



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019

No. 18

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 29, 2019.

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

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

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

### BORDER WALL

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I believe the President's decision to temporarily resolve the shutdown was the correct one. The Democrats' refusal even to discuss a path forward had created a crisis of governance, in addition to our ongoing crisis on the southern border.

The President had offered many compromises to the Democrats. He reduced

his funding request, altered the design, and added nearly \$1 billion of humanitarian aid. Yet, the Democrats spurned all of these good faith overtures.

When the President invited congressional Democrats to the Oval Office to hear their views, they refused to go. They had plenty of time to vacation in Puerto Rico with 100 lobbyists during the shutdown, but they couldn't seem to fit a simple meeting with the President into their busy schedules in order to resolve it.

Based on their past behavior, I am skeptical their position will change over the next 3 weeks.

They tell us there is no crisis. Well, the facts speak for themselves. Between 16 million and 29 million people now are living illegally in the United States, costing American taxpayers well over \$100 billion a year to support. Sixty thousand more are illegally crossing our border every month. In 2017, illegal aliens murdered 1,800 Americans and violently assaulted 48,000 more.

The congressional Democrats who oppose the President's wall insist that they support border security, but they say a wall is a costly and ineffective way to stop illegal immigration. Well, it is hard to take either of their claims seriously.

These same politicians have long advocated for providing a wide range of services for illegal immigrants, ranging from healthcare and legal counsel to education and housing, all at taxpayer expense. It is hard to believe they want to discourage illegal immigration while they reward those who illegally immigrate.

The Democrats long ago ceased to call illegal immigration what it is: illegal. Many have gone so far as to advocate abolishing the agencies that defend our borders and enforce our immigration laws. They have enacted sanctuary laws that protect dangerous criminals from deportation. They have

opposed mandatory employment verification to hold employers accountable for hiring illegals. And they have opposed visa tracking of foreign nationals entering our country.

They tell us that walls are medieval and what we really need are sophisticated cameras. Well, we don't want to watch them crossing our border; we want to stop them.

Walls have been used for thousands of years to impede unauthorized entry for one reason: They work, and they still work. When Israel built a 143-mile wall to protect its southern border, illegal immigration fell 99 percent. The cost of building a wall is a fraction of the cost incurred by American citizens every year to support the illegal population already in our country.

It doesn't address the whole problem, but a wall would be a tremendous force multiplier for border enforcement agencies. It would protect them from the violent attacks to which they are constantly subjected and allow them to apply their slender resources more efficiently and effectively.

If the Democrats continue to oppose serious measures to defend our borders and enforce our laws, I urge the President to use the authority Congress granted in 1976 to reprogram already appropriated but unobligated military construction funds for the defense of our Nation. What is more fundamental to national defense than the security and integrity of our own borders?

Some argue that this would divert money from other Defense Department projects. Well, it is an odd logic that argues that defending the Iraqi border is more important than defending our own.

Others have worried that a Presidential order would provoke a protracted legal challenge. Isn't that true of any course the President could take?

Others worry that leftist activists would misuse this precedent. Well, let me ask you: When have such activists

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H1247

ever relied on precedent to expand their power?

Using this authority would not only build the wall, it would avoid the need to meet any demands to further diminish or dilute our current immigration laws.

If the next 3 weeks produce the unreasonable demands and intransigence that we have come to expect from the Democratic leadership, I strongly urge the President to use his existing authority. Countries that either cannot or will not enforce their borders simply aren't around very long. Let that not be America's epitaph.

#### UPCOMING HUNGER CRISIS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the President, finally, ended the longest government shutdown in our Nation's history.

For 35 days, activity at several government agencies halted. The wages of hardworking public servants were being used as bargaining chips to push a medieval solution to what should have been a modern discussion on how to protect our borders.

The President seemed tone deaf to all the devastation that came with the government shutdown. At one point, he said that he would keep our government shut down for "months or even years." In a speech on Friday, he stunningly said that Federal workers were encouraging him to continue the shutdown.

I would love to know who he was talking to, because that is the opposite of what I was hearing from my constituents and Federal workers all across this country. There aren't many people out there who can afford to work for free, much less people who are willing to forego their paychecks for a stupid, ridiculous campaign promise. No one should be expected to work for weeks without pay. What the President did, by shutting down our government, was disrespectful to our Federal workers.

If the government shutdown continued for a few more weeks, programs like SNAP and WIC, and child nutrition programs, would have run out of money, putting millions of families at risk of food insecurity.

Last week, I heard from one of my constituents in Ware, Massachusetts. She is a single mom who is disabled, and she depends on programs like Social Security and SNAP every day to help put food on the table for her two children. She was worried about a lapse in SNAP funding because, for a while now, she has been going without meals so that her kids can eat. She is barely able to provide for herself, but she is making sacrifices that any parent would make to provide for her children.

If the President decides to shut down the government again in a few weeks,

he could provoke a full-blown hunger crisis in this country.

Low-income families should not have to worry about where their next meal is coming from just because the President wants taxpayers to pay for his wall. In fact, government employees might need SNAP benefits themselves, if their pay is cut off again.

In the past 4 weeks, I only can say how grateful I have been to the American people who have demonstrated incredible compassion to those impacted by the shutdown. Countless businesses provided free meals and resources to help families through rough times.

Yesterday, I was at Jose Andres' World Central Kitchen's Chefs for Feds initiative, where he is feeding Federal workers who have not been paid. As of yesterday, they still have not been paid.

While many families have accepted help, they still took on expenses that couldn't be recovered. Many families went into debt, just to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. Others took on interest, late fees, penalties, and payment deferrals, not because they did anything wrong, but because their President thought he could strong-arm Congress.

These are people who have jobs, show up, and work every day for their country. The least we can do is pay them and keep their government running.

This administration might not understand why families need resources like food banks, but I think the rest of us do. Unlike the President, we don't all have a rich family who can loan us money. Unlike the Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, not all of us have investment fortunes to fall back on. While living paycheck to paycheck might not be a reality they understand, it is a reality for millions of families who depend not only on their jobs, but also on programs like SNAP and WIC to survive.

Government shutdowns and spending gaps have real consequences for real American families. They cause confusion, backlogs, delays, and discord. It could take months and years for us to fully recover from the past 35 days.

What is particularly ironic about the shutdown, Mr. Speaker, is that all of this could have been avoided if the President signed the bipartisan bills we sent him back in December.

The President should never again hold the American people hostage to get his way. I will do all I can to fight against using public servants as bargaining chips. I will do all I can to help protect programs like SNAP and WIC, and child nutrition programs. They need to keep running.

Three weeks of funding is just a patch on the hunger crisis that this country will soon face if we don't pass another comprehensive spending bill. SNAP, WIC, and child nutrition programs matter to people's lives.

Families, children, farmers, and food businesses don't deserve this, and there is no time to waste. There is no time like the present. Let's end hunger now.

#### RECOGNIZING GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP

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

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, on January 14, 2019, at a joint session of the Georgia General Assembly that was held on the campus of Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, the Honorable Brian Kemp was inaugurated as the 83rd Governor of the State of Georgia. Upon taking the oath of office, Brian Kemp became the third Republican to occupy the Governor's mansion since reconstruction.

Even before taking the oath of office, Brian was already making history, receiving more votes than any gubernatorial candidate in State history.

As with many of Georgia's Governors, Governor Kemp comes from a humble background. He was a small business owner, building his first construction business with a pickup and a shovel. With hard work and personal sacrifice, he grew that business and eventually became one of Georgia's successful entrepreneurs, responsible for several successful businesses.

When Brian became frustrated with the mismanagement of State government, he determined that, instead of just complaining, he would do something about it. He ran for a seat in the State senate, and in 2003, this young businessman from Athens was sworn in as a freshman senator from the 46th District.

Two years after Brian took office, I was elected to the State house of representatives and had the honor to work with him on several key legislative initiatives. I could always count on Brian, not only to be an ally, but to help perfect legislation as it moved through the State senate.

Brian was, and still is, a strong conservative with the ability to reach across the aisle to get things done for Georgians. During his time in the senate, Brian was instrumental in fighting to cut taxes, fees, and mandates on job creators and Georgia families.

In 2008, Brian left the State senate and returned to the private sector, but his heart never left serving his State and his community. In 2010, Governor Sonny Perdue called on Brian to return to public service, appointing him to serve as Georgia's secretary of state. Brian easily won reelection as secretary of state that same year and remained in that post until he resigned in November 2018.

As secretary of state, Brian wanted to ensure that Georgia elections were secure, accessible, and fair. In 2016, being a member of this body's Committee on Homeland Security, Brian asked me to work with him to ensure that Georgia's election data was secure from cyber threats.

During his tenure as secretary of state, Brian utilized technology and innovation to cut bureaucratic red tape, reduce spending, and streamline Georgia's government.

Brian is known around the State as a great businessman, a public servant, and a statesman. However, Brian will tell you, his most important job in life is being a husband and a father. Brian and his wife, Marty, have three daughters: Jarrett, Lucy, and Amy Porter. The Kemps are a family tightly bound by their strong faith, their commitment to public service, and a love for their community, their State, and their country.

From the backhoe to the boardroom, Brian Kemp understands how to successfully create jobs, recruit startups, grow companies, and make deals to provide opportunities for hardworking Georgians.

To communicate his commitment to further growing Georgia's thriving economy, and to ensure all Georgians have the opportunity to live, learn, and prosper, Governor Kemp has made the theme of his governorship "Putting Georgians First." I believe Governor Brian Kemp will work for all Georgians, and I look forward to working with him as he leads Georgia forward. Congratulations, Governor Kemp.

#### HONORING MAYOR GREG PETTIS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mayor Greg Pettis, a leader and devoted advocate for our desert communities in California's 36th Congressional District, who unexpectedly passed away recently on January 15.

I had the privilege of working with Mayor Pettis to fight for equality and social justice for the people of the Coachella Valley.

Mayor Pettis set an example as a public servant committed to protecting the rights of all his constituents.

During his decades of service to our communities, Mayor Pettis never wavered in his advocacy for civil rights, improved transportation, and access to healthcare.

□ 1015

As Cathedral City's first openly gay public servant and longest serving council member, Mayor Pettis was a trailblazer and a role model.

Every day, Mayor Pettis brought his passion for helping others to the call to public service. He helped our valley build a public library, combat drug addiction, and expand affordable housing.

Through his leadership and kindness, Mayor Pettis will live on in the memory of his brothers, Stephen and David Pettis, and the friends, neighbors, and families whose lives he touched.

#### RECOGNIZING SUPERVISOR MARION ASHLEY

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Supervisor Marion Ashley on his retirement after more than 35 years of public service.

Supervisor Ashley has served the people in Riverside County since 2002 with leadership, integrity, respect, and

enthusiasm. He grew up in Riverside County, California, and like me, has had the privilege of returning home to serve.

To see his positive impact on the cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, and others, you only need to look around. You will see medical centers, public parks, wildlife conservation areas, and fire stations that exist thanks to his advocacy.

In retirement, I hope Supervisor Ashley will enjoy spending more time with Mary, his wife of more than 60 years, and their 6 children, 19 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren.

On behalf of communities across Riverside County, it is my honor to congratulate Supervisor Ashley on a well-earned retirement.

#### RECOGNITION OF BERGAD SPECIALTY FOAMS & COMPOSITES ON EXPANSION

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 recognize a tremendous business in Armstrong County, Bergad Specialty Foams.

Bergad Specialty Foams is a leading producer of polyurethane foams. It recently celebrated the completion of a 50,000-square-foot building expansion.

This is phase 1 of a long-range facility expansion, which will increase production capacity to meet customer demand for its growing line of specialty foams. It will also allow the company to accommodate the production of several new product lines.

The expansion includes state-of-the-art CNC cutting equipment and streamlined fulfillment and shipping areas, in addition to a secure manufacturing area to accommodate the requirements of the consumer technology industry.

Mr. Speaker, Bergad Foams makes specialty cushioning materials that span several markets, including medical, cosmetic, oil and gas production, high-end consumer electronics, and transportation and aircraft.

I congratulate Paul Bergad, president of Bergad Incorporated, on the outstanding business he has built in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania.

When they broke ground on this project, he refused the ceremonial golden shovel and, instead, fired up his excavator to take out the first bucket of dirt. Clearly, Mr. Bergad is a man who isn't afraid to roll up his sleeves and get to work.

With this new addition, the manufacturing area totals more than three acres under one roof, making it one of the largest manufacturing facilities in the county.

Phase 2 of the expansion is expected to begin in about 18 months and will add an additional 35,000 square feet to the facility. With these expansions, Bergad Incorporated said they expect to hire an additional 30 employees.

Mr. Speaker, this is very welcome news in Armstrong County, where Bergad Specialty Foams has its laboratory, manufacturing, fabrication, tooling, warehousing, and sales division, all located at its Kittanning facility.

Since Bergad Specialty Foams opened operations there in 1999, the mission has been to "exceed, not meet" the standards of the industry and the expectations of its clients. Mr. Speaker, the ever-expanding product lines and expansion surely note that Bergad Specialty Foams is not only living up to its lofty goals, but surpassing them.

I wholeheartedly congratulate Mr. Bergad on this outstanding achievement, and I wish him the best as his company continues to flourish in Armstrong County.

#### NEGATIVE REPERCUSSIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise, pleased that the government is reopened and determined to not repeat ourselves in 3 weeks.

A poll taken last weekend found that 6 in 10 Americans believe the country is headed in the wrong direction, and nearly 70 percent have negative opinions on the state of the Nation. These findings are grim, but can anyone in this Chamber blame our fellow citizens for their skepticism?

The longest shutdown in American history brought fear, confusion, and financial harm on upstate New York and our entire country—\$11 billion worth of economic loss, according to the CBO. And here is what that looked like back home in upstate New York:

The Small Business Administration stopped processing new loans to potential small business owners, slowing the engine of American enterprise;

The FDA stopped routine food safety inspections, putting Americans at risk at their own dinner tables;

The Department of Agriculture stopped administering farm support programs, which include subsidized home loans and tariff relief payments, putting additional financial stress on farmers in upstate New York already suffering from our Nation's ill-conceived trade wars;

The Department of Housing and Urban Development stopped processing mortgage extensions or housing loans, leaving 100,000 rural homeowners at risk of eviction;

The EPA suspended the cleanup efforts at Superfund pollution sites, including in places like Hoosick Falls, with poisoned groundwater.

When the shutdown began, the EPA stopped returning calls from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. I held two townhalls during the shutdown and opened up our phone lines on weekends in order to remain accessible to those in my district who need an advocate in Washington.

I heard from constituent after constituent about the negative repercussions of the shutdown.

I heard from store owners who couldn't accept EBT cards because their SNAP vendor license expired with no possibility of renewal.

I heard from Federal employees, more than 4,200 of whom I am proud to represent in Congress, who worried about losing their dental and vision insurance.

I met with members of the U.S. Coast Guard, the only military personnel who went without pay during the shutdown.

And I heard from small business owners, more than 27,000 of whom live in my district, about the effect of the shutdown on their bottom lines.

All of this for what purpose?

From day one, I joined any colleagues in vote after vote to reopen the government on a bipartisan basis.

It is incumbent on Congress to ensure that the government remains open when the current spending package expires on February 15.

The border wall is a monument to division that, according to experts, is ineffective and wasteful. Holding the government hostage over it was wrong. Indeed, not a single Member of the House body—Democrat or Republican—representing a border district is for the construction of a wall.

When discussing the need for improved border security, we must move past fear-driven partisan politics which seek only to divide us and paralyze our democracy. Moreover, we cannot allow ourselves to fall short of our constitutional obligation as Members of Congress.

Let us not forget that our Founding Fathers began with the legislative body in Article I of our Constitution. This is the one body that represents the will of the people, legislatively.

Our work should not be contingent upon the whims and desires of another branch of government meant to only execute the laws our body is obliged to legislate. This is not how to preserve a democratic order anchored in the separation of powers and sustained by healthy checks and balances.

To be clear, now is not the time to run away from our responsibility as a coequal branch of government. Democrats and Republicans, alike, need to come together and have an evidence-based and transparent debate on the question of border security, have a vote, and then send legislation to the President. It shouldn't take a costly shutdown and a threat of another looming one in order to accomplish this.

As Members of both parties from both Houses begin budget negotiations in a conference committee, I ask that they remember the hardships endured in recent weeks not only by the Federal employees who went without pay in upstate New York, but also by business owners, farmers, and so many others in our region who were harmed because of ripple effects of the shutdown.

The government must not close again. My district and our country can't afford another shutdown. It is our collective responsibility to ensure we do not find ourselves on February 15 at the start of yet another shutdown.

In short, I urge this body to do as envisioned by our Founding Fathers, get to work, and do our job.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL PETER NEZAMIS

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Peter Nezamis of Belleville.

It was recently announced that Colonel Nezamis will be promoted to brigadier general and will lead the Illinois Air National Guard, where he will lead over 3,000 personnel.

He commanded the Air National Guard's 126th Air Refueling Wing at Scott Air Force Base, which received the Outstanding Unit Award, under his guidance.

Colonel Nezamis has commanded numerous expeditionary operations and flew over 275 combat and combat support hours. He first joined the Air National Guard in 1986 and has served our State and Nation over 30 years.

Colonel Nezamis, we know you will serve the State and Nation to the best of your ability, and congratulations in your new role.

#### ENHANCING AGRICULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY VETERANS

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I also rise to bring awareness about a coming crisis in our Nation's agricultural workforce.

According to USDA, the average age for a farmer is now 58 and has been on the rise for over 30 years. Our Nation faces a shortfall of 700,000 agricultural workers over the next 20 years.

How can we reverse this trend? According to the Department of Labor, 45 percent of armed servicemembers are from rural America. Many of our returning heroes struggle to find employment after serving our Nation.

Agriculture is a sensible solution to fill the economic gap our veterans face. That is why I joined with my friend and colleague on the House Agriculture Committee, AL LAWSON of Florida, to introduce the Vets to Ag Act. Our bill streamlines the process for veterans getting apprenticeships in the agricultural industry.

Despite dysfunction in Washington, we are still fighting for bipartisan, commonsense solutions to help our farmers and our veterans. I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan effort.

#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today in recognition of Human Trafficking and Prevention Month.

Human trafficking cases are on the rise nationwide. As the grandfather of 11 grandchildren, I am angry about

that. My appreciation goes out to members of law enforcement who are on the front lines combating these crimes and making our communities safer.

Programs like the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign help combat human trafficking. The program works to make sure, if trafficking victims are taken over the border, they are rescued or have a resource that they can turn to for help.

These are important steps, but there is still so much more work remaining. Both parties must work together to do our part in wiping out this evil before it does any more harm.

□ 1030

#### STUDENT LOAN DEBT

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Transparency in Student Lending Act.

College education can be a life-changing investment, but it can come at a tremendous cost. Right now, 44 million Americans collectively hold \$1.5 trillion in student loan debt. The Federal Government lends 90 percent of these dollars. However, unlike other lenders, the Federal Government does not provide students with complete information about the total cost of their loan, leaving borrowers unaware of hidden costs and fees until they enter the repayment phase. I have introduced this bill to require complete information to be provided to students before they take out a loan.

Mr. Speaker, I represent the youngest congressional district in the United States, and many of my constituents are struggling with student debt. With this legislation, we can help young people make fully informed financial decisions for their families and their futures.

#### VENEZUELA

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to call on all of those who support freedom and democracy to stand with the long-suffering people of Venezuela. We have finally reached the tipping point where freedom for the Venezuelan people hangs in the balance.

On Friday, President Trump recognized the duly elected leader of the National Assembly, Juan Guaido, as the constitutional interim President of Venezuela. Shortly afterward the vast majority of Western Hemisphere nations affirmed their recognition of the Guaido government.

On January 10 the OAS passed a resolution, Mr. Speaker, that refused to recognize the illegitimate Maduro regime, and OAS Secretary-General Luis

Almagro expressed his congratulations to Mr. Guaido as Venezuela's legitimate sitting President.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is time to choose to stand with the courageous protesters demanding freedom, many of them bruised and bloodied from the violence perpetrated on them by the Maduro thugs. Reports indicate that at least 29 protesters have been killed just since last week, and the Maduro regime holds hundreds of political prisoners. The Maduro regime has ruthlessly corrupted Venezuela's once-democratic institutions, including the Supreme Court.

The U.N. High Commissioner of Human Rights and others have documented egregious human rights abuses, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and torture. We have seen that the Venezuelan people continue to demand freedom in the face of teargas, imprisonment, and, yes, even bullets.

The United States is standing with the Venezuelan people, sanctioning 65 of the most corrupt and abusive members of the Maduro regime, including Maduro himself. Congress and the administration are also working to alleviate the grave humanitarian crisis that the Maduro regime has caused, providing nearly \$100 million in humanitarian aid to those Venezuelans who have fled to other countries and an additional \$37 million in development assistance to Colombia.

Earlier this year, my colleague, Congressman DARREN SOTO, and I worked together to introduce the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019 which would provide Temporary Protective Status to Venezuelan nationals here in the United States. The situation in Venezuela is way too dangerous to force them to return now.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the humanitarian crisis rivals the grave democratic crisis in Venezuela. Under Venezuela's socialism, its people are suffering skyrocketing inflation, profound destitution, and shortages of necessary food and medicine.

Venezuela was once, just recently, one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Now the vast majority of Venezuelan people have sunk into poverty. Hospitals are abandoned, Mr. Speaker, and food and medicines are scarce. But, Mr. Speaker, we have entered a time of critical importance. Rarely is there such an obvious choice between good and evil, freedom and enslavement, and accountable government and tyranny.

From Venezuela's one last vestige of democracy came a glimmer of hope. From the democratically elected National Assembly, a leader emerged who was courageous enough to lead the opposition and face certain persecution. Juan Guaido stepped up to represent the Venezuelan people and work with the international community toward a democratic transition to unite the many voices in the opposition behind a common purpose: freedom, human rights, and free and fair elections.

He has designated his charge d'affaires here in the United States, Carlos

Vecchio, whose leadership was welcomed by Secretary Pompeo and who is coordinating between the Guaido government and the United States Government.

Already as President Guaido is gaining strength, we are seeing signs of cracks from the Maduro dictatorship. The United States must continue to be the world leader in defense of those struggling for democracy, and others in the world community who value freedom also must stand with the people of Venezuela in their quest for democracy.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Eastern Europe have not forgotten that we stood with them during those decades in their struggle against Communism for decades. They were victorious; and today they are free, and they are allies. The people of Venezuela will also be victorious.

(The English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

To the Venezuelan Armed Forces, this is the time to recover your honor, to recover your dignity and stand with the Venezuelan people in this noble cause, which is freedom.

And to the brave Venezuelan people, you are not alone. The Trump administration, the United States Congress, the United States is with you.

A las Fuerzas Armadas de Venezuela, este es el momento de recuperar su honor, de recuperar su dignidad y ponerse de lado del pueblo Venezolano en esta noble causa que es la libertad.

Y al valiente pueblo Venezolano, no están solos. La administración del presidente Trump, el Congreso de los Estados Unidos, si todo los Estados Unidos están con ustedes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida will provide a translation of his remarks to the Clerk.

#### RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN JOHN HEARN

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a law enforcement official who was recently named Police Chief of Newtown Township in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Earlier this month, Newtown Township's Board of Supervisors unanimously supported Philadelphia Police Department Captain John Hearn to become the next police chief. John, a Northampton Township resident, is a 29-year veteran of the Philadelphia Police Department. He previously served as a lieutenant in that department's highway patrol, helping to escort dignitaries such as Pope Francis and former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush.

Throughout his esteemed career, John distinguished himself as an innovative leader. He represented Philadelphia when five neighboring counties established protocol and a coordinated response to terrorist threats, and he served as a volunteer with fire companies in Montgomery County.

Mr. Speaker, we congratulate John on his new role, and I look forward to working closely with him to keep our Bucks County families safe.

RECOGNIZING OFFICERS MEGAN KLOSTERMAN AND GINA FERZETTI

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize members of our law enforcement community who recently joined our Bucks County family as members of the Solebury Township Police Department.

Earlier this month, Officers Megan Klosterman and Gina Ferzetti were sworn in by Magisterial District Judge Maggie Snow as the department's first full-time female officers.

Officer Klosterman is a graduate of Upper Dublin High School and Pennsylvania State University. Officer Ferzetti is a graduate of Ridley High School and previously served with the Temple University Police Department. Both of these dedicated public servants served as part-time members of Solebury Township Police Department prior to their full instatement.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Officers Klosterman and Ferzetti on their promotions and their dedication to keeping all of our families safe in our community. Their hiring is truly an inspiring moment for Solebury Township and for Bucks County.

I would also like to thank Police Chief Dominick Bellizzi and Township Manager Dennis Carney for their leadership.

RECOGNIZING JULIE UCHITEL

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a student from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who was recently awarded a coveted scholarship to study in the United Kingdom.

Julie Uchitel, a resident of Upper Southampton, was selected to receive a Marshall Scholarship, one of only 40 recipients out of over 1,000 applicants. Julie is a senior at Duke University where she is a neuroscience and French double major. She is the president of the Neuroscience Majors' Union at Duke and has conducted clinical and basic pediatric research at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Duke Children's Hospital. She is the author of two published articles and has volunteered in Paris and in Honduras to offer medical assistance to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, Julie's resume is too voluminous to summarize. We are so proud to have her as part of our community, and we wish her all the best as she pursues her studies at Cambridge and King's College in London. I look forward to seeing all of her accomplishments in the years to come.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 39 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

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

We ask Your blessing upon this people's House as we are in the beginning days of this new Congress. Encompass with Your power all the walls of this building, truly a symbol to the world of inalienable rights and the freedom of people.

Guide and protect Your elected servants in government and all who work in this place. May all who visit here be treated with respect and kindness.

May the comings and goings of Your people be under the seal of Your loving care, and all work accomplished here this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

#### EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

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

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, it has been nearly 100 years since women fought for and won the right to vote. Yet, we still do not have equal rights and protection under the United States Constitution.

There are too many examples in our everyday lives where women still do not get equal pay for equal work and where we still face discrimination simply for being women.

In 1923, the Equal Rights Amendment was introduced in Congress to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex and was reintroduced every session until it finally passed in 1972.

However, with an arbitrary deadline in 1982, by that time, only 35 States out

of the required 38 had ratified the amendment. In the past 2 years, we have inched forward with successful votes in Nevada and Illinois, and now we are just one State away from finally passing the Equal Rights Amendment.

This is not about politics. It is about equality. It is about humanity. It is long overdue that we pass the Equal Rights Amendment and include equality between men and women in the United States Constitution.

#### JANUARY IS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible role mentors play in the lives of young people.

January is National Mentoring Month, which brings national attention to the need for mentors. Individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities, and non-profits can all engage their constituents to become mentors for the next generation of leaders.

When children have strong role models in their lives, they grow up to be good neighbors and good citizens. As a co-chairman of the Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus, I know firsthand how essential mentors are for students seeking a career in technical education.

From agriculture to the arts, from marketing to manufacturing, CTE programs work to develop America's most valuable resources: its people. CTE has established itself as a path that many high-achieving students choose in pursuit of industry certification and hands-on skills that they can use right out of high school, in skills-based education programs or in our colleges.

Many CTE instructors are mentors who inspire students to reach their full potential and follow their dreams wherever they may lead.

Mr. Speaker, I thank every mentor in America for providing students the guidance and confidence that they need to find success.

#### WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP GOVERNMENT OPEN

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the fact that so many—800,000—Federal workers were out of work when the government was shut down, and now, happily, they will be back at work. Soon, all of them will be getting a paycheck.

This was very sad for their families, very sad for their communities where their financial viability is important, and very sad for our economy. Happily, the government is reopened, but not without paying a price.

I was very pleased that last week, on Thursday, so many Members came to the floor to tell the stories of the families affected by the shutdown, and then we had a Special Order and people sought comfort in the fact that we were recognizing the value that our public employees add to our economy and also concern for their well-being.

I want to tell one story that I thought was just so remarkable. Yesterday, I went to help with meals for the families who still have not gotten a paycheck. Even though government is open, it will be a couple of more days. While I was there, I met a woman who seemed young to me, but I guess she must have been middle-aged. They told me, after I was with her for a while, that, on Friday, she would be going to hospice, but it was a comfort to her to spend her last days before hospice feeding the hungry, having empathy for those who had that uncertainty in their lives.

What a blessing she is. Let us all have that empathy for those who are placed in that financial insecurity, and let us work to keep government open, to come to agreement so it can resolve all doubt in anyone's mind that that is not a reasonable path, to seek agreement holding hostage our public employees.

We thank them for what they do for our country. We sympathize with them. At this time, we are happy that government is open. Let's work together to keep it so.

#### THANKING ROBERT COLBY HALE FOR HIS SERVICE

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize and thank a friend and confidant who has been by my side for the last 15 years.

I first met my chief of staff, Robert Colby Hale, when he was 22 years old. I was the commencement speaker at his graduation ceremony at Hardin-Simmons University, and he introduced me on stage.

In that moment, I never imagined so many years later our paths would take us to the Texas secretary of state's office in Austin and now to the U.S. House of Representatives.

I gave Colby his first job and watched him grow from a recent college graduate into the husband, father, and professional that he is today.

He has been my right-hand man since before I decided to run for Congress in 2012. He believed in me, and he encouraged me every single day.

There is no one's counsel that I have trusted more. Colby will be missed around our office, but he is leaving his legacy in the capable hands of those he trained and those he mentored.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 25th Congressional District of Texas and the United States Congress, I thank Mr. Colby Hale. I thank him for his years

of service to this district and to the American people.

I am excited to see where life takes him next, and he should know that he will always be on the home team.

In God we trust.

#### FIND BALANCE BETWEEN LEGITIMATE TRADE AND TOURISM AT BORDER

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

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I live on the border, and we have to understand that, every day, there is about \$1.3 billion of trade between the U.S. and Mexico. That is a lot of jobs that are being created on this side.

When you look at the Mexicans who come over and shop, one out of every four international tourists will be people from across the river. That is over \$20 billion that is spent on the U.S. side in hotels, restaurants, and many other places. Those are jobs over here.

We want to see strong border security, but, again, we have to make sure that we find the balance between legitimate trade and tourism. The way to do that is to look at technology that has worked for the military that can work for us on the border and hire the right number of Border Patrol and CBP officers. If we do that, we can find a way to find the balance between legitimate trade and tourism, and I ask you to please consider that as we debate border security.

#### SECURE OUR BORDERS

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has fully reopened, and Federal employees are back to work. While the shutdown is over, the crisis at the border remains.

I recently toured the southern border in Arizona. Ranchers and Border Patrol agents told me about the challenges they face because of open borders. I saw short, weak, barbwire fences that line our border. I learned more about violent cartels and how they profit from our porous borders, from human trafficking and the flooding of drugs into our communities.

Congress has an obligation to secure our border. We must give Border Patrol agents the tools they need to get their job done. They told me they need equipment to detect drugs, and more and better body armor.

Border Patrol agents also told me that they need a wall. They know walls work. Congress should listen to them.

Tomorrow, the conference committee tasked with border security will meet for the first time. Having seen the border crisis firsthand, I urge those lawmakers to listen to our Border Patrol agents, fund meaningful physical barriers, and secure our borders.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN HURTS THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, fortunately, the United States Government is open, and, fortunately, when Donald Trump comes to this Chamber on February 5, he can say the state of the Union is that the government is open. Otherwise, the State of the Union would have been different.

A lot of people lost paychecks and had great difficulties because of 35 days without many Federal employees getting paid. That should not happen again.

A lot of private entrepreneurs whose businesses are located near Federal facilities will never recover the losses. When Federal employees did not go to work, people who have grocery stores, cafeterias, and lunchrooms lost business that they can never make up.

The ability of the FAA to keep our airlines going was jeopardized. We don't need to let that happen again. That hurts commerce and hurts our country.

We need to have an agreement, but we don't need to build an unnecessary fifth-century wall. George Bush put up more barriers than any other President, but none in Texas, his home State, because the Rio Grande River is the dividing point. There is a big difference.

God bless WALTER JONES.

#### A PATH FOR PROGRESS IN WAR ON POVERTY

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

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, since LBJ launched the War on Poverty, the percentage of Americans living below the poverty line has remained persistently static.

As reform efforts in Congress continue to falter, American's poverty reduction efforts continue to fall short of their objectives. We need a different approach to help millions of Americans escape poverty.

Today, I am introducing the People Centered Assistance Reform Effort Act, or the People CARE Act. This legislation creates a bipartisan commission in order to empower caseworkers to treat each person holistically, rather than simply administer programs; realign the 90-plus, often duplicative, poverty programs; remove benefit cliffs; and more.

It encourages employment, marriage, and education, activities identified by the Brookings Institution and others as effective means to end poverty.

The commission cannot launch new programs, nor directly cut spending. Upon receiving the commission's recommendation, Congress would have to vote to approve or disapprove.

People CARE offers a path for progress in the War on Poverty. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to cosponsor the People CARE Act.

□ 1215

#### GOOD LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. GOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a commonsense, bipartisan bill with Congressman CRENSHAW and Congressman ROSE. It is called the Solidarity in Salary Act. It is a simple bill that says if Federal employees aren't getting paychecks because of a shutdown, Members of Congress and the President shouldn't get their paychecks.

People back in Maine have heard me talk about when I was a young private first class joining my unit in the Marines at mealtime out in the field when they brought a hot meal out, we had a simple rule that we followed. What we would do is the private first class and lance corporal would go first to eat followed by the NCOs and staff NCOs, after that, the officers.

The idea was that good leaders should take care of other people before stopping and thinking about themselves. That is the principle behind this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to join Congressmen CRENSHAW and ROSE and me in supporting this legislation.

#### SECURE OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, over the past month, we saw President Trump put forward one offer after another to secure our southern border. They were reasonable offers that sought common ground, but every step of the way, Speaker PELOSI was unwilling to participate in any type of good-faith negotiations.

Now the President has given the Democrats yet another opportunity. The government is fully reopened and workers are receiving their paychecks. We can all agree that that is a good thing, but we still need a long-term solution to address the humanitarian crisis at our southern border. We need more technology, more border agents, and more physical barriers.

Now is the time for Speaker PELOSI to stop stonewalling. Let's get serious about negotiating a deal. Let's make sure our southern border is secure, and let's make sure our citizens are safe. That is what the American people want us to do, and it is time to get it done.

#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of a plague affecting our Nation and our world. It is called human trafficking. There are more than 40 million victims worldwide, and it happens in our backyards right here in congressional districts throughout the country. My district, because of the geographic location in California's Central Valley, sees a disproportionately high amount of human trafficking that takes place.

Fighting this atrocity requires all of us to come together with a comprehensive strategy. Organizations like Breaking the Chains in my district are needed to support survivors. Law enforcement needs to hold perpetrators accountable.

This week as the co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, Congressman PETE OLSON and I are introducing a resolution in the House to support the observation of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. It is sad that we have to bring this kind of recognition, but it is the reality.

This resolution calls for the Federal Government to coordinate its efforts and fight human trafficking between agencies and State and local governments as well as other organizations. We in the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus will continue to lead and push this effort. We need to work together.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CLEBERN H. "BOBBY" SHOWS, JR.

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Clebern H. "Bobby" Shows, Jr. who passed away on January 20 of this year at the age of 80. I send my condolences and prayers to Bobby's wife of 42 years, Sandra, as well as his family and friends.

Born and raised in Mississippi, he was a graduate of USM. During his life he worked as a cattle farmer, businessman, and public servant.

I had the distinct honor to serve alongside Bobby in the Mississippi House and knew him as a friend. Bobby was first elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1992 and served the community of Ellisville for 24 years. He was well-known by his colleagues in the State legislature as a principled conservative and served as chairman of the County Affairs Committee. Throughout his time in office, Chairman Shows earned his reputation as a strong advocate for Mississippi's rural residents.

Although we are sad to hear of his passing, we take comfort in his example of a life well-lived and the legacy he leaves behind. On behalf of the

Fourth Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Bobby Shows, a loving husband, father, man of God, and a dedicated civil servant.

#### HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY 2019

(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 past weekend, the world paused to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Millions of Jews were mercilessly killed as part of what the Nazis called their final solution to the Jewish problem. This happened just 74 years ago, though many seem to forget.

From the ashes, Jewish people returned to their ancient homeland and established a dynamic democracy in the Middle East. Unfortunately, the Jewish people of Israel are again targets of extermination. Just yesterday, the deputy head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps called to erase Israel from the global political map.

We must honor the memories of the 6 million murdered by Nazis by vowing that Jews will never again be threatened with extermination. The American people stand with Israel as proven by the embassy being established in Jerusalem where I led the House delegation May 14.

We remember, and we vow: never again.

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

#### SECURE THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate all who have been here today giving speeches.

The government shutdown is now over, but the crisis continues on the border. About 10 days ago, I was down on the border, and I saw firsthand what was happening down there and talked to people who were down there.

So, hopefully, during this time period, because the Democrats said repeatedly that if we reopen the government they would negotiate, hopefully we can negotiate and come to a bipartisan resolution that will help us to secure our southern border and continue to work on other ways that we can improve our immigration process.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote

or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CLEARANCE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ACT

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 424) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the management and administration of the security clearance processes throughout the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 424

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Homeland Security Clearance Management and Administration Act".

#### SEC. 2. SECURITY CLEARANCE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) by inserting before section 701 (6 U.S.C. 341) the following:

"Subtitle A—Headquarters Activities";

and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subtitle:

"Subtitle B—Security Clearances

#### "SEC. 711. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY SENSITIVE AND PUBLIC TRUST POSITIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require the designation of the sensitivity level of national security positions (pursuant to part 1400 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or similar successor regulation) be conducted in a manner consistent with respect to all components and offices of the Department, and consistent with Federal guidelines.

"(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall require the utilization of uniform designation tools throughout the Department and provide training to appropriate staff of the Department on such utilization. Such training shall include guidance on factors for determining eligibility for access to classified information and eligibility to hold a national security position.

#### "SEC. 712. REVIEW OF POSITION DESIGNATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 6, 2019, and every five years thereafter, the Secretary shall review all sensitivity level designations of national security positions (pursuant to part 1400 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or similar successor regulation) at the Department.

"(b) DETERMINATION.—If during the course of a review required under subsection (a), the Secretary determines that a change in the sensitivity level of a position that affects the need for an individual to obtain access to classified information is warranted, such access shall be administratively adjusted and an appropriate level periodic reinvestigation completed, as necessary.

"(c) CONGRESSIONAL REPORTING.—Upon completion of each review required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall report to

the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the findings of each such review, including the number of positions by classification level and by component and office of the Department in which the Secretary made a determination in accordance with subsection (b) to—

“(1) require access to classified information;

“(2) no longer require access to classified information; or

“(3) otherwise require a different level of access to classified information.

**“SEC. 713. AUDITS.**

“Beginning not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Department shall conduct regular audits of compliance of the Department with part 1400 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or similar successor regulation.

**“SEC. 714. REPORTING.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall annually through fiscal year 2024 submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the following:

“(1) The number of denials, suspensions, revocations, and appeals of the eligibility for access to classified information of an individual throughout the Department.

“(2) The date and status or disposition of each reported action under paragraph (1).

“(3) The identification of the sponsoring entity, whether by a component, office, or headquarters of the Department, of each action under paragraph (1), and description of the grounds for each such action.

“(4) Demographic data, including data relating to race, sex, national origin, and disability, of each individual for whom eligibility for access to classified information was denied, suspended, revoked, or appealed, and the number of years that each such individual was eligible for access to such information.

“(5) In the case of a suspension in excess of 180 days, an explanation for such duration.

“(b) FORM.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form and be made publicly available, but may include a classified annex for any sensitive or classified information if necessary.

**“SEC. 715. UNIFORM ADJUDICATION, SUSPENSION, DENIAL, AND REVOCATION.**

“Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the Homeland Security Advisory Committee, shall develop a plan to achieve greater uniformity within the Department with respect to the adjudication of eligibility of an individual for access to classified information that are consistent with the Adjudicative Guidelines for Determining Access to Classified Information published on December 29, 2005, or similar successor regulation. The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate the plan. The plan shall consider the following:

“(1) Mechanisms to foster greater compliance with the uniform Department adjudication, suspension, denial, and revocation standards by the head of each component and office of the Department with the authority to adjudicate access to classified information.

“(2) The establishment of an internal appeals panel responsible for final national security clearance denial and revocation determinations that is comprised of designees who are career, supervisory employees from com-

ponents and offices of the Department with the authority to adjudicate access to classified information and headquarters, as appropriate.

**“SEC. 716. DATA PROTECTION.**

“The Secretary shall ensure that all information received for the adjudication of eligibility of an individual for access to classified information is consistent with the Adjudicative Guidelines for Determining Access to Classified Information published on December 29, 2005, or similar successor regulation, and is protected against misappropriation.

**“SEC. 717. REFERENCE.**

“Except as otherwise provided, for purposes of this subtitle, any reference to the ‘Department’ includes all components and offices of the Department.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) by inserting before the item relating to section 701 the following new item:

“Subtitle A—Headquarters Activities”;

and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 707 the following new items:

“Subtitle B—Security Clearances

“Sec. 711. Designation of national security sensitive and public trust positions.

“Sec. 712. Review of position designations.

“Sec. 713. Audits.

“Sec. 714. Reporting.

“Sec. 715. Uniform adjudication, suspension, denial, and revocation.

“Sec. 716. Data protection.

“Sec. 717. Reference.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 424, the Department of Homeland Security Clearance Management and Administration Act.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin, let me say I am pleased that we have reached the end of the longest government shutdown in U.S. history. I am grateful to the women and men of DHS and their families for their professionalism during this difficult month. We should all recognize that they continue to serve our country every day by keeping our citizens safe.

Mr. Speaker, I have reintroduced H.R. 424, the Department of Homeland Security Clearance Management and Administration Act, to reform how the department manages its security clearance processes. It is no secret that the security clearance process is in dire need of change.

Since September 11, there has been massive growth in the amount of classified material across the Federal Government. In many cases, material is over-classified where it is kept at a higher classification level or at a higher classification level for longer than needed. The explosion in the number of Federal positions requiring security clearances has driven an enormous backlog in security clearance background investigations.

As of last Congress, the average waiting period for an initial background check for a top-secret clearance was 390 days—more than a year. The average waiting period for a reinvestigation of an individual holding a top-secret clearance was 518 days—nearly 1½ years.

The delays caused by this enormous backlog represent very real barriers to employment and promotion within government. Many individuals with clearances do not actually need clearances to do their jobs. According to a 2014 report by the Office of Management and Budget, 40 percent of all individuals with clearances did not even have access to classified information as part of their work.

Misclassification of national security positions is not only wasteful of government resources but creates needless barriers to entry and advancement. Clearly, the clearance system is in desperate need of significant reform.

H.R. 424 would help put DHS on a path to rightsizing its ranks by ensuring that national security positions are properly designated.

H.R. 424 would also require DHS to conform, from time to time, that its security designations are still appropriate. This would ensure that the department is not needlessly limiting the applicant pool for positions that do not require access to classified information.

While the executive branch is exploring ways to improve the way in which positions are designated for clearances, H.R. 424 would allow DHS to become a leader in modernizing and streamlining this system.

Finally, H.R. 424 would require DHS to keep applicants' and employees' personal information safe from data breaches.

Taken together, these reforms represent progress toward fixing the broken clearance system. It will save DHS money, time, and other resources by streamlining the clearance and designation systems.

Fundamentally, enactment of H.R. 424 would begin to break down barriers to employment and promotion that prevent Federal employees from advancing in their careers.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 424, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 424, the Department of Homeland Security Clearance Management and Administration Act.

President Trump has directed a major security clearance and background information overhaul across the executive branch. This effort is underway, and significant progress has been made to reduce the backlog and improve the quality of background investigations. The bill we are considering today complements this initiative.

H.R. 424 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct an inventory of the department's positions that require security clearances, which currently number over 100,000, and determine what positions may be duplicative or are no longer necessary. It is just good government to periodically review the positions that require a "need to know" and to ensure DHS is not allocating funds for unnecessary background investigations. Security clearances are costly to investigate, adjudicate, and maintain.

The bill would ensure that DHS conducts a thorough accounting of its workforce needs and reduces the number of positions with security clearances if determined appropriate. The bill would also require additional transparency on how security clearances are adjudicated, including when there are reasons to suspend or deny a security clearance.

Chairman THOMPSON's legislation is an example of the accounting that each Federal department should be conducting today and would lead to a leaner and more secure Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Speaker, the bill is identical to the version the House passed last Congress, and I would just reiterate this is good government, bipartisan legislation. I urge its support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1230

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 424, which passed by voice vote in the last Congress, will help improve critical aspects of DHS' security clearance process.

The truth is that not every position requires a clearance, not every document needs to be classified. Our intelligence and law enforcement officials should focus their limited time and resources on protecting materials that are truly sensitive. Access to those materials should be granted carefully and appropriately to individuals who actually need to handle those materials.

Enactment of H.R. 424 would not only make DHS a leader in this space, but it would help break down barriers to employment and growth within the Department. Mr. Speaker, I ask for my colleagues' support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COHEN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 424.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL INFORMATION RESOURCE TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 495) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require an annual report on the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 495

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Information Resource to Strengthen Ties with State and Local Law Enforcement Act of 2017" or the "FIRST State and Local Law Enforcement Act".

**SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT ON OFFICE FOR STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.**

Section 2006(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 607(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

"(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—For each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, the Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report on the activities of the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement. Each such report shall include, for the fiscal year covered by such report, a description of each of the following:

"(A) Efforts to coordinate and share information regarding Department and component agency programs with State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies.

"(B) Efforts to improve information sharing through the Homeland Security Information Network by appropriate component agencies of the Department and by State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies.

"(C) The status of performance metrics within the Office of State and Local Law Enforcement to evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to carry out the activities specified in subsection (a).

"(D) Any feedback from State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies regarding the Office of State and Local Law Enforcement, including the mechanisms utilized to collect such feedback.

"(E) Efforts to carry out all other responsibilities of the Office of State and Local Law Enforcement."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to

revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 495, the FIRST State and Local Law Enforcement Act.

I thank my Democratic colleague, Ms. JACKSON LEE, for reintroducing this measure in the new Congress.

H.R. 495 would require DHS to submit an annual report to Congress on the activities of the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement.

This bill was written, informed by a report I had my staff prepare to look at DHS' progress at implementing the 9/11 Commission Act on its 10th anniversary in 2017. The report recommended that DHS continuously refine its information-sharing networks.

Central to this effort is the Department's engagement with State and local law enforcement. Specifically, H.R. 495 requires an annual report that highlights the activities of this office.

Pursuant to H.R. 495, each report must contain detailed information on existing programs and performance metrics to evaluate their effectiveness. More importantly, each report must include feedback received from these law enforcement agencies so that future collaboration can be meaningful.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 495, the Office of State and Local Law Enforcement Information Sharing Review Act, introduced by my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The Office for State and Local Law Enforcement is part of the Department of Homeland Security and currently resides in the Office of Partnership and Engagement. The Office provides information on DHS' resources that are available to State and local law enforcement agency partners and a point of contact for questions regarding DHS' policies and programs.

This bill requires the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement to provide a report on the efforts of the Office to improve information sharing between DHS and law enforcement agencies, an overview of the performance metrics used to measure success and any feedback provided by the State and local stakeholders, and an overview of ongoing activities of the Office.

This reporting requirement is intended to assist the Office in identifying areas of improvement in the Department's information-sharing efforts and coordinating with the relevant DHS components to close any identified gaps.

I am pleased the bill includes a sunset on the reporting requirement after 5 years. While the information gathered through the report will be valuable for congressional oversight, it is important that we do not overburden the Department with never-ending reporting requirements.

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

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, allow me to thank the chairman for facilitating this bill to the floor and the support of our ranking member, Mr. ROGERS, for this legislation and the work that we do on the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. Speaker, before I start, allow me to acknowledge, with my thoughts and prayers, the wounded officers and members of the Houston Police Department who were shot last evening in a senseless shooting. Four of the officers were shot in the attempt to render a drug warrant, and one was injured. I understand, of that group, there were several who are in critical condition.

Thanks to the professional work of the Houston Police Department, two of the persons perpetrating this crime have been stopped, and I hope the families of the victim police officers take comfort in the knowledge that everyone in our community—and, yes, in our Nation—is praying for the speedy and complete recovery of each of the officers wounded, injured in this terrible tragedy.

It is because of the importance of law enforcement in the communication with the Department of Homeland Security that I reintroduced H.R. 495 to require the Department of Homeland Security's Office for State and Local Law Enforcement to report annually on its activities.

As we all know, after the September 11 terrorist attacks, our Nation learned that the inability of Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial partners to share information was a critical failure in our national security apparatus. Those of us who happened to be in the United States Congress at that time saw that as this heinous act was occurring. It was the first responders, local law enforcement, who all converged on Ground Zero.

Today, I am proud to say that there has been real progress on closing this once-prominent information-sharing gap. It is now commonplace within the Federal Government to support policies that empower and include our State and local partners. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, it is because of the work of the Members of the United States Congress—in particular, members of the Committee on Homeland Security—who gradually built this pathway that is so crucial.

I hear it often from my local law enforcement, the importance of commu-

nicating via a two-way street—classified, confidential—with officials in the Federal Government.

To keep DHS on that path, H.R. 495 requires the Assistant Director of the DHS office in charge of coordinating, liaising, and advocating for State and local law enforcement to submit an annual report to Congress on its work. It is important because we in Congress are the watchdogs to insist upon that cooperation.

Requiring this report will not only provide metrics to assess the effectiveness of the Office's current work, but it would include comprehensive information on existing programs and feedback from law enforcement agencies themselves. Remember, they are, every day, on the front lines. They are the first responders to see something and say something as relates to protecting us against terrorism.

More, this measure would ensure future accountability of the Department and its work with local partners.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Texas an additional 1 minute.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. It is no secret that the threat landscape of today is constantly evolving. What we have learned from this challenge is there must be proactive measures in place at all levels of the government to track the growth of and reflect upon our capabilities to combat crime and terror.

State and local law enforcement provide tireless work to investigate and apprehend individuals of heinous crime. It is our duty to ensure that they are able to do their very best work in collaboration with their Federal partners and keep our communities safe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this very important legislation, and I also ask for prayers not only for those shot last night, but the injured officers in my district who were injured on Christmas Eve, one severely burned—that is two officers, Officer Daily and Officer Reid. We continue to pray for Officer Daily, who suffered burns all over his body.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 495, the "FIRST State and Local Law Enforcement Act."

Mr. Speaker. I want to take this time to acknowledge the Houston police officers injured. My thoughts and prayers are with the wounded officers and the members of the Houston Police Department.

The senseless shooting of four of Houston's finest and bravest last evening, while they were serving a warrant, is a tragedy and another reminder of the dangers faced by law enforcement officers who risk their lives to keep their communities safe. One officer injured his knee. Totalling 5 officers hurt.

Thanks to the swift and professional police work of the Houston Police Department, two of the persons perpetrating this heinous crime have been stopped.

I hope the families of the victims take comfort in the knowledge that everyone in our

community is praying for speedy and complete recovery of each of the officers wounded in this tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I reintroduced H.R. 495 to require the Department of Homeland Security's Office for State and Local Law Enforcement to report annually on its activities.

As we all know, after the September 11th terrorist attacks our Nation learned that the inability of the Federal, State, local, tribal and territorial partners to share information was a critical failure in our national security apparatus.

Today, I am proud to say that there's been real progress in closing this once prominent information sharing gap.

It is now common practice within the Federal government to support policies that empower and include our State and local partners.

To keep DHS on that path, H.R. 495 requires the Assistant Director of DHS' Office in charge of coordinating, liaising, and advocating for state and local law enforcement to submit an annual report to Congress on its work.

Requiring this report would not only provide metrics to assess the effectiveness of the office's current work, but it would include comprehensive information on existing programs and feedback from the law enforcement agencies themselves.

More, this measure would ensure future accountability of the Department and its work with local partners.

It is no secret that the threat landscape of today is constantly evolving.

What we have learned from this challenge is that there must be proactive measure in place at all levels of government to track the growth of and reflect upon our capabilities to combat crime and terror.

State and local law enforcement provide tireless work to investigate and apprehend individuals of heinous crimes.

It is our duty to ensure that they are able to do their best work in collaboration with their Federal partners to keep our communities safe.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 495, which passed the House on suspension last Congress, requires DHS' Office of State and Local Law Enforcement to produce an annual report.

This report documents the office's coordination, liaison, and advocacy efforts for state and local law enforcement.

Again, I have reintroduced this measure because I believe our national security is at its best when the Federal government works together with our State and local partners.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 495.

I want to take this time to acknowledge the service and fighting spirit of Houston Police Officers John Daily and Alonzo Reid.

On Christmas Eve, Officers Daily and Reid were responding, with lights on, to a call for assistance from a fellow officer when they were hit nearly head on.

Their patrol car rolled several times before it collided with a pole and caught fire.

Thankfully, both survived the fiery car crash.

Officer Reid showed true heroism when he pulled Officer Daily from the driver's seat with the assistance of a passer-by, Juan Carlos Salgado.

Thankfully, Officer Reid was released from the hospital on Christmas Day.

However, Officer Daily, who suffered burns to over half his body, has endured five surgeries and is still in the hospital in serious condition.

Officers Daily and Reid put service above self every day, including on Christmas Eve when they were on their way to offer assistance to a fellow officer.

My thoughts and prayers are with Officer Daily, his family, and fellow officers for a full recovery.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I reiterate, this is good government policy, and I fully support and urge its passage.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, nearly 18 years after the September 11 attacks, it is important that we stand together and recommit ourselves to doing all we can to prevent further terrorist attacks at the Federal, State, and local levels.

Enactment of H.R. 495, which passed the House on suspension last Congress, would help ensure that State and local law enforcement know DHS is a full partner in securing their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 495, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in strong support of H.R. 495, the FIRST State and Local Law Enforcement Act, which supports the work of the Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Law Enforcement (OSLLE) by requiring that an annual report of its activities be submitted to Congress so that we can be aware of the range of benefits and services needed by local and state law enforcement agencies.

The work of law enforcement is rewarding to those who serve, but it can also be very dangerous.

My thoughts and prayers are with the wounded officers and the members of the Houston Police Department.

The senseless shooting of five of Houston's finest and bravest last evening, while they were serving a warrant, is a tragedy and another reminder of the dangers faced by law enforcement officers who risk their lives to keep their communities safe.

Thanks to the swift and professional police work of the Houston Police Department, two of the persons perpetrating this heinous crime have been stopped.

I hope the families of the victims take comfort in the knowledge that everyone in our community is praying for speedy and complete recovery of each of the officers wounded in this tragedy.

The basis for creating the office is one of 33 recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, which called for a primary coordinator, liaison, and advocate for state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies.

This legislation mandates that OSLLE also leads the coordination of DHS's policies related to state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement's role in preventing, preparing for, protecting against, and responding to natural disasters, acts of terrorism and other man-made disasters.

As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I am very much aware of the importance of the work performed by the men and women who protect us from terrorism.

Homeland Security is defined as: "the national effort to ensure a homeland that is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards where American interests, aspirations, and ways of life can thrive to the national effort to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce the vulnerability of the U.S. to terrorism, and minimize the damage from attacks that do occur"

I am proud to have so many first responders as friends, and I am committed to working tirelessly to assure that they have the full support of Congress in getting the resources and training they need to protect our communities.

This bill will provide an important opportunity for DHS to report on this vital work with state and local law enforcement agencies.

The sacrifices made by our men and women in state and local law enforcement all too often go unnoticed.

One example of their heroism and bravery was seen when Houston Police Officers Alonzo Reid and John Daily were involved in a Christmas Eve car crash.

On Christmas Eve, Officers Daily and Reid were responding, with lights on, to a call for assistance from a fellow officer when they were hit nearly head on.

Their patrol car rolled several times before it collided with a pole and caught fire.

Thankfully, both survived the fiery car crash.

Officer Reid showed true heroism when he pulled Officer Daily from the driver's seat with the assistance of a passerby, Juan Carlos Salgado.

Thankfully, Officer Reid was released from the hospital on Christmas Day.

However, Officer Daily, who suffered burns to over half his body, has endured five surgeries and is still in serious medical condition.

I ask my colleagues to join me in offering prayers and well wishes to Officer Daily for a full recovery.

Officers Daily and Reid like tens of thousands of their counter parts, put service above self every day.

The Department of Homeland Security has been in existence for 16 years, and in that time the men and women who serve on the front lines of defending the United States against terrorist acts at home have not wavered in their commitment.

During times of crisis, the relationships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies is proven to be of the greatest value to an effective government wide response.

On August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas.

Local, state, and federal first responders rescued 122,331 people.

The Coast Guard deployed 2,060 personnel, 50 aircraft, 75 boats and 29 cutters, rescuing 11,022 people and 1,384 pets.

FEMA deployed 28 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams from across the nation to Texas to assist state and local agencies with the lifesaving mission.

This is in addition to the tens of thousands of meals, water, supplies, and public assistance that were also provided.

Hurricane Harvey's Federal, state, and local response agencies benefit from collaborating with DHS.

Because the DHS office plays a significant role in the required outreach to state and local law enforcement entities it is important that the Committee on Homeland Security be kept apprised of its work.

Today, DHS is not funded due to the Trump Shutdown.

It is shameful that 85 percent of DHS employees are either working with no paycheck or have been furloughed.

These men and women work for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Customs and Border Protection, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Secret Service, and Transportation and Security Administration.

It has been reported that many DHS employees have described feeling depressed, stressed out, anxious, uncomfortable, and insecure because of the Trump Shutdown.

It is time to end the Trump Shutdown.

This bill will need DHS fully staffed and functioning to ensure that the reporting requirement of this bill are fulfilled so that the federal, state, and local agencies working with DHS receive the support that they need.

For this reason, I ask that my colleagues join me in voting for H.R. 495.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 495.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

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

Mr. GOSAR. 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 14, nays 395, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 55]

YEAS—14

Babin	Green (TN)	Meadows
Biggs	Harris	Mullin
Burgess	Hice (GA)	Norman
Duncan	Massie	Weber (TX)
Gosar	McHenry	

NAYS—395

Abraham	Bergman	Budd
Adams	Beyer	Burchett
Aderholt	Bilirakis	Bustos
Aguilar	Bishop (GA)	Butterfield
Allen	Blumenauer	Byrne
Allred	Blunt Rochester	Calvert
Amash	Bonamici	Carbajal
Amodei	Bost	Cárdenas
Armstrong	Boyle, Brendan	Carson (IN)
Arrington	F.	Carter (GA)
Axne	Brady	Cartwright
Bacon	Brindisi	Case
Baird	Brooks (AL)	Casten (IL)
Balderson	Brooks (IN)	Castor (FL)
Banks	Brown (MD)	Castro (TX)
Barr	Brownley (CA)	Chabot
Barragán	Buchanan	Cheney
Beatty	Buck	Cicilline
Bera	Bucshon	Cisneros

Clark (MA)           Hern, Kevin  
 Clarke (NY)       Herrera Beutler  
 Clay               Higgins (LA)  
 Cleaver           Higgins (NY)  
 Cline             Hill (AR)  
 Cloud             Hill (CA)  
 Clyburn          Himes  
 Cohen             Holding  
 Cole               Hollingsworth  
 Collins (GA)     Horn, Kendra S.  
 Collins (NY)     Horsford  
 Comer            O'Halleran  
 Conaway         Hoyer  
 Connolly         Hudson  
 Cook             Huffman  
 Cooper          Huizenga  
 Correa          Hunter  
 Costa            Hurd (TX)  
 Courtney        Jackson Lee  
 Cox (CA)         Jayapal  
 Craig            Jeffries  
 Crawford         Johnson (GA)  
 Crenshaw        Johnson (LA)  
 Crist             Johnson (OH)  
 Crow             Johnson (SD)  
 Cuellar          Johnson (TX)  
 Cummings        Jordan  
 Cunningham     Joyce (OH)  
 Curtis           Joyce (PA)  
 Davids (KS)     Kaptur  
 Davidson (OH)   Katko  
 Davis (CA)      Keating  
 Davis, Danny K. Kelly (IL)  
 Davis, Rodney   Kelly (MS)  
 Dean             Kelly (PA)  
 DeFazio          Kennedy  
 DeGette         Khanna  
 DeLauro         Kildee  
 DelBene         Kilmer  
 Delgado         Kim  
 Demings         Kind  
 DeSaulnier     King (IA)  
 Deutch          King (NY)  
 Diaz-Balart     Kinzinger  
 Dingell         Kirkpatrick  
 Doggett         Krishnamoorthi  
 Doyle, Michael F. Kuster (NH)  
 Duffy            Kustoff (TN)  
 Dunn            LaHood  
 Emmer          LaMalfa  
 Engel            Lamb  
 Escobar         Lamborn  
 Eshoo           Langevin  
 Espallat        Larson (CT)  
 Estes           Latta  
 Evans           Lawrence  
 Ferguson        Lawson (FL)  
 Finkenauer     Lee (CA)  
 Fitzpatrick    Lee (NV)  
 Fleischmann    Lesko  
 Fletcher        Levin (CA)  
 Flores          Levin (MI)  
 Fortenberry    Lewis  
 Foster          Lieu, Ted  
 Foxx (NC)      Lipinski  
 Fudge          Loebsock  
 Fulcher         Lofgren  
 Gabbard        Long  
 Gaetz          Loudermilk  
 Gallagher     Lowenthal  
 Gallego         Lowe  
 Garcia (IL)     Lucas  
 Garcia (TX)    Luetkemeyer  
 Gianforte      Lujan  
 Gibbs          Luria  
 Gohmert        Lynch  
 Golden         Malinowski  
 Gomez          Maloney,  
                   Carolyn B.  
 Gonzalez (OH)  Maloney, Sean  
 Gonzalez (TX)  Marchant  
 Gooden         Marshall  
 Gottheimer     Mast  
 Granger        Matsui  
 Graves (GA)    McAdams  
 Graves (LA)    McBath  
 Graves (MO)    McCarthy  
 Green (TX)     McClintock  
 Griffith        McCollum  
 Grothman      McEachin  
 Guest          McGovern  
 Guthrie        McKinley  
 Haaland        McNerney  
 Hagedorn      Meeks  
 Harder (CA)    Meuser  
 Hartzer        Mitchell  
 Hastings      Moolenaar  
 Hayes          Mooney (WV)  
 Heck           Moore

Morelle           Thompson (CA)  
 Moulton          Thompson (MS)  
 Mucarsel-Powell Thompson (PA)  
 Murphy           Timmons  
 Nadler           Tipton  
 Napolitano      Titus  
 Neal             Talb  
 Neguse          Tonko  
 Newhouse        Torres (CA)  
 Norcross        Torres Small  
 Nunes            (NM)  
 O'Halleran      Trahan  
 Ocasio-Cortez  Turner  
 Olson            Underwood  
 Omar             Upton  
 Palazzo         Van Drew  
 Pallone         Vargas  
 Panetta         Veasey  
 Pappas          Vela  
 Pascrell        Velaquez  
 Pence           Visclosky  
 Perlmutter     Walberg  
 Perry            Walden  
 Peters          Walker  
 Peterson        Walorski  
 Phillips        Waltz  
 Pingree         Wasserman  
 Pocan           Schultz  
 Porter          Waters  
 Posey           Watkins  
 Pressley        Watson Coleman  
 Price (NC)      Webster (FL)  
 Quigley         Jones  
 Raskin          Larsen (WA)  
 Ratcliffe       McCaul  
 Reed            Meng  
 Rice (NY)      Miller  
 Rice (SC)      Payne  
 Richmond       Reschenthaler  
 Riggleman      Scott (VA)  
 Roby            Bass  
 Rodgers (WA)   Bishop (UT)  
 Roe, David P.  Carter (TX)  
 Rogers (AL)    Chu, Judy  
 Rogers (KY)    DesJarlais  
 Rooney (FL)    Frankel  
 Rose (NY)      Garamendi  
 Rose, John W.  Grijalva  
 Rouda          Jones  
 Rouzer         Larsen (WA)  
 Roy             McCaul  
 Roybal-Allard  Meng  
 Ruiz            Miller  
 Ruppertsberger Payne  
 Rush            Reschenthaler  
 Rutherford     Scott (VA)  
 Ryan            Sensenbrenner  
 Sanchez        Sires  
 Sarbanes      Thornberry  
 Scalise        Trone  
 Scanlon        Wagner  
 Schakowsky    Wilson (FL)  
 Schiff         Young  
 Schneider     Sensenbrenner  
 Schrader      Sires  
 Schrier       Thornberry  
 Schweikert   Trone  
 Scott, Austin  Wagner  
 Scott, David  Wilson (FL)  
 Serrano       Young  
 Sewell (AL)   Sensenbrenner  
 Shalala       Sires  
 Sherman       Thornberry  
 Sherrill      Trone  
 Shimkus       Wagner  
 Simpson       Wilson (FL)  
 Slotkin       Young  
 Smith (MO)    Sensenbrenner  
 Smith (NE)    Sires  
 Smith (NJ)    Thornberry  
 Smith (WA)   Trone  
 Smucker      Wagner  
 Soto          Wilson (FL)  
 Spanberger    Young  
 Spano         Sensenbrenner  
 Speier        Sires  
 Stanton      Thornberry  
 Stauber      Trone  
 Stefanik     Wagner  
 Steil         Wilson (FL)  
 Steube       Young  
 Stevens      Sensenbrenner  
 Stewart      Sires  
 Stivers      Thornberry  
 Suozzi       Trone  
 Swalwell (CA) Wagner  
 Takano       Wilson (FL)  
 Taylor        Young

NOT VOTING—23

□ 1314

Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Messrs. VAN DREW, GROTHMAN, RICE of South Carolina, SMITH of Missouri, SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. WILD changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. WEBER of Texas, GOSAR, and BABIN changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

**HOMELAND SECURITY ASSESSMENT OF TERRORISTS' USE OF VIRTUAL CURRENCIES ACT**

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 428) to direct the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis to develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding terrorist use of virtual currency.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 428

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Homeland Security Assessment of Terrorists’ Use of Virtual Currencies Act”.

**SEC. 2. THREAT ASSESSMENT ON TERRORIST USE OF VIRTUAL CURRENCY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis, as authorized by section 201(b)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121(b)(1)), shall, in coordination with appropriate Federal partners, develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding the actual and potential threat posed by individuals using virtual currency to carry out activities in furtherance of an act of terrorism, including the provision of material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization. Consistent with the protection of classified and confidential unclassified information, the Under Secretary shall share the threat assessment developed under this section with State, local, and tribal law enforcement officials, including officials who operate within State,

local, and regional fusion centers through the Department of Homeland Security State, Local, and Regional Fusion Center Initiative established in section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “foreign terrorist organization” means an organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

(2) The term “virtual currency” means a digital representation of value that functions as a medium of exchange, a unit of account, or a store of value.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 428, the Homeland Security Assessment of Terrorists’ Use of Virtual Currencies Act.

In the 17 years since the deadliest terrorist attack in American history, the United States has led the global fight against terrorism, thwarting plots and preventing attacks on American soil, identifying and disrupting terrorist networks around the world, and hunting down terrorists wherever they may hide.

However, the threat of terrorism is not the same as it was on September 11, 2001. It is a threat that constantly evolves, and we need to evolve with it. We need to evolve ahead of it.

Today, we have to acknowledge that the front lines of the war on terror are shifting increasingly away from individual countries and into cyberspace. This new front line poses an especially dangerous and nebulous threat when it comes to terrorist financing.

As such, the Homeland Security Assessment of Terrorists’ Use of Virtual Currencies Act speaks to a timely and pressing concern. Over the past several years, a number of terrorist organizations have turned to virtual currencies to support themselves and fund their operations.

For example, in December of 2017, a woman in New York was arrested and pled guilty after she obtained \$62,000 in bitcoin and other virtual currencies to send to ISIL. Using those virtual funds, she was able to send the money via shell entities in Pakistan, China, and Turkey that were fronts for ISIL.

In early 2017, Indonesian authorities reported that a Syria-based Indonesian

with ties to ISIL used bitcoin and other virtual currencies to fund attacks in Indonesia.

The same things that make virtual currencies appealing to everyday consumers, speed and convenience, make these currencies appealing to those who want to finance illegal activities. Many forms of virtual currencies also offer their users anonymity, making them particularly attractive to those seeking to circumvent American law enforcement and financial institutions.

In order to effectively confront this threat, we need to fully understand it. We need a comprehensive assessment of how virtual currencies might be abused for illegal and nefarious ends.

My bill would require DHS to conduct such an assessment and share its findings with law enforcement officers who are on the front lines of the war on terror.

Indeed, this bill will help provide law enforcement officials at all levels with the 21st century solutions, information, and resources they need to counter this emerging threat.

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Congresswoman RICE from New York, for introducing this bill.

Over the past 12 months, there has been growing concern by administration officials, as well as security and financial experts, about potential threats associated with cryptocurrencies.

In July 2018, a Department of Justice task force reported noted criminals are using virtual currencies to collect, hide, and launder funds, as well as purchase illegal goods and services. Both the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service have ongoing efforts to review registered digital currency providers and identify illicit use.

The legislation we are considering today, sponsored by the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE), adds to this effort by directing the Department of Homeland Security to develop and disseminate a threat assessment of threat posed by individuals using virtual currencies to carry out activities in furtherance of terrorism, including the provision of material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization.

The bill also requires DHS to share the threat assessment with State and local law enforcement.

As the threat of terrorism evolves, so do the methods to finance and support the actors who plot to attack the United States. The Federal Government must evolve as well to meet these novel and technologically based challenges.

This bill positions the Department to detect the new, digital-based methods in terrorist financing and support that have already occurred and to prepare

for those that are sure and soon to follow.

The potential of terrorist organizations to use virtual currencies to carry out an attack, or a smuggling network to launder illicit proceeds through cryptocurrency markets, should be a major concern to the Department of Homeland Security. Requiring the Department to conduct a threat assessment is appropriate and timely.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman RICE for bringing this bill forward, and I urge a “yes” vote.

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

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 428 is an important piece of legislation that was approved by a voice vote last Congress. This bill will help DHS effectively address terrorists’ actual and potential use of virtual currencies.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues in the Freedom Caucus, who care so much about national security and domestic security, to put their money where their mouths are, to put political pettiness aside, let these votes go through as they are meant to, because these are bipartisan bills, DHS bills that are supported broadly by Members of this House. Let’s get on with this, since this is an issue that we all care about.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, H.R. 428, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 428.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### PATHWAYS TO IMPROVING HOMELAND SECURITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL ACT

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 449) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to direct the Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement to produce and disseminate an annual catalog on Department of Homeland Security training, publications, programs, and services for State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 449

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Pathways to Improving Homeland Security at the Local Level Act”.

#### SEC. 2. ANNUAL CATALOG ON DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TRAINING, PUBLICATIONS, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICES FOR STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

Section 2006(b)(4) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 607(b)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) produce an annual catalog that summarizes opportunities for training, publications, programs, and services available to State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies from the Department and from each component and office within the Department and, not later than 30 days after the date of each such production, disseminate the catalog at issue, including by—

“(i) making such catalog available to State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies, including by posting such catalog on the website of the Department and cooperating with national organizations that represent such agencies;

“(ii) making such catalog available through the Homeland Security Information Network; and

“(iii) submitting such catalog to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 449, the Pathways to Improving Homeland Security at the Local Level Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my Democratic colleague, Mrs. DEMINGS, for reintroducing this measure in the new Congress.

Nearly 18 years ago, our country faced the difficult realization that, in order to effectively combat the threat of terrorism, we needed to implement a new whole-of-government approach. In other words, we need all hands on deck.

Having learned from the September 11 terrorist attacks, the Department of Homeland Security now facilitates information-sharing and collaboration efforts between the Federal, State, and local levels. This cooperation helps to

ensure that all government partners are equipped with the resources and information they need to tackle the ever-evolving threat of terrorism.

H.R. 449 will help further those efforts. This bill will ensure that our Nation's first responders at the State and local levels have easy and ready access to DHS' cutting-edge resources and training programs.

H.R. 449 would require the Department to disseminate such information in an annual catalog. In order to maximize the catalog's availability and readership, this bill also calls for the catalog to be accessible on the Department's website as well as on a secure information-sharing platform.

This measure is a great example of commonsense, bipartisan legislation that will help build safer communities from the ground up.

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is part of DHS' statutory mission to support State and local law enforcement, and the Office of State and Local Law Enforcement has the responsibility of proactively identifying ways in which the Department can support these important stakeholders.

The Pathways to Improving Homeland Security at the Local Level Act, sponsored by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS), will ensure that State and local law enforcement receive vital information on available DHS resources and programs.

Under the bill, the Office of State and Local Law Enforcement will annually produce and disseminate a catalog that details the Department of Homeland Security training, publications, programs, and services available to non-Federal law enforcement agencies. The office must disseminate the catalog within 30 days of production to State and local law enforcement entities.

This catalog is currently being produced by the office, and the bill requires them to continue its production.

DHS also is required to share the catalog through the Homeland Security Information Network. Using this existing information-sharing platform will expand, hopefully, the number of State and local law enforcement partners who receive it.

This bill is intended to increase awareness of DHS tools and resources available to assist State and local law enforcement.

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

□ 1330

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS).

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I reintroduced H.R. 449 to enhance counterterrorism preparedness at the local level.

In recent years, we have seen acts of terrorism, especially in planning and execution, take place in cities throughout our Nation. Whether it occurs at a church in Charleston, a synagogue in Pittsburgh, or a nightclub in Orlando, local law enforcement is the front line of defense in protecting our communities from acts of violence. It is, therefore, necessary to equip our first responders with the tools to allow them to quickly adapt to the evolving terrorist threat landscape. This bill, H.R. 449, does just that.

Today, the Department of Homeland Security's training catalogue is a primary resource for State and local jurisdictions to find opportunities to enhance their counterterrorism and preparedness capabilities.

Specifically, H.R. 449 directs DHS' Office of State and Local Law Enforcement to produce, as you have heard, and distribute an annual catalogue of training programs and services to State, local, and Tribal law enforcement communities. To ensure that this information is shared throughout the law enforcement community with agencies large and small, H.R. 449 requires this comprehensive catalogue be posted on the DHS website, as well as on the Homeland Security Information Network.

Enactment of this bill will further strengthen the Department's partnership with State and local law enforcement to help better protect the homeland. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I am fully in favor of this bill. Particularly, last week, when my colleague ANDY BIGGS and I took a bunch of our colleagues down on the border, we were assailed by our Border Patrol not having adequate weapons and not having enough bulletproof vests and light armor. A lot of times, these guys are carrying shielding that is 35 pounds. In the hot summer, your body temperature can rise very quickly above that.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill. It is a good bill. I encourage my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for introducing this important bill to ensure State and local law enforcement are aware of the resources DHS can provide to them.

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

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 449, which passed the House of Representatives on suspension last Congress, will strengthen the Federal Government's relationship with our State and local law enforcement partners.

One of our top priorities on this committee is ensuring adequate training

for our first responders and creating collaborative partnerships between DHS and its local counterparts. This bill will help us accomplish that.

Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 449, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 449.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### DHS FIELD ENGAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 504) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 504

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act".

#### SEC. 2. ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY WITH FUSION CENTERS.

Section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h) is amended by—

(1) redesigning subsections (j) and (k) as subsections (k) and (l), respectively; and

(2) inserting after subsection (i) the following new subsection:

“(j) FUSION CENTER INFORMATION SHARING STRATEGY.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall develop and update at least once every five years a strategy for Department engagement with fusion centers. Such strategy shall be developed and updated in consultation with the heads of intelligence components of the Department, the Chief Privacy Officer of the Department, the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department, officials of fusion centers, officers designated as Homeland Security Advisors, and the heads of other relevant agencies, as appropriate. Such strategy shall include the following:

“(1) Specific goals and objectives for sharing information and engaging with fusion centers—

“(A) through the direct deployment of personnel from intelligence components of the Department;

“(B) through the use of Department unclassified and classified information sharing systems, including the Homeland Security Information Sharing Network and the Homeland Secure Data Network, or any successor systems; and

“(C) through any additional means.

“(2) The performance metrics to be used to measure success in achieving the goals and objectives referred to in paragraph (1).

“(3) A five-year plan for continued engagement with fusion centers.”.

**SEC. 3. OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS FIELD PERSONNEL SUPPORT TO FUSION CENTERS.**

(a) **PERFORMANCE METRICS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security shall—

(1) consider the effectiveness of existing processes to identify and prepare field personnel for deployment to support fusion centers and internal mechanisms to ensure oversight and accountability of such field personnel, including field personnel assigned to one center and field personnel assigned to multiple centers; and

(2) publish and disseminate performance metrics, taking into account, as appropriate, regional and threat diversity, for—

(A) field personnel from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis assigned to an individual fusion center;

(B) field personnel from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis assigned to multiple fusion centers; and

(C) regional Directors of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis to ensure accountability for monitoring all field personnel under the supervision of such Regional Directors.

(b) **TRAINING.**—In consultation with the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department shall develop and implement a formalized training module for fusion center personnel regarding the classified Homeland Secure Data Network of the Department, or any successor system.

(c) **FUSION CENTER DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “fusion center” has the meaning given such term in section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h).

**SEC. 4. DHS COMPONENT USAGE OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY INFORMATION NETWORK.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Intelligence Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer of the Department, shall—

(1) develop policies and metrics to ensure effective use by components of the Department of the Department’s unclassified Homeland Security Information Sharing Network, or any successor system; and

(2) develop policies for posting unclassified products on the Homeland Security Information Sharing Network, or any successor system.

(b) **TECHNICAL ENHANCEMENTS.**—The Chief Information Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Chief Intelligence Officer of the Department, shall assess and implement, as appropriate, technical enhancements to the Homeland Security Information Sharing Network (HSIN) to improve usability, including search functionality, data analysis, and collaboration capabilities.

**SEC. 5. REPORT.**

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate a report on the implementation of the following:

(1) The fusion center information sharing strategy required under subsection (j) of sec-

tion 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h), as added by section 2 of this Act, based on performance metrics developed pursuant to such strategy.

(2) Field personnel deployed to fusion centers (as such term is defined in section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h)) in accordance with section 3, based on performance metrics developed pursuant to such section.

(3) Policies that seek to ensure the effective use of the Homeland Security Information Sharing Network in accordance with section 4, based on the metrics developed pursuant to such section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague on the other side of the aisle, Mr. BACON, for reintroducing the DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act.

One of the core responsibilities of this committee is to ensure collaboration and information-sharing among Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial partners. That is how we protect our cities from any and all terrorist threats, whether it is one that comes from a foreign organization or a home-grown, lone-wolf attacker.

One example of our commitment to this comprehensive approach is the committee’s long history of bipartisan support for the Department of Homeland Security’s 79 fusion centers located across the country. These centers are meant to connect the dots at the local level. They are information-sharing hubs that facilitate coordination and the sharing of resources between Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials.

However, a 2016 review found that DHS does not have a strategic engagement plan for these 79 fusion centers. H.R. 504 will help fill that void. This important legislation will require DHS to develop a departmentwide strategy for engaging and sharing information with national fusion centers.

Additionally, this measure requires DHS to develop metrics that will help hold fusion center staff accountable for their performance.

This legislation also requires DHS to improve the classified and unclassified information-sharing systems that are used by fusion centers to ensure that information is shared properly and in

accordance with Department standards. Specifically, H.R. 504 would require that all information-sharing policies are developed and maintained by the Department’s experts on privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

The recent shooting in Pittsburgh and the spate of pipe bombs that were mailed across the country last year are potent reminders of how important it is for local law enforcement agencies to be equipped with the resources and information they need to combat urgent threats. In short, events like these exemplify the growing need for well-informed and well-maintained fusion centers.

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 504, the DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act.

The Committee on Homeland Security has long supported the role and mission of locally owned fusion centers across the United States. These hubs for assessing and sharing threat information are important links for the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, and other Federal, State, and local stakeholders.

The legislation before us today directs the Department of Homeland Security to develop a forward-looking strategy to improve engagement efforts with fusion centers and establish metrics for both DHS personnel and technology deployed to fusion centers.

Clear performance metrics for fusion center personnel are needed to ensure fusion center directors understand what to expect from DHS personnel detailed to their centers. This effort will also allow DHS to better track the value fusion centers are providing to the national information-sharing environment.

Lastly, the bill addresses a need for improvements to DHS information sharing utilized by fusion centers and other stakeholders by requiring training modules and feedback mechanisms.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DON BACON for his work on this legislation and his overall commitment to Federal, State, and local information sharing.

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

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from Louisiana closes.

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON), the cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana and I thank the gentlewoman from New York for their leadership today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill, H.R. 504, that I authored. It is called the DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act.

The purpose of this legislation is to provide transparency, predictability, and technology improvements to the 79 State and locally owned fusion centers across the United States. This bill fixes several shortfalls that were identified by recent inspection findings.

I was able to visit the Nebraska Information Analysis Center, known as NIAC, my home State's fusion center, in January of this last year. The NIAC was established in 2007 and serves as a critical information-sharing conduit between the State of Nebraska and the Federal Government to the benefit of all 93 counties in Nebraska.

While the NIAC currently has outside support from DHS, not all fusion centers are in the same situation throughout our country, and that needs to be fixed. To address this shortfall, H.R. 504 requires the Department to engage an engagement strategy for how to best coordinate information sharing, technology, and personnel resources with fusion centers. Additionally, the bill requires DHS to develop clear and robust performance metrics for the personnel assigned to fusion centers to provide needed accountability.

In addition to personnel, DHS also provides fusion centers with access to databases and information-sharing programs for classified and sensitive information. H.R. 504 includes several provisions to address improvements in training and technology needed for these systems, including a requirement that DHS components share appropriate intelligence products with fusion centers.

The sharing of counterterrorism and other homeland security information with State and local officials is vital in our efforts to protect the homeland. In the past few years, there have been significant improvements in DHS' support for key stakeholders. The DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act builds on this progress by holding DHS more accountable for supporting fusion centers and making the improvements needed to truly utilize them as a resource for the Federal Government.

This is a commonsense bill that passed the House last Congress. With another strong showing of bipartisan support from the House, I am confident that we will be able to work with our colleagues in the other Chamber to enact this legislation.

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman THOMPSON, Ranking Member ROGERS, and Congressman BACON for bringing this bill to the floor.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 504, to improve DHS' coordination and information-sharing activities with State and local fusion centers

across the country, thereby making the homeland security intelligence enterprise more robust.

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

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 504, which passed the House on suspension last Congress, would help ensure that fusion centers throughout the country have access to the resources necessary to keep our homeland safe and secure.

By directing the Department to develop a strategy for its fusion centers, the bill seeks to enhance DHS' overall ability to fulfill its core mission. Additionally, H.R. 504 would ensure that DHS' information-sharing policies include strong privacy and civil liberty safeguards.

Regardless of the target or the underlying ideology behind a terrorist plot, State and local law enforcement entities need a clear line of communication with their Federal counterparts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 504, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 504.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COUNTERTERRORISM ADVISORY BOARD ACT OF 2019

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 769) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a board to coordinate and integrate departmental intelligence, activities, and policy related to counterterrorism, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 769

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

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Counterterrorism Advisory Board Act of 2019".

##### SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY COUNTERTERRORISM ADVISORY BOARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the end of subtitle A of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.) insert the following new section:

##### "SEC. 210H. DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION ON COUNTERTERRORISM.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is in the Department a board to be composed of senior representatives of departmental operational components and headquarters elements. The purpose of the board shall be to coordinate and integrate departmental intelligence, activities, and policy related to the counterterrorism mission and functions of the Department.

"(b) CHARTER.—There shall be a charter to govern the structure and mission of the board. Such charter shall direct the board to focus on the current threat environment and the importance of aligning departmental counterterrorism activities under the Secretary's guidance. The charter shall be reviewed and updated every 4 years, as appropriate.

"(c) MEMBERS.—

"(1) CHAIR.—The Secretary shall appoint a Coordinator for Counterterrorism within the Department who will serve as the chair of the board.

"(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—The Secretary shall appoint additional members of the board from among the following:

"(A) The Transportation Security Administration.

"(B) United States Customs and Border Protection.

"(C) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"(D) The Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"(E) The Coast Guard.

"(F) United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

"(G) The United States Secret Service.

"(H) The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

"(I) The Office of Operations Coordination.

"(J) The Office of the General Counsel.

"(K) The Office of Intelligence and Analysis.

"(L) The Office of Policy.

"(M) The Science and Technology Directorate.

"(N) Other Departmental offices and programs as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

"(d) MEETINGS.—The board shall meet on a regular basis to discuss intelligence and coordinate ongoing threat mitigation efforts and departmental activities, including coordination with other Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners, and shall make recommendations to the Secretary.

"(e) TERRORISM ALERTS.—The board shall advise the Secretary on the issuance of terrorism alerts pursuant to section 203 of this Act.

"(f) PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to carry out this section."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 210G the following new item:

"Sec. 210H. Departmental coordination on counterterrorism."

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the status and activities of the board established under section 210H of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to

include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that the challenges in securing our homeland have become more complex and diverse in nature. As such, it is imperative that the DHS Secretary and any successors have a stable, codified mechanism for counterterrorism decisionmaking.

□ 1345

H.R. 769, the Counterterrorism Advisory Board Act of 2019 does just that. It would codify the Board into law, and ensure that it remains an integral part of counterterrorism policy recommendations and responses across the Department.

Since 2010, the Counterterrorism Advisory Board, or CTAB, which is comprised of top DHS officials, has synthesized counterterrorism programs and activities across the Department.

The CTAB helps keep America safe. H.R. 769 would authorize the CTAB to coordinate and integrate DHS' intelligence, policies, and activities related to counterterrorism. H.R. 769 also directs the Board to meet on a regular basis, to coordinate and integrate the Department's counterterrorism efforts, assess the current threat environment, and establish the leadership and composition of the Board. H.R. 769 also requires DHS to report to Congress on the board's status, activities, and progress.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in 2015, I was selected to chair the Congressional Task Force on Combating Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel. After months of briefings, site visits, and hearings, it became clear that the Department of Homeland Security had to improve internal and external coordination and intelligence sharing to address a growing threat of foreign fighter travel, as well as other counterterrorism efforts.

As a result, I introduced legislation to authorize and enhance the Department of Homeland Security Counterterrorism Advisory Board. Established in 2010, the CTAB brings senior officials across the spectrum in the Department to share information and coordinate counterterrorism activities.

The CTAB has improved the Department's ability to respond to terrorism threats and harmonize counterterrorism programs and activities across DHS components.

Given that the CTAB has never been authorized in law, the Board could be dismantled at any time, and the counterterrorism gains achieved could be

lost. The bill ensures that the CTAB will be formally established in law. The bill also ensures the CTAB includes robust participation from DHS-component agencies in order to ensure all homeland security resources are utilized and the one DHS vision is realized.

With ISIS having lost nearly all of its territory and all of al-Qaida's senior leaders calling for unity among jihadist groups, it is more important than ever to ensure DHS is using all available resources to identify and prevent terrorists from coming to the United States.

The bill requires the Department of Homeland Security to establish a charter to govern the roles and responsibilities of the CTAB, and further requires that the charter be reviewed and updated at least every 4 years to ensure the Department of Homeland Security is keeping pace with the ever-evolving terrorist threats.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member ROGERS for selecting this bill as a priority for floor consideration so early in a new Congress. I look forward to working with our Senate colleagues to move this legislation through the process, and as always, I look forward to working with my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE).

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that this body is working to continue to strengthen our national security by debating the legislation before us today.

I introduced this bill in the 114th Congress and 115th Congress, and it passed the House by an overwhelming majority.

I urge my colleagues to again pass this measure and support the Department of Homeland Security's counterterrorism mission, and I hope the Senate will get it through this time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, again, H.R. 769 will authorize within the Department of Homeland Security, the Counterterrorism Advisory Board to coordinate and integrate the Department's intelligence activities and policies as they relate to counterterrorism.

This Board already plays a central and necessary role within DHS, and H.R. 769 will ensure that the Counterterrorism Advisory Board will remain in place for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague and friend and fellow New Yorker, Congressman KATKO. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 769, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 769.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SHOULD WORK PROACTIVELY WITH CUSTOMERS AFFECTED BY SHUTDOWN OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 77) expressing the sense of Congress that financial institutions and other companies should work proactively with their customers affected by the shutdown of the Federal Government who may be facing short-term financial hardship and long-term damage to their creditworthiness through no fault of their own, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 77

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) financial institutions and other entities, such as landlords, consumer reporting agencies and companies engaged in the production of consumer scores, should help consumers affected by any shutdown of the Federal Government, including the shutdown that began on December 22, 2018;

(2) even with the recent conclusion of the shutdown, the period of recovery has just begun and the negative impact the shutdown is having on millions of consumers and the U.S. economy is significant; for example, analysis from S&P Global Ratings estimates that the U.S. economy has already lost more than \$6 billion as of January 25, 2019, and if the shutdown were to resume in a few weeks, the analysis suggests there would be a further reduction of real Gross Domestic Product by \$1.2 billion each week the government is shutdown;

(3) financial institutions and other companies, such as consumer reporting agencies and companies engaged in the production of consumer scores, should provide opportunities for consumers affected by any shutdown—including Federal employees, government contractors, small businesses, and other individuals—who are or will be facing financial distress to easily contact and alert them of their situation immediately;

(4) affected consumers may face financial hardship and emotional distress in making timely payments on their debts, such as mortgages, student loans, car loans, credit cards, and other debt, as well as paying for rent, food, transportation, school and other basic necessities, due to the temporary delay or permanent loss of their income;

(5) to provide quick relief to their affected customers or tenants, financial institutions and other entities, such as landlords, respectively, should for the duration of any shutdown, as well as for a reasonable period of time following a shutdown, consider waiving or reducing penalty, late payment, and similar fees; ceasing evictions and foreclosures; and providing forbearance;

(6) consumers affected by the shutdown, whose income are directly or indirectly dependent on the full operation of the Federal Government, may be experiencing financial and emotional stress through no fault of

their own and their creditworthiness should not be impaired because of the shutdown;

(7) financial institutions and other companies, such as consumer reporting agencies and companies engaged in the production of consumer scores, should take steps to prevent adverse information being reported and utilized in any manner that harms affected consumers, including by preventing modified credit arrangements intended to help consumers fulfill their financial obligations from being reported to, and coded by, consumer reporting agencies on a person's credit report in a manner that hurts the creditworthiness of the affected consumers;

(8) new products, services, or prudent workout arrangements designed to help affected consumers that are consistent with safe and sound lending practices are generally in the long-term best interest of the financial institution, the consumer, and the economy;

(9) financial institutions should work proactively to identify their customers who have been affected by any shutdown and adopt flexible, prudent arrangements to help such customers meet their debt and other obligations; and

(10) prudent efforts to adopt flexible workout arrangements for affected consumers should not be subject to examiner criticism or negative examinations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 77, as amended. President Trump's historic 35-day shutdown of the Federal Government has had a deeply harmful impact on millions of Americans and the U.S. economy.

While this shutdown recently came to an end, we must not forget the recovery has just begun for a wide range of affected consumers, including Federal employees, contractors, small businesses, and other individuals.

Many of those people will not receive back pay. Many of them have various financial obligations, like a mortgage, or a student loan payment that they may have missed. However, they did not cause the shutdown and should not suffer any negative consequences from it.

Financial institutions and other entities, like landlords and consumer reporting agencies, can play a key role in helping these innocent people. Given the financial hardship and emotional distress these consumers face, through no fault of their own, I introduced H.

Res. 77 to send a strong message to the financial industry that they should do what they can to help these innocent consumers.

Specifically, the resolution expresses the sense of Congress that financial institutions and other entities should work proactively to help all consumers affected by the shutdown. This includes waiving fees, ceasing evictions and foreclosures, and otherwise providing forbearance for any affected consumer, as well as taking steps to ensure their creditworthiness is not impaired because of the shutdown.

Financial regulators agree that it is appropriate for financial institutions to offer prudent accommodations to help their affected customers. On January 10, I wrote to the regulators to encourage them to provide public guidance to financial institutions to underscore they could affirmatively make prudent workout arrangements consistent with safety and soundness without fear of being subject to examiner criticisms. I am glad that they made such a statement the very next day.

On January 18, I wrote a letter to various financial services trade organizations, as well as the three largest credit reporting agencies, to encourage their institutions and member companies to take all prudent and appropriate actions, including those outlined in the regulators interagency statement, to help any consumer who may be affected by the shutdown.

While I appreciate that many financial institutions have already announced various accommodations for affected consumers, I believe it is important that there be a robust effort by all financial institutions, consumer reporting agencies, and others to do what they can to help in the weeks and months to come which H. Res. 77 seeks to encourage.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 77, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 800,000 Federal employees impacted by the partial government shutdown and express my sincere agreement that banks and Federal regulators should do the compassionate and the sensible thing, to support customers in need of assistance.

Mr. Speaker, whether it was a missed credit card payment or an unexpected medical expense, many furloughed Federal employees have faced economic hardships over the last 35 days, through no fault of their own. A string of dead-end and dead-on-arrival bills and nonstarter negotiations thrust hardworking Federal employees into the middle of a political fight, all over commonsense border security measures that I support, and that many Democrats have supported previously.

Our only course of action at that time and now is to try and provide some relief to those who are in need, and most importantly, find a solution

to ensure that the government doesn't shut down again on February 15. But those are larger political issues, and we are trying to be of substance as to what we can do to be of assistance to those who were affected by the government shutdown within our committee of jurisdiction, the Financial Services Committee.

I appreciate Chairwoman WATERS' efforts to provide support for hardworking Federal employees by introducing this resolution and encouraging banks to assist their customers in need.

Thankfully, many financial institutions are already doing exactly what is suggested in this resolution, and that, as Chairwoman WATERS said in her statement, is at the urging of Members of Congress, but also their understanding of the needs in their communities, like waiving late fees for furloughed employees, or the other over 100 banks that took it upon themselves for loan modifications and payment deadline extension, payroll advances, low-rate and zero-rate loans, as well as other accommodations, and those are wonderful things, positive things.

Unfortunately, we now find ourselves in a situation where the financial regulatory regime has left banks trying their best under a cloud of uncertainty on how regulators will react to their efforts during the government shutdown.

While I agree with my colleague across the aisle that we should encourage banks to work more proactively with customers affected in the shutdown, we must also encourage our financial regulators to provide clarity to our financial institutions that they are permitted to provide that type of relief.

I have no doubt this issue will be a part of a larger conversation I hope that we can have on the Financial Services Committee about what regulators are doing to help individual taxpayers and also what they are doing that hurts the American people as well.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a good bill that I encourage my colleagues to support.

Mr. HARRIS. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. MCHENRY. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, my reading of the bill is not furloughed employees. It is anyone affected. It has a very broad definition. Without putting any guardrails on it, one could argue that every American was probably affected in some way. Is that true? Is my reading of the bill that this extends way beyond furloughed employees? It affects any consumer affected. Is that correct?

Mr. MCHENRY. Reclaiming my time, I did not write the legislation. The intention here is the encouragement of Federal regulators to take a new look. I think that is the broad understanding of what this resolution gets to. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1400

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), who is a senior member of the Financial Services Committee and chairwoman of the Small Business Committee.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman, MAXINE WATERS, and the ranking member, Mr. MCHENRY, for this important resolution.

Last week, Democrats stood united and ended the longest government shutdown in history. We should be clear: This shutdown was caused solely by President Trump's personal obsession with the border wall.

Roughly 800,000 Federal workers were either furloughed or forced to work without pay. More than 1 million contractors were forced to miss multiple paychecks.

Now, Donald Trump may not relate to this, but for these workers, this means bills piling up. It means choosing between putting gasoline in your car or groceries in your refrigerator.

Throughout the shutdown, my office was in contact with several financial institutions and companies that were offering forbearance options, waiving late fees, and providing short-term, no-interest loans for affected workers. That is admirable, and I thank them.

However, the media also reported on numerous workers who were forced to take out personal loans and cash advances on credit cards, or who even turned to predatory payday loans to make ends meet.

For example, NBC News recently reported on one company offering personal installment loans that had seen an uptick in customers looking to use their products. It is perhaps no coincidence that this uptick coincided with a nearly 19 percent rise in the company's stock since the shutdown began.

This is unconscionable. Financial institutions and companies should not be preying on Federal employees or contractors who went nearly a month without pay. Instead, they should be working with those affected to get them back on track and rebuild their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chair WATERS for offering this important resolution to further that goal, and I urge all my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY).

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Actually, Mr. Speaker, I have a point of clarification for the chairman.

Is this bill affecting all furloughed Federal workers, anyone furloughed, or anyone affected by the furlough in any way? Any consumer, any American that is affected?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, this resolution is intended not only to help Federal employees as such, but contractors, small businesses, and others that

are connected to government in ways that you may not be able to absolutely identify here. You may have folks who are consultants who are not considered contractors. You may have others who will be affected by this who maybe had a contract with the Federal Government that is now in litigation that has to be dealt with.

That is what we are intending to do, not just have a blanket, blanket, blanket, but some connection to the Federal Government.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, in West Virginia's Second District, we have a lot of Federal workers and contractors who are affected.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for clarifying that.

Of course, there are a lot of folks in my district who are affected by the shutdown and also affected indirectly because they are contractors and such. I have had them approach me over the last few weeks, wondering if their backlogged projects were going to get funded. It is important to clarify that.

Of course, we should backpay people, and the good, hardworking Americans who make this country go around need to get paid.

I understand a little bit of an obsession on the other side against a border wall that was mentioned by the previous speaker, when this is really about how government should function and appropriate funds in the appropriate way, and the power of the purse. Frankly, getting bills through the House and the Senate has become quite a problem, particularly with the other Chamber, which doesn't seem to pass anything and then wants us to do just whatever the Senate does.

We have a lot of dysfunction, particularly on the other side, and that is what has cost the workers, not this wall. The wall is something the President said he would do. It is not the wall; it is the dysfunction of passing bills around here that has caused these problems.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leader for the extra minute.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, let me say this: I know that we all want to help all of those who have been affected by the shutdown, and so I hope I was able to clarify that, so that people can help the constituents in their districts even in ways they may not have understood.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LAWSON).

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 77. This resolution expresses the sense that financial institutions should do everything within their power to ensure that

their customers who were impacted by the Trump shutdown receive the resources they need to get back on track.

Nearly 800,000 Federal workers across this Nation were impacted by the shutdown, 13,000 of which are in my district. Throughout my district in Florida, from Quincy, Tallahassee, Jacksonville, and even in the rural areas, constituents expressed to me the challenges of not receiving their paychecks. This meant not paying their mortgage or rent, not paying for childcare, hardships purchasing gas and groceries, or having to miss a car note. Some of these individuals even relied on their banks for loans.

These are hardworking Americans who did not ask for the shutdown, should not have had to suffer as a pawn in the shutdown, or did not deserve to be furloughed because of a shutdown. That is unacceptable.

Because of the shutdown, these employees made difficult financial decisions. That is why it is necessary for our financial institutions to step up and provide relief to those impacted. That means extending payment deadlines, reducing the interest rate on short-term loans, and providing financial and customer education that will help Federal employees prepare for the potential of other financial hardships.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Congresswoman WATERS for introducing this resolution and for standing up for Federal workers, and I ask that all of my colleagues in this House vote in favor.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this House resolution. I think this resolution truly expresses the sense of Congress that we should provide relief that, voluntarily, over 100 financial institutions have already committed to do publicly over the course of the shutdown. But I think it shows that we are a compassionate group of folks here in the House of Representatives and that we want to be sensible in every way possible, even in the midst of these major political fights that do occur from time to time, perhaps, here on this House floor.

Those disagreements notwithstanding, what we want to do is work in a proactive way and in a bipartisan way to convey to the public that there are sensible things that we are about, and that Republicans and Democrats still can get things done here on the House floor, here doing the people's business and the people's work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support Chairwoman WATERS' resolution here today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, this shutdown has inflicted tremendous harm on consumers and the U.S. economy. The Congressional Budget Office estimated the initial cost for the recent shutdown is more than \$11 billion and wrote: "Among those who experienced the

largest and most direct negative effects are Federal workers who faced delayed compensation and private-sector entities that lost business. Some of those private-sector entities will never recoup that lost income. . . . And people who lost income and consequently borrowed money during the shutdown will see an increase in expenses as they pay interest on that debt.”

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle would agree that it would be unfair if these innocent consumers were to suffer any negative consequences from the shutdown and that financial institutions and others should do what they can to help.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to try and give some comfort to those who think that maybe there are individuals who are not federally connected who would be getting help with this kind of approach, but that is absolutely not true. I could not list every possible way, but I am reminded that my husband was an Ambassador to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. I am reminded of the families who were there. I am reminded of the children whose education we paid for while they were in that country, and the education of other families of ambassadors and diplomats for whom the Federal Government pays. We would not want to not reimburse for the education of our children in foreign countries, et cetera. So there are many ways that people who are connected to the Federal Government are impacted by this.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to Mr. MCHENRY: Thank you so very much for your support.

Again, this is a fine example of how both sides of the aisle can agree on a commonsense resolution that will help all those who have been impacted by this shutdown.

I am very pleased to have the support of Mr. MCHENRY. We have been trying desperately in the work that we do, as we began this session of Congress, to show that you can work cooperatively with both sides of the aisle working together on a bill, resolution, legislation, et cetera, that really does support and help our families and all the people in the country who are looking to us for support and leadership.

Again, I thank Mr. MCHENRY, and I thank all the Members on the opposite side of the aisle who get this and who understand it and whose contractors and others are on them saying: What are you going to do? What are you going to do?

This is our effort, and I appreciate their support.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 77, as amended

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, a motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in following order:

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 428;

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 449; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 769.

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

HOMELAND SECURITY ASSESSMENT OF TERRORISTS' USE OF VIRTUAL CURRENCIES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 428) to direct the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis to develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding terrorist use of virtual currency on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 422, nays 3, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 56]  
YEAS—422

Abraham	Boyle, Brendan	Cisneros	Davidson (OH)	Johnson (OH)	Palazzo
Adams	F.	Clark (MA)	Davis (CA)	Johnson (SD)	Pallone
Aderholt	Brady	Clarke (NY)	Davis, Danny K.	Johnson (TX)	Palmer
Aguiar	Brindisi	Clay	Davis, Rodney	Jordan	Panetta
Allen	Brooks (AL)	Cleaver	Dean	Joyce (OH)	Pappas
Allred	Brooks (IN)	Cline	DeFazio	Joyce (PA)	Pascrell
Amodei	Brown (MD)	Cloud	DeGette	Kaptur	Pence
Armstrong	Brownley (CA)	Clyburn	DeLauro	Katko	Perlmutter
Arrington	Buchanan	Cohen	DelBene	Keating	Perry
Axne	Buck	Cole	Delgado	Kelly (IL)	Peters
Babin	Bucshon	Collins (GA)	Demings	Kelly (MS)	Peterson
Bacon	Budd	Collins (NY)	DeSaulnier	Kelly (PA)	Phillips
Baird	Burchett	Comer	Deutch	Kennedy	Pingree
Balderson	Bustos	Conaway	Diaz-Balart	Khanna	Pocan
Barr	Butterfield	Connolly	Dingell	Kildee	Porter
Banks	Byrne	Cook	Doggett	Kilmer	Posey
Barragan	Calvert	Cooper	Doyle, Michael F.	Kim	Pressley
Bass	Carbajal	Correa	Duffy	Kind	Price (NC)
Bass	Cardenas	Costa	Duncan	King (IA)	Quigley
Beatty	Carson (IN)	Courtney	Dunn	King (NY)	Raskin
Bera	Carter (GA)	Cox (CA)	Dunn	Kinzinger	Ratcliffe
Bergman	Carter (TX)	Craig	Emmer	Kirkpatrick	Reed
Beyer	Cartwright	Crawford	Engel	Krishnamoorthi	Reschenthaler
Biggs	Case	Crenshaw	Escobar	Kuster (NH)	Rice (NY)
Bilirakis	Casten (IL)	Crist	Eshoo	Kustoff (TN)	Rice (SC)
Bishop (GA)	Castor (FL)	Crow	Espallat	LaHood	Richmond
Bishop (UT)	Castro (TX)	Cuellar	Estes	LaMalfa	Riggleman
Blumenauer	Chabot	Cummings	Evans	Lamb	Roby
Blunt Rochester	Cheney	Cunningham	Ferguson	Lamborn	Rodgers (WA)
Bonamici	Chu, Judy	Curtis	Finkenauer	Langevin	Roe, David P.
Boat	Cicilline	Davids (KS)	Fitzpatrick	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (AL)
			Fleischmann	Larson (CT)	Rogers (KY)
			Fletcher	Latta	Rooney (FL)
			Flores	Lawrence	Rose (NY)
			Fortenberry	Lawson (FL)	Rose, John W.
			Foster	Lee (CA)	Rouda
			Fox (NC)	Lee (NV)	Rouzer
			Frankel	Lesko	Roy
			Fudge	Levin (CA)	Roybal-Allard
			Fulcher	Levin (MI)	Ruiz
			Gabbard	Lewis	Ruppersberger
			Gallagher	Lieu, Ted	Rush
			Gallego	Lipinski	Rutherford
			Garamendi	Loeb sack	Ryan
			Garcia (IL)	Lofgren	Sánchez
			Garcia (TX)	Long	Sarbanes
			Gianforte	Loudermilk	Scalise
			Gibbs	Lowenthal	Scanlon
			Gohmert	Lowe y	Schakowsky
			Golden	Lucas	Schiff
			Gomez	Luetkemeyer	Schneider
			Gonzalez (OH)	Lujan	Schrader
			Gonzalez (TX)	Luria	Schrier
			Gooden	Lynch	Schweikert
			Gosar	Malinowski	Scott (VA)
			Gottheimer	Maloney,	Scott, Austin
			Granger	Carolyn B.	Scott, David
			Graves (GA)	Maloney, Sean	Serrano
			Graves (LA)	Marchant	Sewell (AL)
			Graves (MO)	Marshall	Shalala
			Green (TN)	Mast	Sherman
			Green (TX)	Matsui	Sherrill
			Griffith	McAdams	Shimkus
			Grijalva	McBath	Simpson
			Grothman	McCarthy	Sires
			Guest	McCaul	Slotkin
			Guthrie	McClintock	Smith (MO)
			Haaland	McCollum	Smith (NE)
			Hagedorn	McEachin	Smith (NJ)
			Harder (CA)	McGovern	Smith (WA)
			Harris	McHenry	Smucker
			Hartzer	McKinley	Soto
			Hastings	McNerney	Spanberger
			Hayes	Meadows	Spano
			Heck	Meeks	Speier
			Hern, Kevin	Meng	Stanton
			Herrera Beutler	Meuser	Stauber
			Hice (GA)	Miller	Stefanik
			Higgins (LA)	Mitchell	Steil
			Higgins (NY)	Moolenaar	Steube
			Hill (AR)	Mooney (WV)	Stevens
			Hill (CA)	Moore	Stewart
			Himes	Morelle	Stivers
			Holding	Moulton	Suo zzi
			Hollingsworth	Mucarsel-Powell	Swalwell (CA)
			Horn, Kendra S.	Mullin	Takano
			Horsford	Murphy	Taylor
			Houlihan	Nadler	Thompson (CA)
			Hoyer	Napolitano	Thompson (MS)
			Hudson	Neal	Thompson (PA)
			Huffman	Neguse	Thornberry
			Huizenga	Newhouse	Timmons
			Hunter	Norcross	Tipton
			Hurd (TX)	Norman	Titus
			Jackson Lee	Nunes	Tlaib
			Jayapal	O'Halleran	Tonko
			Jeffries	Ocasio-Cortez	Torres (CA)
			Johnson (GA)	Olson	Torres Small
			Johnson (LA)	Omar	(NM)

Trahan Walker Wexton  
 Turner Walorski Wild  
 Underwood Waltz Williams  
 Upton Wasserman Wilson (SC)  
 Van Drew Schultz Wittman  
 Vargas Waters Womack  
 Veasey Watkins Woodall  
 Vela Watson Coleman Wright  
 Velázquez Weber (TX) Yarmuth  
 Visclosky Webster (FL) Yoho  
 Wagner Welch Young  
 Walberg Wenstrup Zeldin  
 Walden Westerman

NAYS—3

Amash Gaetz Massie

NOT VOTING—7

Burgess Payne Wilson (FL)  
 DesJarlais Sensenbrenner  
 Jones Trone

□ 1441

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia and Mrs. ROBY changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PATHWAYS TO IMPROVING HOMELAND SECURITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 449) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to direct the Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement to produce and disseminate an annual catalog on Department of Homeland Security training, publications, programs, and services for State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 12, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 57]

YEAS—412

Abraham Beyer Butterfield  
 Adams Bilirakis Byrne  
 Aderholt Bishop (GA) Calvert  
 Aguilar Bishop (UT) Carbajal  
 Allen Blumenauer Cárdenas  
 Allred Blunt Rochester Carson (IN)  
 Amodei Bonamici Carter (GA)  
 Armstrong Bost Carter (TX)  
 Arrington Boyle, Brendan Cartwright  
 Axne F. Case  
 Babin Brady Casten (IL)  
 Bacon Brindisi Castor (FL)  
 Baird Brooks (IN) Castor (TX)  
 Balderson Brown (MD) Chabot  
 Banks Brownley (CA) Cheney  
 Barr Buchanan Chu, Judy  
 Barragán Buck Cicilline  
 Bass Bucshon Cisneros  
 Beatty Budd Clark (MA)  
 Bera Burchett Clarke (NY)  
 Bergman Bustos Clay

Cleaver Herrera Beutler Meuser  
 Cline Hice (GA) Miller  
 Cloud Higgins (LA) Mitchell  
 Clyburn Higgins (NY) Moonenaar  
 Cohen Hill (AR) Mooney (WV)  
 Cole Hill (CA) Moore  
 Collins (GA) Himes Morelle  
 Collins (NY) Holding Moulton  
 Comer Hollingsworth Mucarsel-Powell  
 Conaway Horn, Kendra S. Mullin  
 Connolly Horsford Murphy  
 Cook Houlihan Nadler  
 Cooper Hoyer Napolitano  
 Correa Hudson Neal  
 Costa Huffman Neguse  
 Courtney Huizenga Newhouse  
 Cox (CA) Hunter Norcross  
 Craig Hurd (TX) Norman  
 Crawford Jackson Lee Nunes  
 Crenshaw Jayapal O'Halleran  
 Crist Jeffries Olson  
 Crow Johnson (GA) Omar  
 Cuellar Johnson (LA) Palazzo  
 Cummings Johnson (OH) Pallone  
 Cunningham Johnson (SD) Palmer  
 Curtis Johnson (TX) Panetta  
 Davids (KS) Jordan Pappas  
 Davidson (OH) Joyce (OH) Pascrell  
 Davis (CA) Joyce (PA) Pence  
 Davis, Danny K. Kaptur Perlmutter  
 Davis, Rodney Katko Perry  
 Dean Keating Peters  
 DeFazio Kelly (IL) Peterson  
 DeGette Kelly (MS) Phillips  
 DeLauro Kelly (PA) Pingree  
 DelBene Kennedy Pocan  
 Delgado Khanna Porter  
 Demings Kildee Posey  
 DeSaulnier Kilmer Price (NC)  
 Deutch Kim Quigley  
 Diaz-Balart Kind Raskin  
 Dingell King (IA) Ratcliffe  
 Doggett King (NY) Reed  
 Doyle, Michael F. Kinzinger Reschenthaler  
 Duffy Kirkpatrick Rice (NY)  
 Dunn Krishnamoorthi Rice (SC)  
 Emmer Kuster (NH) Richmond  
 Engel Kustoff (TN) Riggelman  
 Escobar LaHood LaMalfa  
 Eshoo Lamb Rodgers (WA)  
 Espaillat Lamborn Roe, David P.  
 Estes Langevin Rogers (AL)  
 Evans Larsen (WA) Rogers (KY)  
 Ferguson Larson (CT) Rooney (FL)  
 Finkenauer Latta Rose (NY)  
 Fitzpatrick Lawrence Rose, John W.  
 Fleischmann Lawson (FL) Rouda  
 Fletcher Lee (CA) Rouzer  
 Flores Lee (NV) Roybal-Allard  
 Fortenberry Lesko Ruiz  
 Foster Levin (CA) Ruppertsberger  
 Foxx (NC) Levin (MI) Rush  
 Frankel Lewis Rutherford  
 Fudge Lieu, Ted Ryan  
 Fulcher Lipinski Sánchez  
 Gabbard Loebsack Sarbanes  
 Gallagher Lofgren Scalise  
 Gallego Long Scanlon  
 Garamendi Loudermilk Schakowsky  
 Garcia (IL) Lowenthal Schiff  
 Garcia (TX) Lowey Schneider  
 Gianforte Lucas Schrader  
 Gibbs Luetkemeyer Schrier  
 Gohmert Luján Schweikert  
 Golden Luria Scott (VA)  
 Gomez Lynch Scott, Austin  
 Gonzalez (OH) Malinowski Scott, David  
 Gonzalez (TX) Maloney, Carolyn B. Serrano  
 Gooden Carolyn B. Sewell (AL)  
 Gottheimer Maloney, Sean Shalala  
 Granger Marchant Sherman  
 Graves (GA) Marshall Sherrill  
 Graves (LA) Mast Shimkus  
 Graves (MO) Matsui Simpson  
 Green (TN) McAdams Sires  
 Green (TX) McBath Slotkin  
 Griffith McCarthy Smith (MO)  
 Grijalva McCaul Smith (NE)  
 Guest McClintock Smith (NJ)  
 Guthrie McCollum Smith (WA)  
 Haaland McEchin Smucker  
 Hagedorn McGovern Soto  
 Harder (CA) McHenry Spanberger  
 Hartzler McKinley Spano  
 Hastings McNeerney Speier  
 Hayes Meadows Stanton  
 Heck Meeks Stefanik  
 Hern, Kevin Meng Steube

Stevens Trahan Watkins  
 Stewart Turner Watson Coleman  
 Stivers Underwood Weber (TX)  
 Suozzi Upton Webster (FL)  
 Swalwell (CA) Van Drew Welch  
 Takano Vargas Wenstrup  
 Taylor Veasey Westerman  
 Thompson (CA) Vela Wexton  
 Thompson (MS) Velázquez Wild  
 Thompson (PA) Visclosky Williams  
 Thornberry Wagner Wilson (SC)  
 Timmons Walberg Wittman  
 Tipton Walden Womack  
 Titus Walker Woodall  
 Tlaib Walorski Wright  
 Tonko Waltz Yarmuth  
 Torres (CA) Wasserman Yoho  
 Torres Small Schultz Young  
 (NM) Waters Zeldin

NAYS—12

Amash Gaetz Massie  
 Biggs Gosar Ocasio-Cortez  
 Brooks (AL) Grothman Pressley  
 Duncan Harris Roy

NOT VOTING—8

Burgess Payne Trone  
 DesJarlais Sensenbrenner Wilson (FL)  
 Jones Stauber

□ 1451

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 57.

COUNTERTERRORISM ADVISORY BOARD ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 769) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a board to coordinate and integrate departmental intelligence, activities, and policy related to counterterrorism, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 12, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 58]

YEAS—414

Abraham Barr Boyle, Brendan  
 Adams Barragán F.  
 Aderholt Bass Brady  
 Aguilar Beatty Brindisi  
 Allen Bera Brooks (IN)  
 Allred Bergman Brown (MD)  
 Amodei Beyer Brownley (CA)  
 Armstrong Buchanan  
 Arrington Bilirakis Buck  
 Axne Bishop (GA) Bucshon  
 Babin Bishop (UT) Budd  
 Bacon Blumenauer Burchett  
 Baird Blunt Rochester Burgess  
 Balderson Bonamici Bustos  
 Banks Bost Butterfield

Byrne  
Calvert  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Cartwright  
Case  
Casten (IL)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chabot  
Cheney  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comer  
Conaway  
Connolly  
Cook  
Cooper  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Cox (CA)  
Craig  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Crist  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Cunningham  
Curtis  
Davids (KS)  
Davidson (OH)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny K.  
Davis, Rodney  
Dean  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Delgado  
Demings  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Diaz-Balart  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duffy  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Emmer  
Engel  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Españillat  
Estes  
Evans  
Ferguson  
Finkenauer  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fletcher  
Flores  
Fortenberry  
Foster  
Foxx (NC)  
Frankel  
Fudge  
Fulcher  
Gabbard  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Golden  
Gomez  
Gonzalez (OH)

Gonzalez (TX)  
Gooden  
Gottheimer  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Green (TX)  
Griffith  
Grijalva  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Haaland  
Hagedorn  
Harder (CA)  
Hartzler  
Hastings  
Hayes  
Heck  
Hern, Kevin  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice (GA)  
Higgins (LA)  
Higgins (NY)  
Hill (AR)  
Hill (CA)  
Himes  
Holding  
Hollingsworth  
Horn, Kendra S.  
Horsford  
Houlihan  
Hoyer  
Hudson  
Huffman  
Huizenga  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (SD)  
Johnson (TX)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kaptur  
Katko  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim  
Kind  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger  
Kirkpatrick  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster (NH)  
Kustoff (TN)  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamb  
Lamborn  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larsen (CT)  
Latta  
Lawrence  
Lawson (FL)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NV)  
Lesko  
Levin (CA)  
Levin (MI)  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loeb sack  
Lofgren  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Schrader  
Schrier  
Schweikert  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Serrano

Maloney,  
Carolyn B.  
Maloney, Sean  
Marchant  
Marshall  
Mast  
Matsui  
McAdams  
McBath  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
Guest  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McEachin  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McNerney  
Meadows  
Meeks  
Meng  
Meuser  
Miller  
Mitchell  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Moore  
Morelle  
Moulton  
Mucarsel-Powell  
Mullin  
Murphy  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Newhouse  
Norcross  
Norman  
Nunes  
O'Halleran  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascarell  
Pence  
Perlmutter  
Perry  
Peters  
Peterson  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter  
Posey  
Pressley  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reschenthaler  
Rice (NY)  
Rice (SC)  
Richmond  
Riggleman  
Roby  
Rodgers (WA)  
Roe, David P.  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rooney (FL)  
Rose (NY)  
Rose, John W.  
Rouda  
Rouzer  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Rutherford  
Ryan  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scalise  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Schrader  
Schrier  
Schweikert  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Serrano

Amash  
Biggs  
Brooks (AL)  
Gohmert  
Gosar  
Grothman  
Harris  
Massie  
Payne  
Sensenbrenner  
Trone  
Wilson (FL)

Swalwell (CA)  
Shalala  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Shimkus  
Simpson  
Sires  
Slotkin  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Smucker  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Spano  
Speier  
Stanton  
Stauber  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube  
Stevens  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Suozzi

Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Waltz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watkins  
Watson Coleman  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Welch  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Wexton  
Wild  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Wright  
Yarmuth  
Yoho  
Young  
Zeldin

**NAYS—12**

Amash  
Biggs  
Brooks (AL)  
Gohmert  
Gosar  
Grothman  
Harris  
Massie  
Payne  
Sensenbrenner  
Trone  
Wilson (FL)

**NOT VOTING—6**

DesJarlais  
Jones

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1502

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**MOTION TO RECONSIDER ON H. RES. 77, EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SHOULD WORK PROACTIVELY WITH CUSTOMERS AFFECTED BY SHUTDOWN OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk on the resolution (H. Res. 77) expressing the sense of Congress that financial institutions and other companies should work proactively with their customers affected by the shutdown of the Federal Government who may be facing short-term financial hardship and long-term damage to their creditworthiness through no fault of their own.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Waters moves that the House reconsider the vote by which the motion to suspend the rules and agree to House Resolution 77 was adopted.

**MOTION TO TABLE**

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Hoyer moves to lay on the table the motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion to suspend the rules and agree to House Resolution 77 was adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

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

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 240, nays 176, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 59]

**YEAS—240**

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

Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Viscosky  
Wagner

Walden  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman

Welch  
Wexton  
Wild  
Yarmuth

## NAYS—176

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

## NOT VOTING—16

Barragán  
Buck  
DesJarlais  
Deutch  
Jones  
Payne

Pressley  
Quigley  
Rose (NY)  
Rouzer  
Sensenbrenner  
Smucker

□ 1517

Ms. JACKSON LEE changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: “Resolution expressing the sense of Congress that financial institutions and other entities should work proactively with their customers affected by the shutdown of the Federal Government who may be facing short-term financial hardship and long-term damage to their credit-worthiness through no fault of their own.”

Stated for:

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote due to a press conference for my first

bill in Rayburn. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 59 on the motion to table.

Stated against:

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 59.

### PROVIDING FOR A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 9

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, February 5, 2019, at 9 p.m., for the purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.*

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SHERILL). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

### ELECTING MEMBERS TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND RANKING MEMBERS ON A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 85

*Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:*

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Raskin, Mrs. Davis of California, Mr. Butterfield, Ms. Fudge, and Mr. Aguilar.

*Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, ranked as follows on the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:*

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Higgins of New York (to rank immediately after Mr. Jeffries) and Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania (to rank immediately after Mr. Higgins of New York).

Mr. JEFFRIES (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### HONORING JOEL SCHRIER

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

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, today is different because today I would like to honor my father, Joel Schrier, who celebrates his 80th birthday this weekend.

He grew up in the Bronx in a one-bedroom apartment with his parents and his three siblings, including his twin sister, Gloria, who will also celebrate this weekend.

He went on to study physics and work as an aerospace engineer, marry my mom, Joan, in 1964, and be a phenomenal father to my brother, Marc, and me. He was engaged and involved in our upbringing at a time when most fathers weren't. He taught me to bike and skate, showed me how to make the best French toast from Friday night challah, and inspired me to study physics. When I was diagnosed with diabetes, he helped me with shots and checking my blood sugar levels. Weekends were always for family. And for that, mom, Marc, and I are deeply grateful.

Of course, it is the values that he and mom instilled in me that really led me to run for Congress. A strong sense of justice and fairness, and an ethic that if something is wrong in the world, you do something about it: to be an upstander and not a bystander.

So, Dad, thank you, and happy birthday. We love you.

### CONGRATULATING MAYOR KEVIN HARTKE

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

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke, who took his oath of office earlier this month. Mayor Hartke previously served on the Chandler City Council, where he was, most recently, the vice mayor.

Mayor Hartke and his family are longtime Chandler residents, and they are extremely active in their community. He and his wife, Lynne, have been married for 37 years, and have four children and four grandchildren. He served on one of my advisory councils in the last Congress, offering a distinct perspective on how my staff and I could engage the faith-based community.

Madam Speaker, individuals like Mayor Hartke provide stability and vital leadership to our cities and towns. Chandler was recently rated as the number ten city in the country for job seekers. Under Mayor Hartke's direction, I have every confidence that he will continue to help Chandler's

economy prosper. I have enjoyed working with Kevin thus far, and I look forward to our efforts to serve our constituents in the East Valley.

#### LET'S GET DOPING OUT OF THE OLYMPICS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as we put the pieces back together again, the Budget Committee had a meeting with the Congressional Budget Office director. We know that it is clear that during this shutdown, the Nation lost \$11 billion; \$3 billion of it will not be recoverable. A shutdown is foolish. It hurts the American people.

And I am committed: One, to increase the pay of American workers, Federal workers, tomorrow, and, as well, to reflect that a shutdown should not hold our patriotic fellow workers hostage.

I ask my colleagues to join me in that.

Today, however, I am excited that I am introducing a bill, which is H.R. 835, the Anti-Doping Act, with Dr. BURGESS and, of course, in the other body, Senator WICKER and Senator WHITEHOUSE, that deals with the World Anti-Doping Agency that failed to suspend the Russian Anti-Doping Agency for missing a crucial December 31, 2018, deadline, and for the violations at the Olympics.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join in supporting this legislation. Let's get doping out of the Olympics. Let's have sports that are fair and square and to do what is right for these wonderful young athletes.

#### MAJD KAMALMAZ—CAPTIVE IN SYRIA

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to bring attention to Majd Kamalmaz, an American being held by Syria's dictator, Bashar al-Assad.

In February 2017, Majd was detained by Syrian police while visiting the country for the funeral of his father-in-law.

When I spoke to Majd's children, last week, they told me they had tried to convince him not to go to Syria, but their father always put others ahead of himself.

Majd's personal motto is "be in peace," and that motto has been on display throughout his life, in his work around the world, in places like Kosovo, Indonesia, Lebanon, and here at home after Katrina.

Majd's children have not seen or heard from their father for nearly 2 years. Madam Speaker, I echo their plea and call on President Trump to do what he can to ensure that their father

is safely returned to his homeland in America.

#### RECOGNIZING 158TH BIRTHDAY OF KANSAS

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my home State's 158th birthday.

As we traveled thousands of miles throughout Kansas this past week and enjoyed some time pheasant hunting countryside with my family, I spent a lot of time reflecting on the great things that the Wheat State has to offer.

Kansas is known for its abundance of farmland that is used to grow crops far and wide producing the food we eat across the Nation and across the world. It is home to the most stunning sunsets you could ever witness and the beautiful Flint Hills that stretch over 150 miles where I grew up working, hunting, and fishing.

But my absolute favorite part about the State I call home are the people. Where I am from, we always put our faith in family first; we support each other, uplift each other, and are resilient through tough times. I am honored to represent so many wonderful people and proud to be a Kansan.

□ 1530

#### ACHIEVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to tell you how honored I am to have been recently selected to serve as the senior Republican on the Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee under the House Education and Labor Committee for the 116th Congress.

As the son of two educators and grandfather of 13, many of whom are currently in school, I couldn't be happier to serve as the leading Republican on the subcommittee that addresses a variety of issues affecting K-12 education.

I have visited numerous schools throughout the 12th Congressional District, and during every visit, I stress to young scholars how important for their future it is to get an education.

With nearly 7 million available jobs throughout our country, it is critical that we cultivate a qualified workforce to fill all of these positions, and this mission starts in the classroom.

As the leading Republican, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that K-12 education remains local, while also providing appropriate Federal support so that our Nation's students can sufficiently be prepared to enter the workforce and everyone can achieve the American Dream.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DONALD LOUIS CRUTCH

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

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of a great man who had a profound impact on our local community. Mr. Donald Louis Crutch was a father, husband, Rotarian, and dedicated member of the community.

His wife, Lisa, was his high school sweetheart and together they raised four great children: Tiara, Dontai, Taniyah, and DaVontai, and he leaves behind a large and loving family of cousins, nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts, and friends. His contributions will be forever remembered.

He was the founder of two nonprofit organizations: the National Pink Tie Organization, and the Honor Guards of America. You could always find Don wearing a hot pink shirt in support of those battling cancer, and he would never accept less than six lemons in his ice tea.

It was these little things like his megawatt smile and warm handshake that made him a pillar of our community.

While we miss Don greatly, his legacy will live on.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF HOWARD MORRISON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of my good friend and the friend of many Savannahans, Mr. Howard Morrison, who passed away on January 24.

Mr. Morrison, with his exceptional talent for bringing people together propelled Savannah to make great strides throughout the community. A Yale graduate, Mr. Morrison served in the Navy before embarking on a 30-year banking career in the Savannah banking industry.

He always held firm that the most important contributions to Savannah were education, healthcare, and community development. To that end, he worked hard to bring a Georgia Tech campus to the Savannah area. Georgia Tech Savannah recently presented him with the Opportunity Award, given to those who have created opportunities for others.

One of Mr. Morrison's closest friends remembers him coaxing numerous individuals to move to Savannah because of the opportunities, many of which he was creating himself.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that Savannah had someone like Howard Morrison, who helped it become the city it is today. His family and his many friends will be in my thoughts and prayers.

## NEGOTIATE BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, while the longest government shutdown in our country's history finally ended over the weekend, its effects continue to plague working families.

For 35 days the President held hostage the paychecks, financial security, and health and wellbeing of hundreds of thousands of Federal workers, including 5,200 from Michigan.

The President's stunt did nothing to advance real border security discussions and resulted in a colossal waste of time and resources. He cost the American economy \$11 billion; ironically, nearly twice as much as he wanted for an ineffective border wall.

As the President threatens another shutdown, I rise today to demand that he never again use this cruel tactic, and to, instead, come to the table, the negotiating table in good faith.

Democrats support effective border security solutions, and we are here to talk so long as working families are not used as pawns in the political process.

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

## FIRE SAFETY REMAINS A DIRE ISSUE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind people, that although it is wintertime, a rainy season, a stormy season, that we are still in a dire circumstance on fire safety in our forested areas, California, of the West, and many areas of the United States.

So for us to just be comfortable during the wintertime, during the rainy season and not think about it would be in error. We need to do much to catch up on the forest inventory we have across this country, across the West.

That will require USDA, the U.S. Forest Service, our States, our local governments, Tribes, and everybody to be able to coordinate much better than we have in the past to reduce this fuel load, this inventory we have in our forests that makes it so dangerous when fire season comes around once again.

We have seen that with so many devastating fires in the West, just this year in my own district, the Carr fire in the Redding area, and the Camp fire in the Paradise area.

Many factors go into what causes these fires, but we can at least be proactive in thinning our Federal forests, thinning the material that needs to come out of there, putting people

back to work doing that, using this material for biomass, generating electricity, and the wood and paper products that we all need and enjoy.

We need to move fast-forward on the pace and scale of what it takes to make our forested areas fire safe, healthy, good for the economy, and good for all of us.

## APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO HOUSE DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 104(a) of House Resolution 6, 116th Congress, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member to the House Democracy Partnership:

Mr. PRICE, North Carolina, Chairman

## APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. CUELLAR, Texas, Chairman

## APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO CANADA-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. HIGGINS, New York, Chairman

## APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO UNITED STATES GROUP OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly:

Mr. CONNOLLY, Virginia, Chairman

## THE PEOPLE'S NIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and introduce extraneous material into the RECORD on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, tonight is a reminder of exactly whose House this belongs to. We hear much in the political circles as far as who makes the call and who gets to speak when. Today, customarily, is a very unique and special day had our President not been disinvented.

Well, tonight we will have a few Members speaking on the importance of hearing from the Members that Americans have elected to talk about the issues of the past 2 years, and some of the things that we need to accomplish over the next couple of years.

We have some wonderful speakers this afternoon and this evening, to be able to share some of the topics that are important to our constituents as well as to all Americans.

The first speaker I would like to introduce to you is Mr. MIKE JOHNSON, who represents the Fourth District of Louisiana, and is currently leading the largest caucus in all of Congress as chairman of the Republican Study Committee.

Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from the great State of North Carolina for inviting me to speak on this topic.

I stand before you in disbelief and in sorrow tonight. It has been mentioned that the State of the Union Address was originally scheduled to take place today, and it has been rescheduled for next week.

I think it is appropriate for us then to bring attention to what is happening here in the people's House. I think the American people deserve to know that. As we speak, I think the American people need to know that partisan tactics are underway by certain House Democrats to undermine American values and traditions that have been cherished and practiced here since the time of our founding.

As we finally begin our committee work in the 116th Congress, I am proud to serve again on the Judiciary Committee and the House Natural Resources Committee. We have just begun the process of adopting our committee rules there, and today, we were issued a list of proposed rule changes that the Democrat majority and the Natural Resources Committee will apparently push through at our hearing tomorrow.

Among the radical new changes to the rules is a stunning action to remove the phrase, "So help me God" from the oath taken by witnesses before they testify to Congress. Did you hear that? Let me repeat it. Among the radical new changes in our committee is a stunning action to remove the phrase "So help me God" from the oath taken by witnesses before they testify to Congress.

This latest example of the aggressive surge to the far left that we are seeing

has to be stopped. This new agenda is threatening the very fabric of our Nation. Throughout America's history, our Presidents and elected officials have taken a solemn oath of office including the words, "So help me God."

This goes back to our founding. Since the Judiciary Act of 1789, every justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and all lower-court judges have taken an oath of office which concludes with the same phrase and, of course, every court of law across this land, in every one of them, all witnesses have always been sworn in for testimony with those same concluding words.

For more than two centuries, immigrants from all around the world have come here and taken America's oath of allegiance to become naturalized citizens which also concludes with the phrase, "So help me God."

Madam Speaker, some of our Democrat colleagues need to be reminded of our history. Why did the Founders institute this practice? Well, let's remember what they said. Our first President, George Washington, was the Father of our country. And in his famous farewell address, he gave his advice that echoes down through the generations to you and to me as the elected Representatives of the people. He said, famously: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports."

John Adams was our second President. He came next. What did he say? He said: "Our Constitution is made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

In other words, what these two Founders and their fellow patriots all understood from our history, was that there are many important rules and practices that can help sustain and build a healthy republic, but the key they said, the essential foundation of a republic has to be a common commitment among the citizenry to the principles of religion and morality and accountability to God himself.

The Founders acknowledged this self-evident truth that all men are created equal and that God gives all men the same inalienable rights. However, they knew, that in order to maintain a government "of the people, by the people, for the people," as Lincoln later said, those inalienable rights must be exercised in a responsible manner.

They, thus, believed in liberty that is legitimately constrained by a common sense of morality, and a healthy fear of the God who granted all men our rights.

The Founders understood that all men are fallen and that power corrupts. They also knew that no amount of institutional checks and balances or decentralization of power and civil authorities would be sufficient to maintain a just government if the men in charge had no fear of eternal judgment by a power higher than their temporal institutions.

That is just a quick review of our history, but that is the reason we conclude our oaths in this country with the phrase "So help me God." Heaven help us if we ever forget that obligation.

Inscribed on the third panel of the Jefferson Memorial right here in Washington, D.C., just a few blocks from here, is his sobering reminder to every single one of us as American citizens. He said this, it is right there on the wall: "God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever."

Madam Speaker, I just want you to know and I want the American people to know back home here on the night that should have been the State of the Union Address, as we talk about the State of our union, I want you to know that we are going to fight this radical rules change tomorrow in our committee because it matters. And we will continue to raise the alarm about the dangerous leftist agenda that is taking hold here in this Congress.

While I am at it, I would be remiss if I did not note, Madam Speaker, that this is not the end. The radical agenda is advancing in State legislatures now as well.

Last week, New York's Governor signed the infamous Reproductive Health Act, the RHA, into law. This bill's extreme provisions eliminate protections for the unborn, endangering the health of mothers, and eliminate New York's few remaining safeguards for developing human life.

□ 1545

As enacted, the RHA establishes the fundamental right to abortion. It permits nonphysicians to perform abortions; it repeals State protections for children born during an abortion; and it eliminates all fetal homicide provisions. The bill's broad health exception allows for an abortion at, literally, any point in their pregnancy.

Look, this measure is unconscionable. It is disturbing. And we expect our friends and all people of good conscience—even on the other side of the aisle—to condemn this outrageous attack on the vulnerable.

Madam Speaker, we are forgetting our history. We have to remember why we as Americans believe in the sanctity of human life.

I will conclude with this, by just reminding us, again, that our Founders openly acknowledged, they broadly proclaimed what has been called the American Creed. It is listed in the second paragraph of the Declaration that "we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," and that God is the one that gives us our rights, and our rights are unalienable. The first listed is the right to life.

Have we thought about why the Founders said that? Because they un-

derstood that every single person is made in the image of God. And because every person is made in the image of God, every single person has inestimable dignity and value. Your value is not related in any way to where you grew up or the color of your skin or how intelligent you may be, what your talents are, what you make for a living. Those are irrelevant. Your value is inherent because it is given to you by your creator.

Madam Speaker, I conclude with this: As we reflect upon the State of the Union, the state of the Union is strong in so many ways, but we have our challenges. Among the challenges is an assault, an aggressive agenda to remove and erase these critical and important foundations.

So here on the People's Night, here in the people's House, we want to remind the people of what is happening on our watch. We will stand against these things. We will continue to defend what is best about our American traditions, and we are honored to have that opportunity.

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his wonderful words of wisdom and inspiration.

A lot of times in the House, we hear politicians say, even throughout our State, that we are doing things for the people. And I guess, to some degree, some of that is okay. But for us to be successful, I think we have to get back to the place that we are doing things with the people. No one embodies that more in the House than past chairman and ranking member of Ways and Means, Mr. KEVIN BRADY.

In taking a moment of personal privilege here, I get a chance to meet lots of figures: lots of politicians, lots of Presidents, kings, and queens throughout this country—and throughout this world, actually—but few people I have ever met who carried the servant spirit and the servant heart more than our top Republican on Ways and Means.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), proudly representing Texas' Eighth District.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon, first, to thank the gentleman, my friend from the Sixth District of North Carolina, Congressman MARK WALKER, for his leadership in our Republican House Conference, for his leadership in helping improve the lives of not just North Carolinians, but every American, and, tonight, for organizing today's Special Order, "The People's Night," #witthepeople, on a night we had hoped our President would be here, as tradition requires, to give the State of the Union.

I want to thank those who are here tonight. We heard from Mr. JOHNSON and my colleagues who are speaking tonight on the issues that are so important to the American people. Whether it is jobs, better wages, a stronger economy, more affordable and accessible healthcare, supporting resources for our troops and veterans, securing our border, standing with Israel,

or, as Mr. JOHNSON pointed out, protecting the lives of the innocent unborn, I am proud to join you in this fight.

Let's talk about the economy and jobs. We have seen such dramatic difference the last 2 years. Remember, before that, the economy had struggled for more than a decade. Every expert in Washington was telling the American people: Just get used to that. Get used to your paychecks being flat. Get used to jobs moving overseas. Get used to your kids coming out of school with fair to low opportunities. That is the new normal.

Well, Republicans and President Trump believed there was a better future, a brighter future for America, so we went to work. As a result, because of our commitment to lifting red tape off of our local small businesses and delivering the first overhaul of our Tax Code in more than 30 years, America is back, and the American people are doing better because of it: wages are rising the fastest in a decade; America's economy is growing the fastest in more than a decade; and unemployment is at one of the lowest levels in decades.

We did this by working with President Trump to lift more than \$33 billion in red tape off our local businesses so they can hire again, so they can grow again.

Then we tackled this terrible Tax Code that had been placed, and put in place one that lowers taxes for all Americans, that helps small businesses grow and invest, that doubles the child tax credit, that doubles the standard deductions and changes the dynamics so that jobs investment comes back to America rather than just being stranded overseas. And, boy, what a difference it is making.

Due to the Republican pro-growth policies and President Trump's tax cuts, our economy exceeded 3 percent growth over the past year. That never happened under our previous President. So much for that new normal of slow growth.

More than 5 million jobs have been created since President Trump was elected, including more than 2.5 million since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed into law. Last week, our unemployment jobless claims were at a 50-year low. That is a 50-year best for that.

The unemployment rate for African Americans fell to the lowest rate ever on record. For Asian and Hispanic Americans, their unemployment rates are the best we have seen in decades.

For those who are disabled, for those coming out of prison, for those without high school educations, for those who are teenagers, the job opportunities are the best they have seen in decades. The unemployment rate, in some cases, is the best since we have started recording it.

And the group I watched the most, sort of the underdogs in every community, are those who didn't even get a

chance to finish high school or get a GED, that are always the first to be laid off, always the last to be rehired. Well, under this new economy, the unemployment for those without a high school degree is the best since America started recording it.

So our brothers and sisters in our communities and neighborhoods have more job opportunities than they have seen in a long time, and their paychecks are going up as well, the fastest in more than a decade.

It had been stuck flat for so many Americans for so long, it just was hard for families to make ends meet. But now, with higher paychecks and a tax cut for over 90 percent of American workers, families now have a budget that goes a little farther each week, where they can invest in themselves and their American Dream rather than in Washington's dream.

Consumer confidence has soared. American manufacturing is back. In fact, the National Association of Manufacturers, their index has the highest annual growth in jobs in history, over the past year. In fact, last year, manufacturing in America added almost 290,000 new jobs.

Finally, small business optimism is through the roof. They are investing and hiring and growing again on Main Streets all across America.

This didn't happen by accident. Republicans working closely with President Trump decided there was a brighter future for America. We could get out of the doldrums. We could give people opportunities. We could boost their paycheck, and we could bring jobs back from overseas. That is the difference the last 2 years has made for America.

And when the State of the Union is held, President Trump, from the dais behind me, can talk about the huge difference he has made in the American economy and what it means for working families and small businesses along Main Street.

Madam Speaker, I again thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) for his leadership and for organizing the People's Night, and I am proud to be part of it.

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking Republican on our Ways and Means Committee, KEVIN BRADY, for the wonderful service that he continues to display not just to the good people of the Lone Star State, but to all Americans.

We had a lot of retirements this past election, but not all the adults left the building. We have a wonderful veteran and former Korean veteran—actually, OB/GYN doctor, who delivered nearly 5,000 babies—the ranking member, past chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I ask PHIL ROE from Tennessee to share a few things on his heart; because there are few people who have had his experience level, and I believe it would behoove us all to listen to the words of wisdom from Mr. PHIL ROE.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE).

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) for the work he has done as our past chairman of the Republican Study Committee and now in leadership and our Conference, and I appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight.

I remember, about 2 years ago, I was up late at night watching the election returns, and then-President-elect Trump announced his acceptance speech. He was not 3 minutes into his speech when he said that he wanted to help our Nation's veterans.

It was very near and dear to my heart because I am a generation of veterans. That was during the Vietnam war, and we were not so much appreciated and treated rather shabbily by our country.

So I knew what was in President Trump's heart, and I wish he were here tonight to be able to express that. Because every time I have been in the room with him, he has appreciated the service of our Nation's 21 million living veterans.

Madam Speaker, 2 years ago, we had an opportunity to do something about it, and, in a bipartisan way—and I do want to give thanks to both sides of the aisle. This would not have happened without their help. We started on a mission to really reform the way the VA provides healthcare.

For those out there who don't know about our VA system, there are over 150 VA medical centers, over 800 outpatient clinics that we have.

The VA is divided into, actually, three parts: It is healthcare, and it is benefits, and it is cemeteries.

If you haven't visited a VA cemetery, you should, because it will really make your heart feel good to see how we treat our Nation's heroes.

We started, 2 years ago, with the idea that not all employees at work at the VA are good employees and should be there. When I got to Congress in 2010—I have been here, now, 10 years—there were 250,000 employees at the VA.

Now, the VA employs almost 370,000 people. But there were some egregious acts that some of these folks had carried out, and they could not be fired.

We passed a bill in a bipartisan way that allows us to terminate poorly performing employees while maintaining the rights of those employees who are there, 99.9 percent of whom are doing a great job for our Nation's heroes.

The second thing most of us Congressmen hear about is disability claims. When I got to Congress in 2009, there were a million backlogged disability claims, veterans sometimes waiting until they died to get their disability claim adjudicated. That number now is down to around 350,000—far too many.

We passed a bill at that point, about 18 months ago, the appeals reform bill, and it has been piloted—called the RAMP program—which has sped up.

Last Friday, I was in Nashville, Tennessee, going to our regional office to

see how they were doing, and I ran into a gentleman who was using the VA—just happened to be there, a veteran, about my age. He said: “I have been trying for 7 years to get my claim adjudicated, get taken care of.” In 90 days, with the new RAMP program—he had waited 7 years. In 90 days, it was solved.

That program goes live next month. The Secretary has approved it, and, hopefully, now we can speed the claims and appeals process up.

A third bill that we passed, that I used in 1975 when I got out of the Army and came back stateside from the Southeast Asia, is called the GI bill. For those out there, it is an education bill, and it was written, initially, by a World War II vet Harry G. Colmery. Mr. Colmery wrote a bill and thought that we could really change our Nation by educating veterans who were getting out of the military; and we did just that, and it changed our Nation.

I am still appreciative, to this day, of the \$300 a month that my country invested in me when I had a young family, when I went back to finish my education at the University of Tennessee, College of Medicine. I was able to use that money to help me finish my training and my education. But that terminated at 10 years. If I didn’t use it within 10 years, it went away.

Today, we passed a bill, fully paid for, that allows a veteran to use their GI bill the rest of their life. And we know if someone is 23 when they get out, when they are 40, maybe they might need retraining. Well, now, they can get that.

The second thing we did in that bill—again, very personal to me—is some veterans hadn’t served long enough. If they earned a Purple Heart, they didn’t get the full benefit because they hadn’t served enough time. Now, if you shed blood for this Nation, you get the full GI bill, and it should be that.

We also improved payment for our Gold Star families and others, and we have added time for technical training. We know those courses sometimes take longer.

We also funded, what is called the Veterans Choice Program three times during the last Congress, and that is how veterans get care outside the VA. We know that most VA hospitals can’t provide everything to everybody, and many veterans have to travel long, long distances to see a doctor, to see a specialist.

□ 1600

I was visiting Oregon a couple years ago and found out that one congressional district in Oregon had more square miles than the State of Tennessee did. We had to develop a bill that allowed veterans in rural areas to see a doctor and veterans in urban areas to do so.

We passed the VA MISSION Act, which was signed into law, appropriately, on June the 6th of 2018, 74 years after D-day.

What this bill will do is the following. It will revise how veterans get their care outside the VA. It has a second very important part called the VA caregiver bill. Catastrophically injured, post-9/11 GIs who were injured in battle now can have a caregiver given a stipend to stay home so that they can stay out of the hospital.

But that did not apply to pre-9/11 veterans, Vietnam-era veterans like I am, Korea, and World War II. We now provide that benefit for those veterans.

Thirdly, we are looking at what is called an asset review of the VA. This is something that really surprised me when I looked at the data. The actual number of patients in hospital beds peaked in 1981. The population has grown 40 percent, and we actually have 10 percent fewer people in hospital beds than we did almost 40 years ago.

So medicine is changing, and the VA needs to change. It needs to go through a self-evaluation, get right-sized, and get the VA healthcare out where the patients live, where the veterans are.

We know that patients are moving, veterans are moving, from the Northeast to the South and West, so we need to put those assets there. That is what the VA bill will do.

There are a few other small things, Madam Speaker, that we did that might not be big to some people but were huge to me, because my Scoutmaster was killed in 1965 in Vietnam. His name was Thomas E. Thayer. He was a first sergeant in the 101st Airborne Division, a great man with four children.

When we have Gold Star families that sign a lease, let’s say—and we had this happen where they signed a lease. One was in North Carolina, and the person would not release that woman from her lease, and she had to pay that.

Now, if you lose your husband or your wife in combat, you can get out of those. We also did the same thing for cable TV, for internet, and for cell phones. If you are deployed, you can’t use those things, so you can get out of those long-term contracts.

The Veterans’ Affairs Committee passed over 80 bills. Almost 50 of them were signed into law to help our Nation’s veterans.

We did have one very disappointing failure to me, and I have already dropped a bill this term. It is called the blue water Navy bill. Just to let our audience out there, the folks viewing this, know what it is, there are veterans who served on surface ships in the territorial waters just off Vietnam, off the coast. Actually, Agent Orange was used in Korea, where I was. If you put your boots on the ground, then you are given the presumption for certain diseases for disability benefits. That does not occur for those men and women who served on surface ships.

We passed it 382-0 in the House and could not get it moved in the Senate. We are going to give them an opportunity to do the right thing this next Congress.

Madam Speaker, it has been a privilege for me to serve for 10 years on the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, and we are committed in that committee to continuing to serve our Nation’s heroes and to give them the benefits they have earned that allow us to be free.

I thank Mr. WALKER for allowing me a few minutes to come down and share these few things we did for our Nation’s heroes.

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. PHIL ROE for sharing. The gentleman is one of the heroes around here. He not only talks the talk, but he walks the walk.

Speaking of somebody who walks the walk, that is DAN CRENSHAW from Texas’ Second District, a 10-year Navy veteran, a lieutenant commander. He is one bad dude. I would probably use a different expression, but my mother may be watching at this particular time.

“Saturday Night Live” made him famous, but his work already has put him out as one of our leaders. It is my privilege to introduce and to hear from the former lieutenant commander.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. DAN CRENSHAW.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for setting this up and for having me speak here today.

I rise today to address the urgent issue of border security. There are two elements to the border debate. One is political, and one is policy.

The political element consists of the circumstances regarding the shutdown, the negotiations or lack thereof, and the points of compromise from either side.

The policy side is simply the question of whether or not we need a wall as part of comprehensive border security.

Let me begin with the political gamesmanship.

Democratic leadership has been running a victory lap this week because they “won” the shutdown. I keep wondering, what exactly did they win?

If you think winning means a porous border with 400,000 people apprehended every year, then your definition of winning is different than mine. If you think winning means standing strong against any sort of negotiation or compromise that would have allowed Federal workers finally to be paid, then your definition of winning is different than mine.

The President didn’t cave to Democrats. The President gave compassion to Federal workers who needed it. If that is your idea of losing, then you and I have different definitions of what it means to lose.

The truth is that the President has compromised time after time because, for us, this is not about who wins or loses the political game; it is about securing the border.

First, the President agreed that a 2,000-mile, sea-to-shining-sea wall

would be a logistical difficulty, so he agreed to 234 miles of fencing, a mere tenth of his original campaign promise.

Then the President agreed to \$5.7 billion in border wall funding instead of the originally requested \$25 billion, a fifth of the original request.

Democrats then said that they could discuss border security only if the government was open, so the President opened the government.

At every turn, the President has reached out and compromised in order to get a deal done. And at every turn, Democrats scoffed at compromise.

This brings us to the second element of this great debate, the policy element. Democrats have laughed at a wall. They call it medieval and ineffective, and they dismiss it without any rationale or reasoning.

The reality is that walls do work, as every rational security expert acknowledges. Border agents overwhelmingly attest to this. After all, the President's plan came from the experts at the Department of Homeland Security.

An integral part of this multifaceted plan is a 234-mile border wall. Everywhere we put walls, illegal crossings drop. Look at San Diego, El Centro, Tucson, and El Paso. The drop in illegal immigration and apprehensions after constructing a wall is enormous and immediate, yet Democrats pretend these facts don't exist.

They point to common myths about how walls function. They like to claim people will just climb over or tunnel under them. Oh, yeah? Just like that?

Well, I am a Navy SEAL, and I know better than most what it takes to infiltrate hardened areas. I would much rather be infiltrating a place with no barriers than one with a giant, 20-plus-foot wall. The planning considerations, training, and equipment necessary are considerable. And, yes, it takes a lot more than a tall ladder, especially when discussing huge groups of migrants like the ones we are seeing.

The obvious truth is that walls make a difference and clearly mitigate movement, and we actually all used to agree on this.

Democrats claim they are for security but would prefer a virtual wall with sensors, drones, cameras, et cetera. That is fine, and that is exactly why that technology is included in our plan, but to say we need only that technology is effectively asking our Border Patrol to chase migrants endlessly across large swaths of territory.

It is one thing for a sensor to go off when we see a group of migrants go by. But guess what? When we see that go off, they keep going unimpeded. Asking our border agents to simply chase them down when there are literally hundreds crossing each day is complete insanity.

This dishonest, so-called debate must end. We must start having serious discussions and secure our border because that is what the American people want. That is what it means to be with the people.

Mr. WALKER. What a privilege it is for me to serve with Lieutenant Commander DAN CRENSHAW, two Bronze Stars a Purple Heart. He has sacrificed much for this country and serves with honor and integrity.

Speaking of service, somebody who serves next door to my district in North Carolina is the past chairwoman and top Republican on our Education and Labor Committee. If there is anyone who works any harder among the 434, 435 Members, I have not met that person yet. It is my privilege to honor and to acknowledge her.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina, Ms. VIRGINIA FOXX.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the vice chairman of our conference for his very, very kind words. We are neighbors in North Carolina, friends, and colleagues here who are concerned about the very same issues that face our country.

We are worried about many, many, many things. We worry about the absence of a wall. We worry about the need for more national security. I know that we also worry and share the concern with what has happened in this Chamber in the last few weeks when we have heard a few loud voices whose rhetoric has completely departed from the bipartisan consensus on policy toward Israel.

Just last May, for the 70th anniversary of Israel's independence, the House passed, by unanimous consent, a resolution that I introduced with two of my Democrat colleagues supporting robust, bilateral relations with Israel globally and fairness in its treatment in multilateral fora.

The House of Representatives unanimously sent a message to the U.N. and the world that respect for Israel's national sovereignty and broad recognition of its statehood is a priority for U.S. national security and achieving peace in the Middle East.

Over the past couple weeks, though, some new Members of this body have cast a cloud over this Chamber's long-time priority of the U.S.-Israel relationship. It has been suggested that support for Israel represents a betrayal of one's patriotism and that Israel has no right to exist.

I reject that position. The simple truth is that, throughout history, Israel has made numerous concessions in the pursuit of peace while seeking only the right to exist. Opponents of the Jewish state don't seem to understand that supporting our ally is a matter of national security.

On that basis, anti-Israel bias runs counter to advancing our national interests in the Middle East. Perpetuating the false narratives that there is an occupied Palestinian territory and that the Jewish people do not have any connection to the land only undermines the efforts to bring peace and stability to the region.

Other statements that Israel has "hypnotized" the world harken back to

an age of extreme insensitivity to Israel at best and a new acceptance of anti-Semitic norms at worst.

By our own State Department's definition, applying double standards that require Israel behave in a manner that is not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation and denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination are anti-Semitic beliefs.

We must reject this rhetoric and continue to support Israel as the major strategic partner that this body has long enshrined in our laws, our policy priorities, and our hearts and minds. With that, we are also improving our national security.

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative FOXX for sharing her heart and our continued pro-Israel stance.

There are few who would be able to speak more to that issue than one of our two Jewish Members in the House, the co-chair of the House Republican Israeli Caucus and an Iraqi war veteran. Some would say he has three beautiful daughters, but I think he just married well and has two children. He serves on our Foreign Affairs Committee and is a classmate of mine from the 114th Congress. It is my privilege to introduce and to hear from him.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York, Mr. LEE ZELDIN.

□ 1615

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. WALKER for his leadership in our conference and his great representation of his district. It is an honor to be joining the gentleman tonight for this important time on the House floor.

I come here to appeal to all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, to reject the anti-Israel and anti-Semitic hatred that we are starting to see infiltrate American politics and even the Halls of Congress.

It is important that we all come together, that we work together to not empower, not embrace, not associate with individuals and rhetoric and policy that promotes this anti-Israel and anti-Semitic hatred, but that we reject it.

It was just a couple weeks ago that this Chamber came together nearly unanimously to reject white supremacy. What is taking so long for House Democratic leadership to schedule a vote on H. Res. 72 that I introduced with Congressman BUDD, Congresswoman STEFANIK, Congressman WALKER as a cosponsor, and others as well? Why can't we come together as forcefully and urgently to reject that anti-Semitism and that anti-Israel hatred?

We have House Democrats who have associated with, taken pictures with, embraced Louis Farrakhan. He said: "So when they talk about Farrakhan, call me a hater, you do what they do, call me an anti-Semite. Stop it, I'm anti-termites." Louis Farrakhan said that last year.

He also said: "Satanic Jews have infected the whole world with poison and deceit."

This is offensive to me, as someone who is Jewish. But I am talking to colleagues who aren't Jewish, and they are offended as well by Farrakhan and the fact that there are Members of this Chamber who associate with this person.

In 1984, Farrakhan said about Adolph Hitler: "He was a very great man."

Activist Tamika Mallory called Louis Farrakhan "the greatest of all time." Her fellow organizer, Linda Sarsour, said: "Only Jews . . . are ones that condone violence against Arabs and are cool with mosques being attacked."

I have no problem standing here in the well of this Chamber rejecting it. I don't know what is taking so long for House Democratic leadership to schedule a vote on H. Res. 72, so they can join us in condemning it as well.

There is a freshman Representative from Michigan, Representative RASHIDA TLAIB, who supports the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. She invited Abbas Hamideh to attend her swearing-in events this month. Abbas said, in 2016: "Israel does not have a right to exist. The terrorist entity is illegal and has no basis to exist, other than a delusional, ISIS-like ideology."

Also this month, that person said: "I'm willing to go back to my country Palestine, if the Zionist terrorists go back to Poland. Deal? Let's get that ball rolling ASAP. Get off Twitter, and let's make that happen."

This same Representative said of those who support Israel: "They forgot what country they represent."

Well, as someone who has been in the United States Army for over 15 years, has deployed into combat in defense of this country, a former Army paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, never once in my life have I forgotten what country I represent.

It is kind of ironic that someone who, on their victory night, wraps themselves in the Palestinian flag is trying to lecture us, especially for supporting our Nation's greatest ally in Israel.

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement is one that is founded by someone named Omar Barghouti, who said: "We are witnessing the rapid demise of Zionism, and nothing can be done save it, for Zionism is intent on killing itself. I, for one, support euthanasia."

He also said: "Many of the methods of collective and individual 'punishment' meted out to Palestinian civilians at the hands of young, racist, often sadistic and every impervious Israeli soldiers . . . are reminiscent of common Nazi practices against the Jews."

So when you are embracing BDS, know that this is what the founder of BDS says. This goes beyond anti-Israeli hatred. It is anti-Semitic hatred.

What is taking so long? This Chamber that had no problem rushing to this

well and nearly unanimously rejecting white supremacy has a problem rejecting this?

Meanwhile, our students, in the name of the BDS movement, on college campuses all across this entire country, are being subjected to blatant anti-Semitism.

For example, at New York University, the student government passed a resolution supporting BDS. The Bronfman Center for Jewish Life was temporarily closed in response to threatening Twitter posts by a student who expressed "a desire for Zionists to die."

Other college campuses include a University of Michigan professor who refused to write a letter of recommendation for a qualified student to study abroad solely because she was seeking to study abroad in Israel.

A Students for Justice in Palestine cofounder and University of California, Berkeley, professor spoke at a national conference and shared an anti-Semitic meme of an Orthodox Jewish person in his presentation.

At Warren Wilson College, an invited speaker said: "Jews are doing the same thing to the Palestinians as the Nazis did to the Jews."

The examples go on, whether it was Charlottesville, where the leadership said that Jews must die, that he wanted all Jews to die, or whether it was the shooting that took place in Pittsburgh.

We are motivated, my colleagues and I, to this Chamber to stand against anti-Israel and anti-Semitic hatred. Everyone in this Chamber should join us.

I went kindergarten through 12th grade, college, law school, 4 years of Active Duty, and I never once experienced anti-Semitism. It has no business infiltrating American politics; it has no business infiltrating the campuses of United States universities and colleges; and it has no business infiltrating the Halls of Congress.

I encourage an immediate vote on H. Res. 72.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, you can see why Representative LEE ZELDIN is thought so highly of in the United States House of Congress. I appreciate his remarks and, even more, his passion.

When we talk about going through some tough things in life, I don't believe there is anyone that I know who can relate to the journey that our whip, Representative STEVE SCALISE, has been through.

I will never forget getting word that Thursday, and we did not know for sure whether Representative SCALISE would actually make it through the day, but somehow he did. The thing that I remembered most is his gift with policy. There are lots of things that he does well. The thing that I will always remember is how he let his faith shine through all of this darkness.

I yield to Louisiana's finest and our whip, Representative STEVE SCALISE.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for yielding and for bringing attention to what we are here to talk about tonight.

This would have been the State of the Union that the President was initially invited by the Speaker to deliver back on January 3. I am glad, Mr. Speaker, that, ultimately, we got a new date that the Speaker has invited the President to come to this Chamber, the people's House, on February 5, when President Trump finally will have the opportunity to address the people of this country on the state of Union, as the Constitution prescribes.

We have seen, over time, it has been done in many different ways. George Washington started the tradition in 1790 by actually addressing a joint session of Congress, as opposed to just sending a letter. It has been done different ways over time.

But over the last 50 years, it has been done here in this House Chamber every single year, and I am glad that we will finally have that opportunity to see the tradition continue.

Mr. Speaker, when you talk about the state of the Union and some of the things that President Trump has been fighting for, the main things he has been fighting for are to deliver to the American people on getting the economy back on track and keeping America safe.

Part of keeping America safe, Mr. Speaker, means securing America's border. That is really what was at the heart of the fight over the last month of this government shutdown.

A lot of people in Washington are so focused, Mr. Speaker, on who is to blame or who won the week, who is the winner or who is the loser. You hear everybody saying that, okay, well, NANCY PELOSI was able to hold the State of the Union hostage and somehow that is a victory for the American people that she denied the President the ability to come here to the people's House to share his message.

I wouldn't be bragging about that as a victory if I were Speaker PELOSI, because, ultimately, what that means is that she is afraid of having the American people hear the message that President Trump had to say.

That message will be distributed next week, but part of that message involves why we need to secure the border. That is really at the heart of this debate.

Why do we need to secure America's border? There are some people questioning whether or not we need to secure America's border. The good news, Mr. Speaker, is that there are not many people in this country that wonder whether or not we should secure the border. The bad news is that of the few people who are in that category, one of them is the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

We are going to continue to have this debate. On February 5, when you hear President Trump give this message, I am sure some of the things we are

going to hear are the horror stories that we have had because we don't have a secure border.

I have experienced something, and I have heard firsthand from constituents in my district about what is at stake. I had the opportunity to get a call from the mother of a fire chief in south Louisiana, Spencer Chauvin.

Spencer Chauvin was responding to a call, like he did. He was a public servant, a fire chief in St. John the Baptist Parish. As he was responding to that call, Mr. Speaker, he was killed by someone who is in this country illegally.

He never got to go home that night to his 6-year-old and 8-year-old. He doesn't get to talk to his mother anymore.

But after his mother and I talked, she mailed me this just last week, Mr. Speaker, and it is a coin. It is a coin in tribute to Spencer Chauvin. I keep this coin with me as a reminder of what is at stake in human terms, because we could talk about who won the day or who won the week, but is it really victory when the result of Speaker PELOSI's victory is that there may be more victims like Spencer Chauvin across this country because we haven't secured our border?

President Trump didn't campaign saying he needed \$5.7 billion to build a wall. President Trump talked about building a wall to secure our border. When he became President, the experts who risk their lives, men and women who are not partisans, men and women who wake up every day, whether it was Barack Obama President or whether it is Donald Trump President, they just go to the border and risk their lives to keep the bad people out.

There is a way for good people to come in. If you want to come in legally like a million people every single year who we let in our country legally, there is a legal way to do it. If you are seeking asylum from around the world, Mr. Speaker, there is a legal way to do it.

In fact, this caravan that you saw coming into America, they stormed through Mexico's border on the southern border of Mexico. They stormed through that border. They wanted to storm through our border because we don't have a physical barrier. They were offered asylum by Mexico, and they were offered work permits by Mexico, and they turned that down.

Are you really an asylum seeker if you turn down asylum along the way here? It is not about asylum. It is about whether or not we are going to get back to rule of law and secure our border.

The experts who risk their lives say it is going to cost \$5.7 billion to secure our border, to give them the tools they need, and that includes a physical barrier.

Now that we are seeing a growing list of Democrats, including the majority leader, STENY HOYER, say physical barriers ought to be part of the solution,

in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, what I would say, when we open back the people's House to the President on February 5, is let's heed the call of Republicans and Democrats alike who recognize we need to secure our southern border so that we can get back to rule of law and prevent more Spencer Chauvins from becoming victims to an open border.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Whip, Representative STEVE SCALISE, for his example and courage in standing up for what is right and true.

Many Members whom I have run across in this House are studious in their work, but I don't know of any more than Representative GARY PALMER.

In this town, there is probably a dinner every night somewhere. Mr. PALMER chooses to take his time going back to his office, preparing for the next day, constantly reading and staying informed.

I was born in the State that he represents. I lived there only 6 months. We have a mutual love for the Crimson Tide. It is my privilege to acknowledge and yield to Representative GARY PALMER from Alabama.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. The gentleman just acknowledged that I have no social life, but that is fine.

I want to talk a little bit about healthcare. Here is a fact that my Democratic colleagues were desperately trying to keep from the public. Not only do the Republicans support providing health insurance coverage for those with preexisting conditions, but we actually passed legislation that did just that with the American Health Care Act of 2017.

It included an amendment that Representative DAVID SCHWEIKERT of Arizona and I introduced that ensured that anyone with a preexisting condition could purchase health insurance. The Palmer-Schweikert amendment established a risk-sharing plan that would allow any individual with a preexisting condition to purchase insurance at the same price as a healthy individual.

It was actually modeled after a successful State-based program in the State of Maine. Instead of billions of dollars being paid out by the Federal Government in bailouts for health insurance companies, our plan, funded by having the majority of the premiums paid for those with preexisting conditions, transferred into a fund, a risk-sharing fund.

This represents an alternative approach to ObamaCare's guaranteed issue provision, which priced everyone as sick, resulting in far higher premiums. As a matter of fact, the premiums got so high that insurance companies literally began pulling out of whole States.

What our amendment did was, if someone had a preexisting condition, they would come to an insurance company, fill out a health survey, mark

down if they had had a heart attack or cancer. The insurance company would sell them insurance at the same price as anybody else. But when they paid their premiums, 90 percent of the premiums would go into this risk-sharing agreement.

□ 1630

The insurance company would only keep 10 percent. Now, if the person, the individual became very sick, if it became very expensive, the insurance company would pay the first \$7,500 and then 10 percent of the next \$25,000, so the most that they were out was \$10,000. The risk-sharing plan would pick up the balance and reimburse the providers at the same rate as Medicare.

The way this worked was not only did the premiums go into the risk-sharing plan, 90 percent of the premiums, but the rest of us would pay anywhere from \$5 to \$10 a month on our premiums. That would go into the risk-sharing plan, and our amendment was backed up with \$38 billion.

What this allowed us to do was create a situation where the actuaries could actually be more predictive in what the cost would be; and, as a result, it lowered premiums for everyone. So not only did it cover people with preexisting conditions, but everyone else's premiums came down.

As a matter of fact, in that 20- to 30-year-old age group, it came down 41 percent; 30 to 40 years old came down 33 percent; 40 to 50, 25 percent; 50 to 60, 11.6 percent; and that pre-Medicare 60 to 65 came down 5.9 percent. So what we were doing was trying to repair the American healthcare system, doing it in a way that made sense for people.

Not only that, we have other options that we want to present. For instance, one of the biggest uninsured populations is young people. It doesn't make sense to spend the amount of money you have to spend to pay your premiums when a lot of those folks are earning lower wages.

So we want to set up a plan where you could buy short-term insurance, buy what you need, what you can afford for that time in your life, and it would be for 1 year. Depending on what you bought, your premiums could come down 85 percent. If you needed to extend it, you could extend it for another 3 years. That is transition insurance.

In addition to that, the vast majority of people in America who have a job work for a small business, and small businesses aren't part of a larger group. So we wanted to set up association group plans so that if you are a small business and your city set up an association group plan, you could be in that. Or if you are a farmer, you could be a member of an association group plan that the Farm Bureau established, and premiums there are projected to come down by as much as 50 percent.

The Republicans have the best ideas for repairing our healthcare system, making it affordable, and keeping our promise, a promise that was broken repeatedly: If you like your doctor, you

can keep your doctor. If you like your insurance, you can keep your doctor.

It is not just about the cost. It is about improving outcomes and helping people live better and healthier.

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, as I enter my fifth year serving in these hallowed Halls, I am still in awe of the sacred duty we have been given. We are truly the people's House. However, I believe that the people's House should give a voice to every single American, including the unborn.

This past Congress, we were able to pass, in the House, two major bills protecting life. The Born-Alive Protection Act and the Pain-Capable Child Protection Act both affirmed the humanity of the unborn and our firm belief that they are worthy of protection. Sadly, these bills were not taken up in the Senate, and with the new Democratic-led House, their future is uncertain.

But each January gives us hope. It is a critical time to talk about the importance of life and what it means to all Americans. Not only does the beginning of the year bring new goals and ambitions, but it contains important events that celebrate life, justice, and human potential.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose life we recently celebrated, knew this potential. He said that any person cannot succeed if he or she is willing to "sacrifice the future of his children for immediate personal comfort." He also professed the value and hope of every single human life.

We also witnessed tens of thousands of marchers just recently arriving from all across America to march and boldly speak for those who can't speak for themselves.

Last week, we saw what my friend Benjamin Watson says is a "sad and evil day." Throughout history, there are pivotal moments that sober us up to the point of engagement. Such a moment happened 1 week ago as we watched the New York State Assembly celebrate expanding the path for late-term abortions in their State.

Mr. Watson said this: "It is a sad and evil day when the murder of our most innocent and vulnerable is celebrated with such overwhelming exuberance."

This law allows for abortion up to birth, practically without limits. It authorizes the legal murder of a fully viable human baby. This is what was being celebrated. This is why the Freedom Tower was lit bright pink on a cold winter's night.

That celebration is now seared into our Nation's conscience, and many are now realizing, more than ever, that we should not, that we must not, that we cannot look the other way. Even our sleeping churches are beginning to awaken to this just and righteous cause.

New York already faces a cataclysm. In New York City, more than 500 abortions are performed for every 1,000 births. These numbers are more staggering for African American babies, more of whom are now aborted than actually born.

The Governor of New York has even suggested that those who are pro-life are not—and get this—welcome in his State.

I support federalism and the idea that New York can make its own laws for New York. My question is not a legal one, but a moral one. How long will our American society allow this injustice? Can we expect the new House Democratic majority to continue down this path? Will there be consequences?

As my friend Kay Cole James likes to say: "The right to life is the most fundamental of all civil rights."

To revive the American Dream, we must reclaim America's soul. That means standing with the majority of the American people who reject the Federal funding abortions; that means putting the life and health of women and babies ahead of the desires of abortion giants like Planned Parenthood.

But in many cases, we must also regain our credibility in valuing the birth at all stages of life. Do we care—tough question. Do we care, 20 weeks after the baby is born, as much as we value the baby 20 weeks before birth?

In closing, Mark Twain said this: The two most important days are when you are born and when you find out why. How many babies, how many children will never get to discover either?

Please continue to stand for those who have no voice. In the name that is everything just, never stop raising yours.

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

#### PUT A BORDER SECURITY PLAN ON THE FLOOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, here we are, 2½ weeks away from a potential government shutdown. It is not 5 yet, and I am on the floor of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and there is functionally nobody here. I choose to address the body from the podium, rather than the well, to illustrate this point.

Now, anywhere else in America, if you were facing some cataclysmic event like a shutdown or a shutoff or a business losing a major client, you would have the whole team here working, getting together, workshopping solutions, offering amendments, ripening proposals and actually doing the work that we are supposed to be doing for the country.

With this 2½ weeks to the shutdown, it is notable to me that Congress got into town last night and we are leaving tomorrow. It is like we have got the French workweek around here. And the Democrats are in control. They are driving, Madam Speaker.

So my call is to Speaker PELOSI:

If you have got a border security package, put it on the floor.

If you have got an idea on how to make sure that our country is safer, respecting the rule of law, creating a climate of rising wages for our workers, making sure that people in their neighborhoods are safe and not having to face the gangs and the cartels and the criminals and MS-13, let's see it.

Democrats often were right to criticize Republicans during the 115th Congress that we had constrained rules, limited debates. We had diminished opportunity for Members to offer amendments. But we don't even have a bill. It kind of makes me wonder why.

It may be the Democrats can come to no consensus on border security. I mean, heck, we have got a group of them who probably are from Rust Belt States, from the Midwest, where a lot of their constituents voted for President Trump and believe that we ought to have physical barriers, believe that we ought to be a nation of laws and borders—pretty rational stuff. And then you have got this other wing of the Democratic Party, Madam Speaker, that thinks that walls and borders are racist and immoral.

How is it that the country is expecting us to lead—you to lead, in the majority—if we aren't able to at least come to this floor and offer concrete solutions?

You know what we voted on these last couple of days? We have been voting on whether or not we are going to establish studies on the potential harms of cryptocurrency. Now, that may be a virtuous objective, but it seems less poignant and less timely than the impending shutdown we potentially have in 2½ weeks.

We took votes on whether or not the Department of Homeland Security should offer more mentorship and training to law enforcement on Tribal lands—also virtuous, but certainly not what we ought to be doing here.

Madam Speaker, each and every day, when we walk these Halls, we stand under the busts and statues and murals of some of the greatest Americans to have ever lived. There are times when I feel we are unworthy to cast our gaze upon them and upon their likeness because here we are, trusted to fulfill the promise of the country, and it is not even 5 yet on a workday, and I am the only one here and everybody is packing their bags getting ready to go home.

It is a travesty and it is a shame brought upon this House. I certainly hope in the coming weeks we can do better.

Madam Speaker, I thank your indulgence, and I yield back the balance of my time.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 201(b) of House Resolution 6, 116th Congress, and the order of the House of January

3, 2019, of the following Members to the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress:

- Mr. KILMER, Washington, Chair
- Mr. CLEAVER, Missouri
- Ms. DELBENE, Washington
- Ms. LOFGREN, California
- Mr. POCAN, Wisconsin
- Ms. SCANLON, Pennsylvania

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1713

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER) at 5 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 790, FEDERAL CIVILIAN WORKFORCE PAY RAISE FAIRNESS ACT OF 2019, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. RASKIN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-5) on the resolution (H. Res. 87) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 790) to provide for a pay increase in 2019 for certain civilian employees of the Federal Government, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on January 25, 2019, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 28. Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 30, 2019, at 9 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third and fourth quarters of 2018, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. <input type="checkbox"/>											

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX, Chairman, Jan. 10, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Kirsten Duncan	8/25	8/28	Finland		537.38		( <sup>3</sup> )				537.38
	8/28	8/30	Norway		349.57						349.57
	8/30	9/1	France		791.00			956.00			1747.00
Laura Fullerton	8/28	8/30	Norway		349.57		( <sup>3</sup> )				349.57
	8/30	9/1	France		791.00			664.00			1455.00
Mike Flynn	8/25	8/28	Finland		537.38		( <sup>3</sup> )				537.38
	8/28	8/30	Norway		349.57						349.57
	8/30	9/1	France		791.00			965.00			1756.00
Kate Bonvechio	8/25	8/28	Finland		514.02		( <sup>3</sup> )				514.02
	8/28	8/30	Norway		349.57						349.57
	8/30	9/1	France		791.00			956.00			1747.00
Jason Geske	8/25	8/28	Finland		514.02		( <sup>3</sup> )				514.02
	8/28	8/30	Norway		349.57						349.57
	8/30	9/1	France		791.00			956.00			1747.00
Moir Bergin	8/25	8/28	Finland		514.02		( <sup>3</sup> )				514.02
	8/28	8/30	Norway		349.57						349.57
	8/30	9/1	France		791.00			956.00			1747.00
Brittany Lynch	8/25	8/28	Finland		514.02		( <sup>3</sup> )				514.02
	8/28	8/30	Norway		349.57						349.57
	8/30	9/1	France		791.00			956.00			1747.00
Hon. Filemon Vela	6/30	7/1	Portugal		78.00			63.00			141.00
	7/1	7/2	Tunisia		96.00						96.00
	7/2	7/2	Croatia		72.00						72.00
	7/2	7/3	Bos-Herz		72.00			13.77			85.77
	7/4	7/5	Italy		310.00			158.62			468.62
	7/6	7/9	Germany		348.00			414.00			762.00
	Committee total					12,090.83		649.39	6,409.00		

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL, Chairman, Dec. 6, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Bob Goodlatte	10/1	10/10	Germany, Rwanda, Botswana, South Africa, Angola, Tunisia, & Portugal.		899.00		(3)		1,645.00		2,544.00
Hon. Lamar Smith	10/1	10/10	Germany, Rwanda, Botswana, South Africa, Angola, Tunisia, & Portugal.		899.00		(3)		1,645.00		2,544.00
Hon. Hank Johnson	10/1	10/10	Germany, Rwanda, Botswana, South Africa, Angola, Tunisia, & Portugal.		899.00		(3)		1,645.00		2,544.00
Shelley Husband	10/1	10/10	Germany, Rwanda, Botswana, South Africa, Angola, Tunisia, & Portugal.		899.00		(3)		1,645.00		2,544.00
Robert Parmiter	10/1	10/10	Germany, Rwanda, Botswana, South Africa, Angola, Tunisia, & Portugal.		899.00		(3)		1,645.00		2,544.00
Matthew Morgan	10/1	10/10	Germany, Rwanda, Botswana, South Africa, Angola, Tunisia, & Portugal.		899.00		(3)		1,645.00		2,544.00
Peter Larkin	10/1	10/10	Germany, Rwanda, Botswana, South Africa, Angola, Tunisia, & Portugal.		899.00		(3)		1,645.00		2,544.00
John Manning	10/1	10/10	Germany, Rwanda, Botswana, South Africa, Angola, Tunisia, & Portugal.		899.00		(3)		1,645.00		2,544.00
Hon. Pramila Jayapal	12/1	12/1	Mexico						1,610.00		1,610.00
Committee total					7,192.00				14,770.00		21,972.00

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.  
<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.

HON. BOB GOODLATTE, Chairman, Jan. 2, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
GT Thompson	11/17	11/18	Germany		260.00						260.00
	11/18	11/21	Kuwait		802.00				278.33		1,080.33
Committee total					1,062.00				278.33		1,340.33

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ROB BISHOP, Chairman, Jan. 23, 2019.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

61. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-578, "Campaign Finance Reform Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

62. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-577, "Office of Public-Private Partnerships Delegation of Authority Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

63. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-574, "Rent Charge Definition Clarification Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

64. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-573, "Conversion Therapy for Consumers under a Conservatorship or Guardianship Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

65. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-568, "Behavioral Health Parity Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

66. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-567, "Lead Water Service Line Replacement and Disclosure Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec.

602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

67. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-566, "Healthy Students Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

68. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-562, "Electronic Proof of Motor Vehicle Insurance and Regulation Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

69. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-561, "Study of Long-Term Care Facilities and Long-Term Care Services Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

70. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-572, "Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly Establishment Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

71. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-560, "Rear-Facing Car Seat Safety Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

72. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-559, "Driver's License Revocation Fairness Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

73. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-571, "Eviction with Dignity Amend-

ment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

74. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-558, "Structured Settlements Protection Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

75. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-570, "Mental Health Information Disclosure Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

76. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-569, "Revised Synthetics Abatement and Full Enforcement Drug Control Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

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. RASKIN: Committee on Rules, House Resolution 87. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 790) to provide for a pay increase in 2019 for certain civilian employees of the Federal Government, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (Rept. 116-5). Referred to the House Chamber.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following

titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 830. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to allow the repair, expansion, and construction, without elevation, of agricultural structures located in special flood hazard zones, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana):

H.R. 831. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to request nominations for and make determinations regarding roads to be designated under the national scenic byways program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. SMUCKER, Ms. STEFANK, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 832. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program under such Act to serve whole milk; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. HARTZLER (for herself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. BOST, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. ESTES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. STEWART, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. JONES, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. FLORES, Mr. OLSON, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SPANO, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BACON, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. COLE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. CLOUD):

H.R. 833. A bill to prohibit Federal funding to entities that do not certify the entities will not perform, or provide any funding to any other entity that performs, an abortion; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. CISNEROS, Mrs. CRAIG, Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. KIM, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. MCADAMS, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, and Mrs. TRAHAN):

H.R. 834. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing appropriations, to prohibit the use of funds for the official travel of Members of Congress and executive branch employees and other activities during any period in which such automatic continuing appropriations are in effect, to withhold the pay of Members of Congress during any period in which such automatic continuing appropria-

tions are in effect, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Reform, House Administration, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LONG, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 835. A bill to impose criminal sanctions on certain persons involved in international doping fraud conspiracies, to provide restitution for victims of such conspiracies, and to require sharing of information with the United States Anti-Doping Agency to assist its fight against doping, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. MCCAUL (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 836. A bill to establish the Interdiction for the Protection of Child Victims of Exploitation and Human Trafficking Program to train law enforcement officers to identify and assist victims of child exploitation and human trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. EMMER, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. DUFFY):

H.R. 837. A bill to authorize a special resource study on the spread vectors of chronic wasting disease in Cervidae, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. BABIN (for himself and Mrs. DEMINGS):

H.R. 838. A bill to develop a national strategy to prevent targeted violence through behavioral threat assessment and management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 839. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to include a revenue metric in the port network components to better achieve the policy goals of the National Multimodal Freight Network; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself and Mr. HIGGINS of New York):

H.R. 840. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio:

H.R. 841. A bill to establish the People-Centered Assistance Reform Effort Commission, to improve the social safety net and increase social mobility by increasing access to resources which address the underlying causes of poverty; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on

Education and Labor, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, Rules, 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. DELGADO:

H.R. 842. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require certain reports filed under such Act to include the disclosure of persons who are registered lobbyists under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GIBBS (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 843. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify when the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to prohibit the specification of a defined area, or deny or restrict the use of a defined area for specification, as a disposal site under section 404 of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GIBBS:

H.R. 844. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to allow for modified permits for industrial minerals remining operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GOLDEN (for himself, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. COOPER, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. COX of California):

H.R. 845. A bill to prohibit the payment of a salary to Members of Congress, the President, and the Vice President during periods during which a Government shutdown is in effect, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico (for herself, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. JONES, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. CISNEROS):

H.R. 846. A bill to amend the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a vacancy and recruitment database to facilitate the recruitment of certain members of the Armed Forces to satisfy the occupational needs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish and implement a training and certification program for intermediate care technicians in that Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DUNN, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. ZELDIN):

H.R. 847. A bill to provide interim appropriations for the Coast Guard Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plans for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 848. A bill to restrict certain Federal assistance benefits to individuals verified to

be citizens of the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. NADLER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. OMAR, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SOTO, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. WILD, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 849. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to increase civics education programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PALMER (for himself, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. BRADY, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. BUCK, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. FOXX of North Carolina, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. WALKER, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. YOHO, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BABIN, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. COLE, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. EMMER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LAHOOD, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ROY, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 850. A bill to require the appropriation of funds to use a fee, fine, penalty, or proceeds from a settlement received by a Federal agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, the Budget, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER:

H.R. 851. A bill to reinstate requirements pertaining to electronically controlled pneumatic brake systems on high-hazard flammable unit trains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RYAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. MENG, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. COHEN, Ms. OMAR, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SOTO, Mr. POCAN, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 852. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to address lead contamination in

school drinking water; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia (for himself and Mr. LATTI):

H.R. 853. A bill to expand retroactive eligibility of the Army Combat Action Badge to include members of the Army who participated in combat during which they personally engaged, or were personally engaged by, the enemy at any time on or after December 7, 1941; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL (for herself, Ms. SHALALA, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SOTO, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Ms. FRANKEL):

H.R. 854. A bill to provide humanitarian assistance to the Venezuelan people, including Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the Americas and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 855. A bill to minimize the economic and social costs resulting from losses of life, property, well-being, business activity, and economic growth associated with extreme weather events by ensuring that the United States is more resilient to the impacts of extreme weather events in the short- and long-term, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WEBSTER of Florida (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mr. WESTERMAN):

H.R. 856. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a deduction for certain charity care furnished by physicians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 857. A bill to hold the salaries of Members of a House of Congress in escrow if the House of Congress does not pass regular appropriation bills on a timely basis during a Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 858. A bill to make continuing appropriations for salaries and expenses of air traffic controllers for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. REED, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. ROUNTA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. TITUS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. HECK, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. LURIA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MENG, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. BEYER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PAL-

LONE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. LEE of Nevada):

H.J. Res. 35. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for men and women; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. BERA):

H. Con. Res. 8. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress on the need to improve and expand training for future physicians on properly treating pain and prescribing opioids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HOYER:

H. Con. Res. 9. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President; considered and agreed to. considered and agreed to.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H. Res. 85. A resolution electing Members to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives and ranking Members on a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to. considered and agreed to.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H. Res. 86. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H. Res. 88. A resolution expressing the opposition of the House of Representatives to a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII,

Mr. MARSHALL introduced a bill (H.R. 859) to authorize the honorary appointment of Robert J. Dole to the grade of colonel in the regular Army; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 830.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 831.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 832.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution which gives Congress the power "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the

several states, and within the Indian Tribes.”

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 833.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 834.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, section 9, clause 7

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 835.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 836.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

H.R. 837.

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. BABIN:

H.R. 838.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 839.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 840.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio:

H.R. 841.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the U. S. Constitution grants Congress the 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” and Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof”.

By Mr. DELGADO:

H.R. 842.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One

By Mr. GIBBS:

H.R. 843.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (relating to regulation of Commerce among the several states.)

By Mr. GIBBS:

H.R. 844.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (relating to regulation of Commerce among the several states.)

By Mr. GOLDEN:

H.R. 845.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. Art. 1, Sec. 1; and U.S. Const. Art. 1, Sec. 6

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico:

H.R. 846.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:

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; [ . . . ]—And

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. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 847.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: “No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . .” In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: “The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .” Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 848.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HASTINGS:

H.R. 849.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PALMER:

H.R. 850.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 provides, “No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.”

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER:

H.R. 851.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 852.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 853.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution, wherein it reads: “Congress

shall have the power . . . to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States . . .” and “Congress shall have the power to . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL:

H.R. 854.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 855.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. WEBSTER of Florida:

H.R. 856.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 857.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 6 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 858.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 1 and 18): The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, impost and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, impost and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; and 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. MARSHALL:

H.R. 859.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8, clause 16: To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.J. Res. 35.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V—Amendment. The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 25: Mr. EMMER.  
 H.R. 38: Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. MITCHELL.  
 H.R. 51: Ms. DEAN.  
 H.R. 95: Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Ms. DEAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. HURD of Texas, and Mr. SOTO.  
 H.R. 96: Ms. PINGREE and Mrs. TORRES of California.  
 H.R. 114: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. ALLEN.  
 H.R. 125: Mr. LANGEVIN and Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
 H.R. 141: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. MCKINLEY.  
 H.R. 249: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.  
 H.R. 281: Mr. JEFFRIES.  
 H.R. 284: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
 H.R. 285: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
 H.R. 307: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN.  
 H.R. 339: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.  
 H.R. 361: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 369: Mr. FORTENBERRY.  
 H.R. 421: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia and Mr. SARBANES.  
 H.R. 446: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.  
 H.R. 485: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. BYRNE.  
 H.R. 500: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. BOST, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Ms. DEGETTE.  
 H.R. 533: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
 H.R. 540: Ms. TITUS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. RASKIN.  
 H.R. 545: Ms. SPANBERGER.  
 H.R. 553: Mr. ROUZER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.  
 H.R. 554: Mr. CHABOT.  
 H.R. 580: Mr. GOSAR.  
 H.R. 582: Ms. SHERRILL.  
 H.R. 587: Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. COLE, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. LESKO, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. CORREA, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.  
 H.R. 590: Ms. SCHRIER.  
 H.R. 600: Mr. HURD of Texas.  
 H.R. 609: Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
 H.R. 616: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Mr. CLOUD.

H.R. 638: Mr. RATCLIFFE.  
 H.R. 641: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.  
 H.R. 642: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.  
 H.R. 646: Mr. GARAMENDI and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.  
 H.R. 647: Ms. DEGETTE.  
 H.R. 649: Ms. NORTON, Mr. BEYER, and Mrs. DINGELL.  
 H.R. 651: Mr. GAETZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.  
 H.R. 662: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 664: Mr. EMMER and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.  
 H.R. 671: Mr. DUFFY, Mr. WALTZ, and Mrs. LESKO.  
 H.R. 678: Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. NORCROSS.  
 H.R. 710: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. LIPINSKI.  
 H.R. 712: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GALLEGRO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. HIMES, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.  
 H.R. 714: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mrs. LESKO.  
 H.R. 720: Mr. PETERS.  
 H.R. 724: Ms. WILD, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. OLSON, and Ms. DEAN.  
 H.R. 728: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. HECK, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. COURTNEY.  
 H.R. 734: Ms. DEGETTE and Ms. MOORE.  
 H.R. 737: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. ESTES, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. NEAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BEYER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KIND, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.  
 H.R. 739: Mr. MEADOWS.  
 H.R. 740: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee and Mr. LAMBORN.  
 H.R. 741: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BOST, and Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee.  
 H.R. 762: Ms. HILL of California, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. LOEBSACK.  
 H.R. 763: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
 H.R. 764: Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee.  
 H.R. 785: Mr. GOSAR.  
 H.R. 786: Mr. GOSAR.  
 H.R. 790: Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. GREEN of Texas.  
 H.R. 791: Mr. WALTZ, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.

H.R. 804: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. LANGEVIN.  
 H.R. 806: Mr. BURGESS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.  
 H.R. 809: Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. TAKANO.  
 H.R. 811: Mr. LOUDERMILK.  
 H.J. Res. 2: Mr. LOWENTHAL.  
 H.J. Res. 25: Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH.  
 H. Res. 23: Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. BOST, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MENG, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HECK, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. LOEBSACK.  
 H. Res. 33: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. ZELDIN, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GALLEGRO, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. KATKO, Mr. CASE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. KIND, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. CRIST.  
 H. Res. 36: Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. CARBAJAL.  
 H. Res. 38: Mr. SABLÁN.  
 H. Res. 39: Mr. HUDSON and Mrs. BUSTOS.  
 H. Res. 49: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. CURTIS, and Mrs. LESKO.  
 H. Res. 54: Mr. HECK, Mr. CASE, Mr. KIND, and Mr. KATKO.  
 H. Res. 58: Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. DEAN.  
 H. Res. 60: Mr. HECK.  
 H. Res. 72: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.  
 H. Res. 81: Ms. STEFANIK.

---

 CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

## OFFERED BY MR. CUMMINGS

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Oversight and Reform in H.R. 790 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rules XXI.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019

No. 18

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who rules the raging of the sea, we come to You today in the assurance not of our feeble hold on You but of Your mighty grasp on us.

Bring peace to our lawmakers that will tune their hearts to the music of Your will. Lead our Senators along the paths of righteousness to still waters and green pastures by Your redeeming grace. May our legislators so serve You that they will contribute to the coming of the day when justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 29, 2019.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST ACT OF 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the unfinished business.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, hundreds of thousands of Federal workers are, thank God, returning to work this week to tackle a backlog that has been building for over a month. Over that time, the U.S. economy suffered a loss of \$11 billion, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office—\$11 billion for the President's temper tantrum, including \$3 billion that can never be recovered. That is an expensive temper tantrum. The individual costs are even harder than the big numbers.

Who knows how many Federal workers missed a doctor's appointment or fell behind on their payments because they weren't getting their paychecks. Federal contractors will not get back-pay and may have lost health insurance entirely during the shutdown. Senator SMITH is working on legislation to fix that problem.

While even Federal employees and contractors are returning to work, they still might be digging out of the hole that the Trump shutdown put them in. I hope this serves as a lesson to President Trump and all of my Republican colleagues—no more shutdown. We cannot repeat this same nightmare scenario in 3 weeks when the CR expires. We Democrats will not shut down the government. We hope President Trump has learned his lesson. He touched a very hot stove. We hope our Republican colleagues will join us, as they did last Thursday, to make sure there is no shutdown. Thankfully, I have heard several of my colleagues say that. A number of them, including some of the most senior Republicans, have said we shouldn't have another shutdown. So we look forward to working with you to avoid that in every possible way.

The House and Senate conferees should strive, instead, to find common ground where it already exists and build from there. The good news is they begin with plenty to work with. Democrats and Republicans agree on the need for stronger border security measures at our ports of entry as well as the need for more humanitarian assistance. That is a good place to start.

Plenty of column inches have been dedicated to the discussion of areas where Republicans and Democrats have friction, but several times over the past 2 years, Congress has come together to reach big compromises, including two budget agreements and a landmark Russia sanctions bill. The common theme of those agreements is that the President stayed out of the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S725

negotiations. Because President Trump gave Congress space to find a deal on our own, we were able to strike an accord. That is what we will need again if the conference committee is to succeed, because the President has no understanding of what the realities are in this Senate and in the House and no consistency in what he says one day and what he says the next. As I said, negotiating with President Trump is like negotiating with Jell-O.

So let Democrats and Republicans, the House and Senate, come to an agreement, and my guess is we can avoid a shutdown.

HUAWEI

Madam President, on another matter, yesterday afternoon, the Department of Justice unveiled nearly two dozen charges against the Chinese telecom Huawei in two indictments—one for the evasion of sanctions on Iran and another for its attempts to steal sensitive intellectual property from T-Mobile in the United States.

I am so glad the Justice Department announced these indictments yesterday. China has been flouting international sanction laws and, even worse, stealing IP and know-how for the last decade. State-connected telecom giants like Huawei are an example of how China operates. They are not the exception. They are the rule in China.

When China wants to supplant U.S. dominance in an emerging industry, it acts rapaciously. It steals. Our law enforcement needs to be especially vigilant with Chinese telecom companies such as Huawei and CTE, which intend to displace U.S. communications networks with their own 5G networks because those could give China access to all kinds of sensitive information. U.S. authorities should be prosecuting Huawei's criminal violations to the fullest extent of the law. I give the administration credit for having this suit go forward, but my message to President Trump now is this: Don't back down. While the Trump administration has shown signs of being tougher on China than either the Bush or Obama administration—which I commend them—President Trump has also tried the conciliatory approach, particularly at the moment when the administration is engaged in negotiations with the Chinese.

Just last year, President Trump let ZTE, another state-backed Chinese telecom that violated trade sanctions, off the hook in the hopes of achieving concessions from China on North Korea that never materialized. In December, the President said he would "certainly intervene" in the Huawei case if he thought it were necessary to achieve a trade deal with China.

President Trump, do not make the same mistake you made with ZTE by interfering with the Justice Department's prosecution of Huawei. The United States should not make any concessions unless and until China makes credible and enforceable commitments to end all forms of theft and

extortion of American intellectual property, which is exactly what Huawei is accused of.

KOCH BROTHERS

Madam President, finally, a comment on the Koch brothers. I read a column with interest today in the Washington Post. The Koch network has been trying to rebrand itself as less partisan. They are saying: Let's bring us together. Let's work with both sides.

That is a good instinct, but color me skeptical. The Koch brothers may sit out the Presidential contest, as they did in 2016, but their political arm, Americans for Prosperity, continues to support candidates who are divisive, who do not bring us together. Some of the ads you see, the very candidates they support, are dividing us. You can't, on the one hand, say you want to bring us together and use your political arm to tear us apart. Yet that is what the Koch brothers are doing.

They support the kind of judges who agree with them on all the corporate stuff. They don't want regulation, but they are against voting rights. How does that bring us together? They are against immigrants. How does that bring us together? At the State level, the Koch brothers' network of affiliates continues to support so many different initiatives that divide us. Through support for shadowy think tanks and pseudoacademic institutions, the Koch brothers continue to fund studies that sow doubt about climate change and evangelize deregulation.

It seems their highest priority is still to help the rich and powerful, no matter how divisive it is, as long as we can get our corporate taxes cut even further, cut the taxes for the wealthy, and stop the protections by preventing government regulations for average folks. As long as they do that, all this talk about coming together and supporting an occasional bill here and there doesn't mean much.

I hope that this beginning of what the Koch brothers say spreads. I hope it is not just sort of a figleaf because they are getting such bad publicity, and America is moving so far away from what they believe.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, for weeks, Democrats repeated the same refrain: Open the government, and we will negotiate on border security.

On Friday, the government was reopened. Now it is time for Democrats to honor their promise and work with

Republicans to provide adequate funding to address the security and humanitarian crisis at our border. The next 3 weeks will be a test of Democrats' seriousness about legislating. Do they really want to work with Republicans and the President on solutions? Are they willing to actually negotiate, which involves both sides making compromises, or are they more interested in obstruction? That is the question before the House.

Are they in Congress because they actually want to find solutions to challenges facing our country or are they here to score political points and oppose everything the President says or does? The answers should become pretty clear over the next 3 weeks. If Democrats meant what they said about negotiating on border security, we could produce a bill that will fulfill our responsibility to protect our borders. Make no mistake, it is a responsibility. Perhaps our greatest obligation as Members of Congress is to provide the funding and resources necessary to keep our Nation secure. No nation can be safe if it doesn't know who is coming across its borders.

Right now, we are facing a security crisis at our Nation's border. Tens of thousands of individuals try to cross our southern border illegally every single month. Illegal drugs flow into this country through ports of entry and unsecured areas of the border. The holes in our border security leave us susceptible to illegal entry by gang members, human traffickers, drug dealers, terrorists, weapons traffickers, and more. The flood of illegal immigration has also created a humanitarian crisis. Individuals attempting the journey to come here illegally are vulnerable to exploitation, illness, and abuse. Approximately, one out of every three women attempting the journey to the United States is sexually assaulted. Roughly, 70 percent of individuals become victims of violence along their way. Illness and other medical issues are also a serious problem. By failing to discourage illegal immigration, we are perpetuating this humanitarian crisis.

I hope, over the next 3 weeks, Democrats will honor their promise and come to the table on border security legislation in a real way, ready to engage in genuine negotiation and compromise so we can really address this crisis at our border.

S. 1

Last night, we moved to debate on a package of four bills related to U.S. policy in the Middle East. The Senate attempted to consider these bills earlier this month, but Democrats inexplicably chose to block these bipartisan pieces of legislation on three different occasions—three times. I am hopeful their decision last night to finally support consideration of these bills is a good sign that they are ready to turn to legislating instead of politicking.

The bill package before us this week addresses a number of key issues.

First, it will further strengthen our relationship with Israel, our closest ally in the Middle East. It authorizes 10 years of military assistance funding for Israel and reaffirms our commitment to ensuring that Israel has better weapons and equipment than its enemies. It will also foster increased technological cooperation between Israel and the United States to support the security of both our countries.

This legislation will also strengthen our relationship with another important ally of ours in the Middle East, and that is the Kingdom of Jordan. At a time when Jordan is facing security and humanitarian challenges stemming from the conflict in Syria, it is particularly important that we reaffirm our commitment to this key ally. This legislation will also help hold accountable individuals who supported the atrocities of the Assad regime in Syria. It directs the Treasury Department to investigate whether the Central Bank of Syria launders money for the Syrian Government. Finally, this legislation will protect the rights of State and local governments to decline to do business with entities that have chosen to boycott Israel.

I am glad we finally moved on to these important bills, and I look forward to voting for their final passage, hopefully, in the very near future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor today with a sense of great disappointment—disappointment in what my colleague, the senior Senator from Florida, and the Republican leader have done with the bill before us today. They have taken a bill that had broad bipartisan support—maybe unanimous bipartisan support—and tried to turn it into a political weapon. In the process, they are doing a great disservice to the American people and to all of us who value the tradition of strong, bipartisan support for our friend and ally Israel.

I am a cosponsor of the original bill, S. 2497, entitled the “United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018.” It is a bill to codify the memorandum of understanding between the United States and Israel. It was forged under President Obama and provides Israel with \$38 billion in security assistance over the next 10 years. This includes \$33 billion in foreign military financing funds to Israel and \$5 billion in missile defense assistance for the Iron Dome, David’s Sling, and Arrow 3.

That is a lot of money when you consider the many priorities we have here

at home and abroad. In fact, more than one-half of our entire global foreign military financing—the security assistance we provide to all of our partners and allies around the world—goes to Israel. In my view, that is an important investment. It is an important investment to support our friend and our democratic ally Israel from the many threats it faces in a very dangerous neighborhood—threats from Iran, Syria, Hezbollah, Hamas, and many others.

We need to make sure Israel maintains a strong military edge to defend itself, and that is why there was strong bipartisan support for that original bill. But then the Republican leader took a bill with broad bipartisan support for Israel and added a provision designed to retaliate against American citizens who express their disagreement with certain policies of the Government of Israel by participating in certain boycott activities. Specifically, the Senator from Florida added a provision that encourages States throughout the country to pass laws to punish American citizens who choose to protest the settlement policies of the government of Prime Minister Netanyahu by either boycotting products made in Israeli settlements in the West Bank or by not otherwise engaging in commerce with such settlements.

I want to make this clear. While I disagree with some of the policies adopted by the Netanyahu government in Israel, I do not—I do not—in any way support a boycott as a method of expressing those disagreements. Let me be equally clear. I will fiercely defend the constitutional right of any American citizen to express his or her views in such a peaceful way if they so choose, just as I would support the right of every American to engage in other political boycotts to peacefully express their political views without fear of being punished by their government.

The Senator from Florida and apparently the Republican leader want to use the power of the State to punish American citizens who disagree with them on this issue. It is right here in the bill. Let me read some of the relevant parts of the bill that is before us today: A State may adopt and enforce measures . . . to restrict contracting by the State for goods and services with any entity that . . . knowingly engages in . . . boycott activity . . . intended to limit commercial relations with Israel or persons doing business in Israel or Israeli-controlled territories for purposes of imposing policy positions on the Government of Israel.

How does this new provision encourage States to retaliate against American citizens? It is pretty clear from that language. It encourages States to pass laws to deny citizens the right to bid on any State contract unless—unless—those citizens sign an oath stating that they do not or will not engage in any boycott of Israel, including any boycott related to the sale or purchase

of goods or services from Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

Think about that. Let’s say you are an American citizen living in my State of Maryland. Let’s say you own a computer consulting business, and you happen to disagree with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu’s government policy of expanding settlements on the West Bank near the city of Bethlehem, and you want to express your opposition to that policy. Let’s say you choose to protest that policy by deciding that you will not provide your services to businesses located in those settlements on the West Bank. If you did that, you would be prohibited by these State laws from bidding on a contract to provide computer consulting services to a Maryland State agency. Think about that. You may run the best computer consulting business in the State of Maryland, but if you don’t sign an oath renouncing your right to engage in a boycott, you cannot win any contract with the State. In other words, even if you were the best, most qualified bidder, you would be disqualified from winning that State contract because of your peaceful political activity, having nothing to do with your ability to fulfill the contract. Does that sound unconstitutional? Yes, it is blatantly unconstitutional. And guess what. That is what two Federal courts have already concluded about State laws that already do what Senator RUBIO’s bill is proposing. I am going to review those decisions in a moment, but before I do, let me respond to the very flimsy defense the senior Senator from Florida and others have offered to try to justify this effort to punish free expression.

Here is what Senator RUBIO tweeted: “Opposition to our bill isn’t about FREE speech. Companies are FREE to boycott Israel. But local & state governments should be FREE to end contracts with companies that do.”

This reflects a profound misunderstanding of the First Amendment. It turns the First Amendment on its head. It is like saying to our fellow Americans: You are free to peacefully express yourselves however you want, but the government is then free to use the power of the State to punish you for doing so. You are free to express your political opinions, but if we don’t like what you say, the State is free to pass laws to prevent you from doing any business with the State.

That is State-sponsored discrimination against disfavored political expression.

I would remind my colleagues that the First Amendment is not designed to protect the government from its citizens; it is designed to protect citizens who may engage in unpopular speech from retaliation by the government.

What if a State passed a law to penalize gun control advocates who boycotted stores that sold semiautomatic weapons? What if a State retaliated against anti-abortion activists who

boycotted health clinics that provided abortion services? We would all agree that is blatantly unconstitutional.

Senator RUBIO's proposal and the proposal advanced by the Republican leader is a textbook example of why we have a First Amendment.

I have heard others defend this measure by saying: "It is simply a law to boycott the boycotters." That is a cute slogan but, again, shows a stunning ignorance of the First Amendment.

Yes, any of us as individuals can always decide to boycott those whose boycotts we disagree with. Each of us as individuals is free to boycott those businesses that choose to boycott Israeli settlements in the West Bank, but that is not what this bill does. This bill calls upon States to use the power of the State, to use the power of government to punish peaceful political actions that we don't like. Again, that is patently unconstitutional.

That is the conclusion reached by two Federal courts that struck down the kinds of State laws Senator RUBIO and others seek to promote.

In Kansas, a Federal judge blocked the enforcement of a State law requiring any State contractor to submit a written certification that they are "not currently engaged in a boycott of Israel."

In the Kansas case, a woman who served as a public school math teacher for 9 years was barred from participating in a State-sponsored teacher training program because she refused to sign a certification that she wasn't participating in a boycott of Israel.

The court found that the anti-boycott certification requirement was designed to suppress political speech and was, according to the court, "plainly unconstitutional." In his opinion, the judge wrote: "The Supreme Court has held that the First Amendment protects the right to participate in a boycott like the one punished by the Kansas law." That is what the Federal district court judge stated.

In Arizona, a Federal court blocked a State law requiring contractors to certify that they will not boycott Israel, finding, again, that the law violates the right of free speech.

In this case, an attorney contracted with the Arizona State government to provide legal services to help individuals in prison. Because of his political views, the attorney refused to purchase goods from businesses supporting Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Because he would not submit to a written certification that he wasn't boycotting Israel, he was barred from contracting with the State to provide legal services.

In this Arizona case, the court held that "a restriction on one's ability to participate in collective calls to oppose Israel unquestionably burdens the protected expression of companies wishing to engage in a boycott. The type of collective action targeted by the [law] specifically implicates the rights of assembly and association that Americans

and Arizonans use 'to bring about political, social, and economic change.'"

There are a number of other challenges to laws requiring government contractors to certify they are not boycotting Israel or Israeli settlements on the grounds that they violate American's fundamental right to free speech—a right that Americans have even when their speech is not supported by a majority of us. That is the whole purpose of the First Amendment.

In Texas, there are two pending First Amendment challenges to a law requiring State contractors to certify they will not boycott Israel or its settlements. In the first Texas lawsuit, four individuals were required to choose between signing a certification that they are not participating in a peaceful boycott or losing income and other professional opportunities. These individuals include a freelance writer who lost two service contracts from the University of Houston; a reporter who was forced to sign the certification against his conscience in order to keep his job; and a Ph.D. candidate at Rice University who was forced to forfeit payment for judging at a debate tournament. It caused a student at Texas State University to forgo opportunities to judge high school debate tournaments.

In the second lawsuit, a Texas speech pathologist who had worked with developmentally disabled autistic and speech impaired elementary school opportunities for 9 years was fired because she refused to sign an addendum to her contract renewal saying she would not boycott Israel or Israeli settlements.

In my home State of Maryland, a software engineer is challenging an executive order requiring contractors to certify in writing that they are not boycotting Israel or its settlements. In that case, the individual was barred from bidding on government software program contracts because he would not sign such a certification.

These laws are blatantly unconstitutional.

Let me speak briefly to a recent court decision in Arkansas in which a Federal district court judge ruled in favor of a State law prohibiting Arkansas from contracting with or investing in individuals or firms that boycott Israel or its settlements.

This district court decision is destined for the dustbin of history. I am not sure any Senator on either side of the aisle wants to be associated with its holding.

It concludes that a boycott "is not speech, inherently expressive activity, or subject to constitutional protection." The banner right there on page 9 of the judge's opinion reads: "A Boycott is Neither Speech Nor Inherently Expressive Conduct." In other words, according to that district judge, States can pass laws banning or penalizing boycotts they don't like.

Years ago—and it was many years ago—as a college student, I was active in the movement to get companies to

divest from South Africa and boycotting companies that did business with the apartheid regime in South Africa. Under the Arkansas court decision, a State could pass a law that would ban that conduct or would at least penalize me if I wanted to do business with the State as a sole proprietor and sought State contracts.

There is no doubt that the Arkansas decision will be overturned. The Supreme Court explicitly held in the case of the NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware that the First Amendment protects the right to participate in a boycott for political purposes. The judge in the Arkansas case attempts to narrow that NAACP holding in a way that is clearly inconsistent with First Amendment protections. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to read all three Federal district court decisions from Kansas, Arizona, and Arkansas.

As I said earlier, I do not support the boycott of Israel as a means of pressing the Netanyahu government to change some of its policies. There are much better ways. We have to try to encourage our friend and ally to change some of the policies they disagree with.

Here is what I predict: I predict that the boycott movement will continue to grow for a number of reasons. At the top of that list is the fact that the Trump administration's actions, and inactions, are adding oxygen to the boycott movement.

To start, the Trump administration has abandoned any pretense of trying to prevent the expansion of Israeli settlements in new parts of the West Bank. There has been a big jump in the number of tenders and settlement plans since President Trump took office. In fact, our Ambassador there, Ambassador Freidman, has been a vocal cheerleader for additional settlements in new areas on the West Bank. In doing so, the Trump administration has abandoned what has been a long-held bipartisan position of the U.S. Government. Here are a few statements from Presidents of both parties over the last 40 years:

President Ronald Reagan, in 1982, said that "settlement activity is in no way necessary for the security of Israel and only diminishes the confidence of the Arabs that a final outcome can be freely and fairly negotiated."

President H.W. Bush, in 1990, said: "The foreign policy of the United States says we do not believe there should be new settlements in the West Bank or in East Jerusalem."

President Clinton, in 2001, said that "the settlement enterprise and building bypass roads in the heart of what they already know will one day be part of a Palestinian state is inconsistent with the Oslo commitment that both sides negotiate a compromise."

President George W. Bush, in 2002, said: "Israeli settlement activity in occupied territories must stop, and the occupation must end through withdrawal to secure and recognized boundaries."

Finally, President Obama, in 2009, said: “The United States does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements. This construction violates previous agreements and undermines efforts to achieve peace. It is time for these settlements to stop.”

So there you have a continuous line of bipartisan Presidents, Republicans and Democrats, expressing U.S. policy on the issue of settlements. The provision before us today in this bill directly contradicts this long-stated U.S. policy by drawing no distinction between someone boycotting businesses located in the State of Israel and someone boycotting businesses located in settlements in the territories. In other words, the provision before us—and the State laws it promotes—supports the same penalty for those who boycott commerce with a business in Tel Aviv as it does those who boycott commerce with businesses in the settlements, including outposts that may be illegal even under Israeli law. This provision before us erases an important distinction in American policy that has been endorsed by Presidents of both parties.

One of the reasons for discouraging settlements and outposts in new areas is to preserve the option of a two-state solution—an option that has previously been supported by Presidents of both parties, as well as pro-Israel groups, including AIPAC, J Street, and others. It is a demographic reality that in order to ensure a Jewish state that is democratic and provides equal rights to all its citizens, there must be a two-state solution.

Such a solution should come about through a negotiated settlement between the parties—between the Israelis and the Palestinians. We all know that dysfunction and obstruction on the Palestinian side has been one obstacle to reaching an agreement, but that does not justify changing the status quo on the ground by adding settlements in new areas that will make a two-state solution impossible.

Second, the Trump administration, under the guidance of the President’s designated Middle East Senior Adviser, his son-in-law Jared Kushner, has embarked on an undisguised effort to crush the Palestinians by revoking all U.S. humanitarian assistance. Here we are, authorizing \$38 billion for U.S. military support for Israel—something I strongly support and am a cosponsor of—but at the same time, the Trump administration has eliminated humanitarian and other assistance to help the Palestinian people, many of whom are living in horrible conditions. The Trump administration has eliminated assistance that helps provide medical care, clean water, and food to hundreds of thousands of vulnerable Palestinian children and families. Much of this assistance is provided by organizations like Catholic Relief Services and the Lutheran World Federation.

President Trump has also eliminated \$25 million in U.S. support to a network of six hospitals in East Jeru-

salem, support the Congress explicitly protected under the Taylor Force Act. In doing this, he gutted funding for the main hospitals providing cancer treatment for patients in the West Bank and Gaza and kidney dialysis for children. These hospitals include Lutheran Augusta Victoria Hospital, the Anglican St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, and the Catholic St. Joseph Hospital—American-founded institutions that fall under our American Schools and Hospitals Abroad Program.

The Trump administration has eliminated support for those programs, but the effort to crush the Palestinians into submitting to a one-sided agreement will never work. President Trump and Jared Kushner apparently think this is just another real estate deal where you turn off the water and electricity to force your tenants out. Instead, these actions by the Trump administration will only add fuel to the boycott movement because many people will see no other vehicle for expressing their views.

Finally, to the senior Senator from Virginia and others supporting this provision, nothing—nothing—will motivate Americans to exercise their rights more than efforts to suppress them. Trying to suppress free speech—even unpopular speech, even conduct we don’t support here and I don’t support—will only add momentum.

I will end where I started. It is a really shameful and disappointing day when the sponsors of this legislation took a bill demonstrating strong bipartisan support for Israel, for our friends and allies who share our commitment to democracy and share other values we hold dear—some Senators took that bill and used it as an attack on the constitutional rights of American citizens who may want to peacefully demonstrate their opposition to some of the Netanyahu government’s policies, not in the way the Presiding Officer would choose, not in the way I would choose, but in a way they have a right to do as American citizens.

In making these changes to the bill, the sponsors are sabotaging what was a bipartisan bill to support our friend and ally Israel and, in the process, strengthening the very boycott movement we seek to oppose. That hurts Israel, that hurts the United States, and it is a really sad day in the U.S. Senate when we take something that we have all agreed on and decide to use it to attack the constitutional rights of American citizens with whom we may disagree. I am sorry it has come to this point. I hope my colleagues will think about this as we move forward in this debate.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

S. 1

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday afternoon, Senate Democrats finally dropped their filibuster of S. 1, the Strengthening America’s Security in the Middle East Act. It took 24 days and 4 cloture votes, but enough of my Democratic colleagues have now voted to advance this legislation concerning America’s role in the world.

As I mentioned before, the bill would reaffirm our Nation’s commitment to Israel’s security through military assistance and cooperative missile defense, as well as loan guarantees. It would deepen our ties of strategic cooperation with Jordan, as the security and humanitarian ramifications of the Syrian civil war continue to take their toll, and the legislation also includes the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, which would hold accountable those who have enabled and carried out the butchery of the Assad regime.

But I would like to take a few moments this morning to discuss an amendment that I plan to propose as well. The amendment I plan to propose would expand on the legislation and take a further step to emphasize the need for American leadership in our troubled world, particularly with respect to our ongoing fight against al-Qaida and ISIS in Syria and Afghanistan. My amendment would acknowledge the plain fact that al-Qaida, ISIS, and their affiliates in Syria and Afghanistan continue to pose a serious threat to us here at home. It would recognize the danger of a precipitous withdrawal from either conflict and highlight the need for diplomatic engagement and political solutions to the underlying conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan.

We have seen the costs of a precipitous withdrawal before in Iraq, and in Afghanistan, we have seen the downsides of telling the enemy they can just wait us out; we will be gone on a date certain.

My amendment would also urge continued commitment from the U.S. military and our partners until—until—we have set the conditions for the enduring defeat of these vile terrorists. This measure would reflect the conclusions of our Nation’s military and national security professionals. It would speak directly to our allies and reassure our local partners who are doing the bulk of the fighting against a shared enemy.

Simply put, while it is tempting to retreat to the comfort and security of our own shores, there is still a great deal of work to be done, and we know that left untended, these conflicts will reverberate right here in our own cities.

We are not the world’s policemen, but we are the leader of the free world, and it is incumbent upon the United States to lead, to continue to maintain a global coalition against terror, and to stand by our local partners who are

engaged in the daily fight against the terrorists.

My amendment would further condemn Iran for its hampering of diplomatic efforts and its destabilizing work throughout the region. It would call for greater consultation with the United States' allies and partners in the region, especially Israel, with regard to future stability we seek in a critical region, and it would reiterate the importance of the administration's consulting and coordinating with Congress on its long-term strategies for success in these struggles, including a thorough accounting of the risk of withdrawing too hastily.

I am glad that, after needless political delays, our Democratic colleagues finally allowed a first procedural vote on this legislation.

I am proud to support its provisions that concern Israel, Jordan, and Syria, and I will be proud to offer this amendment so the Senate can speak equally clearly on the fight against al-Qaida, ISIS, and other bad actors that needs to continue in both Syria and Afghanistan.

H.R. 1

Mr. President, on a totally different matter, this week Democrats in the House are beginning the committee process for a bill they are saying is their party's signature priority for this Congress—their signature priority. They are so focused on this legislation that they have given it the ceremonial designation of H.R. 1—their top priority.

I think it more accurately could be described another way: the "Democratic Politician Protection Act." This sprawling proposal—sprawling, comprehensive proposal—is basically the far left's entire Christmas wish list where our Nation's political process is concerned.

What would it do? It would pile new Washington-focused regulations onto virtually every aspect of how politicians are elected and what Americans can say about them.

My Democratic friends have already tried to market this unprecedented intrusion with all the predictable clichés: "restoring democracy," "for the people."

Really? The only common motivation running through the whole proposal seems to be this: Democrats searching for ways to give Washington politicians more control over what Americans say about them and how they get elected. It is an attempt to rewrite the rules of American politics in order to benefit one side over the other.

I expect I will be talking about the "Democratic Politician Protection Act" here on the floor for a long time, but I wanted to just take a few minutes today to give my colleagues a quick tour—just a quick tour through a few of its components.

To begin with, Democrats want to make the Federal Elections Commission a partisan institution. Since Wa-

tergate, the FEC has been a six-member body. Neither party gets more than three seats—neither party. After all, the reason for that is this is a Commission with the sensitive duty of regulating Americans' speech—Americans' speech about politics and campaigns themselves.

The FEC should not be a weapon that one political party can wield against its rivals, but the legislation the Democrats are moving through committee would throw away—throw away—the bipartisan split. It would reduce the FEC to a five-member body and—listen to this—let sitting Presidents pick the majority—let sitting Presidents pick the majority. Obviously, this is a recipe for turning the FEC into a partisan weapon.

Democrats also empower the newly partisan FEC to regulate more of what Americans can say. That 3-to-2 FEC would get to determine what they subjectively see as "campaign related," a new vague category of regulated speech.

There would also be new latitude to decide when a nonprofit's speech has crossed that same fuzzy line and subsequently force the publication of the group's private supporters.

All of this appears to be custom built to chill the exercise of the First Amendment and give Federal bureaucrats and the waiting leftwing mob a clearer idea of just whom to intimidate.

And this just scratches the surface of this proposal. The House Democrats are also eyeing an expensive new set of taxpayer subsidies for political campaign consultants. They want a new six-fold government match for certain types of political contributions—a new federally funded voucher program to line politicians' pockets with even more taxpayer dollars, plus—listen to this. That wasn't enough—taking our tax money to spend on attack ads and bumper strips and the like. Listen to this: 6 additional days of paid vacation for any Federal bureaucrat who decides they would like to hover around a polling place while Americans cast ballots.

So the new taxpayer subsidies don't even pass the laugh test, but other aspects of the bill are even more disturbing. Perhaps most worrisome of all is the unprecedented proposal to federalize our elections, giving Washington politicians even more control over who gets to come here in the first place.

Hundreds—literally hundreds—of pages are dedicated to telling States how to run their elections, from when and where they must take place to the procedures they have to follow, to the machines they have to use.

Democrats want to import the inefficiencies of State and Federal bureaucracy to ballot boxes and voter rolls, while making it harder for States and localities to clean inaccurate data off the voter rolls, harder to remove duplicate registrations, ineligible voters, and errors, and harder to check every

box Washington Democrats demand before allowing you to pick your representatives.

Provision after provision would make it easier for campaign lawyers to take advantage of disorganization, chaos, and confusion. Yet the proposal does practically nothing to combat the real live voter fraud that does happen right before our eyes.

It is suspiciously silent on the murky "ballot harvesting" practices that recently threw North Carolina's Ninth Congressional District into total chaos. There are pages and pages rewriting election law but nothing on this actual problem, perhaps because similar practices are perfectly legal in California—perfectly legal—where the Democratic Party made big gains in the House just last November.

So like I said, this has just been an introductory tour I am giving this morning—just an introductory tour. This sprawling power grab clocks in at 570 pages—570 pages. Seemingly every one of these pages is filled with some effort to rewrite the rules to favor the Democrats and their friends.

I have to say this: Our colleagues across the Capitol know what they are after. So I am going to continue to shed light on these far-left proposals many mornings. I want to make sure the American people understand what this is all about. I want to assure the American people, right from the outset, that my colleagues and I will fight to prevent this one-sided power grab. It may pass the House, but not the Senate.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:31 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

#### STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST ACT OF 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will come to order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 3 o'clock p.m. today, all postcloture time on the motion to proceed to S. 1 expire and the

Senate proceed to a vote on the motion to proceed to S. 1.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. For information of all of our colleagues, the vote will be at 3 o'clock.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL ON RUSSIA  
SANCTIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, a vote earlier this month on the administration's decision to ease sanctions on a Russian oligarch puts the Senate on record on where its Members stand in terms of holding Russia accountable for its continued actions against the United States.

We need to be clear about what we are facing. Not only did Russia conduct what I believe to be a cyber act of war against the United States during the 2016 election cycle, it continues to do so with the President and his administration, apparently, indifferent.

Make no mistake. Russia tried to interfere in the recent midterm elections, and it continues to do so against our democratic allies in Europe. What has been the response of this body—the U.S. Senate—sworn to uphold the Constitution, to protect against enemies, foreign and domestic? Other than the belated passage of a Russia sanctions bill in the last Congress—a bill whose sanction provisions this administration has been slow or unwilling to enforce—we have done almost nothing.

Let's start in 2016 when top officials from the administration's national security and intelligence community came and warned congressional leadership of Russia's ongoing and serious attack on our election—this was during the election campaign—rightly asking for a bipartisan statement to tell Russian dictator Putin to stop.

What was Senate Majority Leader MCCONNELL's response to this request to protect our Nation?

No thanks; not going to do it.

History will no doubt look back with amazement at that decision.

What about the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—a historically celebrated body with jurisdiction over this Russian attack on the United States? It did not even conduct an investigation into Russia's actions in the last Congress. To date, I have heard no plans to do so in this Congress. That is incredible.

We have stunning reports—reports that normally would bring this city to a halt—of an FBI counterintelligence investigation opened on President Trump—whether the President called for the destruction of notes after meetings with Russian leaders . . . some-

thing unheard of in the history of that office . . . and that Trump has been asking about how the United States could possibly withdraw from the NATO alliance.

These are stunning developments, and they are not alone. For anyone paying attention, they shouldn't be surprised that our President is, in fact, pursuing policies the Russians could only dream of. They include the weakening of our democratic institutions; the weakening of our Western security alliance; the withdrawing of U.S. leadership on the global stage and ceding influence to Russia, Iran, and China; silence when Russia attacked Ukrainian naval ships; entertaining the idea of turning over an American ambassador to Russia for an absurd line of questioning; cozying up to global dictators and ignoring American values of democracy of human rights; and, of course, the President saying publicly and privately to Putin that he believes him instead of our intelligence experts when it comes to denying any attacks on democracy.

We also know that President Trump was incredibly suggesting such Russia-friendly policies during his campaign while at the same time pursuing business interests in that country.

I end with a question I have asked before on this floor. How can the party of Ronald Reagan continue to sit by while this President pursues policies aligned with a former KGB agent? Why are the first bills in this new Senate under Republican control not dealing with the serious threats to our Nation? Why isn't the Senate Foreign Relations Committee holding urgent hearings on these stunning developments between an American President and a Russian dictator, not to mention moving bipartisan legislation to protect U.S. membership in NATO?

Quite simply, with the government finally back open we need deal with these serious threats to our nation and democracy that we have heard involving our White House. When we are elected to office in Congress, we take an oath. In it, we swear to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. The President similarly swears to preserve, protect, and defend our Constitution. As such, it is time for all of us—Democrats and Republicans—to speak up and fulfill our constitutional responsibility.

FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES

Madam President, for anyone who thought the upheaval in the for-profit college industry was over or it was driven by an overzealous Obama administration determined to kill the industry, as some accused just a few short months ago, it is time to think again.

Just last month, amid the loving regulatory embrace of the for-profit college industry by President Trump's DeVos-led Department of Education, two major for-profit college chains have collapsed. It proves true the re-

cent warning by the Department of Education inspector general, Kathleen Tighe, that for-profit colleges represent a disproportionate risk to both students and American taxpayers.

The rot in the for-profit college industry runs much deeper than just the failures of Corinthian and ITT Tech. On December 17, for-profit college company Vatterott Colleges announced the immediate closure of its campuses nationwide, leaving 2,300 students stranded, including 200 at its campus in Fairview Heights, IL. The company had been in financial trouble for some time. It had already closed a number of campuses, including one in Quincy, IL.

The Department of Education must now provide Illinois and other Vatterott students with clear information about their options, including their eligibility to receive a closed school discharge of their Federal student loans and option to file a claim for a borrower defense discharge if they believe they were defrauded by the university.

In addition, the Department must make sure these students are not put at risk a second time by assuring that they have affordable, quality options to continue their education, such as community colleges. It would be adding insult to injury to allow these students to be lured by other predatory or financially shaky for-profit colleges, especially those facing State and Federal investigations.

Early in December, Education Corporation of America closed 75 campuses nationwide, affecting some 20,000 students. I am pleased, in this case, that the Department of Education developed a page on its website to inform ECA students about closed school discharges. It must do more to communicate with affected students and ensure they are able to continue their studies at quality, affordable institutions.

The vultures are already circling these students.

In a recent letter, Steve Gunderson, a former Member of the U.S. House of Representatives and lead lobbyist for the for-profit colleges and universities, announced that for-profit colleges are working to assist the students who were victims of these collapsed for-profit schools and that 20 for-profit colleges had already expressed interest in taking on these ECA students. It is simply double jeopardy to ask students, once defrauded by this industry, to be somehow rescued and lured into another contractual obligation by another school in the for-profit college industry.

Over the holiday season, around 30 campuses owned by Dream Center Education Holdings closed. They include the Argosy campus in Schaumburg, IL, and the Illinois Institute of Art—not to be confused with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, a reputable organization.

In August, I led several of my colleagues in writing to Secretary DeVos,

asking her to provide immediate assistance to these students who had borrowed money to go to these worthless schools. We were concerned that Dream Center was not providing students with information about closed school discharges and was pushing them into other bad options, like enrolling in another for-profit school. Among other things, we asked the Department to post an information page on its website to inform the students. Even weeks after the closure, we have yet to receive a response to this letter from the Department of Education.

Adding to the confusion for students in Illinois is the fact that for months Dream Center misrepresented that the Illinois Institute of Art campuses were accredited, even when its accreditor had made clear that was not the case. I have called on Secretary DeVos to investigate this misrepresentation, especially as it relates to these students' eligibility for borrower defense discharges. The National Student Loan Defense Network has filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of Illinois borrowers against the company for this misrepresentation, while the Department of Education and Washington remain silent.

Now, reports have surfaced of a new restructuring of these schools, with few details but major implications for students. The Department of Education must immediately inform students and the public about these changes.

Earlier this month, 48 State attorneys general, including our own Illinois attorney general, now retired, Lisa Madigan, and the District of Columbia reached a settlement with for-profit giant Career Education Corporation over consumer violations by the company. Under the settlement, Career Education Corporation agreed to forgo collecting \$493 million owed to it by 180,000 students nationally—\$48 million in relief for 17,000 students in Illinois who had been exploited by this for-profit school. I have long spoken out about these abuses and the misconduct of Career Education Corporation schools, especially their infamous and now defunct Le Cordon Bleu, Harrington College of Design, and Sanford-Brown brands. These fellows really dream up some wonderful names for worthless schools.

Just last week, for-profit college operator National American University Holdings announced "substantial doubt" that its finances would allow it to remain in business over the next year. The company, which has faced lawsuits related to deceptive practices, runs campuses in about a dozen States and online. Its closure would affect thousands of students.

How many more for-profit college collapses, closures, and State legal actions will it take before we get serious at the Federal level, both in Congress and at the Department of Education, about protecting students and taxpayers from this industry?

It just amazes me that so many people in this body stand back and watch

the so-called for-profit colleges and universities exploit students and their families, watch them run up debts they will never be able to pay back, wait until they default, and then threaten them with lawsuits and collection agencies, instead of realizing at the outset that these schools are not reputable. These students are lured with promises the schools can't keep, and they are also lured into debt they will never be able to repay. They will never end up with a job that allows them to pay back the debt.

Don't take my word for it; think of two simple numbers. Nine percent of all postsecondary students go to for-profit colleges and universities—9 percent. Thirty-four percent of all federal student loan defaults are students from for-profit colleges and universities. Nine percent of the students; 34 percent of the defaults. Why would that be happening? Well, because they overcharge the students, and they provide them with a worthless diploma if they stick it out and don't drop out.

These schools are a blight on higher education and an exploitation of innocent students and their families. Who are the ultimate losers when their debts are discharged? American taxpayers who subsidize these miserable, good-for-nothing schools and then watch as they are not repaying their debts because the students can't, and the taxpayers end up the losers again. If that is capitalism at work, save this country, because it is a terrible outcome for the students, for their families, and for American taxpayers.

I yield the floor.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the time and start the vote now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 76, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 12 Leg.]

YEAS—76

Alexander	Fischer	Risch
Barraso	Gardner	Roberts
Bennet	Graham	Romney
Blackburn	Grassley	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hassan	Rounds
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cantwell	Isakson	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shelby
Cardin	Jones	Sinema
Casey	Kennedy	Smith
Cassidy	King	Stabenow
Collins	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Coons	Lankford	Tester
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tillis
Cotton	Markey	Toomey
Cramer	McConnell	Warner
Crapo	McSally	Whitehouse
Cruz	Menendez	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Wyden
Duckworth	Murray	Young
Enzi	Perdue	
Ernst	Portman	

NAYS—22

Baldwin	Heinrich	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Udall
Durbin	Merkley	Van Hollen
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Peters	
Harris	Reed	

NOT VOTING—2

Moran Paul

The motion is agreed to.

#### STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST ACT OF 2019

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1) to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 65

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 65.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 65.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate that the United States faces continuing threats from terrorist groups operating in Syria and Afghanistan and that the precipitous withdrawal of United States forces from either country could put at risk hard-won gains and United States national security)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SENSE OF SENATE ON WITHDRAWALS OF UNITED STATES FORCES FROM SYRIA AND AFGHANISTAN.**

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The foreign terrorist organization al Qaeda, responsible for the attacks of September 11, 2001, maintains a presence in Afghanistan.

(2) The Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham, better known by its acronym ISIS, flourished in the chaos unleashed by the civil war in Syria and at one point controlled extensive territory in Iraq and Syria.

(3) Al Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates have murdered thousands of innocent civilians.

(4) Al Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates have proven resilient and have regrouped when the United States and its partners have withdrawn from the fight against them.

(b) SENSE OF SENATE.—The Senate—

(1) acknowledges that the United States military and our partners have made significant progress in the campaign against al Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham (ISIS), and honors the contributions and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces who have served on the front lines of this fight;

(2) recognizes the continuing threat to the homeland and our allies posed by al Qaeda and ISIS, which maintain an ability to operate in Syria and Afghanistan;

(3) expresses concern that Iran has supported the Taliban in Afghanistan and Hizballah and the Assad regime in Syria, and has sought to frustrate diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts in these two countries;

(4) recognizes the positive role the United States and its partners have played in Syria and Afghanistan fighting terrorist groups, countering Iranian aggression, deterring the further use of chemical weapons, and protecting human rights;

(5) warns that a precipitous withdrawal of United States forces from the on-going fight against these groups, without effective, countervailing efforts to secure gains in Syria and Afghanistan, could allow terrorists to regroup, destabilize critical regions, and create vacuums that could be filled by Iran or Russia, to the detriment of United States interests and those of our allies;

(6) recognizes that al Qaeda and ISIS pose a global threat, which merits increased international contributions to the counterterrorism, diplomatic, and stabilization efforts underway in Syria and Afghanistan;

(7) recognizes that diplomatic efforts to secure peaceful, negotiated solutions to the conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan are necessary to long-term stability and counterterrorism efforts in the Middle East and South Asia;

(8) acknowledges the progress made by Special Representative Khalilzad in his efforts to promote reconciliation in Afghanistan;

(9) calls upon the Administration to conduct a thorough review of the military and diplomatic strategies in Syria and Afghanistan, including an assessment of the risk that withdrawal from those countries could strengthen the power and influence of Russia and Iran in the Middle East and South Asia and undermine diplomatic efforts toward negotiated, peaceful solutions;

(10) requests that the Administration, as part of this review, solicit the views of Israel, our regional partners, and other key troop-contributing nations in the fight against al Qaeda and ISIS;

(11) reiterates support for international diplomatic efforts to facilitate peaceful, negotiated resolutions to the on-going conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan on terms that respect the rights of innocent civilians and deny safe havens to terrorists;

(12) calls upon the Administration to pursue a strategy that sets the conditions for the long-term defeat of al Qaeda and ISIS, as well as the protection of regional partners and allies, while ensuring that Iran cannot dominate the region or threaten Israel;

(13) encourages close collaboration between the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch to ensure continuing strong, bipartisan support for United States military operations in Syria and Afghanistan; and

(14) calls upon the Administration to certify that conditions have been met for the enduring defeat of al Qaeda and ISIS before initiating any significant withdrawal of United States forces from Syria or Afghanistan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

HOUSTON SHOOTING

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I would like to start by saying a few words about the horrific shooting that occurred in Houston, TX, at about 5 o'clock yesterday.

A team of narcotics patrol officers from the Houston Police Department were serving a warrant. As soon as they breached the door at the home in southeast Houston, the suspects opened fire. Four officers were hit; one critically, and one other was injured as a result of an unrelated mishap. Three of these officers were in good condition, and two remained in critical but stable condition in the hospital.

For the case agent, the most senior officer on the narcotics squad, this was the third time he had been shot in the line of duty—once in 1992 and again in 1997. He told Chief Art Acevedo: "I had to get in there because I knew my guys were down."

I echo the Houston Police Union President Joe Gamaldi, who said last night that enough is enough. This type of attack against law enforcement is unconscionable and unacceptable. These are dedicated public servants who have taken an oath to serve and protect our communities and who potentially sacrifice their very lives every day to keep our families safe.

Today, with a heavy heart, I want to thank the Houston Police Department and law enforcement officers across the country who put on the uniform each morning, never knowing what the day might bring. We are incredibly grateful for their service and the tremendous sacrifices they make.

I also want to acknowledge the work of the Houston Fire and EMS Department who moved Heaven and Earth to ensure these heroic, wounded officers got the medical care they needed as soon as possible.

I thank my friends Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Chief Acevedo for their leadership during this very difficult time for the city of Houston and our entire State.

My wife Sandy and I are praying for the officers, their families, and their brothers and sisters in blue.

S. 1

Madam President, on another matter, the Senate is, of course, considering S. 1, a package of four bills that

were considered in the 115th Congress, but the clock ran out before these bills could be voted on, on the Senate floor.

Each of these bills enjoys broad, bipartisan support, and I am glad we have the opportunity to push this legislation over the finish line this week.

The administration recently announced that U.S. troops will begin a conditions-based withdrawal from Syria. While we await additional details on the timeline and extent of this move, we must take action to ensure the stability of the region during the process and reassure our allies of our commitment.

My friend and colleague Senator RUBIO, the lead sponsor of this bill, once compared the threat of ISIS to a tumor. He said: If you treat a tumor with radiation, it will get smaller and smaller, but if you stop before it is completely gone, it will come back. So it is with ISIS.

First and foremost, the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act supports our allies in the region, including Israel and Jordan. With Israel in particular, the bill authorizes the United States to provide military assistance to support funding cooperative programs to develop, produce, and procure essential military equipment, such as defensive missiles and rockets. This will help Israel maintain its qualitative military edge against increasingly well-equipped, Iranian-backed forces.

This bill also provides U.S. State and local governments with greater flexibility to counter the boycott, divestment, and sanctions, or BDS, movement. This anti-Israel crusade has waged economic war against the Jewish State by pushing companies around the world to boycott any business with Israel or its entities.

This does not outlaw BDS activity but instead provides State and local governments with the same flexibility afforded to private companies. They can decide not to do business with companies that are boycotting or divesting from Israel.

To support our ally Jordan, this bill authorizes legislation to strengthen our defense cooperation. With an estimated 740,000 refugees in Jordan—a very small country—this legislation recognizes the immense impact the ongoing conflict in Syria continues to have on neighboring countries, including Jordan, and it supports that government's effort to provide ongoing humanitarian support.

The final piece of the bill speaks to the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Syria, which has claimed the lives of some 400,000 people—400,000 people. It provides aid to impacted communities and condemns the heinous human rights violations committed by the Assad regime. Notably, it imposes new sanctions on anyone who does business with or otherwise financially supports the Syrian regime.

This is certainly not an effort to put Humpty Dumpty back together again.

Unfortunately, Syria has been broken by the civil war and the fact that Iran, Russia, and terrorist organizations are all vying for space and influence, but it is an important step to protect U.S. interests in the region. That is what this bill represents.

Notably absent are strong measures focused on addressing the region's primary antagonist, the nation of Iran—the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or IRGC, is a branch of Iran's Armed Forces with an unconventional role. Unlike military operations that promote national security, the IRGC tries to squash democracy movements both at home and abroad by pushing its extreme ideology beyond Iran's borders. This branch wields vast power and influence, and it uses its capabilities to spark turmoil throughout the Middle East.

What I find particularly concerning is that the IRGC, the primary military appendage of the Ayatollah, is the one in control of Iran's ballistic missile system. That is the same program which, unfortunately, only accelerated under the previous Presidential administration of President Obama.

The primary enemy of the IRGC is Israel, which it threatens both directly through its land bridge across Iraq and Syria and indirectly through its support of terrorist groups, such as Lebanese Hezbollah, Hamas, and other Palestinian militant groups. The IRGC funds terrorist proxies by providing heavy weapons, training, and funds to advance the Iranian regime's goal of regional domination. It has helped Hezbollah alone to amass more than 100,000 missiles capable of striking virtually anywhere in the State of Israel.

The financial machines that keep these operations afloat consist of a clandestine network of front companies, including energy, construction, telecommunications, banking, and financial sectors. We are not talking about just a handful of small businesses here. It is estimated that the IRGC alone controls one-quarter of Iran's economy.

So, yes, this legislation does take important steps to promote U.S. interests in the Middle East, but actions against the IRGC are desperately needed.

In addition to the threat already posed by this group, we cannot allow our withdrawal from Syria to open up the window to Iran and its terrorist proxies. Today, I am offering an amendment to this legislation that will address the actions of the IRGC. This amendment enjoyed bipartisan support last Congress with 8 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate and more than 220 cosponsors in the House. This amendment is entitled the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act, and it will take steps to increase economic pressure on the aggressive actions taken by Iran and executed by the IRGC.

The bill will impose additional sanctions on the IRGC by lowering the

threshold to sanction entities supporting these activities. That means the front companies that are bankrolling the IRGC's attacks against our allies can now be sanctioned, effectively cutting off their cash flow. In addition, it penalizes any other person or company that supports the IRGC, including a complete ban on transactions with U.S. businesses or individuals.

Of course, in order to sanction any entity, we first have to know that they are associated with the IRGC. This bill would require that entities for which there is a reasonable basis to believe IRGC owns at least 33 percent be reported and included. It also requires a report analyzing foreign and domestic supply chains that in some way support or aid the IRGC and its activities.

I hope my colleagues will support this amendment, which takes a strong stand against Iran, the No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism, and its military arm, the IRGC. This group has supported the genocidal Assad regime and has the blood of countless innocent civilians on its hands.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am very happy to be joined by my colleague from New Hampshire, Senator HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that she be recognized to speak at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, we are here to talk about the risks to our New England coastal communities from the climate changes coming our way.

Despite the really dirty efforts of the fossil fuel industry to keep the truth at bay, the tide of public understanding is turning. A recent survey by Yale and George Mason Universities found that 73 percent of Americans now see global warming happening. That number is up 10 percentage points since 2015. Similarly, the percentage of Americans who consider global warming an important issue rose from 63 percent to 72 percent in the past 10 years. In just the past year, the number of Americans who say they are worried about global warming jumped from 61 to 69 percent. One author of this research explained the results to the New York Times this way:

People are beginning to understand that climate change is here in the United States, here in my state, in my community, affecting the people and places I care about, and now. This isn't happening in 50 years, 100 years from now.

Dr. Katharine Hayhoe of Texas Tech University echoed these sentiments, saying: "Today, nearly everyone can point to a way that they are personally witnessing and are being personally affected by the impacts of a changing climate in the places where they live."

Perhaps nowhere is this more true than along our coasts, where manmade climate change is already flooding towns, driving fisheries away from tra-

ditional fishing grounds, and bringing ashore stronger storms riding on higher seas.

Last Tuesday, I picked up my home State paper, the Providence Journal, and I saw this headline splashed across the front page regarding climate change: "Washed Away. . . . Home values lost to rising sea levels."

This is a study I have mentioned before. It was done by the First Street Foundation and researchers at Columbia University and looks at what escalating flood risk is doing to coastal housing markets. That study started in Florida—peer-reviewed work in Florida—and they took that methodology and have been working their way up the gulf coast and the New England coast since then. They just reached my State and Senator HASSAN's State, and the report is not pleasant. They found that Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island lost a total of \$403 million in expected property value between 2005 and 2017 due to increased tidal flooding risks. Just between 2005 and 2017, Rhode Island coastal properties lost nearly \$45 million in expected value. The study called out these particular properties in Warren, RI, that lost over one-third of their value during that timeframe. Rhode Islanders in the town of Warwick lost over \$4 million in home values due to the threat of climate change-driven sea level rise.

Several studies warned how climate change will affect coastal property values. The First Street Foundation study is the first to demonstrate value loss that has already occurred, as the study itself says. A Columbia University researcher who worked on the First Street study said this:

Each time we analyze a new state we see the same phenomenon. Increased tidal flooding leads to a loss in home value appreciation. As sea level rise accelerates, we expect the corresponding loss in relative home value to accelerate as well.

That hits home indeed. The latest scientific evidence shows sea levels rising at a faster pace than expected. NOAA data shows that Greenland lost around 280 billion tons of ice per year from 2002 to 2016. A National Geographic article covering this study noted: "The Greenland ice sheet is 10,000 feet thick in places and contains enough ice to raise sea levels 23 feet."

Another study shows that the Antarctic ice sheet has lost around 252 billion tons of ice per year over the last 10 years. Again, according to National Geographic, full melting of the Antarctic ice sheet could mean nearly 187 feet of sea level rise.

In Rhode Island, our Coastal Resources Management Council has been a longtime leader in modeling flooding and sea level rise risks for Rhode Island's coastal businesses, communities, and decision makers. Earlier this month, CRMC partnered with the University of Rhode Island to release a series of highly detailed risk maps for several coastal Rhode Island towns.

These maps provide a damage assessment for individual structures due to flooding and storm waves for homes and businesses and critical infrastructure, like the Warren wastewater treatment plant, which is right there on the coast of Warren, RI; the facility will be almost totally wiped out. CRMC's maps turn these general risks facing our communities from a hazy sketch to a vivid, living-color, 3-D picture, and that picture is grim for these coastal communities.

Rhode Island officials are currently preparing for a worst case scenario of more than 9 feet of sea level rise overtaking our 400 miles of coastline by the end of the century. This map is from Rhode Island's CRMC's interactive STORMTOOLS application, which overlays the sea level rise projections over our current topography. The blue all through here is currently land that is flooded when 10 feet of sea level rise come. This extra little rim of green on some of the edges is when you push it up to 12 feet. As we see all of the blue here, think of homes and businesses and properties that are owned by people and that are going to literally disappear into the ocean if we don't pay attention. These are the homes and businesses of my constituents.

A 2017 report from the real estate database company Zillow identified over 4,800 homes in Rhode Island, valued at near \$3 billion, that would be underwater by 2100, using an optimistic estimate of only 6 feet of sea level rise.

In this snapshot from Upper Narragansett Bay, you can see some of Rhode Island's larger coastal communities stranded as a scattered series of new islands, a Rhode Island archipelago. Today's map of Rhode Island—the map that we have known since our founding—will become unrecognizable as Warwick Neck here breaks off to become its own island, Newport south of this map splits, and Bristol through here comes apart.

A recent report from Climate Central and Zillow looked at new homes being built in risky coastal areas—ones expected to suffer from annual floods by 2050 under a moderate greenhouse gas emissions model—and they show Rhode Island has seen more growth in risk areas than in safe areas. Obviously, if emissions don't meet these moderate goals, things are going to get a good deal worse, and well before water actually overtakes your home, well before the water is coming through the front door will come the economic effects of rising oceans, and they will be big.

In 2017, GAO reported that coastal areas face particularly high financial risks and that annual coastal property losses from sea level rise and increased storms will run into the billions of dollars every year in the short run and over \$50 billion every year by late century. EPA has estimated "\$5.0 trillion in economic costs to coastal property from climate change through 2100"—\$5 trillion, and that is the Rhode Island part of that. The Union of Concerned

Scientists reports that sea level rise will double the number of coastal communities facing what they call "chronic inundation and possible retreat"—meaning you are out of there—by 2035.

The market is awakening to these risks. Moody's evaluates municipal bonds. It has begun evaluating the bonds of coastal communities with an eye to this flooding risk. Banks, mortgagors, insurance companies, and appraisers are starting to incorporate these risks into their work for coastal properties.

A recent issue of the Appraisal Institute's Valuation magazine quoted Rhode Island appraiser Brad Hevenor, warning that homes that receive a 30-year mortgage this year "might be completely different types of property [by the end of their mortgage] than they are today." Good luck getting a 30-year mortgage on a property that the bank believes will be "completely different" by the end of the mortgage.

The coastal housing market is on the precipice of a dangerous financial cliff. First Street, Zillow, NOAA, GAO, EPA, Climate Central, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and others all make the same warning.

Federal home mortgage giant Freddie Mac said it this way: "The economic losses and social disruption may happen gradually, but they are likely to be greater in total than those experienced in the housing crisis and Great Recession."

The editor of the insurance industry trade publication Risk & Insurance said this: "Continually rising seas will damage coastal residential and commercial property values to the point that property owners will flee those markets in droves, thus precipitating a mortgage value collapse that could equal or exceed the mortgage crisis that rocked the global economy in 2008."

These are serious warnings, and they are deadly serious warnings for our coastal States. Here in Congress, these warnings fall on deaf ears—ears plugged deaf by the fossil fuel industry's persistent mischief.

We have to get serious about our duty to our constituents. Polling shows that millions of Americans want us to face up to this threat, to safeguard their coastal property, and to curb the carbon pollution that is distorting our Earth's climate and raising our Earth's oceans. It is seriously time for us to wake up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I want to start by thanking my colleague, Senator WHITEHOUSE from Rhode Island, not only for his remarks today but for his leadership on this issue. I rise today to join him in highlighting the toll climate change is taking on coastal communities throughout New England. Senator WHITEHOUSE has been a fierce advocate, and he is dedicated to and continues to push our col-

leagues to address the dire reality of climate change. I am here to join him in that effort.

In New Hampshire's Seacoast region, our State's beautiful coastline helps propel our economy forward, supporting industries such as tourism and commercial fishing and contributing to our high quality of life. Just as proximity to the ocean provides vital opportunities, our communities are finding that as climate change intensifies, these communities are increasingly at risk.

As you can see from this photo that was taken last year in Rye, NH, stronger storms and rising sea levels are leading to increased flooding in our coastal areas. As Senator WHITEHOUSE mentioned, our communities are already feeling the direct economic impacts of rising sea levels.

According to the First Street Foundation and Columbia University, the increased risk of flooding and damage is hurting property values throughout New England. That report states that New Hampshire has already seen a \$15 million loss in property value, particularly in areas such as Hampton, Exeter, Dover, and Portsmouth. Combined with the rest of the New England States, coastal properties have experienced approximately \$400 million in property value losses just between 2005 and 2017.

The extent of those losses is just the beginning of the damage. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association has estimated that New Hampshire's sea levels are expected to rise between 0.6 and 2 feet by 2050 and between 1.6 and 6.6 feet by 2100. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, rising seas could threaten more than 5,000 homes on the seacoast of New Hampshire by the end of the century.

Our climate is changing. Sea levels are rising. This is undebatable. Climate change and sea level rise are not threats to some distant time in the future; these threats—this damage—are here. These threats are taking their toll now. The people of New Hampshire know this. We are witnessing climate change in our communities in real time as storms get more intense and the floodwaters go higher.

It is our responsibility to help our communities adapt to these changes. This starts with focusing on planning for resiliency to help vulnerable communities prepare and on improving our infrastructure and developing strategies to help plan ahead for storms and extreme weather events.

At the local level, Granite Staters on the seacoast are already being proactive on this front. Community members have formed advocacy groups, and local governments have focused on addressing these challenges head-on and developing resilient strategies. We have to support their efforts.

We also must do more. We need to redouble efforts to cut carbon emissions, conserve and protect our natural resources, and build a stronger, clean energy future. People are calling on us to

act. Study after study has shown that as more Americans see the direct threats from climate change in their own communities and in the lives of their fellow citizens, they are becoming increasingly worried. It is time for us to start dealing with reality and to address their concerns.

I will keep working to address climate change and to achieve a cleaner environment and stronger energy future that will help our citizens, our economy, and our businesses thrive. I urge my colleagues to join us in those efforts.

Again, I thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for being a leader in those efforts.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The Senator from Tennessee.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE DANIEL

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, late in December, I announced that I would not be a candidate for reelection to the U.S. Senate in 2020, and that prompted this cartoon in the Knoxville News Sentinel by Charlie Daniel:

He says his name is Alexander. He says he is going to walk across the State. Wonder how far he will go.

Here is some character wandering across the State in a red and black shirt, which is what I did 40 years ago when I walked across the State running for Governor.

I would like to return the favor to Charlie Daniel because he announced last week that he is retiring from drawing cartoons in the Knoxville News Sentinel, which is a much more significant event than anything I might do because Charlie Daniel has been a fixture in Tennessee for a long time with his gentle skewering of politicians in the Knoxville newspapers.

Charlie's cartoons have been the first things I have looked for in the Knoxville newspapers since the year I graduated from Maryville High School in 1958. That is when Charlie first began drawing for the Knoxville Journal.

Charlie is a self-taught artist who says he has been drawing ever since he "picked up a pencil." After a stint in the Marine Corps, Charlie studied political science at the University of North Carolina, and he started drawing for the school newspaper. He moved to Knoxville, where he started drawing at what was known as the Knoxville Journal in 1958. That is when I first saw Charlie Daniel's cartoons. He worked at the Journal until it closed in 1992 and then moved to the Knoxville News Sentinel, where he has been ever since. Some of his main subjects for his cartoons have been sports, social causes, and, of course, politics.

Over the years, Charlie has had plenty of opportunity to skewer me, and he has done it with vigor. Actually, it has been honest, usually gentle, and always effective. For example, as I was working on legislation, which became law this past year, to ban the use of cell phones on airplane flights, Charlie drew a cartoon characterizing cell phone yappers on long flights as the

"perfect hell," with the Devil asking why he didn't think of that.

Charlie's drawings are well known not just in Tennessee but all across our country. In 2016, the National Cartoonists Society honored Charlie with a proclamation recognizing his career. He was inducted to the sixth class of the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame last year, and the University of Tennessee library has a special collections department with more than 20,000 of these drawings. There are about a dozen that the University of Tennessee doesn't have because I have them in my office or in my home.

Charlie's contributions have been recognized by Tennesseans for decades. Our former Governor, Bill Haslam, said: "For as long as I can remember, Charlie has been making us laugh and think." Former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, Jr., also from Knoxville, as is Governor Haslam, said Charlie was "the personification of civilized relevant political humor." Former Knoxville mayor and Ambassador to Poland, Victor Ashe, said: "Charlie Daniel has been an icon and institution across the country."

East Tennesseans have been fortunate that Charlie and his family have called our region home. For over six decades, Charlie's drawings have been the first thing that I and many others have looked for in the newspaper, and it is going to be harder to start each day without the humor and the touch of Charlie Daniel.

Thank you, Charlie. Congratulations to you on your retirement. I wish you and Patsy and your family the best on behalf of grateful Tennesseans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). The majority leader.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for Senate amendment No. 65.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Senate amendment No. 65 to Calendar No. 1, S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Thune, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Roy Blunt, Josh Hawley, Rick Scott, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Johnny Isakson, Cory Gardner, Dan Sullivan, Steve Daines, Todd Young.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19-08, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Japan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$2.150 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,  
Lieutenant General, USA, Director.  
Enclosures.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-08

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Japan.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment \* \$ .375 billion.

Other \$1.775 billion.

Total \$2.150 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two (2) AEGIS Weapon Systems (AWS).

Two (2) Multi-Mission Signal Processors (MMSP).

Two (2) Command and Control Processor (C2P) Refreshes.

Non-MDE: Also included is radio navigation equipment, naval ordnance, two (2) Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Systems, Global Command and Control System-Maritime (GCCS-M) hardware, and two (2) Inertial Navigation Systems (INS), U.S. Government and contractor representatives' technical, engineering and logistics support services, installation support material, training,

construction services for six (6) vertical launch system launcher module enclosures, communications equipment and associated spares, classified and unclassified publications and software, and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (JA-P-NCO).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: January 29, 2019.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Japan—Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Missiles

The Government of Japan has requested to buy two (2) AEGIS Weapon Systems (AWS), two (2) Multi-Mission Signal Processors (MMSP) and two (2) Command and Control Processor (C2P) Refreshes. Also included is radio navigation equipment, naval ordnance, two (2) Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Systems, Global Command and Control System-Maritime (GCCS-M) hardware, and two (2) Inertial Navigation Systems (INS), U.S. Government and contractor representatives' technical, engineering and logistics support services, installation support material, training, construction services for six (6) vertical launch system launcher module enclosures, communications equipment and associated spares, classified and unclassified publications and software, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$2.150 billion.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Asia-Pacific region. It is vital to U.S. national interests to assist Japan in developing and maintaining a strong and effective self-defense capability.

This proposed sale will provide the Government of Japan with an enhanced capability against increasingly sophisticated ballistic missile threats and create an expanded, layered defense of its homeland. Japan, which already has the AEGIS in its inventory, will have no difficulty absorbing this system into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support does not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor for the Aegis Weapon System and Multi-Mission Signal Processors will be Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems, Washington, DC. The Command and Control Processor Refresh will be provided by General Dynamics, Falls Church, VA.

There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require annual trips to Japan involving U.S. Government and contractor representatives for technical reviews, support, and oversight for approximately eight years.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-08

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

#### Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AEGIS Weapon System (AWS) is a multi-mission combat system providing inte-

grated Air and Missile Defense for surface ships. This sale consists of the modified J7 Foreign Military Sales (FMS) baseline (AWS Baseline 9.C2 along with Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) 5.1 capability). No integrated Anti-Air Warfare capability will be provided. AWS Software, documentation, combat system training and technical services will be provided at the classification levels up to and including SECRET within approved release and disclosure guidelines. The manuals and technical documents are limited to those necessary for operational use and organization maintenance.

2. Hardware includes AWS Computing Infrastructure Equipment, including Blade Processors, Fire Control System (FCS) MK 99, Vertical Launching System (VLS) MK 41, combat system support equipment, logistics support equipment, and the Digital Signal Processing Group. The Digital Signal Processing group will be derived from the Multi-Mission Signal Processor and will be integrated with Lockheed Martin's Solid State Radar (SSR) which is being procured by Japan via Direct Commercial Sale contract. The Digital Signal Processing Group will be capable of BMD mission only. The hardware is UNCLASSIFIED.

3. The AN/UYQ-120(V) Command and Control Processor (C2P) System is a Tactical Data Link (TDL) message distribution system that provides real-time control and management of Tactical Digital Data Links (TADILs) in support of all major surface ship and shore Command, Control, and Communications (C3) systems. The C2P is a follow-on Technical Refresh (TR) upgrade for the legacy AN/UYQ-86(V) variants 1 through 7 of the Common Data Link Management system (CDLMS). The AN/UYQ-120(V) C2PS has three variants depending on the host site in which it is installed and only uses trusted software. The highest classification of the hardware and software to be exported is SECRET. Identification and security classification of classified equipment, major components, subsystems, software, technical data, documentation, training devices and services to be conveyed with the proposed sale.

4. If a technologically advanced adversary obtained knowledge of the specific hardware or software in the proposed sale, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapons system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

5. A determination has been made that Japan can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

6. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Japan.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent, for myself as chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics and for Senator CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, vice chairman of the committee, that the annual report for the Select Committee on Ethics for calendar year 2018 be printed in the RECORD. The committee issues this report today, January 29, 2019, as required by the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS 116TH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

JANUARY 29, 2019

The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 (the Act) calls for the Select Committee on Ethics of the United States Senate to issue an annual report no later than January 31st of each year providing information in certain categories describing its activities for the preceding year. Reported below is the information describing the Committee's activities in 2018 in the categories set forth in the Act:

(1) The number of alleged violations of Senate rules received from any source, including the number raised by a Senator or staff of the Committee: 138. (In addition, 6 alleged violations from the previous year were carried into 2018.)

(2) The number of alleged violations that were dismissed—

(A) For lack of subject matter jurisdiction or in which, even if the allegations in the complaint are true, no violation of Senate rules would exist: 109. (This figure includes 1 matter from the previous year carried into 2018.)

(B) Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion: 11. (This figure includes 1 matter from the previous year carried into 2018.)

(3) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 16. (This figure includes 3 matters from the previous year carried into 2018.)

(4) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry that resulted in an adjudicatory review: 0.

(5) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee dismissed the matter for lack of substantial merit or because it was inadvertent, technical or otherwise of a de minimis nature: 9.

(6) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee issued private or public letters of admonition: 1.

(7) The number of matters resulting in a disciplinary sanction: 0.

(8) Any other information deemed by the Committee to be appropriate to describe its activities in the previous year:

In 2018, the Committee staff conducted 1 new Member and staff ethics training session; 22 Member and committee office campaign briefings (includes 1 remedial training session); 23 employee code of conduct training sessions; 6 public financial disclosure clinics, seminars, and webinars; 12 ethics seminars and customized briefings for Member DC offices, state offices, and Senate committees; 4 private sector ethics briefings; and 5 international briefings.

In 2018, the Committee staff handled approximately 12,539 inquiries (via telephone and email) for ethics advice and guidance.

In 2018, the Committee wrote approximately 782 ethics advisory letters and responses including, but not limited to, 564 travel and gifts matters (Senate Rule 35) and 124 conflict of interest matters (Senate Rule 37).

In 2018, the Committee received 4,680 public financial disclosure and periodic disclosure of financial transactions reports.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN  
AFFAIRS RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Rules for the 116th Congress be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS—116TH  
CONGRESS COMMITTEE RULES

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS RULES OF  
PROCEDURE

Rule 1. The Standing Rules of the Senate, Senate Resolution 4, and the provisions of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, as supplemented by these rules, are adopted as the rules of the Committee to the extent the provisions of such Rules, Resolution, and Acts are applicable to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

Rule 2. The Committee shall meet on Wednesday/Thursday while the Congress is in session for the purpose of conducting business, unless for the convenience of the Members, the Chairman shall set some other day for a meeting. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman as he may deem necessary.

OPEN HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

Rule 3(a). Hearings and business meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public except when the Chairman by a majority vote orders a closed hearing or meeting.

(b). Except as otherwise provided in the Rules of the Senate, a transcript or electronic recording shall be kept of each hearing and business meeting of the Committee.

HEARING PROCEDURE

Rule 4(a). Public notice, including notice to Members of the Committee, shall be given of the date, place and subject matter of any hearing to be held by the Committee at least one week in advance of such hearing unless the Chairman of the Committee, with the concurrence of the Vice Chairman, determines that holding the hearing would be non-controversial or that special circumstances require expedited procedures and a majority of the Committee Members attending concurs. In no case shall a hearing be conducted with less than 24 hours' notice.

(b). Each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall submit his or her testimony by way of electronic mail, at least 48 hours in advance of a hearing, in a format determined by the Committee and sent to an electronic mail address specified by the Committee. In the event a federal witness fails to timely file the written statement in accordance with this rule, the federal witness shall testify as to the reason the testimony is late.

(c). Each Member shall be limited to five (5) minutes of questioning of any witness until such time as all Members attending who so desire have had an opportunity to question the witness unless the Committee shall decide otherwise.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Rule 5(a). A legislative measure or subject shall be included in the agenda of the next following business meeting of the Committee if a written request by a Member for consideration of such measure or subject has been filed with the Chairman of the Committee at least one week prior to such meeting. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to limit the authority of the Chairman of the Committee to include legislative measures or

subjects on the Committee agenda in the absence of such request.

(b). Any bill, resolution, or other matter to be considered by the Committee at a business meeting shall be filed with the Clerk of the Committee. Notice of, and the agenda for, any business meeting of the Committee, and a copy of any bill, resolution, or other matter to be considered at the meeting, shall be provided to each Member and made available to the public at least three (3) days prior to such meeting, and no new items may be added after the agenda is published except by the approval of the Chairman with the concurrence of the Vice Chairman or by a majority of the Members of the Committee. The notice and agenda of any business meeting may be provided to the Members by electronic mail, provided that a paper copy will be provided to any Member upon request. The Clerk shall promptly notify absent Members of any action taken by the Committee on matters not included in the published agenda.

(c). Any amendment(s) to any bill or resolution to be considered shall be filed by a Member of the Committee with the Clerk not less than 48 hours in advance. This rule may be waived by the Chairman with the concurrence of the Vice Chairman.

QUORUM

Rule 6(a). Except as provided in subsection (b), a majority of the Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Committee. Except as provided in Senate Rule XXVI 7(a), a quorum is presumed to be present unless the absence of a quorum is noted by a Member.

(b). One Member shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting a hearing or taking testimony on any measure or matter before the Committee.

VOTING

Rule 7(a). A recorded vote of the Members shall be taken upon the request of any Member.

(b). A measure may be reported without a recorded vote from the Committee unless an objection is made by any Member, in which case a recorded vote by the Members shall be required. A Member shall have the right to have his or her additional views included in the Committee report on the measure in accordance with Senate Rule XXVI 10.

(c). A Committee vote to report a measure to the Senate shall also authorize the staff of the Committee to make necessary technical and conforming changes to the measure.

(d). Proxy voting shall be permitted on all matters, except that proxies may not be counted for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum. Unless further limited, a proxy shall be exercised only for the date for which it is given and upon the terms published in the agenda for that date.

SWORN TESTIMONY AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Rule 8(a). Witnesses in Committee hearings who are required to give testimony shall be deemed under oath.

(b). At any hearing to confirm a Presidential nominee, the testimony of the nominee and, at the request of any Member, any other witnesses that come before the Committee shall also be under oath. Every nominee shall submit a questionnaire on forms to be provided by the Committee, ethics agreement, and a public financial disclosure report, (OGE Form 278 or a successor form) which shall be sworn to by the nominee as to its completeness and accuracy and be accompanied by a letter issued by the nominee within five (5) days immediately preceding the hearing—swearing that nothing has changed in their financial status or documents since the documents were originally filed with the Committee. The public finan-

cial disclosure report and ethics agreement shall be made available to the public by the Committee unless the Committee, in executive session, determines that special circumstances require a full or partial exception to this rule.

(c). Members of the Committee are urged to make public a complete disclosure of their financial interests on forms to be perfected by the Committee in the manner required in the case of Presidential nominees.

CONFIDENTIAL TESTIMONY

Rule 9. No confidential testimony taken by, or confidential material presented to the Committee, or any report of the proceedings of a closed Committee hearing or business meeting shall be made public in whole or in part, or by way of summary, unless authorized by a majority of the Members of the Committee at a business meeting called for the purpose of making such a determination.

DEFAMATORY STATEMENTS

Rule 10. Any person whose name is mentioned or who is specifically identified in, or who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at, an open Committee hearing tends to defame him or her or otherwise adversely affect his or her reputation may file with the Committee for its consideration and action a sworn statement of facts relevant to such testimony of evidence.

BROADCASTING OF HEARINGS OR MEETINGS

Rule 11. Any meeting or hearing by the Committee which is open to the public may be covered in whole or in part by television, Internet, radio broadcast, or still photography. Photographers and reporters using mechanical recording, filming, or broadcasting devices shall position their equipment so as not to interfere with the sight, vision, and hearing of Members and staff on the dais or with the orderly process of the meeting or hearing.

AUTHORIZING SUBPOENAS

Rule 12. The Chairman may, with the agreement of the Vice Chairman, or the Committee may, by majority vote, authorize the issuance of subpoenas.

AMENDING THE RULES

Rule 13. These rules may be amended only by a vote of a majority of all the Members of the Committee in a business meeting of the Committee: Provided, that no vote may be taken on any proposed amendment unless such amendment is reproduced in full in the Committee agenda for such meeting at least seven (7) days in advance of such meeting.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN ELLIS-HAINES

● Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, for the first Granite Stater of the Month of 2019, I am proud to recognize fifth grader Evelyn Ellis-Haines of Belmont for her work helping those in need. Through a youth civics program at her school, Evelyn launched a clothing drive, and with the support of her teachers and classmates, she collected more than 700 items to donate to some of our most vulnerable citizens in the Granite State.

Evelyn was inspired to start her clothing drive because, in her words, she "wanted to help people." Addressing poverty is something that has always concerned Evelyn. Her family even recalls her making baked goods to

give to people she saw experiencing homelessness and often asking why they could not do more to help them. When the opportunity to participate in New Hampshire's Kid Governor Program arose, Evelyn created a platform based on addressing poverty and worked with her school to start a clothing drive. Every Monday in December, she reminded her classmates during their school assembly to bring items to donate, which resulted in her collecting hundreds of items in just under a month.

Evelyn donated the items to the largest family shelter in her community and wants to continue working to help address poverty. She will be volunteering with the same organization this summer and hopes to expand her clothing drive beyond just her school. For her efforts to support her community and help those in need, I am proud to recognize Evelyn as the January 2019 Granite Stater of the Month.●

#### VERMONT STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY WINNERS

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, since 2010 I have sponsored a State of the Union essay contest for Vermont high school students. This contest gives students in my State the opportunity to articulate what issues they would prioritize if they were President of the United States.

This is the contest's 9th year and I would like to congratulate the almost 600 students who participated. It is truly heartening to see so many young people engaged in finding solutions for the problems that face our country. To my mind, this is what democracy is all about.

A volunteer panel of Vermont teachers reviewed the essays and chose Firdaus Muhammad as this year's winner. Firdaus, a freshman at Essex High School, focused on the rise of Islamophobia across the Nation. Jackson Maiocco, a senior at Bellows Falls Union High School, was the second place winner. Jackson wrote about military spending and the impact our defense budget has on our Nation. Joseph Brody, a senior at St. Johnsbury Academy, was the third place winner, having written about voter suppression.

I am very proud to enter into the Congressional Record the essays submitted by Firdaus, Jackson, and Joseph.

The material follows:

FIRDAUS MUHAMMAD, ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL,  
FRESHMAN, WINNER

September 11, 2001—a day that all Americans remember. A day that changed so many lives. A day when I wasn't even alive yet. Yet 9/11 was a day that changed my life. Fast forward eleven years to 2012. I was in third grade and had just made the decision to start wearing the hijab in public. I had awoken that winter morning with the intention to wear my hijab to school, but I was naive. I didn't know that by wearing the hijab, I became a symbol of Islam. I didn't realize that by wearing a piece of cloth on my head, I was

suddenly a nine year old representing all 1.7 billion Muslims across the globe.

It's 2019. Eighteen years have passed since 9/11. It's been seven years since I started wearing the hijab publicly. The racism against Muslims has only gotten worse. The hatred and Islamophobia has spread like wildfire, affecting every Muslim in its path. Women's hijabs are being ripped off, racist slurs are being spit at Muslims, and the angry stares have only increased. The rise of Islamophobia during these past years has been exacerbated by President Trump's Travel Ban. On January 27, 2017, President Trump signed the Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States Order. This became known as the Travel Ban or essentially, the Muslim Ban. Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, North Korea, and Venezuela were all affected by this ban. It's not a coincidence that five of these countries have a majority Muslim population.

I clearly remember watching the news with my dad and hearing all the racist names being thrown at Muslims. Being an eleven year old Muslim girl, I couldn't comprehend how people could be so rude and racist to one another. I didn't understand why Muslim families were suddenly being torn apart because they were deemed "unsafe". Why were people suddenly so scared of Muslims? Didn't they know that Islam was a religion founded on peace and justice? A religion of equality and kindness? How can we live in "The Land of the Free" when Muslims are afraid of being targeted based solely on their religion? I am lucky enough to live in Vermont where most people are quite respectful and accepting of each other. But I also know that there are other Muslims who are not so lucky. Those Muslims who feel isolated in their offices, schools, and other public places.

I believe that in order to solve this huge racial problem, we must learn to accept each other's differences. We should not discriminate against others based on their religion. We need to make sure that we represent people as they are, not based on stereotypes. We cannot let the actions of a few people reflect the beliefs of a whole religion. The United States is a country of diversity, a country built by immigrants. Any person who comes from any religion, deserves to feel respected and welcomed in this country.

JACKSON MAIOCCO, BELLOWS FALLS UNION  
HIGH SCHOOL, SENIOR, SECOND PLACE

For decades, an excess of military spending has plagued our nation while there are many vital areas that would prosper with the reallocation of some military spending. The majority of our nation's federal budget is dedicated to the military; in 2018, the US spent a grand total of \$623 billion on national defense. This huge sum of money dwarfs the amount that President Trump allocated to the Department of Education: a mere \$68 billion. I know that sounds like a considerable amount of money, so I'll put it in perspective. For every dollar spent on education, nearly \$11 went to the military. This simply can't stand.

In fiscal year 2018, the US Federal Budget was roughly a trillion dollars. President Trump made good on his promise to slash federal budgets, but increased the defense budget by almost 10%. Considering the size of the defense budget, a 10% increase is huge: \$52 billion, to be exact. Areas that were negatively affected by Trump's budget cuts were the Department of Education, which had a 14% budget slash, and the Department of Health and Human Services, which lost 18% of its federal funding. Every country's main goal should be the scientific and social advancement of their citizens and society as a whole, so the damage done by Trump's bud-

et cuts is incredibly detrimental to our nation. Meanwhile, we're pouring unprecedented amounts of money into building tanks that will never see action; according to Eric Husher, former Senior Balkan Intelligence Analyst (1992-1996), there are over 4,000 M1 Abrams tanks sitting in the Nevada desert collecting dust. Keep in mind that it costs upwards of \$4.3 million to assemble an M1 Abrams. So collectively, there's roughly \$17 billion worth of American taxpayers money sitting in a parking lot in Nevada. But wait, it gets worse. These tanks aren't being built for use; they're simply being built to keep a factory running. This needless military spending is incredibly detrimental to our country. Excessive military expenditures results in slower economic growth, and, as outlined above, is simply a waste of money.

The only feasible solution is to gradually decrease military spending, and invest those funds into more worthwhile areas such as education, science, and healthcare. Far right hawks and conservatives might argue that a drastic decrease in military expenditures would leave us exposed and weak, but the evidence states otherwise. In fact, even if we cut our military budget by 80%, we would still have military superiority in the world.

In the words of legendary journalist Hunter S. Thompson, "Every Republican administration since 1952 has let the military-industrial complex loot the treasury and plunge the nation into debt on the excuse of a wartime economic emergency." With no such emergency anywhere in sight, our tax dollars should be spent on more worthwhile investments.

JOSEPH BRODY, ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY,  
SENIOR, THIRD PLACE

Democracy was founded on the fundamental principle that the power of government is derived from the consent of the governed. Throughout the course of our nation's history, this foundation has been fractured by the disenfranchisement of low-income and minority groups. The Jim Crow laws, for example, prevented African Americans from voting through poll taxes and literacy tests. While the means of voter suppression have become less glaring, the United States continues to systematically suppress underrepresented populations from exercising their Fifteenth Amendment right. In order to ensure that our democracy is accessible and fruitful for all, the United States must abolish Voter ID laws and reform Election Day.

First of all, minorities are silenced by the Voter ID laws. As Attorney General Eric Holder simply stated, "We call those poll taxes." Voter ID laws inhibit minority voters because they present additional barriers to an already problematic voting process. Even though obtaining identification is often touted as "free," Harvard Law School asserts that the cost of supporting documents can exceed \$175. Given that minorities are often in the lowest income brackets, this price can be insurmountable and disproportionately prevents African Americans from receiving identification. The Brennan Center for Justice revealed that nearly 25% of African Americans lack necessary identification in comparison to just 8% of their white counterparts. According to The University of San Diego, the beneficiaries of Voter ID laws are largely "whites and those on the political right." Clearly, this not only alienates minorities, but produces politicians who are not concerned with their interests. The solution is simple: eradicate Voter ID laws. Though many express concern about voter fraud, this fear is baseless. Professor Justin Levitt confirms that there have only been 31 cases of credible voter impersonation since 2000. In short, Voter ID laws are a refurbished Poll Tax; under the mask of "fraud

prevention," only the disenfranchised stand to be silenced.

Election Day is a hindrance because it occurs on a Tuesday. The working class cannot afford lost wages or lost energy from standing in hours-long lines. The result of this awkward timing: low-income Americans cannot afford to vote. According to the Pew Research Center, 63% of the most financially secure Americans voted in the 2014 election, while only 20% of the least financially secure were able to make it to the poll. In effect, the population that bears the greatest burdens possesses the least political power. In actuality, Election Day was established on a Tuesday so that farmers wouldn't miss church or market day. The government needs to act with a similar intent and align Election Day with the schedule of the working class. It should be a federally mandated holiday and stretch across Saturday and Sunday. For those unable to vote, absentee ballots should be guaranteed and expedited.

Ultimately, eliminating Voter ID laws and reforming Election Day will make voting accessible to all Americans. Voting is at the heart of democracy, and once this is realized, the quality of life for all Americans will be heightened.●

#### 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALABAMA AND TUSCALOOSA

● Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I wish to call attention to the special significance of the year 2019 in our great State of Alabama. This year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of our State and my hometown, the city of Tuscaloosa.

Tuscaloosa was incorporated on December 13, 1819, which was one day before the State of Alabama was admitted to the Union. Beginning in 1826 and extending for more than two decades, Tuscaloosa was the State capital of Alabama. This period marked the historic opening of the University of Alabama, the construction of a stately capitol building, and the city's transformation as a center for education, healthcare, and industry. Strategically situated on the banks of the Black Warrior River, Tuscaloosa became a thriving hub for foundries, cotton mills, forestry, and marine commerce.

Founded in Tuscaloosa in 1831, the University of Alabama, which is the beloved alma mater of my family along with countless others, has become one of America's premier public research universities. The Capstone of education, the University serves the citizens of Alabama as well as students, faculty, and staff who come from throughout the United States and around the globe to pursue a world-class education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The university proudly partners with Stillman College and Shelton State Community College, as well as an abundant community of K-12 schools, to hold stature as a major center for educational excellence.

Today Tuscaloosa is recognized as one of the region's most economically prosperous cities. International corporations join homegrown industries and businesses to provide a robust climate for job creation, industrial expan-

sion, and a quality of life that is envied and admired by one and all. Recreational amenities, cultural gems, and championship athletic teams are legendary.

On December 13, 2018, the Tuscaloosa Bicentennial Commission dedicated Bicentennial Square in Government Plaza, located in the heart of the city's burgeoning downtown district. Over the next 12 months, citizens will join together in a diverse calendar of events and programs that will educate, celebrate, and feature 2019 as a year to remember.

I share in the RECORD a schedule of events for "Tuscaloosa 200," together with the names of the bicentennial commission members who, along with dozens of other volunteers, have devoted countless hours to planning and organizing the bicentennial commemoration, as well as the companies whose generosity made possible the extensive, yearlong celebration: dedication of Bicentennial Square at Government Plaza, December 13, 2018; ringing in Tuscaloosa 200 bicentennial fireworks, December 31, 2018, at the Tuscaloosa Amphitheatre; Tuscaloosa 200 bicentennial launch ceremony, January 31, 2019, at the Tuscaloosa RiverMarket; the Bicentennial Bash Family Activities and Music Saturday, March 30, 2019, at the Tuscaloosa Amphitheatre; "Tuscaloosa Through Time" history expo, April 24-27, 2019, at the Bryant Conference Center; "Welcome Back to T-Town Celebration" in conjunction with the Druid City Music Festival, Friday and Saturday, August 23-24, 2019; community book experience, "The History of Tuscaloosa," by Dr. Guy Hubbs, September 22, 2019, Federal courthouse; and Tuscaloosa 200 birthday party and holiday parade, Friday, December 13, 2019, preceded by "200 Voices for Tuscaloosa," December 12, 2019, Moody Concert Hall.

Members of the Tuscaloosa Bicentennial Commission: Lyda Black, Robert Ennis, Kari Frederickson, Sarah Elizabeth Heggem, Shelley Jones, Elizabeth McGiffert, Pam Parker, Tim Parker, Cathy Randall, Kellee Reinhart, Don Staley, and Harrison Taylor.

Bicentennial Sponsors and Donors: Presenting Sponsors—Mercedes Benz USA, Coca Cola, DCH Health System; Capital Donor—city of Tuscaloosa, the University of Alabama; Chief Tuscaloosa Donor—Tuscaloosa Tourism and Sports; Druid Oaks Donor—Harrison Family Foundation, Hunt Refining Company, Nucor Steel, Parker Towing Company, PECO Foods, Inc., Reese Phifer Memorial Foundation, Randall-Reilly, TotalCom; Black Warrior Donor—Bryant Bank, College Station Properties, Harrison Construction Company, Industrial Warehouse Services, Inc., McAbee Family Foundation, McGiffert and Associates, LLC/Price McGiffert Construction Co. Inc., Regions, Synovus, Westervelt; City Champion Donor—Cadence Bank, Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, BF Goodrich, Jamison Money Farmer, PC, Jun-

ior League of Tuscaloosa, R.L. Zeigler Company, Inc., Tuscaloosa County Parks and Recreation, Tuscaloosa Rotary Memorial Foundation.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 56. An act to establish an Independent Financial Technology Task Force to Combat Terrorism and Illicit Financing, to provide rewards for information leading to convictions related to terrorist use of digital currencies, to establish a Fintech Leadership in Innovation and Financial Intelligence Program to encourage the development of tools and programs to combat terrorist and illicit use of digital currencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 502. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on how virtual currencies and online marketplaces are used to buy, sell, or facilitate the financing of goods or services associated with sex trafficking or drug trafficking, and for other purposes.

H.R. 624. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study of Rule 10b5-1 trading plans, and for other purposes.

At 5 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 9. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

At 5:24 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 424. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the management and administration of the security clearance process throughout the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 428. An act to direct the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis to develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding terrorist use of virtual currency.

H.R. 449. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to direct the Assistant Secretary of State and Local Law Enforcement to produce and disseminate an annual catalog on Department of Homeland Security training, publications, programs, and services for State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

H.R. 495. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require an annual report on the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement.

H.R. 504. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 769. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a board to coordinate and integrate departmental intelligence, activities, and policy related to counterterrorism, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. Cuellar of Texas, Chairman.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. Higgins of New York, Chairman.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Mr. Connolly of Virginia, Chairman.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 56. An act to establish an Independent Financial Technology Task Force to Combat Terrorism and Illicit Financing, to provide rewards for information leading to convictions related to terrorist use of digital currencies, to establish a Fintech Leadership in Innovation and Financial Intelligence Program to encourage the development of tools and programs to combat terrorist and illicit use of digital currencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 424. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the management and administration of the security clearance processes throughout the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 428. An act to direct the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis to develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding terrorist use of virtual currency; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 449. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to direct the Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement to produce and disseminate an annual catalog on Department of Homeland Security training, publications, programs, and services for State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 495. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require an annual report on the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 502. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on how virtual currencies and online marketplaces are used to buy, sell, or facilitate the financing of goods or services associated with sex trafficking or drug trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 504. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 624. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study of Rule 10b5-1 trading plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 769. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a board to coordinate and integrate departmental intelligence, activities, and policy related to counterterrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-163. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a, for a period not to exceed 14 days before assuming the duties of the position for which the higher grade is authorized, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-164. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-165. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (A&S), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-166. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-167. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-168. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower & Reserve), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-169. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a va-

cancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-170. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Energy, Installations & Environment), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-171. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Management Officer, Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-172. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure of Loan-Level HMDA Data" (Docket No. CFPB-2017-0025) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 24, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-173. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Safety Evaluations of Technical Specifications Task Force Traveler TSTF-557, Revision 1, 'Spent Fuel Storage Rack Neutron Absorber Monitoring Program'" (NUREG-1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, and 2194) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 23, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-174. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-175. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Col. Frank A. Rodman, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Robert D. Harter, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Col. Charles M. Schoening, to be Brigadier General.

Army nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. David W. Ling and ending with Col. Rodney J. Fischer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 15, 2019.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report

favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Saleh P. Dagher and ending with Neville A. Welch, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 15, 2019.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Rico Acosta and ending with Christina F. Zimmerman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 15, 2019.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 249. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 250. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to prohibit the exclusion of individuals from service on a Federal jury on account of sexual orientation or gender identity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 251. A bill to establish the Interdiction for the Protection of Child Victims of Exploitation and Human Trafficking Program to train law enforcement officers to identify and assist victims of child exploitation and human trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 252. A bill to authorize the honorary appointment of Robert J. Dole to the grade of colonel in the regular Army; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 253. A bill to coordinate the provision of energy retrofitting assistance to schools; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 254. A bill to rescind the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive Federal law to facilitate the construction of border barriers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. VAN

HOLLEN, Ms. HASSAN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 255. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include individuals receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits under the work opportunity credit, increase the work opportunity credit for vocational rehabilitation referrals, qualified SSI recipients, and qualified SSDI recipients, expand the disabled access credit, and enhance the deduction for expenditures to remove architectural and transportation barriers in the handicapped and elderly; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 256. A bill to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 257. A bill to provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk Indian veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 258. A bill to prohibit oil and gas leasing on the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains Ranger District located in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 259. A bill to impose criminal sanctions on certain persons involved in international doping fraud conspiracies, to provide restitution for victims of such conspiracies, and to require sharing of information with the United States Anti-Doping Agency to assist its fight against doping, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 260. A bill to assist employers providing employment under special certificates issued under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to transform their business and program models, to support individuals with disabilities to transition to competitive integrated employment, to phase out the use of such special certificates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JONES, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WICKER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COONS, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 261. A bill to extend the authorization of appropriations for allocation to carry out approved wetlands conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 262. A bill to provide for a pay increase in 2019 for certain civilian employees of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 263. A bill to ensure the receipt of required compensation before physical posses-

sion by the Federal Government of any land subject to the use of eminent domain for the construction of United States border infrastructure and to provide for a consultation process prior to acquiring land for border infrastructure; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. UDALL):

S. 264. A bill to prohibit the construction of certain elements of a physical barrier along the southern border of the United States in Federal wildlife and wilderness areas and on State land; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 265. A bill to develop a national strategy to prevent targeted violence through behavioral threat assessment and management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. JONES):

S. 266. A bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. MCSALLY, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 267. A bill to provide for a general capital increase for the North American Development Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 268. A bill to reauthorize the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and certain wildlife conservation funds, to establish prize competitions relating to the prevention of wildlife poaching and trafficking, wildlife conservation, the management of invasive species, and the protection of endangered species, to amend the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 to modify the protections provided by that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 34. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Governments of Burma and Bangladesh ensure the safe, dignified, voluntary, and sustainable return of the Rohingya refugees who have been displaced by the campaign of ethnic cleansing conducted by the Burmese military and to immediately release unjustly imprisoned journalists, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

S. 21

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 21, a bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations act expires prior to the enactment of a new appropriations act.

S. 30

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 30, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic health care services for certain covered beneficiaries as part of the TRICARE program.

S. 91

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 91, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependents of homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 104

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 104, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 160

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 160, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes.

S. 162

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 162, a bill to provide back pay to low-wage contractor employees, and for other purposes.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to amend the

Public Health Service Act to prohibit governmental discrimination against providers of health services that are not involved in abortion.

S. 185

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to require certain financial assistance under the State energy program and the Weatherization Assistance Program to be distributed without undue delay to support State and local high-impact energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives.

S. 200

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 200, a bill to prohibit the conduct of a first-use nuclear strike absent a declaration of war by Congress.

S. 207

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 207, a bill to enhance tribal road safety, and for other purposes.

S. 209

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 209, a bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

S. 211

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to secure urgent resources vital to Indian victims of crime, and for other purposes.

S. 222

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 222, a bill to amend section 1341 of title 31, United States Code, to require payment of interest on back pay for employees affected by a lapse in appropriations.

S. 238

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 238, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes.

S. 246

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 246, a bill to block the implementation of certain presidential actions that restrict individuals from certain countries from entering the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 58

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the

Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 58 intended to be proposed to S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. JONES):

S. 266. A bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, public schools play a vital role in every community across the Nation. They play a central role in our democracy—educating the next generation, serving as polling places for our elections, hosting community meetings and events, and so much more. When there is a natural disaster or an emergency, people often gather at their public schools for shelter, information, and resources. They are essential facilities and must be included in any new major federal investment in infrastructure. That is why I am proud to partner with Chairman SCOTT in the House of Representatives in introducing the Rebuild America's Schools Act to fix our schools. I would like to thank my Senate colleagues who are joining in this effort, including Senators BROWN, CORTEZ MASTO, HASSAN, WARREN, WHITEHOUSE, CASEY, CARDIN, DUCKWORTH, MERKLEY, HARRIS, HIRONO, GILLIBRAND, VAN HOLLEN, ROSEN, BLUMENTHAL, and SANDERS.

Safe, healthy, modern, well-equipped schools are essential for advancing student achievement and ensuring that the next generation is prepared to meet the economic, social, environmental, and global challenges our nation faces. Yet, too many of the over 50 million students and six million staff who learn and work in our public schools spend their days in facilities that fail to make the grade. A 2014 Department of Education study estimated that it would cost \$197 billion to bring all public schools into "good" condition. Nationally, there is also a \$38 billion funding gap in annual capital construction and new facility funding, as reported in the 2016 State of Our Schools report. Despite the benefits and need, however, Federal funding accounts for 0.2% of the total current capital investment in our schools.

State and local communities cannot bridge this gap alone. Last November,

Rhode Island voters approved a general obligation bond of \$250 million dollars—the largest statewide bond ever—to upgrade our public school facilities. However, the State had identified over \$2.2 billion in needed improvements to school infrastructure. Rhode Island is not the only State facing a school infrastructure crisis. In fact, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave public school buildings across the country an overall grade of D+ in their 2017 report card. The scope of the school infrastructure crisis is more than many States or communities can address on their own. The Federal government can and should be a partner in upgrading our public school facilities.

Addressing this need is not only the right thing to do for our students; it will also give a needed boost to our economy, putting people to work in family sustaining jobs. According to an analysis by the Economic Policy Institute, every \$1 billion spent on construction generates 17,785 jobs.

The Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2019 will create Federal-State partnership for school infrastructure. It will provide, over ten years, a total of \$100 billion in direct grants and school construction bonds to help fill the annual gap in school facility capital needs, while creating nearly two million jobs.

Specifically, the Rebuild America's Schools Act will provide \$7 billion per year in formula funds to States for local competitive grants for school repair, renovation, and construction. States will focus assistance on communities with the greatest financial need, encourage green construction practices, and expand access to high-speed broadband to ensure that all students have access to digital learning. Our legislation would also provide \$30 billion for qualified school infrastructure bonds (QSIBs), \$10 billion each year from FY 2020 through FY 2022, and restore the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABS) that were eliminated in the Republican Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The legislation also eases the matching requirements and expands the authority and eligible purposes of QZABS to allow local education agencies to construct, rehabilitate, retrofit, or repair school facilities. The Rebuild America's Schools Act also supports American workers by ensuring that projects use American-made iron, steel, and manufactured products and meet labor standards.

I would like to thank the broad coalition of educators, community organizations, unions, civil rights advocates, and employers that have provided feedback and support for this legislation, including the American Federation of Teachers, Association of Educational Service Agencies, Association of School Building Administrators International, Brick Industry Association, Californians for School Facilities, Council of Great City Schools, Healthy Schools Network, International Union of Operating Engineers, International

Union of Painters and Allied Trades, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Concrete Masonry Association, National Education Association, National PTA, National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium, National Rural Education Association, National Urban League, North America's Building Trades Unions, Organizations Concerned About Rural Education, Public Advocacy for Kids, Rebuild America's Schools, Rural School and Community Trust, Secure Schools Alliance, Teach Plus, Twenty-First Century Schools Fund, and U.S. Green Building Council. We look forward to expanding this coalition in the weeks and months ahead.

We have no time to waste in fixing our deteriorating school infrastructure. In the words of a student activist in Providence, "Students cannot learn in a crumbling building, a school that isn't fit to uplift our minds." We need to listen to our students, strengthen our communities, and improve our school buildings. I urge all of our colleagues to support the Rebuild America's Schools Act and press for its passage.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 34—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF BURMA AND BANGLADESH ENSURE THE SAFE, DIGNIFIED, VOLUNTARY, AND SUSTAINABLE RETURN OF THE ROHINGYA REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN DISPLACED BY THE CAMPAIGN OF ETHNIC CLEANSING CONDUCTED BY THE BURMESE MILITARY AND TO IMMEDIATELY RELEASE UNJUSTLY IMPRISONED JOURNALISTS, WA LONE AND KYAW SOE OO

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. Kaine, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

#### S. RES. 34

Whereas, on August 25, 2017, attacks on security posts in Burma by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army militant group resulted in a brutal, systematic, and disproportionate reprisal by the Burmese military and security forces on Rohingya villages in Rakhine State;

Whereas approximately 700,000 Rohingya refugees have fled to Bangladesh since the Burmese military commenced its scorched-earth campaign, with the burning of villages and local monuments, and reports of widespread gang rape, starvation, killing, and forcible deportation;

Whereas the August 2018 United Nations report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar states in paragraph 87 that "the Mission concluded . . . that there is sufficient information to warrant the investigation and prosecution of senior officials in the Tatmadaw chain of command, so that a competent court can determine their liability for genocide in relation to the situation in Rakhine State";

Whereas, on August 28, 2018, then-United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley reported to the United Nations Security Council that the Department of State had conducted interviews with 1,024 Rohingya refugees in camps throughout Cox's Bazar and that the results of the interviews were consistent with the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar;

Whereas, on September 24, 2018, the Department of State report titled, "Documentation of Atrocities in Northern Rakhine State", concluded that the military's attacks in Burma's Northern Rakhine State were "large-scale, widespread and seemingly geared toward both terrorizing the population and driving out the Rohingya residents" and that the "scope and scale of the military's operations indicate that they were well-planned and coordinated";

Whereas, on December 3, 2018, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum concluded that "there is compelling evidence that the Burmese military committed ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity, and genocide against the Rohingya";

Whereas the Government of Burma has consistently denied access to the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar established to investigate human rights violations around the country;

Whereas the fundamental operational principles of voluntary repatriation are safety, to include legal and physical safety, and dignity, to include treatment with respect and full acceptance by their national authorities, including the full restoration of refugees' rights;

Whereas approximately 236,000 Rohingya refugees returned to Burma from Bangladesh under the terms of a 1992 agreement after a previous bout of violence against the Rohingya forced them to flee, only to continue to be denied citizenship, face prejudice, violence, and persecution, and in many instances be forced to live in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps with their freedom of movement restricted;

Whereas Burma's 1982 citizenship law stripped Rohingya of their Burmese citizenship, rendering them stateless;

Whereas the Government of Burma continues to systematically discriminate against the Rohingya people, a long-persecuted Muslim minority within Burma, including by continuing to restrict registration of Rohingya births and to deny them freedom of movement, access to healthcare, land, education, marriage, voting rights, and political participation;

Whereas the Government of Burma has repeatedly abused land use laws to unjustly seize land from Rohingya refugees;

Whereas the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) is working closely with the Government of Bangladesh and partners to provide protection and assistance to the Rohingya refugees and to support the host populations affected by the influx;

Whereas, on November 23, 2017, the Government of Burma and the Government of Bangladesh signed an agreement, known as the "Arrangement", on the return of displaced persons from Rakhine State, which is modeled after the 1992 repatriation agreement between Burma and Bangladesh;

Whereas the Arrangement includes references to restoring normalcy and human rights in Rakhine State, for refugee returns to comply with international standards of safety, dignity, and voluntariness, and to commencing a process to address root causes in line with the Rakhine Advisory Commission recommendations;

Whereas the Department of State has assessed that Burma has not made progress on the “more crucial” of the 88 recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission that are identified by Rohingya refugees as prerequisites to repatriation including freedom of movement, civil documentation, and a transparent pathway to citizenship;

Whereas, on June 6, 2018, the Government of Burma reached a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the UNHCR and the United Nations Development Agency (UNDP) on its role in the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of Rakhine State refugees;

Whereas Rohingya refugees currently hosted in Bangladesh demonstrated in protest against an initial November 2018 repatriation plan between the Governments of Bangladesh and Burma, citing concerns for their security and the lack of meaningful political reforms in Burma to include full citizenship;

Whereas UNHCR, on January 4, 2019, reported that conditions in Burma’s Rakhine State remain “not conducive to return” on the heels of the Government of India’s regrettable decision to repatriate 16,000 Rohingya to Burma without having first ascertained the “voluntariness of their decision to return”;

Whereas, throughout this process, the Government of Burma has restricted media freedom and jailed journalists;

Whereas, on December 12, 2017, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, two journalists reporting and documenting atrocities against the Rohingya, were arrested and on January 10, 2018, formally prosecuted with violating the “Official Secrets Act”;

Whereas Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Soo had uncovered a massacre of 10 Rohingya men perpetrated by Burma’s security forces and aided by local Buddhist villagers in the village of Inn Din in Rakhine State;

Whereas, on September 3, 2018, Yangon northern district judge Ye Lwin ruled that Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo breached the colonial-era Official Secrets Act and sentenced them each to seven years in prison with hard labor;

Whereas, on January 11, 2019, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo’s appeal of their conviction before the Yangon Regional High Court was denied;

Whereas Time Magazine named Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo as co-recipients of 2018 Time Magazine’s “Person of the Year” in recognition for their courageous reporting;

Whereas Vice President Mike Pence tweeted his concern over the sentence against Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo for “doing their job reporting on the atrocities being committed on the Rohingya people”;

Whereas United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley described the conviction as “another terrible stain on the Burmese government” and called for “their immediate and unconditional release”;

Whereas the Department of State’s annual Human Rights Report on Burma for the year 2017 states that—

(1) “legal provisions that allow the government to manipulate the courts for political ends, and these provisions were sometimes used to deprive citizens of due process and the right to a fair trial, particularly with regards to the freedom of expression”;

(2) “The government continued to detain and arrest journalists, activists, and critics of the government and the military during the year.”; and

(3) “Threats against and arrests of journalists increased. . . Freedom of expression was more restricted during the year compared with 2016. This included a higher number of detentions of journalists using various laws, including laws carrying more severe punishments than those used previously.”;

Whereas, according to PEN America, the discontinuation of Radio Free Asia’s broadcasting in Myanmar on a domestic channel constitutes a further shrinking of the space for free expression in the country; and

Whereas, additionally, PEN America reports that—

(1) there continues to be increased legal threats, imprisonment, and physical harassment of journalists;

(2) there continues to be restrictions on the ability to report from and receive information on conflict areas; and

(3) the lack of reform of media laws and institutions is driving a decline in media freedom: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the violence and displacement inflicted on Burma’s Rohingya and other ethnic minorities;

(2) urges the Secretary of State to make a determination whether the actions by the Myanmar military constitute crimes against humanity or genocide and to work with interagency partners to impose targeted sanctions on Myanmar military officials, to include Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, responsible for these heinous acts through existing authorities;

(3) condemns the attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army militant group;

(4) calls on the Government of Burma to allow full access to Rakhine State and ensure the full participation of UNHCR, the internationally endorsed organization tasked with ensuring that refugee returns are voluntary, safe, dignified, and meet international refugee and human rights standards, and that the voices of refugees are represented in order to ensure the sustainability of such returns and to prevent further waves of displacement;

(5) commends the positive role of the Government of Bangladesh in receiving Rohingya refugees to date and urges the Government of Bangladesh to continue allowing the full participation of UNHCR and human rights organization in accessing refugee camps;

(6) calls on UNHCR and international non-governmental organizations to continue to play a role in monitoring repatriation efforts by the Governments of Bangladesh and Burma to ensure a process that meets international norms for voluntary, safe, and dignified repatriation;

(7) agrees that any return of Rohingya should include guarantees that any returns of refugees will be voluntary and dignified, that there will be no threats to protection or security upon return, that refugees will be able to return to their places of origin or other locations as desired, and be able to enjoy equal rights with others in Burma, including the restoration or granting of full citizenship, freedom of movement, and access to basic services;

(8) recognizes that any forced relocation of Rohingya refugees into temporary settlements, IDP camps, “model villages”, or other areas not of refugees’ choosing is unacceptable;

(9) calls on the Government of Burma to allow for a flexible and practical approach to dealing with evidence of Rohingya residence in Burma, recognizing that the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh possess a wide range of documents and that some refugees have no documents and will need to establish their residence by other means;

(10) calls on the Government of Burma to address root causes consistent with the Rakhine Advisory Commission recommendations and fully implement all of the recommendations of the Commission, including providing equal access to full restoration or granting of full citizenship for the Rohingya population;

(11) calls on the Government of Burma to acknowledge and address the issue of statelessness for the Rohingya, the deprivation of rights, and institutionalized and pervasive discrimination of the Rohingya population in order to bring about any sustainable solutions;

(12) commends the Government and the people of Bangladesh for their extraordinary generosity and efforts to provide shelter and relief for nearly 1,000,000 Rohingya refugees forced to flee their homes in Burma;

(13) calls on the Government of Bangladesh to ensure all refugees have freedom of movement and under no circumstances are subject to unsafe, involuntary, precipitous, or uninformed returns to Burma;

(14) calls for all the convictions against Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo to be nullified, for the similar charges against many other journalists currently awaiting trial to be dropped, and for the immediate and unconditional release of these journalists;

(15) expresses concern about the Government of Myanmar’s crackdown on journalists and press freedom throughout the country;

(16) reaffirms the central role that independent and professional journalism plays in strengthening democratic governance, upholding the rule of law, mitigating conflict, and informing public opinion around the world; and

(17) calls upon the United States Government to continue the United States status as a top global donor nation to the humanitarian response in Burma and Bangladesh and for the President’s fiscal year 2020 budget request to reflect that longstanding United States commitment.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 59. Ms. MCSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 60. Ms. MCSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 61. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 62. Mr. KAINÉ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 63. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 64. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 65. Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SASSE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr.

LANKFORD, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. BOOZMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1, supra.

SA 66. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 67. Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 68. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 69. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. REED, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 70. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 71. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 72. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 73. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 74. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 75. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 76. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 77. Mr. PETERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 78. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 79. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 80. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 59. Ms. MCSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 403, insert the following:

#### SEC. 404. POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES RELATING TO BOYCOTTS OF ISRAEL UNDER EXPORT-IMPORT BANK ACT OF 1945.

Section 2(b)(1)(B) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635(b)(1)(B)) is amended in the sixth sentence by inserting after “child labor,” the following: “or opposing policies and actions that are politically motivated and are intended to penalize or otherwise limit commercial relations specifically with citizens or residents of Israel, entities organized under the laws of Israel, or the Government of Israel.”.

SA 60. Ms. MCSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

#### TITLE V—AUTHORITY OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO RESTRICT INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN

##### SEC. 501. AUTHORITY OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO RESTRICT INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN.

(a) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—Section 202 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8532) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended—

(A) by striking “should support” and inserting “should not interfere with”; and

(B) by striking “in the energy sector of Iran” and all that follows through “United States” and inserting “in the business sector in Iran, or prohibits or limits any person from engaging in investment activities in the business sector of Iran, until such time as all Federal laws that either expressly authorize or require the imposition of sanctions by the Federal Government on Iran are rescinded by an Act or Acts of Congress”.

(2) Subsection (b) is amended—

(A) by amending the subsection heading to read as follows:

“(b) AUTHORITY TO RESTRICT INVESTMENT IN IRAN.—”;

(B) by striking “Notwithstanding” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding”;

(C) by striking “may adopt and enforce measures that meet” and inserting “may—

“(A) adopt and enforce measures—

“(i) that meet”;

(D) by striking “subsection (c).” and inserting “subsection (c); or”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(i) to prohibit or limit any person from engaging in investment activities in Iran described in subsection (c); and

“(B) enter into interstate compacts regarding measures described in subparagraph (A).”

“(2) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—Enforcement of measures under paragraph (1) may include the imposition of disclosure and other transparency requirements to carry out paragraph (1).”.

(3) Subsection (c) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “\$20,000,000 or more in the energy sector” and inserting “\$10,000,000 or more—

“(A) in the energy sector”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) in any other business enterprise in Iran, including an entity that is owned or controlled by the Government of Iran; or”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “\$20,000,000” and inserting “\$10,000,000”; and

(ii) by adding after “energy sector of Iran” the following: “or otherwise in a business enterprise in Iran, including an entity that is owned or controlled by the Government of Iran”.

(4) Subsection (f) is amended to read as follows:

“(f) NONPREEMPTION; NO CONFLICT WITH UNITED STATES POLICY.—A measure of a State or local government authorized under subsection (b), (i), or (j)—

“(1) is authorized and not preempted by any Federal law or regulation or any policy, agreement, or exercise of waiver authority of the executive branch; and

“(2) is consistent with United States Federal policy, including United States foreign policy.”.

(5) Subsection (g) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) OWNED OR CONTROLLED.—An entity is ‘owned or controlled’ by the Government of Iran if the Government of Iran—

“(A) holds more than 20 percent of the equity interest by vote or value in the entity;

“(B) has the right or ability to elect a majority of seats on the board of directors of the entity; or

“(C) otherwise controls the actions, policies, or personnel decisions of the entity.”.

(6) Subsection (h) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or subsection (i)” and inserting “and subsections (i) and (j)”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “subsection (i)” and inserting “subsections (i) and (j)”.

(7) Subsection (i) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) APPLICABILITY OF PRIOR PROVISIONS.—Paragraphs (1) and (2) apply with respect to this section as in effect on the day before the effective date of the State Sanctions Against Iranian Terrorism Act.”.

(8) Section 202 is further amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (k); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (i) the following:

“(j) APPLICABILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or any other provision of law, a State or local government may enforce a measure (without regard to the requirements of subsection (d), except as provided in paragraph (2)) adopted by the State or local government before the date of the enactment of the State Sanctions Against Iranian Terrorism Act (other than a measure covered by subsection (i)) that—

“(A) provides for the divestment of assets of the State or local government from, or prohibits the investment of the assets of the State or local government in, any person that the State or local government determines, using credible information available to the public, engages in investment activities in Iran (determined without regard to subsection (c)) or other business activities in Iran that are identified in the measure; or

“(B) prohibits or limits any person from engaging in investment activities in Iran described in subsection (c).”

“(2) APPLICATION OF NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—A measure described in paragraph (1) shall be subject to the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) and the first sentence of paragraph (3) of subsection (d) on and after the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of the State Sanctions Against Iranian Terrorism Act.”.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL OF PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION RELATING TO SUNSET OF ACT.—Section 401(a)

of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 855(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The provisions of this Act” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the provisions of this Act”;

(2) by striking “(1) the Government of Iran” and inserting “(A) the Government of Iran” and moving the text of subparagraph (A) (as redesignated) 2 ems to the right;

(3) by striking “(A) section 6(j)(1)(A)” and inserting “(i) section 6(j)(1)(A)” and moving the text of clause (i) (as redesignated) 2 ems to the right;

(4) by striking “(B) section 40(d)” and inserting “(ii) section 40(d)” and moving the text of clause (ii) (as redesignated) 2 ems to the right;

(5) by striking “(C) section 620A(a)” and inserting “(iii) section 620A(a)” and moving the text of clause (iii) (as redesignated) 2 ems to the right;

(6) by striking “(2) Iran has ceased” and inserting “(B) Iran has ceased”; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL WITH RESPECT TO SUNSET OF SECTION 202.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 shall not terminate pursuant to a certification of the President submitted to Congress under subsection (a) if Congress, not later than 60 days after the date on which the President submits such certification, enacts a joint resolution disapproving such certification.

“(B) EXPEDITED PROCEDURES.—A joint resolution described in subparagraph (A) and introduced not later than 60 days after the date on which the President submits a certification under subsection (a) shall be considered in the Senate and the House of Representatives in accordance with paragraphs (3) through (7) of section 8066(c) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act (as contained in Public Law 98-473), except that references in such paragraphs to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate shall be deemed to be references to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, respectively.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TITLE HEADING.—The heading for title II of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8531 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“**TITLE II—RESTRICTIONS BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN**”.

(2) SECTION HEADING.—The heading for section 202 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8532) is amended to read as follows:

“**SEC. 202. AUTHORITY OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO RESTRICT INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN.**”.

(3) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.) is amended—

(A) by amending the item relating to title II to read as follows:

“**TITLE II—RESTRICTIONS BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON INVESTMENT IN IRAN**”;

and

(B) by amending the item relating to section 202 to read as follows:

“**Sec. 202. Authority of State and local governments to restrict investment activities in Iran.**”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to measures adopted by a State or local government on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, except as provided in section 202(j) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010, as amended by this section.

**SA 61.** Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**TITLE \_\_\_\_\_—AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF FORCE TO DEFEND THE KURDS IN SYRIA**

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_ . SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Authorization for Use of Military Force in Defense of the Kurds in Syria Resolution of 2019”.

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_ . AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.**

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The President is authorized to use the Armed Forces of the United States as the President determines to be necessary and appropriate in order to defend the Kurds in Syria.

(b) WAR POWERS RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION.—Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(a)(1)), Congress declares that this section is intended to constitute specific statutory authorization within the meaning of section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(b)).

(2) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this title supersedes any requirements of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

**SA 62.** Mr. Kaine submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 41, beginning on line 6, strike “**OR ISRAELI-CONTROLLED TERRITORIES**”.

On page 41, beginning on line 12, strike “from,” and all that follows through line 15 and insert “from or prohibit investment of the assets of the State or local government in—”.

On page 42, line 5, strike “or Israeli-controlled territories”.

On page 42, beginning on line 12, strike “notice—” and all that follows through line 19 and insert “notice to each entity to which the measure is to be applied.”.

On page 43, strike lines 12 through 21.

**SA 63.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the

appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 26, line 14, insert after “Syria” the following: “for the construction or engineering of military installations or structures intended for a military purpose”.

**SA 64.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 42, beginning on line 2, strike “that is” and all that follows through “Government of Israel” on line 7, and insert the following: “that penalizes, inflicts economic harm on, or otherwise limits commercial relations with Israel or persons doing business in Israel or Israeli-controlled territories for purposes of coercing political action by the Government of Israel”.

**SA 65.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SASSE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. BOOZMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_ . SENSE OF SENATE ON WITHDRAWALS OF UNITED STATES FORCES FROM SYRIA AND AFGHANISTAN.**

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The foreign terrorist organization al Qaeda, responsible for the attacks of September 11, 2001, maintains a presence in Afghanistan.

(2) The Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham, better known by its acronym ISIS, flourished in the chaos unleashed by the civil war in Syria and at one point controlled extensive territory in Iraq and Syria.

(3) Al Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates have murdered thousands of innocent civilians.

(4) Al Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates have proven resilient and have regrouped when the United States and its partners have withdrawn from the fight against them.

(b) SENSE OF SENATE.—The Senate—

(1) acknowledges that the United States military and our partners have made significant progress in the campaign against al Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham (ISIS), and honors the contributions and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces who have served on the front lines of this fight;

(2) recognizes the continuing threat to the homeland and our allies posed by al Qaeda

and ISIS, which maintain an ability to operate in Syria and Afghanistan;

(3) expresses concern that Iran has supported the Taliban in Afghanistan and Hizballah and the Assad regime in Syria, and has sought to frustrate diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts in these two countries;

(4) recognizes the positive role the United States and its partners have played in Syria and Afghanistan fighting terrorist groups, countering Iranian aggression, deterring the further use of chemical weapons, and protecting human rights;

(5) warns that a precipitous withdrawal of United States forces from the on-going fight against these groups, without effective, countervailing efforts to secure gains in Syria and Afghanistan, could allow terrorists to regroup, destabilize critical regions, and create vacuums that could be filled by Iran or Russia, to the detriment of United States interests and those of our allies;

(6) recognizes that al Qaeda and ISIS pose a global threat, which merits increased international contributions to the counterterrorism, diplomatic, and stabilization efforts underway in Syria and Afghanistan;

(7) recognizes that diplomatic efforts to secure peaceful, negotiated solutions to the conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan are necessary to long-term stability and counterterrorism efforts in the Middle East and South Asia;

(8) acknowledges the progress made by Special Representative Khalilzad in his efforts to promote reconciliation in Afghanistan;

(9) calls upon the Administration to conduct a thorough review of the military and diplomatic strategies in Syria and Afghanistan, including an assessment of the risk that withdrawal from those countries could strengthen the power and influence of Russia and Iran in the Middle East and South Asia and undermine diplomatic efforts toward negotiated, peaceful solutions;

(10) requests that the Administration, as part of this review, solicit the views of Israel, our regional partners, and other key troop-contributing nations in the fight against al Qaeda and ISIS;

(11) reiterates support for international diplomatic efforts to facilitate peaceful, negotiated resolutions to the on-going conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan on terms that respect the rights of innocent civilians and deny safe havens to terrorists;

(12) calls upon the Administration to pursue a strategy that sets the conditions for the long-term defeat of al Qaeda and ISIS, as well as the protection of regional partners and allies, while ensuring that Iran cannot dominate the region or threaten Israel;

(13) encourages close collaboration between the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch to ensure continuing strong, bipartisan support for United States military operations in Syria and Afghanistan; and

(14) calls upon the Administration to certify that conditions have been met for the enduring defeat of al Qaeda and ISIS before initiating any significant withdrawal of United States forces from Syria or Afghanistan.

**SA 66.** Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for

other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 336. REPORT ON UNITED STATES POLICY IN SYRIA.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The regime of Bashar al Assad has committed gross atrocities against the people of Syria.

(2) The commission of these atrocities led to the eruption, and continuation, of the Syrian civil war.

(3) The ensuing conflict has resulted in the death of over 400,000 Syrian civilians.

(4) The Syrian civil war has caused over 5,500,000 Syrians to flee their country as refugees and over 6,000,000 others to be displaced from their homes inside Syria.

(5) The Assad regime has repeatedly used chemical weapons against its own people.

(6) In 2011 the Assad regime released from its prisons many of the terrorists who would subsequently lead the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

(7) ISIS has organized, executed, and inspired countless terror attacks throughout the world since its emergence, including in the United States.

(8) By the end of 2014, ISIS controlled one third of the territory of Syria and one third of the territory of Iraq.

(9) Since 2014, the United States has led Operation Inherent Resolve, with the help of allies, to degrade and destroy ISIS.

(10) Approximately 2,000 members of the United States Armed Forces are deployed to Syria under Operation Inherent Resolve.

(11) The United States and its allies have succeeded in seizing back nearly all the physical territory held by ISIS in 2014.

(12) Tens of thousands of ISIS terrorists remain in Syria and Iraq despite having lost much of their territorial “Caliphate”.

(13) The Islamic State continues to pose a threat to the security of the United States and that of its allies.

(14) Syrian Kurdish fighters in the People’s Protection Units, or YPG, have served as effective and trustworthy allies in the fight against ISIS.

(15) The Government of Turkey views these Kurdish forces as an enemy and has expressed its intention to destroy them.

(16) The support of the Russian and Iranian regimes in Syria has been invaluable to the reinforcement of the Assad government.

(17) Russian-backed forces have directly assaulted United States Armed Forces deployed in Syria on at least one occasion.

(18) The Government of Iran seeks to entrench its presence in Syria as a means of supporting its terrorist proxies, like Hezbollah and Hamas, and harming its enemies, like Israel.

(19) Ensuring the existence of Israel, America’s most important ally in the Middle East, remains a key United States interest in the region.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the pursuit of a clear, publicly-articulated strategy will guide any withdrawal of United States Armed Forces in Syria;

(2) such a strategy recognizes that ISIS and al Qaeda terrorists in Syria continue to pose a threat to the United States and its allies;

(3) such a strategy includes among its objectives the complete degradation and long-term destruction of ISIS;

(4) such a strategy will seek to prevent the emergence of another terrorist group in Syria capable of threatening the security of the United States once ISIS is defeated;

(5) such a strategy includes the consideration of and planning for the security inter-

ests of the Syrian Kurdish allies of the United States;

(6) such a strategy recognizes the destabilizing impact of Iran in Syria;

(7) such a strategy aims to ensure that Iranian-commanded forces in Syria do not benefit from the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces; and

(8) such a strategy aims to ensure that the Syrian civil war ends through peaceful, political means.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report detailing United States policy in Syria.

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as an authorization for the use of military force in Syria or elsewhere.

**SA 67.** Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_ . DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT ON NET WORTH AND ASSETS OF CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMAD BIN SALMAN.**

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed report on the personal net worth and assets of the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad bin Salman.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of the most significant senior foreign political figures and members of the royal family in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as determined by their closeness to Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

(2) The estimated net worth and known sources of income of Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, his family members, and any individual identified in paragraph (1), including assets, investments, bank accounts, other business interests, and relevant beneficial ownership information.

(c) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in an unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

**SA 68.** Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. 500. SENSE OF SENATE ON FORMAL GRANT BY THE AFRICAN UNION OF OBSERVER STATUS FOR ISRAEL.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The Senate makes the following findings;

(1) Israel enjoyed observer status in the predecessor organization to the African Union known as the Organization of African Unity until its dissolution in 2002.

(2) The late Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi blocked Israel from obtaining observer status at the African Union in 2002.

(3) Israel, in the span of a few decades, has emerged as a developed nation and therefore offers an example of a path to economic progress for developing countries.

(4) Israel has long been an active and valuable partner to many African nations, cultivating strong numerous bilateral relationships across the continent.

(b) **SENSE OF SENATE.**—The Senate—

(1) encourages heightened cooperation between Israel and African nations, particularly in areas that are significant in progress towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(2) expects that the granting of observer status to Israel by the African Union will help enable such cooperation to develop between Israel and the African Union; and

(3) calls for the African Union to immediately accept the petition of Israel for observer status.

**SA 69.** Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. REED, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

**TITLE V—SAUDI ARABIA ACCOUNTABILITY AND YEMEN ACT OF 2019**

**SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Saudi Arabia Accountability and Yemen Act of 2019”.

**Subtitle A—Peaceful Resolution of the Civil War in Yemen and Protection of Civilians**

**SEC. 511. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to support United Nations-led efforts for a comprehensive political settlement that leads to a territorially unified, stable, and independent Yemen;

(2) to insist on the urgent need for a political solution, consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216 (2015), or any successor United Nations Security Council Resolution demanding an end to violence in Yemen and peaceful resolution of the conflict in that country;

(3) to reject all statements, policies, or actions advocating for a military solution to the civil war in Yemen;

(4) to encourage long-standing United States security partners, including the Government of Saudi Arabia and the Government of the United Arab Emirates, to take the lead in confidence-building measures that open space for political dialogue to end the war in Yemen and address the humanitarian crisis; and

(5) to support the implementation of the agreements reached between the parties to the conflict at Stockholm, Sweden on December 13, 2018, consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2451 (2018).

**SEC. 512. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) continued direct negotiations between the Government of Saudi Arabia, the internationally-recognized Government of Yemen, and representatives of the Houthi movement (also known as “Ansar Allah”) are required—

(A) to reach a political solution;

(B) to implement the agreements reached between the Saudi-led coalition, the internationally recognized Government of Yemen, local Yemeni forces, and Ansar Allah at Stockholm, Sweden on December 13, 2018 (referred to in this subtitle as the “Stockholm Agreement”);

(C) to address the suffering of the Yemeni people; and

(D) to counter efforts by Iran, al Qaeda, and ISIS to exploit instability for their own malign purposes;

(2) the Government of Saudi Arabia and the Government of the United Arab Emirates bear significant responsibility for the economic stabilization and eventual reconstruction of Yemen; and

(3) the United States and the international community must continue to support the work of United Nations Special Envoy Martin Griffiths to achieve a political solution to the civil war in Yemen, including by supporting the implementation of the Stockholm Agreement and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2451 (2018).

**SEC. 513. UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR ENDING THE WAR IN YEMEN.**

(a) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this subtitle, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(b) **STRATEGY.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until a complete cessation of hostilities in the Yemen civil war, the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director of National Intelligence shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees on the progress of the United States strategy to end the war in Yemen.

(c) **ELEMENTS.**—The briefing required under subsection (b) shall include—

(1) a summary of the United States national security interests threatened by continued civil war and instability in Yemen;

(2) a description of the steps necessary to end the civil war in Yemen and achieve a territorially unified, stable, and independent Yemen;

(3) a description of efforts to implement the Stockholm Agreement;

(4) a description of whether the Saudi-led coalition, the internationally recognized Government of Yemen, local Yemeni forces, and Ansar Allah are taking the necessary steps referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3);

(5) a description of United States activities to encourage all parties to take the necessary steps referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3);

(6) an assessment of the threat posed by Al Qaeda and the Islamic State in Yemen to United States national security, including—

(A) a comprehensive list of all sources of support received by these groups; and

(B) an assessment regarding whether the activities of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and the Islamic State in Yemen have ex-

panded or diminished since the beginning of the war in Yemen;

(7) an explanation of how the United States has used, and plans to use, its military and diplomatic leverage—

(A) to end the civil war in Yemen; and

(B) to move the stakeholders in the war toward a political process to end the war;

(8) an assessment of Iran’s activities in Yemen, including—

(A) a comprehensive summary of all recipients of illicit Iranian support in Yemen; and

(B) an assessment regarding whether the scope of Iran’s influence and activities in Yemen have increased or decreased since the beginning of the war in Yemen;

(9) a description of Russia’s activities in Yemen and an assessment of Russia’s objectives for such activities; and

(10) any other matters relevant to ending the civil war in Yemen.

**SEC. 514. REPORT ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, INCLUDING WAR CRIMES, AND OTHER HARM TO CIVILIANS IN YEMEN.**

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) all stakeholders in the conflict in Yemen should end all practices involving arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, torture, and other unlawful treatment;

(2) all stakeholders in the conflict in Yemen should reveal the fate or the location of all persons who have been subjected to enforced disappearance by such stakeholders;

(3) all persons who remain in custody as a result of the conflict in Yemen should be granted immediate access to their families;

(4) the locations of all detention facilities run or supervised by members of the Saudi-led coalition should be revealed and brought under the supervision of the Prosecutor General of Yemen;

(5) independent monitors should be granted access to all places of detention in Yemen;

(6) all stakeholders to the conflict in Yemen should fully cooperate with the United Nations Panel of Experts on Yemen.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the causes and consequences of civilian harm occurring in the armed conflict in Yemen, including war crimes, and gross violations of human rights as a result of the actions of all parties to the conflict.

(c) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under subsection (b) shall include—

(1) a description of civilian harm occurring in the context of the armed conflict in Yemen, including—

(A) mass casualty incidents; and

(B) damage to, and destruction of, civilian infrastructure and services, including—

(i) hospitals and other medical facilities;

(ii) electrical grids;

(iii) water systems;

(iv) ports and port infrastructure; and

(v) other critical infrastructure;

(2) violations of the law of armed conflict committed during the war in Yemen by—

(A) all forces involved in the Saudi-led coalition and all forces fighting on its behalf;

(B) members of the Houthi movement and all forces fighting on its behalf;

(C) members of violent extremist organizations; and

(D) any other combatants in the conflict;

(3) as examples of violations referred to in paragraph (2)—

(A) alleged war crimes;

(B) specific instances of failure by the parties to the conflict to exercise distinction, proportionality, and precaution in the use of force in accordance with the law of armed conflict;

(C) arbitrary denials of humanitarian access and the resulting impact on the alleviation of human suffering;

(D) detention-related abuses;

(E) the use of child soldiers, including members of the Sudanese paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (previously known as the “Janjaweed militia”); and

(F) other acts that may constitute violations of the law of armed conflict; and

(4) recommendations for establishing accountability mechanisms for the civilian harm, war crimes, other violations of the law of armed conflict, and gross violations of human rights perpetrated by parties to the conflict in Yemen, including—

(A) the potential for prosecuting individuals perpetrating, organizing, directing, or ordering such violations; and

(B) establishing condolence payments for the impacted members of the civilian population.

(d) FORM.—The report required under subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

#### SEC. 515. SUSPENSION OF ARMS TRANSFERS TO SAUDI ARABIA.

(a) RESTRICTION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on September 30, 2020, the United States Government—

(1) may not sell, transfer, or authorize licenses for export to the Government of Saudi Arabia any item designated under Category III, IV, VII, or VIII on the United States Munitions List pursuant to section 38(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(a)(1)); and

(2) shall suspend any licenses or other approvals that were issued before the date of the enactment of this Act for the export to the Government of Saudi Arabia of any item designated under Category IV of the United States Munitions List.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply to sales, transfers, or export licenses relating to ground-based missile defense systems.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the restriction under subsection (a) for items designated under Categories III, VII, and VIII of the United States Munitions List not earlier than 30 days after—

(1) the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, submits a written, unclassified certification to the appropriate congressional committees stating that—

(A) such waiver is in the national security interests of the United States;

(B) the Saudi-led coalition, during the 180-day period immediately preceding the date of such certification, has continuously—

(i) honored a complete cessation of hostilities in the Yemen civil war, including ending all air strikes and all offensive ground operations that are not associated with al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula or ISIS;

(ii) fully supported, in statements and actions, the work of United Nations Special Envoy Martin Griffiths to find a political solution to the conflict in Yemen; and

(iii) abstained from any actions to restrict, delay, or interfere with the delivery of cargo to or within Yemen unless—

(I) such action was taken exclusively to carry out inspections based on specific intelligence that a cargo shipment contains weapons prohibited under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216 (2015); and

(II) the Saudi-led coalition timely submitted any reports required under such Resolution after the conclusion of such action; and

(C) Ansar Allah or associated forces, during the 180-day period immediately preceding the date of such certification—

(i) launched missile or unmanned aerial vehicle strikes into Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates;

(ii) conducted ground incursions into the territory of Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates;

(iii) accepted weapons, weapons components, funding, or military training from the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(iv) attacked vessels in the Red Sea; or

(v) prohibited or otherwise restricted, directly or indirectly, the transport or delivery of humanitarian or commercial shipments to and within Yemen; and

(2) the Comptroller General of the United States, not later than 45 days after the submission of the certification under paragraph (1), submits a written, unclassified report to the appropriate congressional committees assessing the responsiveness, completeness, and accuracy of such certification.

(d) CLASSIFIED BRIEFING.—If the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense determine that Ansar Allah has engaged in any of the actions described in subsection (c)(1)(C), the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall provide a classified briefing to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 10 days after submitting the certification under subsection (c)(1) to provide details to support such determination.

#### SEC. 516. PROHIBITION ON IN-FLIGHT REFUELING OF SAUDI COALITION AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN YEMEN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No Federal funds may be obligated or expended under section 2342 of title 10, United States Code, or under any other applicable statutory authority, to provide in-flight refueling of Saudi or Saudi-led coalition non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the ongoing civil war in Yemen.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 30 days thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees detailing—

(1) the expenses incurred by the United States in providing in-flight refueling services for Saudi or Saudi-led coalition non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the civil war in Yemen between March 2015 and November 11, 2018; and

(2) the extent to which the expenses referred to in paragraph (1) have been reimbursed by members of the Saudi-led coalition.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (b) shall include—

(1) the total expenses incurred by the United States in providing in-flight refueling services, including fuel, flight hours, and other applicable expenses, to Saudi or Saudi-led coalition, non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the civil war in Yemen;

(2) the amount of the expenses described in paragraph (1) that have been reimbursed by each member of the Saudi-led coalition; and

(3) actions taken by the United States to recoup the unreimbursed expenses described in paragraph (1), including any commitments by members of the Saudi-led coalition to reimburse the United States for such expenses.

(d) SUNSET.—The reporting requirement under subsection (b) shall cease to be effective on the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits written certification to the appropriate congressional committees that all of the expenses incurred by the United States in providing in-flight refueling services for Saudi or Saudi-led coalition non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the civil war in Yemen have been reimbursed.

#### SEC. 517. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS HINDERING HUMANITARIAN ACCESS AND THREATENING THE PEACE OR STABILITY OF YEMEN.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President should continue to implement Executive Order 13611 (77 Fed. Reg. 29533), relating to blocking property of persons threatening the peace, security, or stability of Yemen.

(b) SANCTIONS AUTHORIZED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to each person that the President determines—

(1)(A) is knowingly blocking access to Yemeni ports, ports of entry, or other facilities used by the United Nations, its specialized agencies and implementing partners, national and international nongovernmental organizations, or any other actors engaged in humanitarian relief activities in Yemen; or

(B) is otherwise hindering the efforts of such organizations to deliver humanitarian relief, including through diversion of goods and materials intended to provide relief to civilians in Yemen;

(2)(A) is knowingly threatening the humanitarian actors referred to in paragraph (1)(A); or

(B) is engaging in acts of violence against such actors in Yemen or across conflict lines and borders;

(3) is responsible for actions or policies that are intended to undermine—

(A) the United Nations-led political process to end the conflict in Yemen; or

(B) efforts to promote stabilization and reconstruction in Yemen;

(4) is a successor entity to a person referred to in paragraphs (1) through (3);

(5) owns or controls, or is owned or controlled by, a person referred to in paragraphs (1) through (3);

(6) is acting for or, on behalf of, a person referred to in paragraphs (1) through (3); or

(7) has knowingly provided, or attempted to provide, financial, material, technological, or other support for, or goods or services in support of, a person referred to in paragraphs (1) through (3).

(c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—In accordance with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the President shall block all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property—

(i) are in the United States;

(ii) are transported into the United States; or

(iii) are in, or come into, the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(i) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES.—The Secretary of State shall deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall exclude from the United States, any alien subject to subsection (b).

(ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of any such officer or Secretary) shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien subject to subsection (b), regardless of when such visa was issued.

(II) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under subclause (I) shall take effect immediately and shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien’s possession.

(2) **INAPPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.**—The requirements under section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply for purposes of the imposition of sanctions under this section.

(3) **PENALTIES.**—Any person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation described in subsection (b), or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out such paragraph, shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section.

**SEC. 518. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS SUPPORTING THE HOUTHI IN YEMEN.**

(a) **DETERMINATION.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall determine if the Houthi movement (also known as “Ansar Allah”) has engaged meaningfully in United Nations-led efforts for a comprehensive political settlement that leads to a territorially unified, stable, and independent Yemen.

(b) **SANCTIONS.**—If the President is unable to make the determination described in subsection (a), the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) on any person that the President determines—

(1) has knowingly assisted, sponsored, provided, or attempted to provide significant financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the Houthi movement in Yemen, its successor entities, entities that own or control, or are owned or controlled by, the Houthi movement, or entities acting for, or on behalf of, the Houthi movement;

(2) has knowingly engaged in any activity that materially contributes to the supply, sale, or direct or indirect transfer to or from the Houthi movement in Yemen, its successor entities, entities that own or control, or are owned or controlled by, the Houthi movement, or entities acting for or on behalf of the Houthi movement, of any firearms or ammunition, battle tanks, armored vehicles, artillery or mortar systems, aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles or missile systems, or explosive mines of any type (as such terms are defined for the purpose of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms), ground-to-air missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, or related materiel, including spare parts;

(3) has knowingly provided any technical training, financial resources or services, advice, other services or assistance related to the supply, sale, transfer, manufacture, maintenance, or use of arms and related materiel described in paragraph (2) to the Houthi movement in Yemen, its successor entities, entities that own or control, or are owned or controlled by, the Houthi movement, or entities acting for or on behalf of the Houthi movement;

(4) is a successor entity to a person described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3);

(5) is an entity that owns or controls, or is owned or controlled by, a person described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3); or

(6) is an entity that is acting for, or on behalf of, a person referred to in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

(c) **SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) **ASSET BLOCKING.**—In accordance with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the President shall block all transactions in property, or interests in property, of a person subject to subsection (b) if such property or interests in property—

(i) are in the United States;

(ii) are transported into the United States; or

(iii) are in, or come into, the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) **ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—

(i) **EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES.**—The Secretary of State shall deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall exclude from the United States, any alien subject to subsection (b).

(ii) **CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.**—

(I) **IN GENERAL.**—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of any such officer or Secretary) shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien subject to subsection (b), regardless of when such visa was issued.

(II) **EFFECT OF REVOCATION.**—A revocation under subclause (I) shall take effect immediately and shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien’s possession.

(C) **DENIAL OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.**—Any letter of offer and acceptance, or license to export, any defense article or defense service controlled for export under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) or the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.), as continued in force by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), requested by a person described in subsection (b) shall be denied until the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Secretary of State certifies to Congress that any action by such person described in subsection (b) has ceased.

(2) **INAPPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.**—The requirements under section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply for purposes of the imposition of sanctions under this section.

(3) **PENALTIES.**—Any person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (b), or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out such paragraph, shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section.

(d) **EXCEPTION.**—The sanctions described in subsection (c)(1) shall not apply to any act incidental or necessary to the provision of urgently needed humanitarian assistance.

**SEC. 519. GAO REVIEW OF UNITED STATES MILITARY SUPPORT TO SAUDI-LED COALITION.**

(a) **REVIEW.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the United States military support to the Saudi-led coalition that evaluates—

(1) the manner and extent to which the United States military provides support to the Saudi-led coalition;

(2) how the Department of Defense prioritizes aerial refueling capabilities in support of the Saudi-led coalition;

(3) the manner and extent to which the United States has been reimbursed for aerial refueling support of Saudi-led coalition aircraft;

(4) whether and how the Department of Defense determines the extent to which its advice and assistance has reduced civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure, including evaluating a differentiation between dynamic and deliberate targeting by the Saudi-led coalition;

(5) whether and how the Department of Defense determines the efficacy of defensive advice and assistance to the Saudi-led coalition, including with respect to ballistic mis-

siles and other threats to the sovereignty of regional partners; and

(6) the responsiveness, completeness, and accuracy of any certifications submitted pursuant to section 1290 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232).

(b) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall provide the preliminary results of the review conducted under subsection (a) to the appropriate congressional committees.

(c) **FINAL REPORT.**—During the briefing required under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall notify the appropriate congressional committees when a final report summarizing the results of the review conducted under subsection (a) will be submitted to such committees.

**SEC. 520. EMERGENCY PROTECTION FOR YEMENI CULTURAL PROPERTY.**

Section 3 of the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act (Public Law 114-151; 130 Stat. 369) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “**AND YEMEN**” after “**SYRIAN**”;

(2) in subsection (a), by inserting “or Yemen” after “Syria” each place such term appears;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B)(i), by inserting “or the Government of Yemen” after “Government of Syria”;

(B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) by inserting “or Yemen” after “Syria” each of the first 2 places such term appears; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by inserting “or the United States and Yemen, as applicable,” after “United States and Syria”;

(4) in subsection (c), by inserting “or Yemen” after “Syria” each place such term appears; and

(5) in subsection (d), by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) **ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR ETHNOLOGICAL MATERIAL OF SYRIA OR YEMEN.**—The term ‘archaeological or ethnological material of Syria or Yemen’ means cultural property (as defined in section 302 of the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 2601)) that—

“(A) is unlawfully removed from Syria on or after March 15, 2011; or

“(B) is unlawfully removed from Yemen on or after March 15, 2015.”

**Subtitle B—Saudi Arabia Accountability**

**SEC. 521. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF JAMAL KHASHOGGI.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1263 of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “(b)” and inserting “(c)”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (j) as subsections (c) through (k), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) **JAMAL KHASHOGGI.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of the Saudi Arabia Accountability and Yemen Act of 2019, the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to any foreign person, including any official of the government of Saudi Arabia or member of the royal family of Saudi Arabia that the President determines, based on credible evidence—

“(1) was responsible for, or complicit in, ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing an act or acts contributing to or causing the death of Jamal Khashoggi; or

“(2) has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of an activity described in paragraph (1).”;

(4) in subsection (d), as redesignated, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “or (b)” after “subsection (a)”;

(5) in subsection (f), as redesignated, by striking “subsection (b)(1)” and inserting “subsection (c)(1)”;

(6) in subsection (j), as redesignated, by inserting “or (b)” after “subsection (a)”;

(7) in subsection (k), as redesignated, by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

“(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

“(2) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

“(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

“(4) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

“(5) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.”

(b) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 45 days thereafter, the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of National Intelligence, shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 1263(k) of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, as amended by subsection (a)(7)) regarding the implementation of the amendment made by subsection (a)(3).

#### SEC. 522. REPORT ON SAUDI ARABIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in accordance with section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(c)), shall submit an unclassified, written report to Congress that—

(1) includes the information required under such section 502B(c);

(2) describes the extent to which officials of the Government of Saudi Arabia, including members of the military or security services, are responsible for or complicit in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, including violations of the human rights of journalists, bloggers, and those who support women's rights or religious freedom;

(3) describes the extent to which the Government of Saudi Arabia—

(A) has knowingly blocked access to Yemeni ports, ports of entry, or other facilities used by the United Nations, its specialized agencies and implementing partners, national and international nongovernmental organizations, or any other actors engaged in humanitarian relief activities in Yemen;

(B) has hindered the efforts of the organizations referred to in subparagraph (A) to deliver humanitarian relief, including through diversion of goods and materials intended to provide relief to civilians in Yemen;

(C) has prohibited or directly or indirectly restricted the transport or delivery of United States humanitarian assistance to Yemen; and

(D) complied with the Secretary of State's statement on October 30, 2018, related to “ending the conflict in Yemen”;

(4) identifies the percentage by which civilian casualties and deaths, respectively, increased as a result of Saudi coalition air strikes in Yemen between November 2017 and August 2018.

#### Subtitle C—General Provisions

##### SEC. 531. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this title may be construed to limit the authority of the President pursu-

ant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

##### SEC. 532. SUNSET.

This title shall cease to be effective on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SA 70.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:  
The provisions in this Act shall go into effect 1 day after enactment.

**SA 71.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”.

**SA 72.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:  
The provisions in this Act shall go into effect 3 days after enactment.

**SA 73.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “3” and insert “4”.

**SA 74.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:  
The provisions in this Act shall go into effect 5 days after enactment.

**SA 75.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “5” and insert “6”.

**SA 76.** Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

##### SEC. \_\_\_\_ ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS THAT ARE OFFICIALS, AGENTS, OR AFFILIATES OF, OR OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY, IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act”.

(b) ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS.—Section 301(a) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8741(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and as appropriate thereafter,” and inserting “Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act, and every 180 days thereafter,”;

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “, or owned or controlled by,” after “affiliates of”; and

(B) by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) identify foreign persons with respect to which there is a reasonable basis to determine that the foreign persons have, directly or indirectly, conducted one or more sensitive transactions or activities described in subsection (c) for or on behalf of a foreign person described in paragraph (1).”

(c) AUTHORIZATION; PRIORITY FOR INVESTIGATION; REPORTS.—Section 301(b) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8741(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) AUTHORIZATION; PRIORITY FOR INVESTIGATION; REPORTS.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—In identifying foreign persons pursuant to subsection (a)(1) as owned or controlled by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, the President is authorized to identify foreign persons in which Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps has an ownership interest of less than 50 percent.

“(2) PRIORITY FOR INVESTIGATION.—In identifying foreign persons pursuant to subsection (a)(1) as officials, agents, or affiliates

of, or owned or controlled by, Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, the President shall investigate—

“(A) foreign persons identified under section 560.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to the definition of the Government of Iran); and

“(B) foreign persons for which there is a reasonable basis to find that the person has conducted or attempted to conduct one or more sensitive transactions or activities described in subsection (c).

“(3) REPORT.—

“(A) DETERMINATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The President shall determine whether each foreign person described in clause (ii) is owned or controlled by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps.

“(ii) FOREIGN PERSONS DESCRIBED.—The foreign persons described in this clause are the following:

“(I) The Telecommunication Company of Iran.

“(II) The Mobile Telecommunication Company of Iran (MTCL).

“(III) The Calcemin Public Company.

“(IV) The Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company.

“(V) The Iran Tractor Motors Manufacturing Company.

“(VI) The Iran Zinc Mines Development Company.

“(VII) The National Iranian Lead and Zinc Company.

“(VIII) The Iran Mineral Products Company.

“(IX) Tosee Energy Paivaran Company.

“(B) REPORT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the determinations made under subparagraph (A) together with the reasons for those determinations.

“(ii) FORM.—A report submitted under clause (i) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

“(4) ADDITIONAL REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes a detailed list of foreign persons in which there is a reasonable basis to determine that Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps has an ownership interest of not less than 33 percent.

“(B) FORM.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.”

(d) SENSITIVE TRANSACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—Section 301(c) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8741(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “\$1,000,000” and inserting “\$500,000”; and

(B) by inserting “Iranian financial institution or” after “involving a”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraphs:

“(3) a transaction to provide material support for an organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a)) or support for an act of international terrorism (as defined in section 14 of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note));

“(4) a transaction to provide material support to a foreign person whose property and

interests in property have been blocked pursuant to Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism);

“(5) a transaction to provide material support for—

“(A) the Government of Syria or any agency or instrumentality thereof; or

“(B) any entity owned or controlled by the Government of Syria, including for purposes of post-conflict reconstruction;”.

(e) WAIVER OF IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—Section 301(e) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8741(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “(A) determines” and inserting “(A)(i) determines”;

(B) by striking “(B) submits” and inserting “(ii) submits”;

(C) by striking “(i) identifies” and inserting “(I) identifies”;

(D) by striking “(ii) sets” and inserting “(II) sets”;

(E) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) with respect to a foreign person identified under subsection (a)(3) by reason of having conducted or attempted to conduct one or more sensitive transactions or activities described in subsection (c)(5), also certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps is significantly decreasing provision of direct or indirect material support to the Government of Syria or Hezbollah's operations in Syria.”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “paragraph (1)(B)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(A)(ii)”.

(f) REGULATIONS, IMPLEMENTATION, PENALTIES, AND DEFINITIONS.—Section 301 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8741) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ‘foreign person’ means—

“(A) an individual who is not a United States person;

“(B) a corporation, partnership, or other nongovernmental entity that is not a United States person; or

“(C) any representative, agent, or instrumentality of, or an individual working on behalf of, a foreign government.

“(2) IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS.—The term ‘Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps’ includes any senior foreign political figure (as defined in section 1010.605 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations) of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps.”.

(g) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking the heading of section 301 and inserting the following:

“SEC. 301. IDENTIFICATION OF, AND IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO, FOREIGN PERSONS THAT ARE OFFICIALS, AGENTS, OR AFFILIATES OF, OR OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY, IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS.”;

and

(2) in the table of contents, by striking the item relating to section 301 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 301. Identification of, and imposition of sanctions with respect to, foreign persons that are officials, agents, or affiliates of, or owned or controlled by, Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps.”.

(h) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(2) GOOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “good” means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(i) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and apply with respect to conduct described in section 301(a) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, as amended by this section, engaged in on or after such date of enactment.

**SA 77.** Mr. PETERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 43, beginning on line 13, strike “that a prospective contractor” and insert “only in the case of a prospective contractor with 50 or more employees, that the prospective contractor”.

**SA 78.** Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 42, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

(1) EXCLUSION OF SOLE PROPRIETORSHIPS.—The State or local government measure shall not apply to any sole proprietorship.

**SA 79.** Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**TITLE —PROMOTION OF PEACE AND SECURITY FOR KURDISH ALLIES IN SYRIA**  
**SEC. . SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Promotion of Peace and Security Act”.

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . AUTHORIZATION.**

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The President is hereby authorized to undertake military assistance and use of armed forces, if the President determines it necessary and appropriate, to defend the Kurds in Syria against armed aggression from any country or terrorist organization.

**(b) WAR POWERS RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS.—**

(1) **SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION.**—Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(a)(1)), Congress declares that this section is intended to constitute specific statutory authorization within the meaning of section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(b)).

(2) **APPLICABILITY OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS.**—Nothing in this title supersedes any requirements of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

**SA 80.** Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

**TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS****SEC. 501. SENSE OF THE SENATE CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FOR ITS SUPPORT OF MILITANT GROUPS THAT THREATEN THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The goals of the Government of Iran are to expand its regional influence by military means and by destabilizing its neighbors by all means.

(2) Since 1979, the Iranian regime has engaged in various destabilizing activities that undermine the national security of the United States and its regional allies and partners.

(3) The Government of Iran does this by providing a wide range of support to militant groups and by increasing its nuclear and conventional capability.

(4) The Department of State has designated Iran as a state sponsor of terrorism since 1984 and has characterized Iran as the “most active state sponsor of terrorism” in the world.

(5) Iranian leadership has repeatedly called for the destruction of the United States and Israel.

(6) According to the Department of State’s Country Reports on Terrorism, Iran has armed Hizballah, Hamas and other terrorist organizations, providing hundreds of millions of dollars in support, and training thousands of their fighters.

(7) Weapons supplied by the Government of Iran have targeted United States citizens, most notably the Iranian-supplied Explosive

Formed Projectiles, the most deadly and sophisticated Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) on the battlefield, which have killed and injured thousands of members of the United States Armed Forces in Iraq.

(8) Thwarting Iran’s hegemonic ambitions in the region brings long-term peace and stability, which thereby promotes the security of the United States and our partners.

(b) **SENSE OF THE SENATE.**—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States Government should reaffirm its commitment not to equip the Government of Iran with the material and strategic means to further finance or expand acts of terrorism; and

(2) the United States Government should reaffirm its commitment to encourage global and regional security in the Middle East by strongly supporting allies and strategic partners.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 9 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on China and Russia.

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS**

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Nicole R. Nason, of New York, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation.

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Drug Pricing in America: A Prescription for Change, Part I”.

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS**

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Access to Care: Health Centers and Providers in Underserved Communities”.

**COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an organizational and business meeting.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Open Hearing on Worldwide Threats”.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 1 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY**

The Subcommittee on Cybersecurity of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Examining Department of Defense enterprise-wide cybersecurity policies and architecture.”

**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2019**

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 noon, Wednesday, January 30; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of S. 1 for debate only.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 12 NOON TOMORROW**

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:17 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, January 30, 2019, at 12 noon.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise today to celebrate Black History Month and its 2019 theme—Black Migrations. This year's theme reflects on the mass movement of African Americans from the rural south to northern, western, and mid-western cities of the United States from approximately 1916 to 1970. This profound movement has played a critical role in changing the landscape of American society for the better and has helped to shape our wonderfully diverse and truly remarkable nation.

During World War I, the first large migrations took place, with over 400,000 African Americans moving from the south and inhabiting major northern cities such as Chicago, Detroit, and Pittsburgh. In the 1920s, another 800,000 people left the south, followed by another 400,000 in the 1930s. Between 1940 and 1960, over 3,300,000 African Americans had migrated from southern states to resettle in northern and western cities. While there were numerous reasons for this migration, many individuals and families were hoping to escape the economic oppression they were experiencing in the south, which left little room for economic growth. World War I created a demand for workers in the steel mills, factories, and railroads, and most people moved for higher paying jobs. When the migration began, a factory wage in the north was more than three times the amount an African American could expect to make working the land in the south. By World War II, African American people continued to move north but also settled west, in California, Oregon, and Washington.

Black migration influenced religion, music, literature, arts, social perspectives, tradition, and the history of our nation, and we are forever grateful for the impact it had on creating a rich, culturally diverse America. In addition, African Americans now had a new voice in shaping public policy through political activism. However, while the movement brought more opportunity and ideas, African Americans continued to fight with racism, prejudice, and injustice. During this time, there were numerous race riots in the north, including the Chicago Race Riot of 1919, which lasted thirteen days, leaving 38 people dead, 537 people injured, and 1,000 black families without homes. While our great country has made tremendous strides in the fight for equality and civil rights, there is much work to be done.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating Black History Month. This month and always, it is important that we honor and celebrate America's greatest advocates for equal rights and civil liberties. As we pay tribute to these

heroes of American history, let us remember their profound perseverance, sacrifice, and struggle in the fight for freedom and equality, and the remarkable impact their contributions have had in shaping our great nation.

### RECOGNIZING RABBI DAVID STEINHARDT'S 25 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO B'NAI TORAH CONGREGATION

#### HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of the important work done by Rabbi David Steinhardt of B'nai Torah Congregation.

For 25 years, Rabbi Steinhardt has offered a religious home in the B'nai Torah congregation. As a member myself, the Rabbi has brought words of wisdom, healing, and inspiration to me, my family, and the Jewish community of Boca Raton. His deep commitment to teaching and advancing Jewish values has brought B'nai Torah to preeminence. His sermons reinforce our values and provide spiritual guidance, and his deep commitment to Israel is most appreciated by our community. For these 25 years of leadership, I am grateful for Rabbi Steinhardt.

In times of hardship, such as after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Rabbi Steinhardt has created a space for mourning and healing within B'nai Torah. After the Tree of Life synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, he welcomed local leaders of all religious denominations for a powerful community-wide vigil. Rabbi Steinhardt's work with the Interfaith Clergy Association has contributed significantly to the strength of our broader community.

As we begin this new year, I am confident Rabbi David Steinhardt will continue to be a cherished member of the Boca Raton community. I greatly appreciate Rabbi Steinhardt's dedication to the congregants of B'nai Torah and the people of South Florida, and I am pleased to honor him.

### CHRISTIAN BANZIGER EARNS THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christian Banziger of Sugar Land, TX for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout is the highest honor a Boy Scout can earn.

Only a small percentage of Boy Scouts reach the rank of Eagle Scout. This honor requires years of effort to develop the necessary

leadership, service and outdoor skills. To earn it, Christian developed and provided leadership to others in a service project. For his project, Christian built a table and benches for the Arya Samaj Greater Houston and Vedic Culture Center. His dedication to our community has prepared him to be a leader in his future career. The leadership skills he has learned through Boy Scouts are already benefiting our community, just as the contributions of Boy Scouts continue to benefit our communities in countless ways.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Christian Banziger for becoming an Eagle Scout. We are proud of his continued success and thank him for his dedication to making our community a better place.

### CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California (BBBS) on the occasion of their 50th anniversary. Since its creation, BBBS has assisted in establishing meaningful, professional, and long-lasting relationships between adult volunteers and young adults.

Big Brothers of America was created in 1904, by Ernest Kent Coulter. Ernest worked as a children's court clerk in New York City and watched countless young boys shuffle in and out of the courtroom. He believed that if caring adults could guide and help the children, they could stay away from trouble and grow up to become productive members of their community. At the same time, members of the organization Ladies of Charity, were maintaining friendships with young girls who had gone through the New York children's court. This organization would become the Catholic Big Sisters. This growing movement of mentorship brought caring role models into the lives of children across the nation.

In 1946, the United States Congress recognized Big Brothers of America as a social welfare organization. The simultaneous growth of the two organizations led to the merging of Big Brothers of America and Big Sisters of America into Big Brothers Big Sisters of America in 1977.

Locally, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California has served over 20,000 children and their families. In 1997, satellite offices were opened in Hanford and Madera, to cover an expanded service area of Kings and Madera counties. Expanding yet again, in late 2007 BBBS merged with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tulare County and became the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California to reflect their new region. Today, BBBS Central California

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

serve four counties in the Central Valley and serves over 1,000 children each year through various mentorship programs.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California's 50th anniversary. I commend the service of all past and present members of this organization, who have worked collectively to motivate, promote, support, and educate children and young adults in Central California.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 367, THE PAY  
OUR COAST GUARD PARITY ACT  
OF 2019

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the unfortunate position the brave members of our Coast Guard were put in due to the recent shutdown. Even while they operated without pay, these courageous men and women continued to serve our country and I would like to highlight some of their stories.

On January 12th, a Coast Guard aircrew responded to two surfers in distress off the Oregon Coast who had been pushed by the surf into a cliffside cove. Once on scene, the crew was able to hoist the surfers out of the water and get them to safety. On Christmas Eve of last year, the Coast Guard interdicted a migrant boat off the coast of the Dominican Republic. Onboard, the crews found 100 kilograms of cocaine heading for the United States. On January 6th, the Coast Guard Cutter *Vigilant* assisted the Haitian government in stopping a small boat dangerously overloaded with 70 Haitian migrants. The Coast Guard worked jointly with Haiti to stop the illegal immigration and maintain the safety of life at sea, something they regularly work with international partners to accomplish.

These are just a few examples of the great work our Coast Guard does every day to protect the people in and around our waterways as well as in our country. Yet unlike the other branches in our armed forces who selflessly serve this country, our Coast Guard men and women were not getting compensated for their work during the shutdown. In 2013, Congress passed the Pay Our Military Act before a shutdown began to make sure members in the armed forces were able to collect their paychecks. I emphasize that this was done before the 2013 shutdown because we just went a little over a month in one and even with introduced legislation to make sure our Coast Guard got paid, we didn't act on it.

There were 41,000 Active Duty Coast Guard members, 6,200 reservists, and 8,500 civilian personnel affected by the shutdown. It is estimated that 31 percent of Active Duty members do not have the savings needed to cover one month's worth of expenses. Moreover, some 13 percent do not have any emergency savings at all. This is not to mention the other benefits the Service members were missing out on like child care programs, death benefits, housing allowances, and required travel costs. Meanwhile, the negative impact on recruiting and retention of members due to the instability will likely have lasting effects long after the shutdown.

My state is home to U.S. Coast Guard Base Kodiak, the largest Coast Guard base in the nation. From there, they coordinate a multitude of operations in the waters around Alaska, including north in the Arctic. They patrol our waters to ensure the proper adherence of fishing laws and regulations, coordinate search and rescue efforts, help establish and maintain aids to navigation, and conduct other missions to help save lives and strengthen national security. As the United States' only surface presence in the Arctic, their mission to ensure safe maritime activity and safeguard national security has gained importance due to the growing presence of Russia and China in the region. This mission is sure to only become even more significant as these foreign powers continue to expand their influence.

Madam Speaker, I could go on about the many great things our Coast Guard does for both the state of Alaska and the United States as a whole, but I believe it is well understood in this chamber and across the country. With the threat of another shutdown in the near future, I fear that the members of our Coast Guard will be put in the same position again. That is why I urge we move to immediately bring up and pass H.R. 367, the Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2019, to make sure they are compensated moving forward. Meanwhile, I call on all members in Congress to come to the table and work with the Administration so that we can make a long-term agreement that is beneficial for all federal employees and prevent another shutdown.

THE FLOOD INSURANCE FOR  
FARMERS ACT OF 2019

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "Flood Insurance for Farmers Act of 2019," with my colleague Congressman DOUG LAMALFA (R-CA). This bipartisan bill builds upon the "Flood and Agriculture Risk Management (FARM) Cost Reduction Act of 2017" and legislation I sponsored in the 114th Congress.

The "Flood Insurance for Farmers Act of 2019" would provide access to discounted rates under the National Flood Insurance Program to families who have farmed the Sacramento Valley floodplain for generations. This will help keep agricultural land in production, which is the best way to push back against irresponsible subdivisions in the floodplain that place lives at risk and force farms onto the auction block.

Under current law, areas designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as "Special Flood Hazard Areas" require that all new, expanded, or repaired structures be raised above potential flood level. In much of the Sacramento Valley, this would require raising barns and silos upwards of 10 feet, which is cost prohibitive for many farmers or simply inconsistent with continued agricultural land use.

Currently, FEMA assumes there is zero protection if a levee does not meet the federally mandated 100-year level of flood protection and charges full-cost rates under the National Flood Insurance Program. This effectively pre-

cludes Sacramento Valley farmers from making capital improvements on their operations or securing the necessary financing for such capital improvements. Our bipartisan bill would lift this de facto federal prohibition on new construction and repairs of agricultural structures in high flood-risk areas designated by FEMA.

Specifically, the "Flood Insurance for Farmers Act" would direct FEMA to develop a new flood mapping zone for basins in the Sacramento Valley and elsewhere nationwide protected by levees that do not currently meet the federally mandated 100-year level of flood protection. Rates charged under the National Flood Insurance Program in this new flood zone would be based on actuarial risk. This means that if levees provide a 50-year level of flood protection, FEMA would charge rates based on that discounted risk level. This ensures that farming families can get more affordable flood insurance that reflects the levees they pay to upkeep.

The "Flood Insurance for Farmers Act" is endorsed by the California Rice Commission, USA Rice Federation, American Farm Bureau Federation, California Farm Bureau Federation, Sacramento County Farm Bureau, Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau, Yolo County Farm Bureau, California Cattlemen's Association, Dairy Institute of California, and the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency.

I thank Congressman LAMALFA for his support as the bill's original cosponsor and look forward to continuing to work together on this critical issue for Sacramento Valley farmers. I also want to thank all the California-based and national organizations that have endorsed the bill, to date.

Madam Speaker, I hope that Congress will include the "Flood Insurance for Farmers Act" in any reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program. I urge all Members to join me and Congressman LAMALFA in cosponsoring this important legislation for American farmers.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOHN R.  
MASLY AND HIS 50 YEARS OF  
SERVICE IN THE ARMY RE-  
SERVES

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. John Masly and his long, distinguished career spanning just over 50 years as both a civilian and as an officer in the Army Reserves. In addition to this statement of his service, he will be sent a United States flag that has been flown over our great Capitol.

On January 2 of this year, Mr. Masly formally retired from the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development, and Engineering Center at Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey. He had begun his career in 1968 in the Nuclear and Fuze Division. Over the years, he was awarded several patents and published several technical reports in support of the division mission. Mr. Masly also served as Lieutenant Colonel for the Corps of Engineers in the Army Reserve. In 1984, he took a position at the Depot Systems Command Facility in Mainz, Germany. In 1993, he returned to the

ARDEC Fuze Division where supported the development and production of multiple fuze programs. Notably, he made essential contributions to warfighter battle command training exercises.

I ask that we take a moment to recognize Mr. John Masly for his exceptional life of service and his significant contributions to our nation. We should ever be grateful for men and women like him and hope that his contributions and dedication inspire others to do the same.

COMMEMORATING ILLINOIS' 18TH  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, as we recognize National Catholic Schools Week of 2019, I would like to recognize all the Catholic schools and parishes in the 18th Congressional District of Illinois and across the nation that will be participating in this year's activities. This week, over six thousand Catholic schools will host more than two million students to celebrate this year's theme: "Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed."

As a graduate of St. Anne Grade School in East Moline, Illinois and Spalding Catholic High School in Peoria, Illinois, it is my privilege to celebrate with Catholic schools across my District. The education and religious values that these institutions instill serve as a strong foundation for a devoted relationship with God and inform our daily lives with lessons of faith.

This week we recognize the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to Church, communities, and the nation. I would like to formally recognize the Catholic Schools in Illinois' 18th Congressional District celebrating this week:

St. Edward Catholic—Chillicothe; Our Saviour—Jacksonville; Blessed Sacrament—Quincy; Holy Cross Catholic—Mendota; St. Patrick Catholic—Springfield; Carroll Catholic—Lincoln; St. Patrick Catholic—Washington; St. Mary's—Bloomington; Holy Family Parish—Peoria; St. Philomena—Peoria; Corpus Christi—Bloomington; Epiphany Catholic—Normal; Routt Catholic High—Jacksonville; Quincy Notre Dame High—Quincy; Christ the King—Springfield; St. Vincent de Paul Catholic—Peoria; Peoria Notre Dame High—Peoria; St. Mary's Grade School—Metamora; St. Mary's Catholic—Kickapoo; Central Catholic High—Bloomington; Little Flower Catholic—Springfield; Blessed Sacrament Catholic—Morton; St. Thomas the Apostle—Peoria Heights; St. Agnes—Springfield; St. Paul Catholic—Macomb; Sts. Peter & Paul—Nauvoo; St. Jude Catholic—Peoria; St. Peter—Quincy; St. Joseph Catholic—Pekin; St. Francis Solanus—Quincy; St. Aloysius—Springfield; St. Dominic—Quincy; St. Mary—Mt. Sterling; St. Mark Catholic—Peoria.

While we reflect this week on the impact that our schools have had on our spiritual growth, let us also recognize the contributions that the National Catholic Educational Association continually provides for our communities. Once again, I am pleased to commemorate the 2019 National Catholic Schools

Week and I look forward to many more years of continued success and celebration.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND CHIEF  
MASTER SERGEANT ERICKA E.  
KELLY

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize Command Chief Master Sergeant Ericka E. Kelly, upon her retirement after 32 years of distinguished military service to our great Nation in the United States Air Force and Air Force Reserve.

Chief Kelly's career culminated with her final assignment as both the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the Air Force Reserve, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., and Command Chief of the Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. Chief Kelly represents the highest enlisted executive level of leadership in Air Force Reserve Command and advises the commander on all issues regarding the readiness, training, welfare, morale, proper utilization and progress of more than 55,000 enlisted Citizen Airmen. She also provides direction to the Reserve force and represents their interests at all levels of government to other military branches and in joint strategic and operational war-fighting environments.

Chief Master Sergeant Kelly came from exceptionally humble beginnings in Guatemala and overcame extreme adversity to achieve her American dream. Immigrating to the United States at the age of 12, she had to work full-time to help support her family before finishing high school at night to earn her diploma. Knowing from a young age she wanted to serve in our nation's military, her dogged determination is the epitome of personal resilience.

Chief Kelly's career began in the medical field as a medical services specialist. Recognizing her talents, the Air Force challenged her through increased responsibilities and she continued to grow and excel as an aeromedical evacuation crew member with over 1,400 flight hours on various airframes. Chief Kelly has deployed numerous times in support of contingency operations around the world including Restore Hope and Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

In addition to her military service, Chief Kelly has more than 20 years of government, management and law enforcement experience. She has served as a field agent and criminal investigator for the Department of Justice in numerous agencies including the Office of Professional Responsibility. She is also a John Maxwell certified speaker, coach and trainer.

Throughout her tenure, Chief Kelly has been instrumental in advocating for Reservists across the globe and strengthening the total force team. She has ensured Air Force Reserve interests and total force solutions were highlighted and incorporated into decisions made at the highest levels of the Air Force guaranteeing Air Force Reserve Airmen ready to answer our nation's call.

Due to Chief Master Sergeant Ericka Kelly's visionary leadership, foresight and ceaseless

efforts, the Air Force, the Department of Defense, and the Nation will long reap the benefits of her many years of service. It is experienced, dedicated, professional Citizen Airmen like Chief Master Sergeant Kelly who make the Department of Defense and the Air Force Reserve the outstanding institutions that they are today.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to Chief Master Sergeant Ericka E. Kelly for her many years of dedicated service. There is no question the Air Force, Department of Defense, and the United States benefited greatly from Chief Kelly's visionary leadership, planning and foresight, and we wish her the very best.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF JEREMY  
DESSELLIER FOR HIS LEADERSHIP  
AND HEROISM

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Chief Jeremy Dessellier of the Hubbell Fire Department for his leadership and heroism following the 2018 Father's Day flooding in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Through his actions, Chief Dessellier has shown himself to be selfless, courageous, and an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

During the 2018 Father's Day weekend, multiple rounds of heavy rain fell across much of the Upper Peninsula. Almost 7 inches of rain came down on the Keweenaw Peninsula overnight, creating flash floods that washed out roads, destroyed homes, and caused massive damage to the area. A state of disaster was declared as the community came together to rescue those in danger and begin recovery efforts. Local first responders joined with state officials, the Red Cross, and hundreds of volunteers to help the region rebuild.

In the days and weeks following the flooding, the leadership of Chief Dessellier was critical to the success of these efforts. He took calls and meetings with residents, organized supplies, led volunteers, and went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the health and well-being of those in his fire precinct and beyond. Under his leadership, volunteers were able to ensure the safety of community members and move significant amounts of earth and water from local homes and streets. The heroic actions of Chief Dessellier and his volunteers serve as an inspiration for those in Michigan's First District. His devotion to public duty has touched the lives of countless Michiganders, and the impact of his heroism cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Chief Jeremy Dessellier for his exceptional leadership and heroism. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless and courageous individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Chief Dessellier all the best in his future endeavors.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

Ms. FRANKEL. Madam Speaker, on roll call votes 52, 53, and 54, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA," "YEA," and "YEA" respectively.

IN HONOR OF LANCE CORPORAL  
RILEY S. KUZNIA

**HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

Mr. PETERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lance Corporal Riley S. Kuznia of Karlstad, Minnesota who was tragically killed at the age of 20 from an accidental weapon discharge on January 1, 2019 at the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C. From a young age, Lance Corporal Kuznia wanted to serve in the military and committed himself to protecting our country.

Lance Corporal Kuznia's leadership abilities were evident from the very beginning of his service. After graduating from Tri-County High School in 2017, he joined the Marine Corps within days of turning 18. He was soon serving on active duty at the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C., the oldest post of the Corps, and responsible for post security and policing at the barracks. According to the Star Tribune, the post's commanding officer, Colonel Don Tomich, said, "Riley was a highly driven and goal-oriented Marine whose positive attitude set the example here at the barracks." It was clear that he loved serving in the Marine Corps, and he had a bright future ahead of him.

I wish to extend my condolences to the family of Lance Corporal Kuznia. He was a bright young man whose discipline and commitment should be admired by this Congress.

COMMEMORATING THE FORTIETH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE NA-  
TIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOND  
LAWYERS

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's Fifteenth Congressional District and join with my colleague, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the National Association of Bond Lawyers.

Since its inception in 1979, the National Association of Bond Lawyers has worked diligently to advance the integrity and knowledge of the municipal market. Through the education of its members and other public finance stakeholders, the Association has aided countless communities in finding creative financing opportunities to reach their goals.

As Co-Chairs of the House of Representatives Municipal Finance Caucus, we appre-

ciate the Association's continued commitment to education and the expertise its Members are able to provide relating to legislation, regulations, and rulings affecting tax-exempt bonds and taxable bonds, as well as court and administrative proceedings. These bonds are a crucial funding source for the critical infrastructure that spans our nation, delivering essential services and uniting millions of Americans.

United by a common goal and working for the public good, the Association has been an important partner for Congress, industry partners, and federal regulators. Never straying from its core mission, education, the forum the Association provides has led to advancements in the field of public finance for the past four decades.

We wish to congratulate President Dee Wisor and the entire Executive Board, and the dedicated Members across the country, as they commemorate this milestone on February 5, 2019, and encourage our colleagues to join us in wishing the National Association of Bond Lawyers many more years of success.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SHERI  
BOHIGIAN

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Sheri Bohigian, who passed away on December 20, 2018 at the age of 72. Sheri will be remembered as a loving wife, mother and dedicated member of our community. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor Sheri for her dedication to our Valley.

Sheri was born on November 11, 1946 in Fresno, California to Kent and Nikki Bowlan. Her father was a Colonel in the United States Air Force, which required the family to move frequently. They traveled to Scotland, the Marshall Islands, Alaska, Illinois, Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Traveling became one of Sheri's favorite things to do. Sheri's parents gave her the motivation she needed to help her believe in herself. Her mother's outgoing personality and father's humble traits shaped her into a selfless, eating young lady. These traits went along with her everywhere she went.

Sheri attended the University of Missouri, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. She then met the love of her life Tom Bohigian. They were blessed with one son, Stephen. Throughout their marriage Sheri and Tom shared many memorable moments, traveling and camping at Lake Tahoe, Yosemite, and Kings Canyon National Park and exploring parts of Europe together. Sheri also enjoyed the company of her many dear friends, frequently hosting dinners and gatherings in her home.

Sheri served her community in a number of ways. She was on the Board of Directors and volunteered for the San Joaquin River Parkway. Sheri retired from the San Joaquin Valley Air District after nine years of service. She cared about the world around her and hoped to leave it a better place for generations to come.

Sheri is survived by her husband Tom, son Stephen, and many wonderful friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Sheri Bohigian. Sheri leaves behind a remarkable legacy of love and selflessness. It is my honor to stand with Sheri's family in celebration of her great life.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. J. DAVID  
KEANEY

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate J. David Keaney on receiving career recognition by the National Electrical Contractors Association ("NECA") and his retirement as Executive Manager of the Western Massachusetts and Central Massachusetts Chapters of NECA.

Dave Keaney grew up in Western Massachusetts. He graduated from Cathedral High School and attended American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts obtaining a bachelor's degree in 1961 and master's degree in 1965. He went on to attend Western New England College Law School and was a member of the class of 1970. He was subsequently admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in 1972. His political relationship with Western Massachusetts began with the friendship of Mayor William Sullivan and culminated as General Counsel for Sheriff Michael Ashe of Hampden County. This relationship would serve him well, leading him to work for the Second Congressional District and the Hon. Edward Patrick Boland, Jr. beginning on December 1, 1968. Dave would serve Congressman Boland for twenty years. He would go on to serve in my Congressional office for the next twelve years offering me unwavering advice on all matters affecting the constituency of the district. His counsel in these areas was uncompromising and steadfast.

Over Mr. Keaney's 46 years of service to NECA he has been essential to the harmony of labor relations between electrical contractors and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers ("IBEW") in both Western and Central Massachusetts. Dave has negotiated dozens of labor agreements and resolved labor disputes with the local IBEW unions, both in Massachusetts and in Washington, D.C., always in a professional manner aimed at furthering the industry for the benefit of all.

Mr. Keaney has also chaired and served on numerous committees focused on improving the health and welfare of workers, pension funds, and the training and education of electricians. He has assisted with the implementation of joint apprenticeship and training programs in Springfield and Worcester, established to educate and train members of the IBEW to become superior electricians and leaders in the industry.

Madam Speaker, through his counsel, leadership, and collegiality, Dave Keaney has assisted contractors and electricians to bring power, light, and communications technology to Western and Central Massachusetts communities; always leaving customers satisfied with the work provided. Dave's advice and counsel to generations of electrical contractors has enhanced the chapter's market share, provided impacted workplace safety and productivity, and created mutually beneficial working conditions for electrical contractors and

workers alike. I wish my friend all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for his public service and his contribution to the industry.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, January 24, 2019, I missed votes in the House due to a family commitment in Illinois. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 50; and "nay" on Roll Call No. 51.

INTRODUCTION OF CIVICS LEARNING ACT OF 2019

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Civics Learning Act of 2019, a bipartisan bill that focuses on increasing civic participation by ensuring that young people in our country receive a strong civics education.

It might surprise you to learn that, according to the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, in 2018 only 32 percent of Americans surveyed were capable of naming all three branches of government. Only 30 percent of Americans surveyed knew that the Senate is in charge of confirming Supreme Court nominees. In 2017, only 37 percent of Americans surveyed could name any of the rights guaranteed under the First Amendment. In 2014, only 23 percent of eighth graders performed at or above the proficient level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress civics exam. This startling reality makes it clear that civics education in this country is in need of renewed focus.

Madam Speaker, the Civics Learning Act of 2019 promotes new and existing evidence-based strategies to strengthen and prioritize innovative civics learning and teaching by encouraging innovative American history, civics and government, and geography instruction. Professional development activities, programming, and learning strategies would also be available to prepare teachers, principals, and other school leaders. Such instruction and programming would particularly benefit low-income students and underserved populations including students and teachers at high-need schools and low-access areas such as rural or inner-city communities. Recognizing that most civics programs focus on high school teachers and students, this bill would ensure funding for elementary, middle, and high school programs in order to create a lasting foundation for civic knowledge.

Madam Speaker, it is my sincere hope this body will expeditiously pass this measure. Doing so will reaffirm America's commitment to civics education, fostering a more informed citizenship that will only strengthen our democracy.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF DR. T. VAUGHN WALKER

**HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor and in loving memory of Dr. Thomas Vaughn Walker, who served not only his congregation but the greater community of my hometown of Louisville, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and more.

Dr. Walker spent his Sundays (and nearly every other day of the week) sharing God's word from a brick building near the corner of Seventh Street and Algonquin Parkway, where First Gethsemane Baptist Church has proudly stood since 1972. From March of 1984 on, Dr. Walker made First "G" his home, serving as its Senior Pastor for nearly 35 years.

Though he had a quiet and reserved demeanor, his words and his impact—from the pulpit and beyond—were incredibly powerful. When he spoke, you listened, and lives were changed. Because Dr. Walker not only shared the lessons of scripture, he also served as a mentor and teacher for countless more.

The first black professor to work full-time at a Southern Baptist Convention school, Dr. Walker retired after 30 years of teaching at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He earned a Ph.D. degree from Oregon State University, a Master of Divinity and Christian Education degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a Master of Science degree from Eastern Illinois University, and a Bachelor of Science degree from Hampton University. Education was an important part of Dr. Walker's faith, and he shared that knowledge far and wide.

Dr. Walker's family, including the love of his life and his Hampton University college sweetheart, Dr. Cheryl D. Walker; their three children, David, Mary, and Eryn; and their six grandchildren, Celeste, Celvion, Jai, Joi, Josiah, and Ella; will all remain in my continued thoughts and prayers, along with the entire church family of First Gethsemane Baptist.

Though his work on earth is now complete, I am confident that his words and his teachings will remain with so many of us, and will be carried on by all of those who were lucky enough to call him their friend and teacher.

I thank Dr. T. Vaughn Walker for a lifetime of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARTHA ROBY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 52; "yea" on Roll Call No. 53; and "yea" on Roll Call No. 54.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEWISVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lewisville High School student leaders who have traveled to Washington, D.C. this week to study our nation's government. These twelve high school seniors, under the leadership of Principal Jeffrey Kajs, have continued Lewisville High School's strong legacy of leadership and service.

More than 60 years ago, the Lewisville High School Class of 1958 traveled to the U.S. Capitol for its senior class trip. Led by Senior Class President R.L. Crawford, students met with North Texas Congressman Frank Icard in April 1958.

Last summer, I had the privilege of joining Lewisville High School students past and present as members of the Class of 1958 presented a class photo with Congressman Icard to their alma mater. More than six decades later, their service to the school is paying dividends, particularly as the Class of 2019 follows in its footsteps.

The Lewisville High School Student Body Officers of 2018–2019 include:

- President—Braeden Kajs
- Vice President—Jordan Jackman
- Secretary—Brooke White
- Treasurer—Matthew Jimenez
- Parliamentarian—Cecil Ehirindu
- Historian—Jackie Hernández
- Community Service Officer—Yesenia Regalado
- LISD Liaison—Madison Jaegers
- Multicultural Officer—Par Hniang
- School Service Officer—Ariana Mata
- School Service Officer—Danny Hair
- Project Officer—Wesley Brewer

I appreciate these students' dedication to Lewisville High School and their North Texas neighbors, and wish them the best as they graduate this spring. Whether in six years or six decades, it is my hope that the Class of 2019 will return to Lewisville High School to continue this tradition for generations to come.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT EDWARD K. SLAVIN, U.S. AIR FORCE, ON HIS RETIREMENT UPON 22 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, today I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Master Sergeant Edward K. Slavin, a resident of York, Pennsylvania, on his retirement following 22 years of dedicated service to our Country in the United States Air Force.

MSgt Slavin currently serves as the Aircraft Mechanic Supervisor at the 193rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in Middletown, Pennsylvania. He entered the USAF in 1997, and served in numerous assignments and deployments throughout his distinguished career.

MSgt Slavin has shown not only outstanding leadership, but uncommon technical skill. His nine deployments in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom demonstrate tireless devotion and self-sacrifice on behalf of the American people. He was a vital part of joint exercises with allies around the world, and volunteered to train members of the Canadian Air Force and Indian Air Force in the operation and maintenance of their newly assigned C-130J aircraft. MSgt Slavin also quickly volunteered to support disaster relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina and the 2007 Peru Earthquake.

His numerous commendations and awards, include the Air Force Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (w/2 Oak Leaf Clusters), among several others, and are a testament to his steadfast courage, personal integrity, unwavering work ethic, and impeccable character. His enduring legacy of service to our Nation is exceptional and sets the standard for all to follow.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Tenth Congressional District, I commend and congratulate my fellow brother-in-arms, Master Sergeant Edward K. Slavin, upon his retirement and for

his devoted service to the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. TOMMY  
LEONARD

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2019*

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Tommy Leonard, the founder of the Falmouth Road Race and a beloved member of the Cape Cod community.

Growing up in western Massachusetts, Mr. Leonard fell in love with running at an early age. Following high school, he joined the United States Marines and ran his first Boston Marathon in 1953.

Inspired by his community and Frank Shorter's historic victory in the marathon at the 1972 Olympics, Mr. Leonard brought his love for running to Cape Cod. Thanks to his dedication, the Falmouth Road Race was first held on August 15, 1973. Beyond the formation of

the race, Mr. Leonard worked tirelessly on the ground level to promote the event and recruit racers to inspire the next generation. Two years later, the seven-mile race was won by Frank Shorter.

What began as a fundraiser for the Falmouth High School girl's track team has now taken on a life of its own. The race began with just 92 runners working to fund travel expenses for the Falmouth track team. However, soon the race was helping local runners earn college track scholarships. Now with over 12,000 annual racers, the Falmouth Road Race has contributed millions of dollars to local charities. Mr. Leonard has become a pillar of his community and his dedication to helping those around him continues to live on with the Tommy Leonard Spotlight Award, which gives \$2,500 to a nonprofit each month.

Mr. Leonard passed away on January 16, 2019. However, his commitment will long be remembered through his growing family of runners and the legacy of his activism.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Tommy Leonard. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his many years of dedication to his community.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S725–S754*

**Measures Introduced:** Twenty bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 249–268, and S. Res. 34. **Page S742**

**Measures Considered:**

**Strengthening America’s Security in the Middle East Act—Agreement:** Senate began consideration of S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, after agreeing to the motion to proceed, and taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S725–30, S730–36**

Pending:

McConnell Amendment No. 65, to express the sense of the Senate that the United States faces continuing threats from terrorist groups operating in Syria and Afghanistan and that the precipitous withdrawal of United States forces from either country could put at risk hard-won gains and United States national security. **Pages S732–33**

A motion was entered to close further debate on McConnell Amendment No. 65 (listed above), and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Thursday, January 31, 2019. **Page S736**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 76 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. 12), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S732**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 12 noon, on Wednesday, January 30, 2019, for debate only. **Page S754**

**Messages from the House:** **Pages S740–41**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S741**

**Executive Communications:** **Page S741**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Pages S741–42**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Page S743**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S743–45**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S738–40**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S745–54**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S754**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—12) **Page S732**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:17 p.m., until 12 noon on Wednesday, January 30, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S754.)

### Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

#### CHINA AND RUSSIA

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine China and Russia, after receiving testimony from Elbridge Colby, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy and Force Development, and Ely Ratner, former Deputy National Security Advisor to the Vice President, both of the Center for a New American Security; and Damon M. Wilson, Atlantic Council.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee ordered favorably reported 385 nominations in the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

#### CYBERSECURITY POLICIES AND ARCHITECTURE

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Cybersecurity concluded a hearing to examine Department of Defense enterprise-wide cybersecurity policies and architecture, after receiving testimony from Dana Deasy, Chief Information Officer, Vice Admiral Nancy A. Norton, USN, Director, Defense Information Systems Agency, and Commander, Joint Force Headquarters-Department of Defense Information Network, and Brigadier General Dennis A. Crall,

USMC, Principal Deputy Cyber Advisor and Senior Military Advisor for Cyber Policy, all of the Department of Defense.

### CBO BUDGET AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

*Committee on the Budget:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Congressional Budget Office's budget and economic outlook, focusing on fiscal years 2019–2029, after receiving testimony from Keith Hall, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

### NOMINATION

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Nicole R. Nason, of New York, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, after the nominee testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

### DRUG PRICING IN AMERICA

*Committee on Finance:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine drug pricing in America, after receiving testimony from Kathy Sego, American Diabetes Association, Madison, Indiana; Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum, Washington, D.C.; Mark Miller, Laura and John Arnold Foundation, Houston, Texas; and Peter B. Bach, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York.

### ACCESS TO CARE

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine access to care, focusing on health centers and providers in underserved communities, after receiving testimony from Dennis Freeman, Cherokee Health Systems, Knoxville, Tennessee; John B. Waits, Cahaba Medical Care FQHC, Cahaba, Alabama; Andrea Anderson, Unity Health Care, and George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences National Family Medicine Residency Program, Washington, D.C.; and Thomas Trompeter, HealthPoint, Renton, Washington.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* Committee adopted its rules of procedure for the 116th Congress.

Also, committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 46, to repeal the Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Act;

S. 50, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to pro-

vide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions;

S. 51, to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana;

S. 199, to provide for the transfer of certain Federal land in the State of Minnesota for the benefit of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe;

S. 207, to enhance tribal road safety;

S. 209, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian Tribes;

S. 210, to amend the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancement in public safety services to Indian communities;

S. 211, to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to secure urgent resources vital to Indian victims of crime;

S. 212, to amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000, the Buy Indian Act, and the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide industry and economic development opportunities to Indian communities;

S. 216, to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam;

S. 224, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska; and

S. 226, to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian Tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act.

### WORLDWIDE THREATS

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine worldwide threats, after receiving testimony from former Senator Daniel R. Coats, Director of National Intelligence; Christopher Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Gina Haspel, Director, Central Intelligence Agency; and General Robert Ashley, USA, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, General Paul Nakasone, USA, Director, National Security Agency, and Robert Cardillo, Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, all of the Department of Defense.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 29 public bills, H.R. 830–858; 1 private bill, H.R. 859; and 6 resolutions, H.J. Res. 35; H. Con. Res. 8–9; and H. Res. 85, 86, and 88; were introduced.

Pages H1281–83

**Additional Cosponsors:**

Page H1285

**Report Filed:** A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 87, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 790) to provide for a pay increase in 2019 for certain civilian employees of the Federal Government, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 116–5).

Page H1281

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H1247

**Recess:** The House recessed at 10:39 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Pages H1251–52

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

**Department of Homeland Security Clearance Management and Administration Act:** H.R. 424, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the management and administration of the security clearance processes throughout the Department of Homeland Security;

Pages H1254–56

**Federal Information Resource to Strengthen Ties with State and Local Law Enforcement Act:** H.R. 495, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require an annual report on the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement;

Pages H1256–58

**Homeland Security Assessment of Terrorists' Use of Virtual Currencies Act:** H.R. 428, to direct the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis to develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding terrorist use of virtual currency, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nay vote of 422 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 56;

Pages H1259–60; H1267–68

**Pathways to Improving Homeland Security at the Local Level Act:** H.R. 449, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to direct the Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement to produce and disseminate an annual catalog on Department of Homeland Security training, publications, programs, and services for State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nay vote of 412 yeas to 12 nays, Roll No. 57;

Pages H1260–61; H1268

**Department of Homeland Security Field Engagement Accountability Act:** H.R. 504, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers;

Pages H1261–63

**Counterterrorism Advisory Board Act of 2019:** H.R. 769, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a board to coordinate and integrate departmental intelligence, activities, and policy related to counterterrorism, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nay vote of 414 yeas to 12 nays, Roll No. 58; and

Pages H1263–64; H1268–69

**Expressing the sense of Congress that financial institutions and other companies should work proactively with their customers affected by the shutdown of the Federal Government who may be facing short-term financial hardship and long-term damage to their creditworthiness through no fault of their own:** H. Res. 77, amended, expressing the sense of Congress that financial institutions and other companies should work proactively with their customers affected by the shutdown of the Federal Government who may be facing short-term financial hardship and long-term damage to their creditworthiness through no fault of their own. Representative Hoyer moved to table the Waters motion to reconsider the vote after Representative Harris objected to the motion to reconsider laid on the table, by a yeas-and-nay vote of 240 yeas to 176 nays, Roll No. 59, and the Hoyer motion was agreed to. Subsequently, the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

Pages H1264–67; H1269–70

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Expressing the sense of Congress that financial institutions and other entities should work proactively with their customers affected by the shutdown of the Federal Government who may be facing short-term financial hardship and long-term damage to their creditworthiness through no fault of their own.”.

Page H1270

**Motion to Adjourn:** Rejected the Gosar motion to adjourn by a yeas-and-nay vote of 14 yeas to 395 nays, Roll No. 55.

Pages H1258–59

**Privileged Resolution:** The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 9, providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

Page H1270

**Meeting Hour:** Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, January 30th.

Page H1270

**Committee Election and Ranking:** The House agreed to H. Res. 85, electing Members to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives and ranking Members on a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives. **Page H1270**

**House Democracy Partnership—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member to the House Democracy Partnership: Representative Price (NC), Chairman. **Page H1272**

**Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Representative Cuellar, Chairman. **Page H1272**

**Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Representative Higgins, Chairman. **Page H1272**

**United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Representative Connolly, Chairman. **Page H1272**

**Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members to the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress: Representative Kilmer, Chair; Representatives Cleaver, DelBene, Lofgren, Pocan, and Scanlon. **Pages H1279–80**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 4:41 p.m. and reconvened at 5:13 p.m. **Page H1280**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Five yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1258–59, H1267–68, H1268, H1268–69, and H1269–70. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S SUPPORT TO THE SOUTHERN BORDER

*Committee on Armed Services:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Department of Defense's Support to the Southern Border". Testimony was heard from John Rood, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy,

Office of the Secretary of Defense; and Vice Admiral Michael Gilday, U.S. Navy, Director of Operations (J3), Joint Staff.

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

*Committee on the Budget:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Rules of the Committee on the Budget were adopted.

### THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE'S BUDGET AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

*Committee on the Budget:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled "The Congressional Budget Office's Budget and Economic Outlook". Testimony was heard from Keith Hall, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

*Committee on Education and Labor:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules for the 116th Congress.

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules for the 116th Congress; and approved the House Foreign Affairs Committee Professional Staff Members, the Vice Chair of the Full Committee, the Subcommittee Membership, and the Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members.

### FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2019

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1, the "For the People Act of 2019". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

*Committee on Oversight and Reform:* Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its rules, without amendment.

### EXAMINING THE ACTIONS OF DRUG COMPANIES IN RAISING PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

*Committee on Oversight and Reform:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Examining the Actions of Drug Companies in Raising Prescription Drug Prices". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### FEDERAL CIVILIAN WORKFORCE PAY RAISE FAIRNESS ACT OF 2019

*Committee on Rules:* Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 790, the "Federal Civilian Workforce Pay Raise Fairness Act of 2019". The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–4, a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 790, the Federal Civilian Workforce Pay Raise Fairness Act of 2019. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally

divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment printed in Part A of the report shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in Part B of the report. 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. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in Part B of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Section 2 of the rule provides that it shall be in order at any time through the legislative day of February 8, 2019, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV, and that the Speaker or her designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or his designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section. Testimony was heard from Representatives Connolly and Meadows.

## PROTECTING AMERICANS WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Protecting Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

---

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2019

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

### House

*Committee on Appropriations,* Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services,* Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security,* Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 210–HVC.

*Committee on Natural Resources,* Full Committee, organizational meeting, 11 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

### Joint Meetings

*Conference:* meeting of conferees on H.J. Res. 31, making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, 1:30 p.m., HC-5, Capitol.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

12 noon, Wednesday, January 30

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9 a.m., Wednesday, January 30

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Senate will continue consideration of S. 1, Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act, for debate only.

## House Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Consideration of H.R. 790—Federal Civilian Workforce Pay Raise Fairness Act of 2019 (Subject to a Rule).

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

## HOUSE

Bergman, Jack, Mich., E103  
Burgess, Michael C., Tex., E105  
Calvert, Ken, Calif., E103  
Cartwright, Matt, Pa., E102  
Costa, Jim, Calif., E101, E104  
Deutch, Theodore E., Fla., E101

Frankel, Lois, Fla., E104  
Garamendi, John, Calif., E102  
Hastings, Alcee L., Fla., E105  
Keating, William R., Mass., E106  
LaHood, Darin, Ill., E103, E105  
Neal, Richard E., Mass., E104  
Olson, Pete, Tex., E101  
Perry, Scott, Pa., E105

Peterson, Collin C., Minn., E104  
Roby, Martha, Ala., E105  
Stivers, Steve, Ohio, E104  
Visclosky, Peter J., Ind., E101  
Yarmuth, John A., Ky., E105  
Young, Don, Alaska, E102



# Congressional Record

The *Congressional Record* (USPS 087-390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at [www.govinfo.gov](http://www.govinfo.gov), free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office. Phone 202-512-1800, or 866-512-1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, [contactcenter@gpo.gov](mailto:contactcenter@gpo.gov). ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: [bookstore.gpo.gov](http://bookstore.gpo.gov). Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000, or phone orders to 866-512-1800 (toll-free), 202-512-1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202-512-2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.