought not to have to pretend or hide their sexuality.

I was very proud to see "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" fall because people ought to be able to ask and to tell who they are and what their preferences are. This ought not be something that we ought to, somehow, impose upon people as a shame. People should be proud of what God has made them to be, and they ought to be able to share that with the world. All persons created equal, endowed by their Creator, with certain inalienable rights; that includes people who happen to be a part of the LGBTQ community.

We still have 28 States that don't include the protections for sexuality under housing discrimination laws; people just evicted because someone concludes something about their sexuality. You ought not be evicted because of discrimination related to your sexuality.

There was a time in this country when females could not vote, a time when they couldn't own land, a time

when they had to have a husband to acquire certain status in this country. But we have gone beyond that.

We should get beyond this notion that people should not have fair and equality with reference to housing in the greatest country in the world. And I still say it is the greatest country in the world. I understand we have these problems, but I believe that people ought to receive housing based upon behavior, not based upon what you think of them.

We still have, in this country, 30 States that lack housing protections for being trans. Again, what people think of you should not determine where you will be housed.

I am proud that President Obama, as I indicated earlier, has helped us move forward in this area and in many other areas, because it was on his watch that the Supreme Court of the United States required that all States recognize same-sex marriages, and that they issue licenses to same-sex couples. This was a Supreme Court, but it was a Supreme Court that this President had an impact on.

I am proud that, under this President, we have had the downing of DOMA, the notion that you can discriminate against same-sex couples with their benefits. This President has helped us move forward in areas that were taboo prior to his watch, and I believe that President Obama is going to be rewarded by history for his efforts to ensure that all persons are created equal. I am very proud that the Supreme Court has taken other steps to make sure that equality exists among people.

But finally, as it relates to President Obama, let me just say that his latest effort to make sure that the military lives up to the standards that we believe should allow every person to serve in the capacity that they were born into is a remarkable one.

I think his appointing Eric Fanning as the first Secretary of the Army, a person who is openly gay, was probably one of the most significant things that he has done because this is a means by which people relate to the country. People who serve in the military are held in high esteem. People who work with the military are held in high esteem. People who serve as Secretaries are held in high esteem, and I thank the President for this very bold and courageous move.

So we are very proud to have this resolution on the floor recognizing Pride Month, and we do so because, in my opinion, every month ought to be Pride Month. We ought not have a single month that we do this. But until we can overcome some of these greater adversities that are yet to be dealt with, I think we have to continue to celebrate Pride Month.

I am honored to do this tonight with my colleague, and I thank the gentlewoman for the time. I want to assure the gentlewoman that H. Res. 772, the

original LGBTQ Pride Month resolution, while it will not pass this Congress, I want to assure the gentlewoman that, in our lifetimes, this resolution will pass a Congress of the United States of America because the Congress of the United States of America is metamorphosing. It, too, is coming to realize that we have to recognize the words of the Declaration of Independence; that all persons doesn't mean all people of a certain gender; doesn't mean all persons of a certain hue; doesn't mean all persons who happen to be from a certain place. It literally means what it says; all persons are created equal, and that all people are endowed by the Creator with these inalienable rights, and that we must bring the LGBTQ community within the purview of all that others enjoy and take for granted as a matter of course.

I thank the gentlewoman for the time.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his eloquent and inspiring words and encouragement. And I, too, think that this is a metamorphosing body, and I just pray sooner than later.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for yielding. Thank you, Representative WATSON COLEMAN, for leading us in this Special Order that is so significant.

I stand with many in lending my voice on behalf of the LGBT community in the 20th Congressional District of New York, and across the map of New York for that matter, and across the Nation.

We mark Pride Month each year as an opportunity to celebrate the steps that have been taken in the fight for justice, the fight for equality and civil rights for our friends and neighbors in the LGBTQ community.

As we reflect on victories, I believe it is critical that we acknowledge the challenges before us; challenges like archaic bathroom laws that conjure up the ghosts of segregation and separate water fountains; challenges like that of Supreme Court Chief Justices who refuse to obey rulings from the Supreme Court when the highest court dictates that marriage equality is indeed the law of the land; challenges like initiatives that are borne out of fear, out of bigotry, and out of misunderstanding; and even in Washington, D.C., large routine appropriations bills that fail because one side of the aisle simply cannot support an amendment that ensures taxpayer dollars are not awarded to small businesses that, indeed, discriminate. These actions hurt each and every one of us.

□ 2015

When my LGBT friends are robbed of opportunity that hurts my community and local economies in New York's Capital Region, there needs to be a

voice expressed. When LGBT kids are bullied, that teaches those who witness the act that it is okay to diminish the humanity of those that may be different from us.

These challenges are, unfortunately, a natural reaction to the massive strides we have taken in a short couple of years on the way toward equality. That does not make it acceptable, and we must work together to stamp out discrimination of any kind wherever and however it may exist.

Martin Luther King, Jr., has famously said: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

That is where we are headed. We will get there sooner if we embrace the ideals of tolerance, of togetherness, and certainly of inclusion.

Another civil rights giant, our friend and our colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, spoke words that I will never forget. He said: "Make good trouble."

That is exactly what we must do during Pride Month and every month until our goals are achieved.

I thank the Congressional LGBT Caucus and its leadership for assembling us here today. Let's take this opportunity to recommit ourselves to the noble and simple goal that everyone—that is everyone—has a shot at the American Dream regardless of their creed, regardless of their color, and regardless of their sexual orientation and identity.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to share thoughts this evening, and I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York for his words and for taking the time to share what I think is a very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ), my colleague.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for reserving this hour of time for us to talk about something that is incredibly important, the LGBTQ Pride Month.

It is just remarkable to look back just in the time that I have been here in the Congress to see the equality that has come about in these years. Just 8 years ago, in my home State of California, there was a proposition to prohibit gay marriage, and it passed. When proposition 8 passed, it was really heartbreaking for not only California's LGBTQ community and its allies, but really for our families because, quite honestly, every family in some way or another is connected. We have family members who belong to the LGBT community.

But we didn't let this be a setback to us. Like other Americans, LGBTQ Californians believed that they deserved equality under the eyes of the law. So

in July of 2013, the Supreme Court finally struck down core components of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act law that was passed right before I got to the Congress. This important ruling made proposition 8 null and void, returning marriage equality back to my great State of California.

Last year, the Supreme Court guaranteed an individual's right to marry whomever they love regardless of sex. The Supreme Court recognized what we have known for a long time, that it is wrong to deprive citizens of the right to marry the loves of their lives. They recognize that to do so would be to treat same-sex couples like second class citizens. Equality, fairness, and love won in the highest court of this Nation.

In our military, LGBTQ servicemembers have also achieved remarkable progress towards equality and ending anti-LGBTQ discrimination. Just 5 years ago, an LGBTQ American could not proudly serve their country in the military. But since the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, our LGBTQ servicemembers are now able to serve openly in our military. What a great day.

While we celebrate this extraordinary progress, we also have to recognize that we still have a ways to go. There are many States in our country where you can be fired from your job simply because you are gay. Across the country and in Congress, we are still seeing discrimination, discrimination, discrimination. Under our current laws, LGBTQ Americans aren't guaranteed the vital protections against discrimination. That is why I am a proud sponsor of the Equality Act. It is time for Congress to pass this essential civil rights legislation.

So, once again, I want to thank my colleague from New Jersey for celebrating today and to understand that regardless of sexual orientation, all Americans deserve life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from California.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER). Congresswoman SPEIER is another colleague from the great State of California.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for giving me the opportunity to speak today about LGBT Pride Month.

Pride Month is coming at a crucial time this year. While we have made huge strides in the LGBT community over the last few years—from marriage equality to the introduction of the Equality Act—this year has been a tragic and frustrating reminder of the terrain ahead.

Congress has ground to a halt, from legislative appropriations to the National Defense Authorization Act, as too many conservatives remain obsessed with legalizing discrimination from the contracting system to our own bathrooms. They just can't help themselves.

We can't do our job right now, and soon we will be leaving for election season without finishing the appropriations process all because conservatives are obsessed with making discrimination legal. That's right. They want to make discrimination legal.

Who are they trying to serve?

The American people and corporate America are not standing for this bigoted behavior. Corporations around the country are canceling conventions in States that have passed legislation that prevents transgender bathrooms from being available.

At the entryway to my congressional office stands a California flag bearing the rainbow stripes of the LGBT movement. It is a mark of how far we have come that such a flag is now commonplace on Capitol Hill, but on this Pride Month, conservatives are debating how best to overturn anti-discrimination provisions and bar their own constituents from using the restroom. This is absolutely ridiculous, and, frankly, a tragic nadir in congressional action.

I am sick and tired of my colleagues saying they oppose discrimination, that they are fighting for LGBT Americans, and that they support equality when time and again they have voted just the opposite way.

How about instead of bickering about bathrooms, we look at passing true anti-discrimination laws?

Right now we don't have laws preventing housing, credit, workplace, or healthcare discrimination. We have lifted the ban on LGBT military service, but our transgender servicemembers continue to serve in the shadows, never knowing if this will be the day they are dismissed. Now is the time to ban so-called gay conversion therapy that harms so many of our children.

Californians, and especially my beloved San Franciscans, have always been at the forefront of this fight for equality. As San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk said when he became one of the first openly gay elected officials, gay children who weren't accepted by their parents and peers used to feel they had few options: "staying in the closet; suicide. And then one day that child might open a paper that says, 'Homosexual elected in San Francisco.'"

That is what Harvey did many decades ago. One option is to go to California, he said, and the other is to stay and fight.

That is the fighting spirit we need to keep alive today as we work to make sure our laws live up to the promise of the Declaration of Independence, that all of us, each and every one of us, is created equal and that we should be treated that way.

So I thank my colleague again for giving us the opportunity to have this

Special Order to talk about Pride Month and the importance of not just being proud that there is a Pride Month, but redoubling our efforts to make sure that these really insidious amendments are not slipped into bills to enforce discrimination. Because that is what they do. They legalize discrimination. We don't stand for that. That is not what this body is about, and that is not what this country is about.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for her wise and compassionate concern and sharing of information.

I want to remind us that there are so many vestiges of discrimination against the LGBT community, not the least of which is also denying them access to public accommodations. This isn't what this country stands for. This isn't who we are. We are better than that. So I am glad to have this opportunity to highlight some of our issues and concerns and the support that we have for the LGBT community.

For everyone, anyone, and all of us celebrating this month, I wish you a happy Pride Month.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude my Special Order hour, and I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PAYNE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and June 10 on account of business in district.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

UPDATED STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FY2016 AND THE 10-YEAR PERIOD FY2016, THROUGH FY2025

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2016.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: To facilitate application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I am transmitting an updated status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 2016, and for the 10-year period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. This status report is current through June 6, 2016. The term "current level" refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature.

Table 1 in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues to the overall limits, as adjusted, contained in the conference report on S. Con. Res. 11, as agreed to on May 5, 2015, for fiscal year 2016, and for the 10-year period of fiscal

years 2016 through 2025. This comparison is needed to implement section 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal year 2016 because appropriations for those years have not yet been completed.

Table 2 compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for legislative action completed by each authorizing committee with the limits contained in the conference report on S. Con. Res. 11, as agreed to on May 5, 2015, for fiscal year 2016 and for the 10-year period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. For fiscal year 2016 and the 10-year period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025, "legislative action" refers to legislation enacted after the adoption of the levels set forth in the conference agreement on S. Con. Res. 11. This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(b), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

Table 3 compares the current status of discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 2016 with the "section 302(b)" suballocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. The comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act because the point of order under that section equally applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) suballocation. The table also provides supplementary information on spending in excess of the base discretionary spending limits allowed under section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act.

Table 4 compares the levels of changes in mandatory programs (CHIMPs) contained in appropriations acts with the permissible limits on CHIMPs as specified in sections 3103 and 3104 of S. Con. Res. 11. The comparison is needed to enforce a point of order established in S. Con. Res. 11 against fiscal year 2016 appropriations measures containing CHIMPs that would breach the permissible limits for fiscal year 2016.

Table 5 displays the current level of advance appropriations for fiscal year 2017 of accounts identified for advance appropriations under section 3304 of S. Con. Res. 11. The table is needed to enforce a point of order against appropriations bills containing advance appropriations that are: (i) not identified in the statement of managers and (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the budget resolution.

In addition, letters from the Congressional Budget Office are attached that summarize and compare the budget impact of enacted legislation that occurred after adoption of the budget resolution against the budget resolution aggregates in force.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Herz or Jim Bates at (202) 226-7270.

Sincerely,

TOM PRICE, M.D.,
Chairman.

TABLE 1—REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2016, AND 2016–2025 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET, REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF JUNE 6, 2016

(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal Year 2016 ¹	Fiscal Years 2016–2025
Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	3,151,655	n.a.
Outlays	3,165,099	n.a.
Revenues	2,698,366	32,325,542
Current Level:		
Budget Authority	3,277,961	n.a.
Outlays	3,263,830	n.a.
Revenues	2,542,403	31,808,384
Current Level over (+) / under (–)		
Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	+126,306	n.a.
Outlays	+98,731	n.a.
Revenues	–155,963	–517,158

n.a. = Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2017 through 2025 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

¹ The FY2016 Concurrent Resolution on the Budget was agreed to in S. Con. Res. 11 and the accompanying report, H. Rept. 114–96. The current level for this report is measured relative to the on-budget levels filed in H. Rept. 114–96.

TABLE 2—DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION COMPARISON OF AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE ACTION WITH 302(a) ALLOCATION FOR BUDGET CHANGES, REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF JUNE 6, 2016

(Fiscal Years, in millions of dollars)

House Committee	2016		2016–2025	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Agriculture:				
302(a) Allocation	–1,645	–347	–298,629	–296,982
Legislative Action	+4	+4	+77	+77
Difference	+1,649	+351	+298,706	+297,059
Armed Services:				
302(a) Allocation	0	0	0	0
Legislative Action	–97	–81	–1,903	–1,885
Difference	–97	–81	–1,903	–1,885
Education and the Workforce:				
302(a) Allocation	–10,633	–5,017	–249,574	–229,658
Legislative Action	+269	+269	+13	–8,138
Difference	+10,902	+5,286	+249,561	+221,520
Energy and Commerce:				
302(a) Allocation	–54,654	–49,173	–1,385,904	–1,375,688
Legislative Action	+6,057	+5,316	–29,253	–29,976
Difference	+60,711	+54,489	+1,356,651	+1,345,712
Financial Services:				
302(b) Allocation	–7,334	–6,712	–62,254	–62,056
Legislative Action	0	0	–9	–9
Difference	+7,334	+6,712	+62,245	+62,047
Foreign Affairs:				
302(a) Allocation	0	0	0	0
Legislative Action	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security:				
302(a) Allocation	–180	–180	–19,470	–19,470
Legislative Action	0	0	–2,160	–2,160
Difference	+180	+180	+17,310	+17,310
House Administration:				
302(a) Allocation	–31	–2	–298	–53
Legislative Action	0	0	0	0
Difference	+31	+2	+298	+53
Judiciary:				
302(a) Allocation	–14,419	–868	–24,949	–23,055
Legislative Action	–2,143	+1,315	+4,841	+3,827
Difference	+12,276	+2,183	+29,790	+26,882
Natural Resources:				
302(a) Allocation	–285	–2	–32,403	–32,208
Legislative Action	+284	+259	–1,170	–1,170
Difference	+569	+261	+31,233	+31,038
Oversight and Government Reform:				
302(a) Allocation	–9,188	–9,026	–193,961	–193,896
Legislative Action	0	0	–214	–214
Difference	+9,188	+9,026	+193,747	+193,682
Science, Space and Technology:				
302(a) Allocation	0	0	0	0
Legislative Action	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Small Business:				
302(a) Allocation	0	0	0	0
Legislative Action	0	+1	0	+2
Difference	0	+1	0	+2
Transportation and Infrastructure:				
302(a) Allocation	+60,489	70,000	–109,928	+70,000
Legislative Action	+72,733	+70,000	+89,106	+70,029
Difference	+12,244	0	+199,034	+29
Veterans' Affairs:				
302(a) Allocation	–31	–31	–1,925	–1,925
Legislative Action	–2	+388	–1	+644
Difference	+29	+419	+1,924	+2,569
Ways and Means:				
302(a) Allocation	–59,546	–59,516	–1,603,168	–1,602,668
Legislative Action	–3,018	+512	+133,292	+139,619
Difference	+56,528	+60,028	+1,736,460	+1,742,287

TABLE 3—DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016—COMPARISON OF CURRENT STATUS WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(A) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(B) SUB ALLOCATIONS AS OF JUNE 6, 2016

(Figures in Millions)¹

	302(b) Allocations H. Rept. 114–198		302(b) for GWOT		Current Status General Purpose		Current Status GWOT		General Purpose less 302(b)		GWOT less 302(b)	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	20,650	22,064	0	0	21,880	22,257	0	0	+1,230	+193	0	0
Commerce, Justice, Science	51,374	62,026	0	0	55,722	63,797	0	0	+4,348	+1,771	0	0
Defense	490,226	515,775	88,421	45,029	514,136	527,495	58,638	27,354	+23,910	+11,720	–29,783	–17,675
Energy and Water Development	35,402	36,195	0	0	37,185	37,216	0	0	+1,783	+1,021	0	0

TABLE 3—DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016—COMPARISON OF CURRENT STATUS WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(A) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(B) SUB ALLOCATIONS AS OF JUNE 6, 2016—Continued

(Figures in Millions) ¹

	302(b) Allocations H. Rept. 114–198		302(b) for GWOT		Current Status General Purpose		Current Status GWOT		General Purpose less 302(b)		GWOT less 302(b)	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Financial Services and General Government	20,250	22,092	0	0	23,235	23,048	0	0	+2,985	+956	0	0
Homeland Security	39,333	49,169	0	0	47,668	45,410	160	128	+8,335	– 3,759	+160	+128
Interior, Environment	30,170	31,891	0	0	32,159	32,966	0	0	+1,989	+1,075	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	154,536	170,377	0	0	163,650	170,090	0	0	+9,114	– 287	0	0
Legislative Branch	4,300	4,243	0	0	4,363	4,289	0	0	+63	+46	0	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs	76,056	78,242	532	2	79,869	79,813	0	0	+3,813	+1,571	– 532	– 2
State, Foreign Operations	40,500	47,055	7,334	3,767	37,780	45,206	14,895	4,597	– 2,720	– 1,849	+7,561	+830
Transportation, Housing & Urban Development	55,269	118,792	0	0	57,601	120,469	0	0	+2,332	+1,677	0	0
Full Committee Allowance	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	na.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total	1,018,066	1,157,921	96,287	48,798	1,075,248	1,172,056	73,693	32,079	+57,182	+14,135	– 22,594	– 16,719
Comparison of Total Appropriations and 302(a) allocation									General Purpose		GWOT	
									BA	OT	BA	OT
302(a) Allocation									1,018,066	1,157,921	96,287	48,798
Total Appropriations									1,075,248	1,172,056	73,693	32,079
Total Appropriations vs. 302(a) Allocation									+57,182	+14,135	– 22,594	– 16,719
Memorandum					Amounts Assumed in 302(b)		Emergency Requirements		Disaster Funding		Program Integrity	
Spending in Excess of Base Budget Control Act Caps for Sec. 251(b) Designated Categories					BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA					0	0	– 2	0	130	50	0	0
Commerce, Justice, Science					0	0	0	75	0	0	0	0
Defense					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Energy and Water Development					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Services and General Government					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security					0	0	0	0	6,713	336	0	0
Interior, Environment					0	0	700	700	0	0	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education					1,484	1,277	0	0	0	0	1,523	1,311
Legislative Branch					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State, Foreign Operations					0	0	0	236	0	0	0	0
Transportation, Housing & Urban Development					0	0	0	0	300	2	0	0
Totals					1,484	1,277	698	1,011	7,143	388	1,523	1,311

¹ Spending designated as emergency is not included in the current status of appropriations shown in this table.

TABLE 4—CURRENT LEVEL OF FY 2016 CHIMPS SUBJECT TO S. CON. RES. 11, SECTION 3103 LIMITS (IN MILLIONS) AS OF JUNE 6, 2016

Appropriations Bill	Budget Authority
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	600
Commerce, Justice, Science	9,458
Defense	0
Energy and Water Development	0
Financial Services and General Government	725
Homeland Security	176
Interior, Environment	28
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	6,799
Legislative Branch	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs	0
State, Foreign Operations	0
Transportation, Housing & Urban Development	0
Total CHIMP's Subject to Limit	17,786
S. Con. Res. 11, Section 3103 Limit for FY 2016	19,100
Total CHIMP's vs. Limit	–1,314

CURRENT LEVEL OF FY 2016 CRIME VICTIMS FUND CHIMP SUBJECT TO S. CON. RES. 11, SECTION 3104 LIMIT (IN MILLIONS) AS OF OCTOBER 27, 2015

	Budget Authority
Crime Victims Fund CHIMP	9,000
S. Con. Res. 11, Section 3104 Limit for FY 2016	10,800
Total CHIMP's vs. Limit	–1,800

TABLE 5—2017 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS AS AUTHORIZED BY S. CON. RES. 11 AS OF JUNE 6, 2016 (Budget Authority, millions)

Section 3304(c)(2) Limits	2017
Appropriate Level	63,271

TABLE 5—2017 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS AS AUTHORIZED BY S. CON. RES. 11 AS OF JUNE 6, 2016—Continued

(Budget Authority, millions)	
Section 3304(c)(2) Limits	2017
Enacted Advances:	
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Department of Veterans Affairs:	
Medical Services	51,673
Medical Support and Compliance	6,524
Medical Facilities	5,074
Subtotal, enacted advances ¹	63,271
Enacted Advances vs. Section 601(d)(1) Limit	0
Section 3304(c)(1) Limits	2017
Appropriate Level	28,852
Enacted Advances:	
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Employment and Training Administration	1,772
Education for the Disadvantaged	10,841
School Improvement Programs	1,681
Special Education	791
Career, Technical and Adult Education	9,283
Tenant-based Rental Assistance	4,000
Project-based Rental Assistance	400
Subtotal, enacted advances ¹	28,768
Enacted Advances vs. Section 601(d)(2) Limit	–84
Previously Enacted Advance Appropriations	2017
Corporation for Public Broadcasting ²	445
Total, enacted advances ¹	92,484

¹ Line items may not add to total due to rounding.² Funds were appropriated in Public Law 113–235.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2016.
Hon. TOM PRICE, M.D.,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.
DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report
shows the effects of Congressional action on

FISCAL YEAR 2016 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT THROUGH JUNE 6, 2016

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted: ^a			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,676,733
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,972,212	1,905,523	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	500,825	n.a.

the fiscal year 2016 budget and is current through June 6, 2016. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

Since our last letter dated October 29, 2015, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues for fiscal year 2016:

Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–74);

Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–88);

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114–92);

Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (Public Law 114–94);

Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–105);

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114–113);

Patient Access and Medicare Protection Act (Public Law 114–115); and

Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–125).

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,
Director.

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2016 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT THROUGH JUNE 6, 2016—Continued

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Offsetting receipts	– 784,820	– 784,879	n.a.
Total, Previously enacted	1,187,392	1,621,469	2,676,733
Enacted Legislation: ^b			
An act to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, to authorize transfers of amounts to carry out the replacement of such medical center, and for other purposes (P.L. 114–25)	0	20	0
Defending Public Safety Employees Retirement Act and the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–26)	0	0	5
Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–27)	445	175	– 766
Steve Gleason Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–40)	5	5	0
Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–41) ^b	0	0	99
Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–55)	130	0	0
Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–58)	– 2	368	0
Protecting Affordable Coverage for Employees Act (P.L. 114–60)	0	0	40
Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–74)	3,424	4,870	269
Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–88)	– 66	1	0
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (P.L. 114–92)	72,880	70,252	22,137
Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (P.L. 114–94)	269	269	0
Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–105)	2,007,155	1,562,597	– 156,107
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114–113) ^b	32	32	0
Patient Access and Medicare Protection Act (P.L. 114–115)	20	20	– 7
Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–125)			
Total, Enacted Legislation	2,084,292	1,638,559	– 134,330
Entitlements and Mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	6,277	3,802	0
Total Current Level ^c	3,277,961	3,263,830	2,542,403
Total House Resolution ^d	3,151,655	3,165,099	2,698,366
Current Level Over House Resolution	126,306	98,731	n.a.
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	155,963
Memorandum:			
Revenues 2016–2025:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	31,808,384
House Resolution ^e	n.a.	n.a.	32,325,542
Current Level Over House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	517,158

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

^a Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during this session but before the adoption of S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016: the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014 (P.L. 114–1); the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (P.L. 114–4) and the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–10).

^b Pursuant to section 314(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, amounts designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not count for purposes of Title III and Title IV of the Congressional Budget Act. The amounts so designated for 2016, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015	0	917	0
Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2016	700	775	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016	– 2	236	0
Total, amounts designated as emergency requirements	698	1,928	0

^c For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the resolution, as approved by the House of Representatives, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include these items.

^d Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the totals in S. Con. Res. 11, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original House Resolution	3,039,215	3,091,442	2,676,133
Revisions			
Adjustment for Program Integrity Spending	1,083	924	0
Adjustment for Senate Amendment to H.R. 1295, the Trade Preferences Extension Act, 2015	445	175	– 766
Adjustment for H.R. 22, the FAST Act	72,880	70,252	22,137
Adjustment for H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015	20	20	– 7
Adjustment to achieve consistency with the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015	38,012	2,286	269

Revised House Resolution

^e Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the 2016–2025 revenue totals in S. Con. Res. 11, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, June 10, 2016, at 9 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

“I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true

faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.”

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 114th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

WARREN DAVIDSON, Eighth District of Ohio.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5643. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing nine officers to wear the insignia of the grade of major general, as indicated, pur-

suant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5644. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing three officers to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral or rear admiral (lower half), as indicated, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5645. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Army, Department of Defense, transmitting a notice of mobilizations of Selected Reserve units from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 12304b(d); Public Law 112-81, Sec. 516(a)(1); (125 Stat. 1396); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5646. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Mitigation Strategies To Protect Food Against Intentional Adulteration [Docket No.: FDA-2013-N-1425] (RIN: 0910-AG63) received June 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec.

251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5647. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Food Labeling: Serving Sizes of Foods That Can Reasonably Be Consumed At One Eating Occasion; Dual-Column Labeling; Updating, Modifying, and Establishing Certain Reference Amounts Customarily Consumed; Serving Size for Breath Mints; and Technical Amendments [Docket No.: FDA-2004-N-0258 (Formerly Docket No.: 2004N-0456)] (RIN: 0910-AF23) received June 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5648. A letter from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy, designation of acting officer, nomination and action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5649. A letter from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5650. A letter from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a notification of a discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5651. A letter from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy, designation of acting officer and discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5652. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Inspector General Semiannual Report to the Congress for the reporting period October 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) Sec. 5(b); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 5(b); (92 Stat. 1103); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5653. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Senior Attorney Advisor, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Categorical Exclusions [Docket No.: FHWA-2016-0008] (RIN: 2125-AF69; 2132-AB29) received June 7, 2016, 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.

5654. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Senior Attorney Advisor, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning [Docket No.: FHWA-2013-0037] (RIN: 2125-AF52; 2132-AB10) received June 7, 2016, 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.

5655. A letter from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Commercial Zones at International Border With Mexico [Docket No.: FMCSA-2015-0372] (RIN: 2126-AB86) received June 7, 2016, 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.

5656. A letter from the Paralegal, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning [Docket No.: FHWA-2013-0037] (RIN: 2125-AF52; 2132-AB10) received June 7, 2016, 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.

5657. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) (RIN: 0985-AA11) received June 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

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. BRADY of Texas: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 5053. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from requiring that the identity of contributors to 501(c) organizations be included in annual returns; with an amendment (Rept. 114-612). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. S. 1109. An act to require adequate information regarding the tax treatment of payments under settlement agreements entered into by Federal agencies, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-613). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself and Mr. MESSER):

H.R. 5415. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income student loans payments made by an employer on behalf of an employee; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 5416. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand burial benefits for veterans who die while receiving hospital care or medical services under the Veterans Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. HECK of Washington):

H.R. 5417. A bill to require full spending of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, provide for expanded uses of the Fund, and prevent cargo diversion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. GOH-

MERT, Mr. JONES, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. BABIN, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. BURGESS):

H.R. 5418. A bill to prohibit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from allowing the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions contract to lapse unless specifically authorized to do so by an Act of Congress; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GUINTA:

H.R. 5419. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to extend the examination cycle of the National Credit Union Administration to 18 months for certain credit unions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 5420. A bill to authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to acquire, operate, and maintain the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial in Marne-la-Coquette, France; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 5421. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to apply the exemption from State regulation of securities offerings to securities listed on a national security exchange that has listing standards that have been approved by the Commission; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 5422. A bill to ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LANDEVIN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TONKO, Ms. ESTY, Ms. MENG, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mrs. LAWRENCE):

H.R. 5423. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to provide an incentive for households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program to purchase certain nutritious fruits and vegetables that are beneficial to good health; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. HURT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 5424. A bill to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to amend its rules to modernize certain requirements relating to investment advisers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CAPUANO (for himself, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MENG, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. KEATING, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 5425. A bill to require the President to designate a legal public holiday to be known as National First Responders Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. JONES, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 5426. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the scope of procedural rights of members of the uniformed services with respect to their employment and reemployment rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5427. A bill to prohibit the use of education funds provided under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 for excess payments to certain retirement or pension systems; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FORBES:

H.R. 5428. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize spouses of servicemembers to elect to use the same residences as the servicemembers; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GARRETT (for himself and Mr. HURT of Virginia):

H.R. 5429. A bill to improve the consideration by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the costs and benefits of its regulations and orders; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. RATCLIFFE):

H.R. 5430. A bill to exempt from the Lacey Act and the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers between any of the States of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. ZELDIN):

H.R. 5431. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to award grants to health care entities to lease, purchase, or build health care facilities for female patients to provide hospital care and medical services to qualified female veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. JOYCE (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 5432. A bill to prevent the abuse of opiates, to improve response and treatment for the abuse of opiates and related overdoses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 5433. A bill to amend the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 to clarify the use of the WMAT Settlement Fund; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. LOVE (for herself, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HILL, and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 5434. A bill to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to restrict the debt collection practices of certain debt collectors; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5435. A bill to prohibit the payment of bonuses to certain Department of Veterans Affairs employees pending filling of Department of Veterans Affairs medical center director positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 5436. A bill to amend the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 to require any trade agreement to which the United States is a party to stipulate the ability of the United States to deny the benefits of any dispute settlement claim that challenges any measure relating to human health that is adopted, maintained, or enforced by the United States in its territory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. NOEM:

H.R. 5437. A bill to implement a mandatory random drug testing program for certain employees of the Indian Health Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 5438. A bill to authorize certain private rights of action under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 for violations that damage certain businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5439. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to replace the Federal Election Commission with the Federal Election Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 5440. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain regulated companies to elect out of the public utility property energy investment tax credit limitation in the case of solar energy property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5441. A bill to prohibit the National Endowment for the Arts to use funds to make grants for Literature Fellowships: Translation Projects; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 5442. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety rule for free-standing clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over related death or injury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 5443. A bill to provide for mandamus actions under chapter 601 of title 49 of the United States Code; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. VELA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 5444. A bill to prohibit the unlawful denial of any benefit to or deprivation of a right of a United States citizen by reason of age, or the immigration status of that citizen's parent or legal guardian, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H. Con. Res. 135. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make technical corrections in the enrollment of S. 2328; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HECK of Washington (for himself, Mr. KILMER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. McDERMOTT):

H. Res. 773. A resolution to express support for recognition of June 2016 as National Orca Protection Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. POLIS (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H. Res. 774. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of June 6 through June 12, 2016, as "Hemp History Week"; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. DeSANTIS (for himself and Mr. CASTRO of Texas):

H. Res. 775. A resolution recognizing the impact of Sister Cities International and expressing support for the designation of July 15, 2016, as "Sister Cities International Day"; 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 Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 5415.

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. LAMBORN:

H.R. 5416.

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. REICHERT:

H.R. 5417.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1—The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 5418.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes

By Mr. GUINTA:

H.R. 5419.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 5420.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 5421.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution to regulate commerce.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 5422.

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. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5423.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 2: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

By Mr. HURT of Virginia:

H.R. 5424.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 5425.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 5426.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5427.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1.

By Mr. FORBES:

H.R. 5428.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 5429.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 ("The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States"), 3 ("To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes"), and 18 ("To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof").

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 5430.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, providing Congress the authority to regulate Commerce with Foreign Nations, and among the Several States, and with Indian Tribes.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5431.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. JOYCE:

H.R. 5432.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power * * * To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts, and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 5433.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 (18) To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Executive the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vest by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. LOVE:

H.R. 5434.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5435.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 5436.

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 duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mrs. NOEM:

H.R. 5437.

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. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 5438.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5439.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 5440.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1. The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5441.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7—"No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public

Money shall be published from time to time."

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 5442.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 7

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 5443.

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. VEASEY:

H.R. 5444.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 5, Fourteenth Amendment

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 69: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 93: Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 266: Mr. COOK.

H.R. 391: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 446: Ms. TITUS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 456: Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 576: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 664: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 670: Mr. WALBERG and Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 711: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 762: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 793: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 814: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 842: Mr. HECK of Nevada and Mr. TIP-TON.

H.R. 921: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 923: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 980: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 1062: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 1095: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 1185: Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 1215: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 1221: Mr. JENKINS of Kansas and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1247: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1255: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1347: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1439: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 1559: Mr. CHAFFETZ.

H.R. 1627: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 1706: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1749: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1763: Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 1836: Mr. PITTINGER.

H.R. 1859: Mr. MEEHAN and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 1865: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. ESHOO, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 2103: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 2218: Mr. POLIQUIN.

H.R. 2257: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 2290: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 2403: Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 2411: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 2477: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 2488: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 2640: Mr. PITTINGER.

H.R. 2656: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 2680: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 2698: Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 2710: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 2726: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SIRES, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. COLE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MENG, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LEE, Ms. HAHN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. TSONGAS, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. RICHMOND, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 2799: Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 2804: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 2805: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 2867: Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. BERA.
H.R. 2896: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 2903: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 2948: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 2992: Mr. WENSTRUP, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 3048: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 3099: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 3119: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. VISLOSKEY.

H.R. 3151: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.
H.R. 3229: Mr. PITTENGER and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 3235: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3255: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 3381: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 3463: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 3471: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 3516: Mr. WESTERMAN.
H.R. 3520: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 3590: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 3684: Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 3690: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 3713: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 3765: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 3770: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 3781: Mr. DEFazio.
H.R. 3851: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 4007: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 4016: Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 4073: Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 4177: Mr. DOLD and Mr. WALKER.
H.R. 4212: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 4229: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 4247: Mr. NUGENT, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. WOODALL, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 4365: Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 4381: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 4450: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 4469: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
H.R. 4479: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 4488: Mr. COSTA, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 4499: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 4514: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 4526: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 4559: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H.R. 4571: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 4575: Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. HILL, and Mr. DUFFY.

H.R. 4592: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. CLAY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. BARR, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PAULSEN, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 4625: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. DONOVAN.

H.R. 4626: Mr. POSEY, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 4646: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4657: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 4662: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 4695: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 4714: Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 4715: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4764: Mr. OLSON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 4768: Mr. ROTHFUS and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 4773: Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 4893: Mr. KNIGHT and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 4927: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 4959: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 4971: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 5001: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 5025: Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. PLASKETT, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 5044: Mr. CLAY, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 5047: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 5053: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. REED, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 5063: Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. BRAT, and Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 5073: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 5091: Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 5124: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 5125: Ms. NORTON and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 5133: Mr. PITTENGER.

H.R. 5143: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. ROSS, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. POSEY, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. MESSER, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. GUINTA, and Mr. HULTGREEN.

H.R. 5164: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 5166: Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 5177: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 5180: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. RUSSELL, and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 5190: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 5207: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 5224: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 5259: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 5263: Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 5275: Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. LONG, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 5292: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. WALZ, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. DOLD, Ms. ESTY, Ms. HAHN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KILMER, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BERA, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 5294: Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 5301: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.

H.R. 5304: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 5320: Mr. CARNEY, Mr. HANNA, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 5324: Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 5329: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 5348: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 5350: Mr. TAKAI.

H.R. 5351: Mr. TURNER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. COOK, and Mr. HECK of Nevada.

H.R. 5356: Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 5369: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 5372: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 5373: Mr. POLIS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 5375: Mr. PITTENGER.

H.R. 5386: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 5396: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 5411: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.J. Res. 48: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H. Con. Res. 114: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H. Con. Res. 128: Mr. HARPER.

H. Res. 289: Mr. GRAYSON.

H. Res. 540: Mr. SABLAN.

H. Res. 584: Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 590: Mr. PAULSEN.

H. Res. 591: Mr. BRAT, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. HILL, and Mr. RUSSELL.

H. Res. 647: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H. Res. 717: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H. Res. 728: Ms. BORDALLO.

H. Res. 739: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H. Res. 746: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H. Res. 750: Mr. ENGEL.

H. Res. 752: Mr. PERRY, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. KILMER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. POCAN, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H. Res. 762: Mr. DELANEY.

H. Res. 769: Ms. MOORE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. FARR, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. HAHN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. BERA, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. ESTY, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. KEATING, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. BASS, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. LEE, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H. Res. 772: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.