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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 14, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SCOTT H. PETERS 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.

HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, two names have been lost in months of government shutdowns and threats of national emergencies: Jakelin Caal Maquin and Felipe Gomez Alonzo. Those were the children who died in December while in the custody of our Federal Government.

Let me tell you a bit about Jakelin's story and how, in the next 48 hours, we will take a historic first step to forever

change how our Nation treats children fleeing violence.

Jakelin Caal Maquin was 7 years old. She joined her father in fleeing the extreme danger and poverty of her village, San Antonio Secortez in Guatemala. Together, they dreamed of new opportunities, of new safety, of a home free from violence and discrimination where they could build a life and support their loved ones at home.

Jakelin and her father chose the same destination that asylum seekers, immigrants, and refugees have sought for centuries: the United States of America.

But the conditions I saw at the Border Patrol facilities where Jakelin and her father were held were not worthy of our American ideals. The conditions did not demonstrate respect for the human dignity of the individuals in our Federal Government's care.

Look, I am a doctor. I know what a functioning emergency medical response protocol looks like and how it should operate, and this was not it.

I saw women, infants, toddlers, and the elderly packed and even piled on top of each other, open toilets in crowded cells without any privacy, visibly sick people, children coughing on one another, and I immediately saw that the Border Patrol agents did not have the resources to respond to a life-threatening medical emergency.

Mr. Speaker, let me put this into perspective. I traveled to Haiti days after the devastating 2010 earthquake, where I served as the medical director of the country's largest camp of internally displaced people. The conditions I saw at the New Mexico Border Patrol facilities were worse than those I saw in Haiti, the most impoverished country in the Western Hemisphere, after their most challenging and devastating disaster.

Here we are, the greatest nation on our planet, and we are putting children in cages and denying them free access to food, water, and a private toilet.

Then and there, I committed myself to creating humanitarian standards that are worthy of human dignity: real solutions, not empty promises, that will save the lives of children at the border.

I introduced legislation that makes it clear Congress expects CBP to implement three crucial reforms as soon as possible:

First, provide meaningful medical examinations of individuals entering our borders. A basic physical exam would have shown warning signs of Jakelin's septic shock and most probably saved her life. A child who dies from septic shock does not look normal 8 hours beforehand.

Second, invest in essential medical equipment and trained medical personnel available to respond to life-threatening emergencies. When medical care is far away, agents need the resources, equipment, and knowledge to care for each other and the individuals in their custody.

Third, provide basic humane living conditions that are safe and hygienic, where individuals can access adequate food, water, and showers.

These are straightforward reforms. They move us closer to a system that is safe, humane, and aligns with our fundamental ideals as Americans.

Our work is not done, but we have reached an important milestone. We are beginning to address the humanitarian crisis at our border, not with rhetoric and political showboating or grandstanding, but with real, life-saving solutions.

This week, we will not just pass a bill that averts a government shutdown; we will pass a bill that provides funding for, and holds CBP accountable to, implementing the humanitarian standards included in my legislation, H. Con. Res. 17. These reforms will save lives and help restore our legacy as a nation that recognizes the dignity and fundamental rights of every human being.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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So, Mr. Speaker, I will speak the names of those two children again: Felipe Gomez Alonzo and Jakelin Caal Maquin. We must have the courage to recognize their humanity.

THANKING THE PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD FOR ITS WORK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week I had the honor of meeting with the Pennsylvania National Guard Association, which is solely dedicated to more than 19,000 Guard members and more than 67,000 Guard veterans and their families.

The National Guard is an essential element of the United States military. Founded in 1636 as a citizen force organized to protect families and towns from hostile attacks, today's National Guard soldiers hold civilian jobs or attend college while maintaining their military training, always ready to defend the American way of life in the event of an emergency.

The mission of the Pennsylvania National Guard Association is to ensure the Pennsylvania National Guard is fully funded, manned, equipped, and trained to perform their Federal and State missions. That also includes ensuring that members and veterans have the benefits that they have earned.

Mr. Speaker, the Pennsylvania National Guard mostly hails from the Commonwealth, and they are prepared to serve the Nation at a moment's notice. In fact, Pennsylvania Guard personnel provided extraordinary support to areas affected by the disastrous 2018 hurricane season. They offered aviation support, restored lines of communication, and lent a helping hand to their fellow Americans in their time of need.

More than 1,000 Guard members assisted in domestic operations, including snowstorms and floods. In 2018, Guard members were deployed throughout the world in support of mobile operations. They also participated in training events at home and abroad to enhance readiness.

As part of its Federal mission, approximately 1,000 Pennsylvania National Guard personnel deployed throughout the world in 2018 in support of mobile operations, including Operation Spartan Shield, Operation Freedom Sentinel, and missions in support of U.S. Air Force's Central Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, and NATO.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to visit members of the Guard's 28th Infantry Division over the Thanksgiving holiday. I led a codelast November to Kuwait, where we met with members of the 28th Infantry Division who were deployed in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

The servicemembers that we visited, while serving honorably overseas, were also serving in one of the Army's most

historic units. The 28th Infantry Division is the oldest continuous serving division in the United States Army. In 1918, it earned its nickname "Iron Division," fighting during World War I, and 100 years later, the same division continues to defend freedom and liberty around the world.

Since the attacks of 9/11, more than 35,000 Pennsylvania National Guard members have deployed overseas. In fact, Pennsylvania's Fort Indiantown Gap is the busiest Army National Guard training center in the Nation.

The Pennsylvania National Guard is also home to the 56th Brigade Combat Team, which is one of the Army's nine Stryker Brigade Combat Teams. This is a team that my son Logan belonged to when he was in the National Guard before he went to Active Duty. It was the only National Guard Stryker brigade in the United States Army.

Mr. Speaker, the Pennsylvania National Guard continues to serve the Commonwealth and the Nation with pride and distinction. I look forward to its continued success. I thank all of our citizen soldiers, past and present, for their service.

E-COMMERCE IS AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, recently I spent the day in the Mount Washington Valley, with local businesses, hearing from small business owners about the challenges that they face.

I met with the owners of White Mountain Puzzles, a second-generation family business that produces 1.6 million made-in-the-U.S. puzzles a year and sells them all over the world.

Later in the day, I stopped by Lupine Pet, another terrific locally owned business that sells durable pet collars and harnesses.

Mr. Speaker, in keeping with our proud Live Free or Die tradition in the Granite State, we pay no sales taxes on goods and services.

White Mountain Puzzles and Lupine Pet are just two of the many small businesses that have thrived under the rules of the road of our State's economy. Unfortunately, a recent Supreme Court decision is casting a dark shadow over these entrepreneurs. It is threatening those who have brick-and-mortar operations in our State and make a living from online sales to customers across the street and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, in June of 2018, the Supreme Court upheld decades of precedent. In its decision in the Wayfair case, the Court ruled that a jurisdiction may legally impose sales taxes on customers of sellers that don't have a physical presence within that jurisdiction's borders.

Unfortunately, States across the country are now rushing to capitalize on this new taxing power, to the det-

rimment of businesses in New Hampshire that don't impose sales taxes on consumers and aren't prepared to collect them.

Ultimately, the Wayfair decision could force untold numbers of small retailers in my State to stop doing business altogether over the internet. That is a possibility that should alarm every American.

We should be empowering entrepreneurs and innovators, the true driving force of the American economy, not stifling them with burdensome tax collection requirements.

Here is the bottom line, Mr. Speaker: Businesses in my district should not be punished simply for using the internet to reach their customer base.

Clearly, the time has come for Congress to act, and there are common-sense steps that Members of both parties should embrace, regardless of the tax laws in the States that we represent.

First and foremost, we should prevent sales taxes from being imposed retroactively, and we should give businesses enough time to understand this Court decision. As a business owner myself, I can tell you how unreasonable it is to expect companies to somehow meet this new tax collection obligation at the drop of a hat, a financial burden that they couldn't possibly have anticipated.

Second, given the high cost and complexity of complying with different sales tax laws in nearly 11,000 jurisdictions, we should create an exception to collection requirements for these small businesses.

The great folks at White Mountain Puzzles have a special talent for creating incredible jigsaw puzzles, not for navigating complex unique sales tax rules from every State and municipality in America.

Dave and Scott at Lupine Pet don't have a legal department or a big team of accountants to assist them in collecting and remitting the right amounts. And they say the cost of compliance, including the software solution for their small business, adds up to at least \$25,000 a year.

Let's give them and millions of other small business owners a well-deserved break. Let's give them the protections that they deserve.

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, e-commerce is an American success story. Online sales have created millions of jobs and connect Americans from coast to coast.

Internet retailers give rural America the opportunity to participate more fully in our country's economic success.

Let's give these online sellers, including hundreds of small businesses in the Granite State, the support and certainty they deserve to continue to grow and prosper.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

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

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, those who have answered the call to serve our country can be found all across the 23rd Congressional District of Texas. From Monahans to Alpine, Fort Davis to Eagle Pass, my team crisscrossed the 29 counties I represent and heard from 23 of our Nation's heroes whose stories will be preserved for generations to come through the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project.

From those who just finished serving in the military to veterans of the Vietnam war and Second World War, these men stood in the trenches overseas, flew aircraft over Nazi Germany, and put themselves in harm's way to protect our Nation from threats across the globe—from the Axis Powers to ISIS. They paved the way for today's servicemembers who keep us safe every single day.

I thank the Library of Congress for preserving these stories so that we can learn about our past and teach future generations the value of selfless service.

I thank all who have served, and God bless these United States of America.

SAN ANTONIO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SWIMMING
TEAM STATE TITLE

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the outstanding achievement of the San Antonio Christian School swim teams for winning both the girls and boys Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division 2 State Championships last week.

This achievement is truly a testament to their dedicated work ethic and incredible talents. What a fantastic way to end an undefeated season. Hard work and practice paid off. Their parents, peers, and community are proud of them.

Included in this group is a former in-tern of mine, a gifted athlete and rising star—Michael O'Brien of San Antonio, Texas. Well done, Michael.

Enjoy these great moments. You will treasure them for the rest of your lives. Go Lions.

RUNNING START

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 2019, there are more women serving in Congress than at any other point in American history. This is a tremendous achievement for our Nation and a trend I hope will continue, because while women are half the population, they still make up less than one-quarter of my congressional colleagues.

I rise today to recognize an organization that is doing crucial work to bridge this gap. Since its inception in 2007, Running Start has trained over 10,000 young women to run for office. I am proud to be a congressional co-chair of Running Start because our elected leaders must better reflect the makeup of our country.

With all the problems we face as a nation, the only way we are going to solve them is by working together, and that will require including more women in the conversation. Running Start is training the next generation of women leaders who do just that.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting the incredible young women in Running Start's network and encourage the young women in their lives and our lives to never let anyone ever tell them they are not capable of running for office.

CLIMATE CHANGE WAITS FOR NO
ONE

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

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the very survival of humankind is in peril, and there is no greater threat to our continued existence than climate change. From the inaction of this administration, you would never guess the seriousness of the risk confronting us. For the sake of our very survival, I urge my colleagues to put aside their concerns about how our party leaders or how our base will judge us.

All that truly matters is how our grandchildren will judge us. There are those who claim they don't believe in climate change. Those doubters deserve no more of our time or attention than those who don't believe in gravity. Science doesn't care. There are those who claim we can't make progress until we have a new occupant of the White House and a Democratic majority in the Senate. To those I say, We have no time to wait. Two years of inaction is 2 years we can never get back.

We in this body need to begin tackling climate change now, and we need to start by talking about it differently, not as an unproven scientific theory, not as a political inconvenience and not as a job killer. It is an economic opportunity. Action on climate change can be the path to making the U.S. more globally competitive.

I don't speak on this floor today as a theorist. From 2000 to 2016, I built multiple companies with missions to profitably reduce greenhouse gas emissions. My colleagues and I made U.S. manufacturers more competitive by reducing their energy expenses. We built more than 80 projects and \$300 million of capital investment, and I can now say three things with certainty: One, there are no thermodynamic barriers to drastically lowering CO₂ emissions; and two, there are no economic barriers to businesses pursuing profits. That leads me to three, that there are a lot of legal barriers to profitably reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

This gives us an opportunity, because while we can't change the laws of thermodynamics, and we can't change the laws of economics, we can change the laws of the United States. We don't need to reinvent the wheel. Switzer-

land, Germany, and Denmark all use half as much energy as we do per dollar of GDP. Those countries have the same access to talent, the same access to capital and technology as we do, but they use half as much energy. If all we did was copy them, we could cut CO₂ emissions by 50 percent.

I think we could do better. Consider this: in 2007, over a decade ago, Congress tried and failed to pass the Lieberman-Warner climate bill which was seen by some as being too ambitious because it sought to cut U.S. electric sector emissions by 17 percent. It didn't pass, and there was a powerful Senator who said at the time that the bill would drastically increase energy costs and cost millions of American jobs, all for no environmental gain.

As Warner Wolf says, "Let's go to the videotape." CO₂ emissions since then in the electric sector are down by nearly 25 percent per megawatt hour and real power prices are down by 4 percent over the last decade. Just imagine what we could have done if we tried.

So why did emissions fall? Because of economics.

We have gradually been building more efficient, cleaner, and cheaper power plants, and once those plants are built, they always run more than the older, less efficient plants, because here is the little secret: businesses like to make money, and you make more money if you spend less on fuel.

Mr. Speaker, if my colleagues take nothing else away from this speech, I hope they will understand that point. Everything we do to make our economy less dependent on expensive fossil fuel lowers CO₂ emissions and makes our businesses more profitable. That protects American jobs and makes our citizens wealthier.

So let me take this opportunity to speak to those who don't believe the science and to those who believe the science but think a warmer world is a good thing: Keep your beliefs. Hold on to them. All I am asking is that you be greedy. Greedy for America, as our President has boasted. Because if you are greedy, you will work with me to see CO₂ reduction as an opportunity for cost reduction and profit maximization.

I mentioned at the start of my remarks that the primary barrier to meaningful CO₂ reductions are U.S. laws. That is not to say that those laws have been written with bad intent. To the contrary, many of those well-intentioned laws have had unintentional, negative consequences. Well-intentioned aspects of our Tax Code often cause capital to flow to the least economic technologies. Well-intentioned social policies obscure the true cost of fossil fuels, distorting capital markets away from cheaper alternatives.

But that is great news because we can fix all of those things. So let's make U.S. manufacturers more competitive. Let's help them cut energy

costs. Let's protect U.S. jobs. Let's make our energy system more resilient. And let's lower CO₂ emissions.

I think that is pretty bipartisan. And as I go to work on the Select Committee on Climate Crisis, I will be working toward writing and introducing legislation, and I look forward to hearing all the great ideas from my colleagues in this body. I don't claim to have all the answers, but I know that we do. But for goodness' sake, let's not wait.

HONORING JUDGE ASHFORD

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Judge William Mark Ashford of the Fourth Judicial District Court of Nebraska who was known for his jovial smile, gregarious nature, and being a fearless voice for justice. February 14th marks what would have been his 67th birthday. His untimely passing is a great loss for his family, friends, and for the people of our community whom he served with the highest level of commitment, integrity, and honor.

Appointed to the bench in 1988, Judge Ashford's work ethic and uncompromising professional integrity quickly garnered the respect of most and ruffled the feathers of some. Armed with a sharp legal mind and even sharper focus on the public he served, Judge Ashford was a stalwart judicial advocate, fighting for transparency in and out of the courtroom.

His eternal faith in humanity and in the power of justice will continue to serve as an unyielding example. Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Mike Heavican noted that Judge Ashford's work with the young adult treatment court and his pioneering efforts to establish the Douglas County Veterans Treatment Court would be sorely missed.

Veterans treatment courts are tapping into the unique aspects of military and veteran culture and using them to the benefit of the veteran. According to the Omaha World Herald: "Ashford felt a calling to oversee veterans court because his father was a World War II pilot who once flew a fighter plane called the Aksarben Knight."

I extend my deepest condolences to his friends and family members, especially his wife, Deb Ashford; sons, Steven and Sam Ashford; stepsons, Keith, Kristopher and Kent; and brothers, Brad and Carl Ashford.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of African American History Month to recognize two key figures in Nebraska history, Will Brown and George Smith, both murdered by lynching at the hands of lawless mobs. This is not a past Nebraskans are proud of, but it is a story we must continue to tell so we never for-

get them or allow acts of hate like these to ever be repeated.

Nearly 100 years ago in the summer of 1919, Black people were killed amid violent race riots occurring across the country. Omaha, Nebraska, was not immune during that Red Summer and regrettably became known for one of the most heinous acts of hate and racial violence in American history.

According to research, the destructive flames of hatred and racism at the time were fanned by a series of politically motivated articles published in newspapers like the Omaha Bee. Alarmed at the Bee's promotion of racial prejudice, Reverend John Albert Williams, first president of the local chapter of the NAACP and minister of St. Philip's Episcopal Church called upon the editors of the Bee to stop their propaganda.

On September 28, 1919, a raucous crowd of more than 4,000, emboldened by the destructive rhetoric, grew violent and set fire to the Douglas County Courthouse. When Omaha Mayor Edward Smith tried to calm the crowd, he was assaulted and nearly killed by the mob before being rescued by local law enforcement. Without a trial, the riotous horde seized Mr. Brown, who had been accused of rape and robbery. Despite his exclamations of innocence, and physical evidence supporting his claims, Mr. Brown was brutally murdered. His body was paraded through the streets as a form of racial terrorism.

Equally disturbing was the lynching of George Smith, also known as Joe Coe, 28 years earlier in October of 1891. Mr. SMITH was falsely accused of raping a young girl, despite having a valid alibi and witnesses who attested to his innocence. Again, unchecked hatred fueled the unjustified lynching without any judicial process.

By shining light on these horrid shadows of injustice in America, we can begin to speak truthfully about this difficult history so that reconciliation can be achieved. It also allows us to honor the inspirational leaders who rise up to promote equality and eradicate racial subjugation. The work of the NAACP was tremendously effective in awakening the Nation to the urgency of stopping lynching.

Today in my community a coalition has been formed called the Omaha Community Council for Racial Justice and Reconciliation, to coordinate efforts to memorialize victims of lynching and raise awareness of racial violence in Douglas County.

I call on all who hear these words to stand against hate, racism, and injustice whenever and wherever it may be found. We must ensure acts like these are never allowed to occur again and that the lessons of Will Brown and George Smith's deaths are never forgotten. We are a nation that respects life, liberty, equality, and the rule of law.

YEMEN

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

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that I was proud to vote for H.J. Res. 37 and to stand in opposition to continued U.S. engagement in hostilities in Yemen as yet undeclared by Congress. However, this is just the first step in addressing just how far astray we have gone when it comes to Yemen and in our foreign policy more broadly.

Let's be clear: the crisis unfolding in Yemen right now is a consequence and the responsibility of actions by both Republican and Democratic administrations. We took a low level conflict, and we put it on steroids. We took a regional issue, and we turned it into the biggest humanitarian crisis in the world.

For what?

We started supporting the anti-Houthi coalition because we didn't want Iran to expand its influence, and here we are, the Houthis are closer than ever to Tehran, and they are launching Iranian-made missiles at Riyadh.

I thought we were done doing dumb stuff.

On top of all of this, the President compounded this humanitarian crisis by implementing a travel ban which left the families of American citizens stranded in a war zone that we ourselves helped create.

Now, I represent one of the largest Yemeni-American communities in the United States. I have hundreds of families in my district, Staten Island and south Brooklyn, who worry about their husbands, their wives, their children, and their parents, who only want to be reunited with them in the United States.

Now, many families have told me that they can apply for a waiver which somehow makes this constitutional. But not a single person from the Secretary of State on down can tell me how my constituents can actually get the waivers that their family members so desperately need. We still don't know.

Nobody cares about national security more than I do, but this isn't it. We are the most powerful country in the world, and we have trapped my constituents' loved ones in a war zone with no answers for how they can get out of there.

How does this make us more safe?

It is time we have a clear-eyed look at how we conduct our foreign policy and, more importantly, how we decide to use military force in the first place. This resolution is just one step in the right direction.

□ 1030

CONGRATULATING KENTUCKY SUPREME COURT JUSTICE BILL CUNNINGHAM ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Supreme Court Justice Bill Cunningham from Lyon County, of the First District of Kentucky, on his upcoming retirement from the Kentucky Supreme Court.

After serving in the United States Army, Bill Cunningham was the Eddyville city attorney, the public defender for the Kentucky State Penitentiary, and the Commonwealth's attorney for the 56th Judicial District. He then served on the bench as a circuit judge for 15 years before his election to the Kentucky Supreme Court in 2006.

As an avid writer, Bill Cunningham documented important parts of Kentucky's history in his books. Through his writings and life as a concerned citizen, he sought improved race relations and minority representation on juries.

Justice Cunningham evidently passed his passion for public service on to his son, Congressman JOE CUNNINGHAM of South Carolina. I am proud to serve alongside Congressman CUNNINGHAM and look forward to working with him to promote bipartisan legislation in the 116th Congress.

As Justice Cunningham begins the next phase of his life, I join with the people of western Kentucky to express our gratitude for his lifetime of public service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

CONGRATULATING KENTUCKY SUPREME COURT JUSTICE BILL CUNNINGHAM ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today to call attention, along with Congressman JAMIE COMER, to one of Kentucky's most fearless, tireless public servants, who recently retired from the Commonwealth's highest court at the beginning of this month and who is my father, Justice Bill Cunningham.

He began his long and distinguished career by serving as a JAG officer in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war, serving in Germany, Vietnam, and Korea.

He returned home to serve later as the city attorney, then the public defender, then the prosecutor, followed by circuit court judge, all before being elected to Kentucky's highest court, the Kentucky Supreme Court, where he has been a justice for the last 12 years.

His skills in the courtroom were not just limited to the courtroom. Growing up the youngest of five unruly boys, we

found that he brought those skills home with him.

I recall one time when three of my older brothers came home late, past curfew, with the smell of alcohol. Their stories did not jibe with one another, so he immediately sequestered each brother in three separate rooms and went from room to room interrogating each of them, only to find out their story of a flat tire fell apart very quickly when they could not decide on which tire was flat and who fixed it.

He acted as the judge, the jury, and the executioner of our household in disciplining five boys.

I recall one time being disciplined at school for fighting. I came home. My father told me: If you are in trouble at school, you are in trouble at home.

He took a 25-pound weight, put it in a backpack, and made me carry that backpack around with me everywhere I went—to school, back from school to home—with the message that, if I was going to be a weight on him, he was going to put a weight on me. No doubt, such behavior would probably call attention to child services these days.

He is the bastion of public service; he is the example of integrity; and, last but not least, he is my hero.

Thank you, Dad, for all of your hard work, for leading by example.

He treated every single person with dignity and with respect. Even today, when he goes inside the walls of Kentucky's State Penitentiary, the maximum security penitentiary, he walks around in the yard and people approach him—people he has prosecuted, people he has sentenced to the penitentiary—and they come up and want to shake his hand because he treated every single person with dignity and with respect.

I want to thank my father, Justice Bill Cunningham, for making this world a better one.

And to my mother, who will be the beneficiary to all of his newfound free time, I wish to say to her: Good luck.

HONORING BUCKS COUNTY FIRST RESPONDERS AT HEARTS FOR OUR HEROES RECEPTION

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, is home to some of the most thoughtful and compassionate people in the Nation. This was on full display earlier this month when parents and students from the Howard Hersch Religious School at Congregation Brothers of Israel held a reception for first responders, called Hearts for Our Heroes.

Held at the Newtown Township Building, first responders in attendance received letters of appreciation and cookies for their service and their sacrifice. Students also sang a song of gratitude to the heroes in our community.

I would like to honor several people, Mr. Speaker, who played a pivotal role in ensuring that our community's first responders received the recognition they deserve: Joan Hersch, Congregation Brothers of Israel Religious School director; and Janet Barudin and Amy Stinson, who co-chair the congregation's Caring Committee; as well as Rabbi Aaron Gaber.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to all first responders in Newtown Township and throughout Bucks County for all they do to keep us safe.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE REA B. BOYLAN

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable career of a public servant in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who will be retiring at the end of her term.

Judge Rea Boylan, a resident of Hilltown, has spent 20 years on the bench and is the most tenured member of the Bucks County court of common pleas.

In her years of service, Judge Boylan has worked in the public defender's office, the office of the district attorney, and also was Bucks County controller before her judgeship.

Throughout Judge Boylan's tenure, she has been known as a fair judge who is not afraid to hold people accountable and always seeks to rehabilitate those in need.

Notably, her work with juveniles and those struggling with addiction truly embodies her dedication to both justice and fairness.

I wish Judge Boylan all of the best in her retirement, and I speak on behalf of all of Bucks County when we thank her wholeheartedly for her service.

CONGRATULATING NORTH PENN HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING COACH JEFF FAIKISH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate North Penn High School swimming coach Jeff Faikish for being named Pennsylvania Coach of the Year for girls swimming and diving during the 2017–2018 school year.

The National Federation of State High School Associations awards coaches who exemplify the high standards of sportsmanship, ethical and moral character, and have received the endorsement of their State high school association.

Last fall, the North Penn High School swim team won the State championship and, under John's leadership, has competed in seven State championship meets.

Mr. Speaker, we congratulate John for receiving this honor and all the athletes of the North Penn girls swim team for their outstanding achievements. We wish them all continued success in their future endeavors.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in fiscal year 2018, more than 2,000

illegal aliens were apprehended by Federal agents for homicides committed on American soil. In addition, over 70,000 Americans are killed each year by poisonous drugs, much of which is shipped illegally into America across our porous southern border by illegal aliens, MS-13, and other drug cartels.

Stronger border security, which must include wall construction, will save thousands of American lives each year.

Unfortunately, in the worst betrayal of America in history, socialist Democrats, motivated by a lust for political power, selfishly elevate illegal aliens over American citizens because illegal alien families overwhelmingly rely on welfare, thus making them highly reliable Democrat voters who elect socialist Democrat politicians by diluting the votes of American citizens.

Inasmuch as socialist Democrats refuse to protect American lives from illegal alien homicides, drug deaths, and America's porous southern border, I urge President Trump to secure our borders and build the wall under existing law and Presidential powers.

For example, title 10, section 284 of the United States Code empowers Presidents to order America's military to assist Federal drug and law enforcement agencies in the fight against drug and transnational organized crime.

Pursuant to this law, the President may deploy active military and National Guard troops to establish and operate bases of operations; detect and monitor surface traffic in Mexico and in the United States within 25 miles of the southern border; construct roads, fences, barriers, and lighting to block drug smuggling corridors across the southern border; and use aerial and ground reconnaissance.

For emphasis, this Federal law empowers President Trump to order America's military to construct walls and barriers to block drug smuggling corridors, with the side benefit of stopping illegal aliens.

Mr. Speaker, another example of existing Presidential authority is the power to declare a national emergency and divert congressionally appropriated money to border security and wall construction.

America invaded Iraq and Afghanistan based on 9/11 terrorist attacks that killed roughly 3,000 people. In response, America spent trillions of dollars and lost thousands of lives in military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While 9/11 was horrific, 9/11 deaths pale in comparison to hundreds of thousands of Americans who are dead or will die over the years because of illegal alien homicides and overdoses caused by deadly drugs shipped across America's porous southern border.

For emphasis, a minimum of 50 Americans die each day we delay securing our southern border. That is a minimum of 15,000 dead Americans each year. This death rate easily justifies a Presidential declaration of a national emergency. In fact, not one of the 58 national emergencies declared by a

President since 1979 is supported by a worse death rate or threat to America and American lives.

Mr. Speaker, an extraordinarily weak and conflicted Congress is of no help. Worse yet, this Congress is a hindrance. As such, I urge President Trump, as America's Commander in Chief, to invoke title 10 United States Code section 284, declare a national emergency, and use every other authority, statutorily and constitutionally, he possesses to direct the military to secure our southern border, build the wall, and protect and save American lives.

America's military protects the borders and lives in South Korea, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Europe, and many other countries. America and Americans deserve no less protection.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE DEMOCRAT PARTY?

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask one question today: What happened to the Democrat party?

Democrats, up until just recently, were a lot closer to the middle. Take John F. Kennedy, for example, who argued in favor of supply-side economics and fought for tax cuts and personal responsibility.

Bill Clinton and DIANNE FEINSTEIN are recorded decrying rampant illegal immigration. Bill Clinton described Democrat policies on abortion as safe, legal, and rare. Even as recent as last decade, Barack Obama attacked companies for hiring illegal aliens.

But something new is emerging from their ranks. Dangerous extremist ideas are becoming the new normal on the left side of the aisle.

Let's begin with infanticide. Are Democrats truly accepting killing babies outside the womb now?

A Democrat head of State, last month, casually defended it on a radio station broadcasting in the Nation's Capital. He explained to listeners that an infant already delivered would be kept comfortable while a mother and a doctor discussed letting the child die.

□ 1045

When pressed for clarification, he explained that the scenario he envisioned involved a baby with deformities. Assuming he meant something like Down syndrome or something similar, this is an outrageous claim. If you go and ask people with Down syndrome, they think their life is worth living, and I couldn't agree more.

If all of that is not sitting well with you right now, well, we are just getting started, or I should say, they are just getting started.

How about the newly unveiled Green New Deal? This massive overhaul of the entire U.S. economy was reportedly drafted over a single weekend by a bunch of staffers and environmental

activists. The visionaries behind this massive bill are hoping to eliminate air travel, gut and rebuild every building in America, eliminate 99 percent of cars, eliminate nuclear energy, and ban affordable energies like natural gas.

One of the authors of the Green New Deal laments that we aren't sure we will be able to fully get rid of flatulating cows fast enough to get down to zero carbon emissions. Of course, that has been pulled off their website, following the appropriate national response.

But don't worry, the authors tell us, if passed into law, the government will guarantee each and every one of us a high-paying job, free education for life, a house, free money, and healthy food for all Americans.

How about the various proposals to get free healthcare for everyone? The most popular one of these, Medicare for All, was introduced by a self-described socialist and has received enthusiastic endorsement of 2020 Democratic Presidential candidates. Cautious estimates of the cost of Sanders' plan start at around \$32.6 trillion over the next 10 years.

Even if we implement the most aggressive tax plan to seize and redistribute wealth, the hard-earned work of some Americans, we only raise \$720 billion over 10 years, or 2 percent of what Medicare for All will cost.

Keep in mind, our revenue for the entire United States over that same period will only be approximately \$40 trillion, unless, of course, this bill passed and we tailspin toward a second Great Depression.

Democrats have abandoned all reason in the immigration debate as well. We are witnessing Democrat officials offering homes, voting rights, welfare, and taxpayer-funded education to anyone and everyone who is able to sneak into the interior of the United States. It has been estimated that each illegal border-crosser is a net fiscal burden of \$74,722 to the United States, and that is before all the goodies I mentioned previously are added.

Moreover, we have one primary agency in charge of identifying and apprehending illegal aliens who go on to commit other crimes, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Democratic officials are demanding we eliminate them. Instead, they tell us to give everyone amnesty, something estimated to cost taxpayers another \$2 trillion.

With all the free programs available to illegal aliens in the United States, it is no wonder they are flooding over the southern border. According to the White House, 400,000 migrants were apprehended attempting to illegally enter the United States in FY18 alone.

Along the way, reports from non-partisan organizations state that one in three women are sexually assaulted on the trip north. They also have to pass through something called the route of death. Do we really want to incentivize people to make this trek?

A wall and a crackdown on illegal immigration would surely disincentivize migrants and save lives.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALFRED J. DUNLAP

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor the memory of a friend, a man from Ocala, Florida, a man I consider a friend of mine, Mr. Al Dunlap.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Dunlap at a charity event in my district, where he and his wife of 50 years, Judy, were providing scholarships for local schoolchildren. A self-described "nothing kid from the slums of Hoboken, New Jersey," he was a tough guy, a shrewd businessman known around the world, but a man with a big heart.

Mr. Dunlap earned a degree in engineering at the United States Military Academy, West Point, and served our Nation in the U.S. Army. He went on to lead many successful businesses around the world and had dined with kings and queens and just wealthy people around the world.

He moved his work down to the Ocala, Florida, area, where I live. But it is not his work in the business world that he will be most remembered for. Mr. Dunlap was an important part of his community and was always there to lend a helping hand to his friends, his neighbors, and his community.

He supported my rival university in our State, Florida State University, to the tune of over \$40 million, and we always had fun ribbing each other about the Gators and the Seminoles.

During his lifetime, the kindness and selflessness of Mr. Dunlap and his wife, Judy, touched many lives, and he will be greatly missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MURREL HINES

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who was a pillar in our community and in the agricultural community, Mr. Murrel Hines. I have known Mr. Hines, Murrel, for more than 35 years. In fact, I knew him before I became a veterinarian and was able to work on their family farm.

He and the rest of the Hines family had a profound impact on my professional career as a large animal veterinarian but also as a person. The Hines family farm is a generational farm that goes back to the 1850s. Today, the Hines family is the cornerstone of the Gilchrest community.

When you look at farm families in America, they are the salt of the Earth. Mr. Hines and his family were those people. They were the salt of the Earth. They would do anything for you at anytime, anywhere, any day, and ask nothing from you in return.

Some of my earliest memories as a young veterinarian, not even out of vet school yet, included working with the Hines family on their farm. I can recall working cows in their pens in the

morning and joining the family for lunch, where there was no shortage of homemade biscuits by his wife, Ms. Betty Jo. Jokes and stories ran wild, and we always had a great time. He was the pillar of the family, the patriarch.

One thing about Mr. Murrel, there was never a shortage of work ethic in the man. I saw him working cattle up into his 80s every day, from morning until night. In fact, he said he had retired, but he would show up at 7:30 and work until 9 at night.

Despite quitting school at the age of 13, Mr. Murrel had more common sense and business acumen than most who go all the way through college. He successfully grew watermelons, tobacco, peanuts, hay, grass, and cattle. He also grew his father's cattle operation beyond what others said could be done.

Mr. Murrel knew, according to the Scriptures in the Psalms, that the Lord had no need for a bull or a goat, for every beast of the forest was His, as were all the cattle on a thousand hills. Murrel himself sure knew what it was like to have that many cows. But seriously, he was a proud caretaker of the Lord's land and a man of conviction and faith.

Just last year, he was presented the Conservation Stewardship Award for his work in best farming practices. To him, recognition and awards weren't necessary. He just always did what was right.

He was, in every sense of the word, a true cowboy. A vise-like grip, an easy smile, a man of great faith but of few words, he was a family man. Married to his wife, Betty Jo, for over 70 years, he was an example to us all when it came to family, work, common sense, giving back, and, ultimately, life.

It is my honor to have known him and worked beside him and to have shared so many memories with him and the rest of the Hines family over the years.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of my friend and mentor, Mr. Murrel Hines, I would like to close with "The Cowboy's Prayer."

"Heavenly Father, I pause, mindful of the many blessings You have bestowed upon me. I ask that You will guide me in my life. Help me, Lord, to live my life in such a manner that when I make that last ride to the country up there, where the grass grows lush and the water runs cool, that You will take me by the hand and say, 'Welcome home, cowboy.' Amen."

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 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Barry C. Black, Chaplain, United States Senate, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Lord of the harvest, we continue to seek You, for we desire to do Your will.

You, O God, are our light and salvation, so we refuse to be afraid.

As our lawmakers strive to walk uprightly, provide them with a harvest of truth, justice, and righteousness.

May they cultivate such ethical congruence that their rhetoric will be undergirded by right actions.

Lord, keep them aware of Your continuous presence, as they find in this fellowship fullness of joy.

Show them the path to life, as Your truth brings them to a safe harbor.

We pray in Your merciful name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BEATTY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests

for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MAYOR GREG PETTIS

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a friend and someone I looked up to, Mayor Greg Pettis, of Cathedral City, California.

Motivated by his drive to fix the injustices that the LGBTQ community faced back in the late eighties, Greg took action and entered public life during a time when acceptance and understanding was not the norm. He inspired many, including me, by taking a courageous stance and living life as his true self, becoming Riverside County's first openly gay elected official. It was Greg's persistence that encouraged me to continue pursuing my passion to serve my community, regardless of the setbacks I faced as an openly gay person.

Though he was initially motivated by his passion to improve the lives of LGBTQ people, his lifetime of service brought justice to all people. As mayor of Cathedral City, Greg helped improve transportation infrastructure in his region and recognized LGBTQ veterans in his city by erecting a monument in their honor. If his memorial service was any indication, Mayor Pettis' legacy will live on for years to come.

SUPPORT WHOLE MILK IN SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

(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 in support of my bill, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act. I recently introduced this legislation with chairman of the House Agriculture Committee COLLIN PETERSON and Ranking Member MIKE CONAWAY.

This bill would allow for whole milk, both flavored and non-flavored, to be offered in our school cafeterias.

Mr. Speaker, milk was once a staple in the diet of our students, but consumption in schools has dramatically decreased since the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 was implemented and basically demonized milk fat that we know today, based on science, is where all the nutrition, let alone the flavor, is.

Milk is the number one source of nine essential nutrients in the diet of many young Americans. We can provide the foundation for a solid, healthy lunch in our schools that also tastes great and that children will want to drink and is good for them. When students don't consume milk, they are not getting nutrients, such as calcium, potassium, and vitamin D. This bill offers more varieties to give kids the option of consuming the milk they love.

I encourage my colleagues to support the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act and put flavor back into school lunches.

TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE LUMPKIN

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor for me to rise today during Black History Month to pay tribute to Mr. Clarence Lumpkin, or as many people called him, the Mayor of Linden, in my Congressional District. He passed away on January 28.

For almost 30 years, I had the opportunity and honor to work with him. He was a dedicated community leader who fought relentlessly for affordable housing and healthcare as well as meaningful employment, not to mention a mentor to those countless individuals and leaders in our community.

He leaves a legacy of true service, and his funeral procession told the story. The procession traveled past places he had a hand in creating or saving, like the library on Cleveland Avenue, the Columbus Fire Station 18, St. Stephen's Community House, and Linden-McKinley STEM Academy.

So although we mourn his passing, we can find comfort in the fact that his life, his legacy, and his work will live on for generations to come. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife of 72 years, Willa, his three children, six grandchildren, friends, and the entire Linden neighborhood.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR FRANK SEFFROOD

(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 a great man and honorable Texan, Mayor Frank Seffrood of Copperas Cove, who passed away December 28, 2018.

Mayor Seffrood lived his life as a selfless servant for others. He served in the U.S. Army for 23 years and later as city councilman for 6½ years before being elected mayor of Copperas Cove in 2005. He was just recently elected to serve a second term on December 11 before he unexpectedly passed away.

Mr. Speaker, I want to bring attention to this because last Friday at the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce annual banquet, Mayor Seffrood was awarded the Good Friend Award. This is awarded to those who inspire others to serve and volunteer and those who show leadership and selflessly give their time and their resources.

As a citizen of Copperas Cove for 55 years and as a compassionate leader, I cannot think of someone better suited to be this year's recipient. His wife, Rita, accepted the award on his behalf.

The Copperas Cove community has already felt the immense loss of Mayor Seffrood, but his kind and noble spirit

lives on through the people's lives he has touched. I am praying for the Seffrood family and all those who loved him during this difficult time.

In God We Trust.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleagues for their steadfast commitment to pursuing and achieving a bipartisan agreement that prevents another government shutdown, upholds our shared values, and provides stability for American families.

I am encouraged that we have returned to a productive dialogue and set a constructive tone that seeks to unite and not further divide us. The American people expect and deserve nothing less.

Now, it is my hope that we continue that same spirit of bipartisanship as we return our focus to governing and addressing the important issues facing our Nation. That means working together to ensure access to quality, affordable healthcare for every person, to protect the promise of Social Security and Medicare, to expand economic opportunity, and to stop the devastating cycle of gun violence.

Progress can only be achieved through cooperation and partnership, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to deliver results that uplift the lives of all Americans.

PROTECTING INNOCENT LIFE

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of human life and protections for newborn infants. This should be a noncontroversial thing. Newborn babies deserve access to medical care.

In the weeks since Democrats blocked the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act in the Senate, my House colleagues have called for a vote on this important, commonsense legislation. I am a proud cosponsor of Congresswoman ANN WAGNER's bill to define any infant who survives an abortion as a legal person and ensure the baby receives the same medical care that any newborn receives.

This is in stark contrast to the legislation just passed in the State of New York and the proposal in the State of Virginia which legalizes late-term abortion even up until birth. These radical attempts demonstrate that this is a human rights issue that we must address.

Protecting the dignity of human life upholds our society's highest values, and denying lifesaving medical care for newborn babies should defy our Nation's collective conscience.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
SENATOR HARRIS WOFFORD

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Senator Harris Wofford, a giant in our Nation's history and a dear friend.

For decades, at every single inflection point in our Nation's march towards equality, Senator Wofford stood proudly and strongly on the side of justice and decency. But he wasn't one who could be confined only to our shores. Before, during, and after his time in the United States Senate, Harris sought out injustice around the world and asked how he could help.

Not only is he an inspiration to any aspiring public servant, he has been a close friend to generations of my own family. To his husband, Mr. Charlton, his children, Susanne, Daniel, and David, and all of the members of his family and friends who loved him so dearly, know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and that Harris' memory and our Nation will never forget.

REMEMBERING TOMMY RUKAVINA

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of a dear friend, Tommy Rukavina, who passed away after his battle with cancer. Tommy's life ended the way he lived, with a fight. He wouldn't have had it any other way.

It is hard not to think of Tommy when I travel northern Minnesota and see all the great communities that rely on the mining industry and when I am with the amazing men and women who sustain Minnesota's Iron Range today. These are the people Tommy cared about. These are the people he represented and the people he helped.

Tommy Rukavina was outspoken. He never shied away from a fight, and yet, win or lose, he preserved civil discourse in every interaction. After difficult battles, you would still want to hang out with Tommy.

The Croatian Sensation, as I once called him, was passionate about life. He was passionate about people, and he was passionate about the causes he believed in and fought for every day. I have no doubt that he has a special place in Heaven, and I know Heaven will never be the same now that he is there.

Our State has suffered a great loss. Tommy will be deeply missed.

Our condolences to his family and loved ones, and a special thanks to all of you for sharing Tommy Rukavina with the rest of us.

□ 1215

ELIMINATE SHUTDOWN TACTIC
FOREVER

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before you as a Member of the most diverse freshman class in our Nation's history, sent to Washington to inspire collaboration and rebuild the American people's faith in their elected leaders. But much of our tenure in Congress has been spent under a shutdown, proving the American people were right to demand change.

This dynamic must stop. To that end, Representatives HOULAHAN, SLOTKIN, ALLRED, and I rallied an energetic group of 22 freshman Members, nearly one-third of the entire class, behind the Shutdown to End All Shutdowns Act, known as the SEAS Act.

As we near agreement and the fear and immediacy of a shutdown fades, I will not forget the conversations I had with Federal employees, parents, and business owners in my district—the real human stories of the shutdown.

It would be irresponsible and unforgivable for us to betray them once again. They are not political pawns, and many provide the very safety and security we cherish in this country. That is why I stand here to urge the passing of the SEAS Act, to eliminate this destructive tactic from the negotiation toolbox forever.

RECOGNIZING CHAYNE DESSASO

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

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, duty, honor, country—these three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, and what you will be. These words were Douglas MacArthur's in a speech to West Point's Corps of Cadets in 1962.

Memorizing it will be one of the many challenges faced by a young man from my district, Chayne Dessaso of Leavenworth, Kansas. You see, Chayne has recently been appointed to be a cadet of the United States Military Academy at West Point, my alma mater.

West Point will teach Chayne rifle marksmanship, military tactics, math, chemistry, a foreign language, boxing, engineering, swimming, gymnastics, orienteering, history, poetry, first aid, and philosophy. He will also learn about camaraderie, sacrifice, leadership, and the human spirit. And the world will be a better place for it.

Well done, Chayne. Welcome to The Long Gray Line.

USS "MICHAEL MONSOOR"

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero whose motto should inspire us all: You Never Quit.

Michael Monsoor wrote those words with a permanent marker inside the hat he wore during his BUDS training in Coronado. The lettering has faded but, displayed throughout the newly commissioned USS *Michael Monsoor*, the hat and its message will continue to inspire sailors for years to come.

In 2001, Michael enlisted in the Navy and set out to become a Navy SEAL. An injury derailed his first attempt, but Michael never quit. He returned, completed basic SEAL training, and was assigned to SEAL Team Three.

While deployed in Iraq, Michael ran forward, not away, from incoming gunfire to protect his teammates; and, when the time came, Michael threw himself upon an enemy grenade to save his team because Michael never quit.

For his service, he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Medal of Honor. His legacy perseveres in the proud vessel stationed in San Diego.

Fair winds and following seas to the sailors who will call the USS *Michael Monsoor* their home, and may we all never quit.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT
MARTIN

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, at the age of 93, on February 5, America lost another hero from our Greatest Generation. I rise today to honor the life of Robert Martin of Spring Hill, Arkansas, for his heroic actions in World War II and his life of service.

Mr. Martin enrolled in the Army on June 6, 1944, a day we know as D-day. We think of it as the beginning of the end of the war; although, it was just the beginning of his service. But he had a lot of service to give.

During his time overseas in the war, he served in England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. Mr. Martin fought in the Battle of the Bulge, was wounded in December of 1944 and January and February of 1945, and spent several months in the hospital recovering from serious injuries.

Upon his return to the U.S., he was awarded three Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Prisoner of War Medal, a World War II Victory Medal, and several others.

Mr. Martin was a proud resident of Arkansas and became known as the community historian to everyone who lived in Spring Hill, sharing his stories with anyone who would listen.

Mr. Martin was a true American hero. He spent his life serving his fellow man, and, for this, we remember his legacy.

It is with great pride that I honor Mr. Robert Martin.

REMEMBERING LIVES LOST AT MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS 1 YEAR AGO

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

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Mr. Speaker, today is a very difficult day for south Florida and for my community. One year ago, we lost 17 innocent lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas in Parkland.

The pain of the family and friends of those we lost does not go away. I know. I lost my father to gun violence.

Shortly after the tragedy at Parkland, I met with the parents of the students who lost their lives. All you want to do is find a way to take away their pain, but you can't. You can listen to them, share their story, hold their hand, but you can't take away their pain.

When I spoke with parents like Regina Talabert, Romania Duque, Manny, Patricia, and other concerned Floridians, I made a promise that I would not stop until we changed our country's gun laws.

I want to be able to continue to look at those parents, those students, and all of those who have lost a loved one to gun violence and tell them that I will do everything that I can to prevent another tragedy from happening.

We cannot wait for another mass shooting, so I want to say that I am so proud of my colleagues that we passed H.R. 8 yesterday on the floor. We can work together to prevent another Parkland.

PROTECTING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak for those who can't speak for themselves: the souls of our Nation's unborn and newborn children.

I have long championed pro-life legislation and initiatives, but recent events have shaken me and millions across our country, compelling me to address this body.

The act of abortion is tragic and heartbreaking; however, the termination of human life for abortion survivors is something worse—criminal, subhuman. But proposals exist in our State governments that would allow just that.

Allowing an infant to die or intentionally killing an abortion survivor is a disgrace and must not be allowed to happen in any circumstance.

I echo the calls from Republican leadership to immediately pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act to ensure the sanctity of life remains a fundamental principle in this country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SHANNON KENT

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

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Chief Petty Officer Shannon Kent, a true hero from Pine Plains, New York, who tragically lost her life in service to this country on January 16, 2019, in Syria.

Chief Kent was 35 years old and is survived by her husband, a retired member of the Army, and her two young sons.

After graduating with honors from Stissing Mountain High School on December 11, 2003, Chief Kent enlisted in the United States Navy, where she quickly rose through the ranks and served as a member of the Navy's Cryptologic Warfare Unit.

Chief Kent was fluent in five different languages and six dialects of Arabic and was one of the first women to complete the rigorous course required for troops to accompany Navy SEALs on raids.

Chief Kent could run a marathon in 3 hours 30 minutes, do a dozen full-arm-hang pull-ups, and then march for miles with a 50-pound rucksack—amazing.

A cancer survivor, Chief Kent had assignments in Iraq, Afghanistan, and, finally, Syria. Just 1 month into her deployment, Chief Kent was killed by a suicide bomber.

A recipient of the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star, Chief Kent gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country and will be remembered for her courage and determination.

RECOGNIZING THE IRREPLACEABLE WORK OF OUR COURT REPORTERS DURING NATIONAL COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING WEEK

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important and irreplaceable work done by our court reporters during National Court Reporting and Captioning Week, which is February 9 through 16.

As guardians of the record, court reporters have had and do have a large impact on capturing history for posterity.

During our nearly 250 years of American history, court reporters have been a cornerstone of our American justice system. From George Washington's farewell address to Lincoln's "House Divided" speech, these noble servants have transcribed some of the most important pieces of American history.

Today, with the help of new technology like that utilized by CART captioners, reporters have been able to expand beyond the courtroom to provide accessibility for millions of Amer-

icans who are deaf and hard of hearing by providing captioning in real time for live sporting and theater events, church services, movie theaters, and many other venues.

As I speak to you now, a stenographer, Julia, is seated next to me, quietly but promptly recording my every word.

So, on behalf of myself and all Members of Congress, thank you for all the hard work you do in support of this House.

WE MUST ACT ON GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8.

I serve on the House Judiciary Committee. Last night, after 10 hours of debate, our committee passed this bill to be brought to the floor, and it is vital that we pass it.

In Colorado and across our country, we have experienced undue devastation by countless tragedies of gun violence—Columbine, Aurora.

Mothers, sisters, brothers, husbands, wives, and young children have been lost at the hands of gun violence.

One year ago today, 17 lives were taken in 6 minutes and 20 seconds in Parkland, Florida.

There is no question we need to address the epidemic of gun violence in our country. We cannot sit idly by. Universal background checks are overwhelmingly supported by the American people, and 20 States, including my home State of Colorado, have either wholly or partially closed the background check loophole.

Americans understand what it takes to keep our communities safe from gun violence, and it is time for Congress to act as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say, simply: Enough is enough. We must act on gun violence. We must pass H.R. 8 here on the floor.

PROTECT THE RIGHT TO LIFE

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

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, like so many others, I have been deeply disturbed by the news out of the New York and Virginia State Legislatures, where infanticide is being legalized.

Today I rise in strong support of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker, a child born alive after a failed abortion is a living being just like any other baby born prematurely. Ending any life at 24 weeks or as a newborn is murder.

The law just adopted in New York legalizes abortion up to 40 weeks, essentially up to the moment of birth, and this is atrocious.

We are facing a moral crisis, and I fear for my children's future with today's officials supporting and signing bills into law like that of New York's.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to denounce the radical support for infanticide and join me in reaffirming and protecting the inalienable right to life.

Let's do the right thing. Let's bring the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act up for a vote in this House and pass this bill to preserve the sanctity of life.

□ 1230

REPLACE ENBRIDGE INC.'S LINE 3

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the critical need to replace Enbridge's Line 3, an aging pipeline dangerously corroding and operating at only 51 percent.

Line 3 pipeline replacement project is on its fourth year of review and has met or exceeded every single required environmental standard. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission unanimously voted to issue its certificate of need last year.

The project will create more than 4,000 construction jobs and enjoys the support of construction trade unions throughout the State of Minnesota. The project is supported by dozens of elected officials and thousands of Minnesotans. It will also generate an additional \$19 million in property tax revenue, providing a significant funding increase to rural schools.

With all this benefit, it was greatly disappointing to hear we would have further delays. Unfortunately, certain State officials in Minnesota feel beholden to, in the words of our operating engineers, "environmental extremists." These environmental extremists are the same folks who vandalized the current pipeline just last week, ironically creating a dangerous situation for themselves and the environment.

VA SALUTE TO VETERAN PATIENTS WEEK

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Nation's veterans and the work of those who care for them during National Salute to Veteran Patients Week. Across the country this week, VA hospitals are celebrating our veterans and showing appreciation for those who may not have loved ones with whom to spend Valentine's Day.

During last year's National Salute to Veteran Patients Week, 288,000 valentines were delivered to VA medical centers from schoolchildren and various organizations across our country. These efforts included more than 1,400 community groups and 9,000 volun-

teers. I hope that this year we can build on that effort and show even more gratitude to our veterans.

I am proud to see our Nation come together for a week like this one and all the volunteers who took the time to express their respect and appreciation.

To all our veteran patients, thank you for your service, and I hope that you have a wonderful Valentine's Day.

VALENTINE WISHES TO AMIE SUE SPANO

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, 28 years ago today was a very good day. In fact, it was one of the best days of my life. You see, it was the day that Amie Sue Wurzel said yes. She said yes to my clumsy marriage proposal.

Since then, we have been through a lot together. We raised four kids, completed undergraduate school and law school, moved eight times, started and grew a business, grieved the death of her brother and my father, struggled through my significant health challenges, and won six elections.

I loved her back then, but the days, months, and years of shared heartache, struggle, laughter, sickness, joy, commitment, and faithfulness have caused my love for her to grow stronger and deeper than my words can possibly express.

She has put up with and even supported my crazy ideas and dreams, even when they have required great sacrifice for her and for our family.

On this Valentine's Day, Amie Sue, even though we are apart, I need you to know and understand how grateful I am that you said yes and how very much I love you.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF REGENTS OF SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to sections 5580 and 5581 of the revised statutes (20 U.S.C. 42-43), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution:

Ms. MATSUI, California
Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, California

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. VELA, Texas

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 2(a) of the National Cultural Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76h(a)), amended by Public Law 107-117, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts:

Mr. KENNEDY, Massachusetts
Mrs. BEATTY, Ohio

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee:

Mr. BEYER, Virginia
Mr. HECK, Washington
Mr. TRONE, Maryland
Mrs. BEATTY, Ohio
Ms. FRANKEL, Florida

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 2302, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Members on the part of the House to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council:

Mr. DEUTCH, Florida
Mr. SCHNEIDER, Illinois
Mr. LEWIS, Georgia

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 12 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1827

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE) at 6 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 14, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 14, 2019, at 12:50 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 488.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 14, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 14, 2019, at 4:28 p.m.:

That the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of the conference H.J. Res. 31.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 14, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 14, 2019, at 4:54 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 4.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.J. RES. 31, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, 2019, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2019, THROUGH FEBRUARY 22, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-10) on the resolution (H. Res. 131) providing for consideration of the conference report

to accompany the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 31) making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, and providing for proceedings during the period from February 15, 2019, through February 22, 2019, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.J. RES. 31, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, 2019, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2019, THROUGH FEBRUARY 22, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 131 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 131

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 31) making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the conference report to its adoption without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate; and (2) one motion to recommit if applicable.

SEC. 2. On any legislative day during the period from February 15, 2019, through February 22, 2019—

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

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

SEC. 3. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

□ 1830

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 131, providing for the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.J. Res. 31, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019.

The rule provides for consideration of the legislation under a conference report rule and provides for 1 hour of debate. The rule also provides for standard recess procedures through Friday, February 22.

Madam Speaker, this legislation has been a long time coming. In December, the Senate passed a clean continuing resolution for the seven appropriation bills which hadn't been completed. The President said at the time he would sign that bill, but then the President changed course and demanded \$5.7 billion for his campaign promise of a border wall.

As we now know, this led to the longest government shutdown in United States history: 35 days. This put our country in jeopardy by withholding paychecks for 800,000 Federal employees who are patriots and provide critical services to our country and to all Americans.

Put simply, this was not an issue worth shutting down the Federal Government. That is why I am pleased we are here today to avoid another shutdown and begin to get the agencies affected by the shutdown back on track.

This bill provides appropriations for the seven remaining appropriations bills through the end of the fiscal year, including Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration; Commerce, Justice, Science; Financial Services and General Government; Homeland Security; Interior and Environment; State and Foreign Operations; and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development.

Over the past 6 weeks, we heard testimony from the chairs and ranking members of the Appropriations Committee numerous times as we tried to reopen the government last month.

A constant theme from those hearings, from both Democrats and Republicans, was respect for the appropriators and their ability to negotiate a deal. Today's result is confirmation of that trust we placed in our appropriators.

I want to congratulate all the committee Members and staff for their work over the last few weeks.

The conference report in front of us today is by no means perfect, but it represents a compromise between Democrats and Republicans and between the House and the Senate.

There are many programs well funded by this bill. For instance, the Census Bureau will see an increase of more than \$1 billion as they prepare for the 2020 Census, to ensure an accurate count.

NASA, which invests heavily in Colorado and across all of the country, will see a \$763 million increase over last year to fully fund NASA's science mission directorates and support human

exploration, from the international space station, to the Moon, and on to Mars by 2033.

This legislation provides \$17 billion in funding for new infrastructure investments in roads, bridges, transit, and housing, and the bill blocks attempts by the White House to hamstring the EPA and other agencies from protecting our environment.

Importantly, the bill overrides the President's decision to freeze Federal employee pay this year. Instead, it provides a 1.9 percent pay raise for all Federal employees.

This conference agreement also makes smart investments in border security by investing \$755 million in infrastructure and technology at ports of entry, additional funds to hire customs agents, \$563 million for immigration judges to reduce the backlog, and humanitarian aid for Central American countries and along our border to those who need the help.

The bill also provides \$1.375 billion for border fencing, with restrictions protecting sensitive areas and local involvement, and takes steps to reduce the immigration detention bed levels, for which I am confident the House will provide rigorous oversight.

Madam Speaker, there are a few things missing from this agreement to help us repair the damage from the longest partial government shutdown in United States history.

First, the bill does not provide Federal contractors backpay from the shutdown. Federal contractors often work side by side with other Federal employees and perform jobs important to the country and all Americans. These contractors did nothing wrong and deserve to be made whole, just like the 800,000 Federal employees who missed paychecks. Congress needs to work together and make this right.

Additionally, during this shutdown, my State of Colorado, along with California, Louisiana, Vermont, and Washington, took steps to ensure fairness for excepted Federal employees to make them eligible for unemployment insurance because they were forced to continue working without knowing when they would be paid.

Unemployment benefits are a lifeline for situations just like this where there is nowhere else to go, but, unfortunately, the United States Department of Labor choose to make it more difficult for States to provide these benefits. The Department has said it will not reimburse States for these legitimate costs and has threatened additional penalties, putting earned benefits for other unemployed workers at risk.

I am a cosponsor of legislation produced by Representative KATIE HILL from California which would clarify current law and ensure our States are reimbursed as intended by Congress. For reasons I don't quite understand, my friends on the other side of the aisle would not accept this provision. I plan to continue working with Rep-

resentative KATIE HILL and Chairman RICHIE NEAL from the Ways and Means Committee to help States like Colorado.

Additionally, I worked to introduce two pieces of legislation during the shutdown to help Federal employees deal with the effects of the shutdown. First was H.R. 545, the Financial Relief for Feds Act, which was introduced by Representative PETE OLSON from Texas and Representative DON BEYER from Virginia and me, and this was to ensure Federal employees who made withdrawals during a shutdown from their Thrift Savings Plan or other retirement accounts weren't penalized for their early withdrawals.

TSP saw a 35 percent increase in hardship withdrawals during the shutdown as Federal employees did anything they could to help pay their bills. I hope our legislation is considered by the House quickly to make these Federal employees whole again.

I also introduced H.R. 781, The Student Loan Relief for Feds Act, with Representative WILL HURD from Texas to allow Federal employees to defer their student loans without penalty during a government shutdown. A typical student loan payment is between \$200 and \$300 a month, and that is money you don't have if you are not getting a paycheck.

These are examples of legislation we need to pass to fix problems created during the shutdown.

There is one more bill I will be introducing today—I just put it in the hopper—to prevent these shutdowns from ever happening again.

If Congress and the White House have a political disagreement, our Federal employees and the American people shouldn't be the pawns who suffer the consequences of the disagreement. My bill, the No More Shutdowns Act, provides automatic continuing appropriations for any fiscal year when appropriations haven't been enacted.

This means whenever there would be a lapse in the appropriations, funding would continue at previously enacted levels, along with an increase to the account for inflation until Congress passes an appropriation bill. This is common sense and would allow our Federal agencies to continue their work without the start and stop of shutdowns and short-term CRs.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in making sure shutdowns do not happen again.

Overall, Madam Speaker, this is a good compromise to fully fund these agencies so we can finish last year's work and allow Congress to move on to other important issues that we were sent here to do, like reducing healthcare costs and repairing infrastructure across the country.

I urge all my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying conference agreement, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Colorado (Mr.

PERLMUTTER) for yielding, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we are here today to pass an appropriations package that should complete our work and fully fund the government for fiscal year 2019.

As Members of this body know, this has been a long road, perhaps much longer than we expected at the beginning.

As we saw at the start of this Congress, the difficulties this body can sometimes face in coming to an agreement can translate into difficulty and hardship for the American people. I think I can speak for all of us here in this body when I say that government shutdowns are bad for the American people, bad for government, and bad policy, and we should all strive to never let them happen again.

Now, of course, we have a little bit different view of how that shutdown came about. It is worth noting for the record that the House actually did vote to fund the government and produced a bill in December that the President said he would sign and a majority of the United States Senate actually favored.

But the Senate gets to set its own rules. They could reach a number of 60, but the Democratic minority chose not to do that. So, given that, that is what shut down the government, and we have all been dealing with the consequences of it ever since.

But today we are poised to finish our work, and though the road may have been difficult, I think Members should look back on this process and commend themselves for what they have accomplished.

Last September, we finalized and passed into law 5 of the 12 funding bills, an accomplishment we had not matched in over 20 years. Those five, which included the two largest bills—Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies—covered approximately 75 percent of all Federal discretionary spending.

Prior to the end of the FY 2018 year, the House also passed four additional spending bills, which we then moved to conference with the Senate.

Indeed, of the seven outstanding spending bills, six of them were negotiated with the Senate and have been ready to be moved for final passage for quite some time. The sticking point has been the final bill on that for Homeland Security, which vexed Members for some time. But though we did not reach a deal on Homeland Security quickly, we did eventually reach a deal.

Today, I am pleased to be standing with my colleagues to bring up seven bipartisan, bicameral, fully negotiated and conferred spending bills that are ready to be passed and sent to the President's desk for signature.

As we finish the work for fiscal year 2019 and move into our efforts for fiscal year 2020, I want to commend my fellow members of the Appropriations Committee for their hard work.

Thanks to the leadership of people like Ranking Member KAY GRANGER, Chairwoman NITA LOWEY, and Chairman RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN, and thanks to the hard work of dozens of Members, we are at last ready to send these bills to the President.

I congratulate my friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle and, indeed, offer those same congratulations to the entire House.

I look forward to working together on fiscal year 2020 in the weeks and months ahead. Perhaps, working together, we can get all the bills passed, conferred with the Senate, and sent to the President by the end of the fiscal year.

That will certainly be my goal and the goal of every appropriator on both sides of this Chamber and on both sides of the rotunda in the Capitol Building.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1845

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

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend, Mr. COLE. We had a lot of hearings in the Rules Committee where we heard a lot of appropriations bills and, quite frankly, we knew that if we had some time and the appropriators were able to act, that they would come to an agreement, an agreement that didn't give everybody all that they wanted, but gave them something that they wanted.

I think our trust was appropriate at that time.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES).

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, since the 116th Congress took office this January, I have voted five times to open up the Federal Government. And today I rise in support of the conference report. I want to congratulate the conferees, and specifically, Chairman LOWEY, Ranking Member GRANGER, and the other conferees for their hard work, for coming together, and spending so much time to ensure that we have a bill moving forward that opens up our government.

This is a bipartisan statement about who we are as a country. This was a fight to reclaim the country that welcomed me as a little girl from Guatemala, to make sure that this country welcomes other children who come here fleeing violence and poverty.

This bill will prevent another stupid, costly government shutdown, and it is time that we give our Federal workers some certainty, move past this crisis, and get down to the business of governing.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure.

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

Madam Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consid-

eration of H.R. 1239, the Protecting Women Act of 2019.

This bill provides a straight extension of the Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA, as is it commonly known, through the end of the fiscal year.

Beginning in 1994, VAWA has provided grants to State, local, and Tribal law enforcement officials to investigate and prosecute violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Unfortunately, VAWA is scheduled to expire, literally, tomorrow, and my friends on the other side, frankly, are just standing by and watching it happen, even though they control this Chamber.

Republicans fought to include an extension of VAWA in the underlying conference report as we had done in previous continuing resolutions, but we were rebuffed by our other friends on the other side of the aisle, and they have not made any move to schedule a separate vote on this floor to avoid a lapse in this critical program, so Republicans will.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on the previous question.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO), my good friend and fellow member of the Rules Committee, to discuss her bill and this previous question.

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative COLE for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, if the previous question is defeated, we will amend the rule to bring an extension of the Violence Against Women Act, which I have titled the Protecting Women Act of 2019.

Without action, the Violence Against Women Act will expire tomorrow at midnight. Madam Speaker, I am a survivor of domestic violence, and as a survivor of domestic violence, I am calling on all of my colleagues to reauthorize this critical bill that helps women and children who have experienced the trauma and pain of abuse and who need our support.

While we may not agree on every provision of the current Violence Against Women Act, I think we can all agree on the overall importance of this law and the programs and services it provides.

Since the Violence Against Women Act was first signed into law in 1994, it has played a vital role in supporting American women who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and trafficking, and improving our response to these crimes while we work to prevent them altogether.

Progress has been made, but there is more work to do. In fact, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about one in three women and one in six men experience some form of contact sexual violence during their lifetime.

I am confident that every Member of this body believes those statistics are unacceptable. I know that we agree that we must end domestic violence and care for victims left in its wake. We need to enhance awareness, work for prevention, and ensure those harmed physically and mentally have access to the resources and support they need.

A clean extension of the Violence Against Women Act through the end of the fiscal year ensures that the law and the programs it supports remain in place.

It ensures there isn't a lapse in services for those in need while we discuss ways that we can strengthen and improve it together.

As a co-chairwoman of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, I want a bill that every woman in this Chamber can support. I know that my co-chair of the Caucus, Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE, has also told me she wants a Violence Against Women Act that every woman in this Chamber can support.

That is why, if the previous question is defeated, Republicans will seek a vote on a clean extension of the last Violence Against Women Act reauthorization. This will give us time, Republicans and Democrats, to work toward a bipartisan solution that helps women and girls, protects religious liberties, and protects women and children.

I hope all my colleagues will recognize the importance of acting now to prevent a lapse in authorization and defeat the previous question so that we can work to protect the vulnerable from these heinous crimes.

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

Madam Speaker, I appreciate Mrs. LESKO's and Mr. COLE's comments. In the bill, there is \$400-plus million for VAWA. It isn't as if it has been forgotten. But I hear this, and over the last few years, the Republicans have done nothing but try to defund VAWA.

So I am expecting a bill that was signed by Bill Clinton and was authored by the former chairwoman of the Rules Committee, Louise Slaughter, will be something that Democrats will certainly push forward. After listening to Mr. COLE and Mrs. LESKO, I am sure all of the Republicans will be on board with extending VAWA.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, this is a Republican bill that we are trying to fix to keep the government open and not holding our Federal employees hostage.

I support this bill with qualifications that I know that in the 2020 fiscal year,

Democrats will put forward a humane bill that addresses many of these issues. We gave \$1.37 billion for barriers, not the wall.

We are protecting the environment in my own State: the Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, the National Butterfly Center, the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, places where I have gone and people are pleading: Don't put fences there.

We brought down the number of ICE detention beds from 49,000–50,000 to 40,000, and, of course, we have provided, as I have indicated, and fought for facilities that deal with those children and women that are coming across: \$415 million for enhanced medical support; transportation; food; clothing for migrants in detention, particularly children; and \$30.5 million for family case management.

As my good friend said, we brought up the alternative detention from 82,000 to 100,000. As my good friend said, there is \$400 million for VAWA. We are funding these programs because we understand how important they are.

Finally, of course, in the justice area, we have given money for Byrne grants; Community Oriented Policing Services, sexual assault kits and DNA, Second Chance Act programs, and we funded NASA.

But more importantly, Madam Speaker, I think we have made a very important point that should be made, and that is, as we work toward fiscal year 2020 appropriations, it is critical that we ensure that robust accountability of DHS, including limiting the agency's transfer authority and dramatically reducing the number of people who are held in detention, utilizing proven alternatives to detention, including community-based alternatives and parole for the vast majority of people who are held in detention who pose no public safety threat or risk.

ICE—we have to realize, there must be due process and justice. It is unfortunate that this administration's treatment of immigrants is unconscionable and inhumane. We can do better and we will do better.

But the final point of all of this today is, we stand on the floor to not hold our Federal employees hostage and to open the government. I will be going forward with the qualifications of working on a better bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 31, which makes the consolidated appropriations needed to fund the departments, agencies, and programs of the federal government through September 30, 2019, and hopefully brings to a merciful end the uncertainty and hardship cruelly inflicted upon federal employees, contractors, and the American people by the President's decision to shut down the government.

I thank Chairman LOWEY, Ranking Member GRANGER, and their fellow House conferees for their work in reaching this bipartisan agreement.

Left to our own devices, House Democrats clearly could and would have made many different and better funding decisions but this

agreement is the best deal attainable in the circumstances, and importantly, it responsibly funds the government for the remainder, while securing our border.

Madam Speaker, coming from a border state, I am very pleased that this legislation does not provide the President the billions of dollars he demanded for a wasteful, ineffective, and immoral concrete wall.

In fact, it rejects the President's demand for \$5.7 billion for his wall and provides instead \$1.375 billion for physical barriers with language specifying that new fencing is limited to currently deployed designs—ruling out the President's border wall proposal.

My constituents and other Texans will be gratified to learn that this legislation specifically prohibits construction on sensitive environmental areas such as the Bentsen-Rio State Park, the National Butterfly Center, the Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge, La Lomita Historical Park, and the Lower Rio Grande Wildlife Refuge between Brownsville, TX, and the Gulf of Mexico.

I also strongly approve that the legislation provides a path to a reduction in ICE detention beds from 49,057 today to 40,520 at the end of the fiscal year, bringing the number of detention beds back to the level of average daily population funded in the FY18 omnibus bill.

This reduction in ICE detention beds, combined with Democratic control of the Appropriations Committee and new biannual inspections of detention facilities, will provide a check on the Trump Administration's out-of-control deportation policy that targets law-abiding families instead of focusing on deporting violent criminals;

The agreement before also provides funding a more humane immigration system with \$415 million for enhanced medical support, transportation, food and clothing for migrants in detention, particularly children and families; \$30.5 million for family case management; an expansion in Alternatives to Detention participants from 82,000 to 100,000; and a prohibition on ICE using information collected by HHS from sponsors of migrant children for removal and deportation purposes.

I also strongly support the new investments in national security provided in the legislation, including a new Coast Guard Polar Security Cutter, the first icebreaker in over 40 years; and an \$884 million increase for the Transportation Security Administration.

In addition to the bipartisan compromise on Homeland Security, the legislation before us includes six other appropriations bills that reject the President's deep budget cuts and instead make bold investments in to fund the programs Americans depend on and need to move our nation forward.

For example, the agreement funds a 1.9 percent pay raise to federal workers that overrides the President's decision to deny these hardworking and dedicated public servants a pay raise.

The agreement provides \$3.8 billion for the 2020 Census, an increase of \$1 billion, to ensure a fair and accurate count.

The agreement provides more than \$3 billion for state and local law enforcement to keep communities safe, including by addressing the opioid crisis, closing sexual assault kit backlogs and hiring more police officers.

Madam Speaker, all Members should celebrate the fact that the agreement provides more than \$17 billion in funding for new infra-

structure investments to improve our roads, bridges, highways, railways and mass transit.

Another reason why I strongly support the legislation before us is because it restores and increases investments in job-creating initiatives for economic and business development, including for minority and women-owned businesses, that the Trump Administration tried to eliminate or reduce drastically.

Madam Speaker, the bipartisan agreement before us rejects the Trump Administration's attacks on the environment by blocking the Administration's deep cuts to initiatives to protect clean water, clean air and public lands and it invests more than \$9 billion in the EPA and Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The agreement reinforces and strengthens America's global leadership by rejecting the Trump Administration's radical cuts and securing \$9.1 billion in security assistance for allies, including \$3.03 billion for Israel, \$5.7 billion for PEPFAR and \$1.7 billion for the Food for Peace program.

Madam Speaker, I would like to draw particular attention to provisions in the consolidated appropriations conference report that are of special interest to my congressional district.

Customs and Border Protection: \$1.375 billion, \$4.325 billion less than the \$5.7 billion the Trump administration requested, for approximately 55 miles of physical barrier along the southern border in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

\$564 million for the installation of non-intrusive imaging equipment in the in-bound lanes of southwest border land ports of entry—significantly increasing the percentage of cars and commercial cargo scanned for narcotics and other contraband.

\$415 million for humanitarian relief specifically for medical care, transportation, food and cloth; for humanitarian improvements to the McAllen Central Processing Center; and for a new El Paso CBP processing facility.

\$100 million for new border security technology.

\$77 million for opioid equipment and staffing for use at international mail and express consignment facilities.

\$59 million for 600 new CBP Officers and encourages CBP to use fee funding to hire up to 600 additional CBP officers for a total of 1,200 new officers.

Does not fund the Administration's request for joint detention facilities.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)—Provides an appropriated level for detention beds that establishes Congress's intent to reduce the daily population in ICE detention to approximately 40,520 by the end of the fiscal year, down from a current count of approximately 49,060.

Expands the Alternatives to Detention program from 82,000 to 100,000.

Provides \$30.5 million for ATD family case management, which improves compliance with immigration court obligations by helping families' access community-based support for basic housing, healthcare, legal, and educational needs.

Provides \$40 million for additional ICE staffing dedicated to overall ATD case management, particularly for asylum seekers.

Funds additional detention facility inspectors in the Office of Professional Oversight to bring the number of inspections up from once every three years to twice per year.

Provides funding to bring the number of detention facilities in compliance with PREA requirements from 86 percent to 97 percent.

Provides \$7.4 million for additional attorneys and for courtroom expansion to assist in the backlog of immigration cases currently in the system.

\$1.9 billion for Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), which focuses on a wide variety of investigations with a cross-border nexus, including those related to human trafficking, financial crimes and cyber investigations.

\$7.5 million for new HSI Victim Assistant Specialists and \$44 million for new staffing to enhance opioid/fentanyl-related investigations and analyses.

No funding for additional enforcement and removal field personnel.

Coast Guard—12 billion total funding (\$10.3 billion in discretionary funding) and provides for an additional 250 military personnel.

Transportation Security Agency (TSA)—\$4.9 billion in net discretionary funding, an increase of \$884 million above the request and \$5 million above the FY 2018 enacted level.

Includes additional funding for computed tomography imaging systems and \$40 million for airport explosive detection system reimbursement.

Fully funds the TSA Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response teams, staffing at exit lanes, as required by law, and the Law Enforcement Officer reimbursement program.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—\$16.6 billion in net discretionary funding, an increase of \$5.5 billion above the request and \$4.2 billion above the FY 2018 enacted level.

\$12 billion for disaster relief to help States, communities and citizens respond to and recover from disasters, as well as cost effective mitigation to reduce the risk from future disasters.

\$3.1 billion for grants to help States, communities, citizens, and nonprofit organizations, with every grant being at or above the FY 2018 level, including \$277 million for training, exercises, and education for our Nation's first responders and emergency managers.

An additional \$111 million above the request for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to address high priority cybersecurity and infrastructure protection vulnerabilities.

\$10 million in direct funding for Citizenship and Integration grants, instead of relying on fee revenue to support the program.

\$820 million to support cutting edge science and technology programs.

The bill includes the following provisions related to physical barriers: continues language allowing only fencing designs in use as of 2017 and prohibits construction on sensitive environmental areas such as the Bentsen-Rio State Park, the National Butterfly Center, the Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge, La Lomita Historical Park, and the Lower Rio Grande Wildlife Refuge between Brownsville, TX and the Gulf of Mexico.

The bill improves transparency by requiring ICE to make public information about the numbers and types of people in its custody, such as families; border apprehension detainees; interior enforcement detainees; and those who are in custody who have a positive credible fear claim.

Prohibits DHS from preventing a Member of Congress from entering any facility that is used to detain or otherwise house children

and directs DHS to make no changes to the current operations and facility conditions in anticipation of a congressional oversight visit.

Prevents DHS from destroying any record related to potential sexual assault or abuse of any individual in DHS's custody.

Prohibits ICE from using information provided by the Office of Refugee Resettlement about sponsors or potential sponsors of unaccompanied children to arrest, detain, or remove those individuals, unless that information reveals the individual has a dangerous criminal background.

Prevents DHS from placing pregnant women in restraints who are in the custody of DHS, except in extraordinary circumstances. Provides oversight of ICE treatment of detainees, including protections for pregnant refugees, prohibiting destruction of detainee sexual assault records, and public reporting related to detainees in ICE custody.

\$6.075 billion in discretionary funding for Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), which is \$100 million below the FY 2018 enacted level and \$325 million above the President's budget request.

\$73.477 billion for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which will fully fund the program in 2019.

\$23.141 billion for Child Nutrition Programs, which will fully fund the program in 2019.

International Programs: \$1.716 billion for Food for Peace and \$210.255 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is funded at \$3.08 billion in discretionary funding for the FDA, an increase of \$269 million.

Census Bureau—\$3.82 billion, an increase of more than \$1 billion above FY 2018 and \$20.9 million above the President's budget request, to enable the Bureau to effectively prepare for a thorough, accurate, and cost-effective 2020 Decennial Census.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) is funded at \$3.37 billion, equal to the President's budget request.

Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program: \$140 million, equal to the FY2018 enacted level. The President had proposed completely eliminating this program.

NOAA Climate Research: \$159 million, an increase of \$1 million above the FY2018 enacted level and \$60.4 million above the President's budget request.

National Weather Service: \$1 billion for operating expenses, an increase of \$6.6 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$85.5 million above the President's budget request.

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)—\$30.9 billion overall for Department of Justice, which is more than \$638 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$2.1 billion above the President's budget request.

Federal Bureau of Investigation—\$9.6 billion, an increase of \$177 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$653 million above the President's budget request.

United States Attorneys—\$2.2 billion, an increase of \$75 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$107 million above the President's budget request.

United States Marshals Service—\$2.93 billion, an increase of \$25 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$104 million above the President's budget request.

Drug Enforcement Administration—\$2.3 billion, an increase of \$77 million above the FY

2018 enacted level and \$80 million above the President's budget request.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)—\$1.3 billion, an increase of \$23 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and the same as the President's budget request.

Grants to State and Local Law Enforcement—\$3.02 billion:

1. \$423.5 million for Byrne JAG;
2. \$303.5 million for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program;
3. \$178 million to address sexual assault kit and other DNA evidence backlogs;
4. \$87.5 million for Second Chance Act programs;
5. \$347 million for grant programs to address the opioid crisis;
6. \$100 million for the STOP School Violence Act;
7. \$497.5 million for Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs; and
8. \$75 million for grants to improve the NICS firearms background check system.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)—\$21.5 billion, an increase of \$763.9 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$1.6 billion above the President's budget request.

\$1.93 billion for Earth science, an increase of \$10 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$146.8 million above the President's budget request, to enable better scientific information about the Earth and its changing climate.

\$725 million for aeronautics research, an increase of \$40 million above FY 2018 and \$91.1 million above the President's budget request, to continue efforts to make passenger air travel safer, more fuel efficient, less noisy, and more environmentally sustainable.

\$110 million for NASA's STEM education efforts, an increase of \$10 million above FY 2018, to enable NASA to inspire young people to pursue future careers in science. This amount includes funding increases for the Space Grant program, Minority University Research and Education Project, and Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCOR). The President had proposed eliminating funding for all of these.

\$8.1 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF), an increase of \$307.6 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$603 million above the President's budget request.

Legal Services Corporation is funded at \$415 million, \$5 million above the FY 2018 enacted level; the President had proposed completely eliminating this program, which helps provide legal assistance to underserved communities.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission—\$379.5 million.

International Trade Commission (ITC)—\$95 million to enable ITC to investigate unfair trade practices that harm American companies.

Crime Victims Fund is funded at \$3.35 billion for victims and for victim services, including a Tribal set-aside of nearly \$168 million for programs to assist Native American victims of crime.

Federal Defender Services—\$1.15 billion, an increase of \$71.7 million.

District of Columbia (DC)—\$726 million for special payments to DC, an increase of \$4.2 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$67.2 million above the President's budget request; the bill rejects the President's proposal

to eliminate the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) Program.

Office of Government Ethics (OGE) is funded at \$17 million, a modest increase over both the President's budget request and the FY 2018 enacted level.

Small Business Administration (SBA) is funded at \$715 million, which is \$14.5 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$36.4 million above the President's budget request.

The cap on SBA's 7a loan program increases to \$30 billion, which is \$1 billion more than the current level and this amount includes \$247.7 million for Entrepreneurial Development Programs (EDP), which is \$55 million more than the President's budget request.

National Park Service is funded at \$3.22 billion, an increase of \$20 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$521 million above the President's budget request.

Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education is funded at \$3.08 billion, an increase of \$17 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$667 million above the President's budget request.

Land and Water Conservation Fund is appropriated \$435 million, which is \$10 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$435 million above the President's budget request.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund receives \$1.7 billion, which is equal to the 2018 enacted level and \$300 million above the President's budget request.

Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund is funded at \$1.2 billion, which is equal to the 2018 enacted level and \$300 million above the President's budget request.

Indian Health Service is funded at \$5.8 billion, an increase of \$266 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$380 million above the President's budget request.

Smithsonian Institution is funded at \$1.04 billion, equal to the FY 2018 enacted level and \$86 million above the President's budget request.

\$155 million for the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities (NEA/NEH), the President's budget proposal to eliminate the Agencies.

\$5.1 billion for State Department Operations, which is \$114 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$662 million above the President's budget request, and \$6.1 billion for Embassy and Diplomatic Security, which is the same as the FY 2018 enacted level and \$716 million above the President's budget request.

Security Assistance—\$9.15 billion, including \$3.3 billion for Israel, fully meeting U.S. commitments under the new Memorandum of Understanding.

Education and Cultural Exchanges—\$701 million, which is \$55 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$542 million above the President's budget request.

Contributions to International Organizations—\$1.36 billion for assessed contributions to international organizations, which is \$107 million less than the FY 2018 enacted level and \$265 million above the President's budget request.

Contributions to International Peacekeeping—\$1.55 billion, which is \$169 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$355 million above the President's budget request.

President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)—\$5.7 billion, which is \$50 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$945 million above the President's budget request,

including \$1.35 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)—\$1.37 billion in total funding for the operating expenses of USAID, which is \$25 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$258 million above the President's budget request.

Global Health Programs—\$3.1 billion, including \$575 million for family planning programs, \$302 million to fight tuberculosis, \$145 million for nutrition programs, \$755 million to combat malaria, and \$290 million for GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance.

Development Assistance—\$3 billion for Development Assistance.

Economic Support Fund (ESF)—\$3.7 billion in total funding for Economic Support Funds, which is \$251 million less than the FY 2018 enacted level.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Assistance—\$7.8 billion, which is \$173 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$1.46 billion above the President's budget request.

International Disaster Assistance (IDA)—\$4.4 billion, which is \$100 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$828 million above the President's budget request.

Refugee Assistance—\$3.4 billion, which is \$73 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$632 million above the President's budget request.

Multilateral Assistance—\$1.86 billion to meet U.S. commitments to multilateral organizations and international financial institutions, which is equal to the FY 2018 enacted level and \$440 million above the President's budget request.

Peace Corps—\$410 million, \$500,000 above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$14 million above the President's budget request.

Millennium Challenge Corporation—\$905 million, which is equal to the FY 2018 enacted level and \$105 million above the President's budget request.

Department of Transportation (DOT) \$86.5 billion overall for DOT, including \$9 billion for new transportation infrastructure. National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER or BUILD) is funded at \$900 million, a decrease of \$600 million below the FY 2018 enacted level and \$900 million above the President's budget request. The funding will be allocated 50 percent to urban areas and 50 percent to rural areas.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)—\$17.5 billion, which is \$549 million below the FY 2018 enacted level and \$1.3 billion above the President's budget request.

Airport Improvement Program grants receive an additional \$500 million to accelerate infrastructure investments at airports.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)—\$49.3 billion, an increase of \$1.8 billion above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$3.5 billion above the President's budget request.

Highway Infrastructure Programs are funded at \$3.3 billion for highway and bridge rehabilitation and construction as well as safety improvements at railroad grade crossings.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)—\$966 million, an increase of \$19 million above the FY2018 enacted level and \$52 million above the President's budget request.

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)—\$2.9 billion, which is \$218 million below the FY 2018 enacted level and \$1.9 billion above the President's budget request.

Amtrak is funded at \$1.9 billion, equal to FY 2018 enacted level, and \$670 million is provided for rail infrastructure improvements.

The Magnetic Levitation Program is funded at \$10 million.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is funded at \$13.4 billion, 2.3 billion above the President's budget request. Within this amount, Capital Investment Grants are funded at \$2.6 billion, sufficient to fund all signed Full Funding Grant Agreements and continue work on projects in the development pipeline.

Transit Infrastructure Grants are funded at \$700 million to improve and modernize transit infrastructure.

Maritime Administration (MARAD)—\$1.1 billion, which is \$419 million above the President's budget request; within this amount, the Maritime Security Program is funded at \$300 million, funding is provided for the construction of a new schoolship, and \$293 million is provided for port infrastructure development.

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)—\$275 million, which is \$21 million above the President's budget request.

\$8 billion for new housing and public infrastructure.

Public and Indian Housing (PIH)—\$31 billion, an increase of \$6.4 billion above the President's budget request.

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance is funded at \$20.3 billion, adequate to renew all existing vouchers.

Public Housing Capital Fund is funded at \$2.8 billion and the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative is funded at \$150 million—both programs will revitalize our nation's public housing stock.

A mobility voucher demonstration program is funded at \$25 million.

Community Planning and Development (CPD)—\$7.7 billion, an increase of \$29 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$5 billion above the President's budget request.

Homeless Assistance Grants are funded at \$2.6 billion.

Community Development Block Grants are funded at \$3.4 billion.

The HOME program is funded at \$1.3 billion.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS is funded at \$393 million.

Housing Programs are funded \$12.7 billion, an increase of \$726 million above the President's budget request.

\$61 million is for the renovation and construction of housing units for the elderly and \$30 million is for new housing units for persons with disabilities.

Project-Based Rental Assistance is fully-funded at \$11.7 billion.

Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity is funded at \$65.3 million, equal to the FY 2018 enacted level and \$3 million above the President's budget request.

Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes is slated to receive \$279 million, an increase of \$49 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$134 million above the President's budget request.

Madam Speaker, the collateral damage caused by the Trump Shutdown was substantial, long lasting, and unnecessary because it could have been avoided had the President not reneged on his promise to sign the continuing resolution passed by the Senate unanimously on December 19, 2018.

Instead, the President callously shut down the government for 35 days, furloughing

800,000 civil servants and forcing nearly half that many to work without pay, which cost the national economy more than \$11 billion in lost productivity and economic output.

Because the President broke his promise, frontline federal employees, including law enforcement and public safety personnel, worked without pay from December 22 through January 25, 2019.

The way these federal workers, many of whom risk their lives in the service of this country, were treated was shameful.

The shutdown forced some employees to look for new jobs or take on extra work, and the pressure was immense for employees and families with no other source of income.

Among those not receiving a pay check for their work were 3,200 Secret Service agents who risk their lives every single day to protect the President and his family.

In addition to the federal employees working without pay, hardworking federal employees at agencies like the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Agriculture, and NASA had been furloughed without pay, plunging them and their families into uncertainty.

Madam Speaker, shutting down the Government of the United States, or any portion thereof, is not an acceptable tactic or strategy for resolving differences regarding policy, funding levels, or governing philosophy.

It should never happen again.

Given the damage mercilessly inflicted on the American people and the economy by the Trump Shutdown, Congress has a fiduciary duty to the American people to ensure the continued, uninterrupted operations of the Government of the United States and its services.

And that begins with an overwhelming majority vote in support of H.J. Res. 31.

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

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend, frankly, for his response on the VAWA issue. And I don't pretend to speak for all Republicans. I will point out to my friend, actually the last time we did a reauthorization, I voted against the Republican bill to bring the Senate Democratic bill to the floor because I thought it was a better bill. It was a stronger bill.

It had Tribal provisions and it had areas we had not addressed previously. I thought those were good changes. It is pretty unusual for me to break with my own team and bring down the Republican bill and pass the Democratic bill, but I was proud to do it because it was a better bill.

I don't think simply having money in place is the same as having the authorizations in place. This is an opportunity, in my view, to just have continuity while we do exactly what my friend suggests. Let's find a way, and come together. I think we will. That has traditionally been a bipartisan bill. I hope we do it. But I don't see a reason why we should have a lapse in authority.

This is something we tried to put, actually, in conference in the base bill, and it would not have prevented my friends from going on and offering a new authorization. It was just simply, let's keep this going.

So to me, the previous question that we will offer should the rule be defeated, will have that opportunity, and I hope my friends avail themselves of that.

In addition to that, I want to thank my friends genuinely for the cooperation in this process on the appropriations bills themselves. As I said, six of these bills were essentially agreed to in December in a bipartisan way between both the House and the Senate.

So we will hear the argument or could hear the argument tonight. All of this is new, and there is a 1,000-plus page bill, and what have you. The reality is, there are probably about 75 pages, I am told from the conferees, of new text here. Most of this is actually something that this House has voted on and passed in December.

Not reopening old issues and settling them where we could and then moving forward is something my friends ought to be proud of. I think it was absolutely the right thing to do. It let us get on to the important business of fiscal year 2020 more quickly and more expeditiously.

And my friends are in the majority, and if they want to make changes there, additions or subtractions, they will be in a position to do that. But I think closing the book here is a good one.

I hope all of us, honestly, as Republicans and Democrats—I have been around here long enough to be in the minority, in the majority, and in the minority again. It tends to move back and forth.

But as my friends have pointed out, these are important funding bills that provide for the continuity of government. And in these negotiations nobody ever gets everything they want. It is not possible, even when one side or the other controls both Chambers and the White House. I have been here when that has happened on our side and on my friend's side. You still never get everything you want in appropriations.

But I think there is going to be a premium placed on cooperation and negotiations going forward. There is no question. We have a Democratic House, we have a Republican Senate, and we have a Republican President.

Everything that we are going to accomplish in the next 18 months for the American people will have to be a compromise where we work together. I actually think this is a good first step in starting that process. I think my friends are to be commended in doing that.

We won't get every vote for this underlying legislation on our side. I doubt my friends will get every vote on their side, but we will have a pretty substantial bipartisan majority in favor of moving forward, fully funding the government and, hopefully, that sets the example for what we do in fiscal year 2020.

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Again, I look forward to working with my friends going forward. I look

forward to beginning that process here tonight by working together to pass a bill the Senate has already passed in an overwhelmingly bipartisan fashion and that the President has said he will sign, and I assume that he certainly will.

As difficult as this road has been, Madam Speaker, I think this is actually a hopeful moment for this Chamber and maybe the beginning of good habits of negotiation, compromise, and cooperation, because we are certainly going to need those habits going forward.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, and, again, I thank him quite sincerely for his work. We have had the opportunity to work together now in the Rules Committee for a little while. We hadn't had that opportunity previously. He is always a thoughtful and an interesting voice in that body and certainly here on the floor.

While we will disagree over the rule and might well disagree over the previous question, on the underlying legislation, I suspect my friend and I will be voting on the same side tonight.

That is something I hope that the American people take note of. We will have lots of Democrats and lots of Republicans voting on the same side. Yes, we have our differences about how we got here or what we would have liked. But at the end of the day, we have come together and given the American people what they deserve, and that is a fully funded, operational government, and we have resolved our differences in conference.

I, too, want to join my friends in congratulating the chair of the conference committee, Chair LOWEY; congratulating our ranking member, KAY GRANGER; and congratulating their counterparts, Senator SHELBY and Senator LEAHY for the work they did in working through these knotty issues and bringing us together.

Yes, I wish it happened more quickly, but they are not the only players. I think all four of them worked in good faith and served our Chambers well in their deliberations.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge support for the underlying measure. While the process of finalizing full-year funding for fiscal year 2019 may have taken longer than we expected, today's measure will complete the process. I expect the House will pass these seven bills today, and I expect that the President will sign them in the very near future.

I applaud and commend my colleagues for their hard work and hope that we will carry this spirit of bipartisanship with us as we move forward into the fiscal year 2020 appropriations process.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for joining me here today to speak on the rule and the conference report. Providing funding for the Federal Government is one of our most basic responsibilities here in the Congress. Unfortunately, the Congress in the last session failed to get it done and pass an appropriations package or even a short-term continuing resolution, and that resulted in a 35-day shutdown, the longest in U.S. history, something I hope we all can avoid from this point forward.

Starting on day one of the new Congress, House Democrats began by working to reopen the government, so we could negotiate the remaining issues on border security and finish last year's work once and for all. Today, we are accomplishing that goal.

I want to close with a thank you to the Appropriations Committee, which worked very hard to get this done. I thank the Rules Committee, where we heard every one of these appropriations bills.

I especially thank the 800,000 Federal employees affected by the shutdown, as well as the other 1.2 million Federal employees across the country. They are patriots. The employees are patriots for the work they do each and every day on behalf of our country and our citizens.

I met with dozens of Federal employees during the shutdown. I heard about the uncertainty of how to pay bills and the mental anguish from being sidelined from work because they were not excepted or essential. Despite all that, I still heard that they were proud of their work of 10, 20, even 25 years in public service and how they just wanted to get back to their jobs.

Madam Speaker, I say to Mr. COLE that I am hopeful, too, that we can come together on these important responsibilities. There are going to be basic disagreements, and hopefully, we can work together to iron out most of those. But shutting down the government is something we have to avoid from this point forward. So I hope the lessons we in Congress learned from the shutdown are not forgotten, and we continue working together to prevent this from happening again.

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

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

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

Sec. 4. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 1239) to reauthorize Department of Justice programs that combat violence against women, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall

be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit.

Sec. 5. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1239.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 229, nays 195, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 85]

YEAS—229

Adams	DeSaulnier	Larsen (WA)
Aguilar	Dingell	Larson (CT)
Axne	Doggett	Lawrence
Barragán	Doyle, Michael	Lawson (FL)
Bass	F.	Lee (CA)
Beatty	Escobar	Lee (NV)
Bera	Eshoo	Levin (CA)
Beyer	Español	Levin (MI)
Bishop (GA)	Evans	Lewis
Blumenauer	Finkenauer	Lieu, Ted
Blunt Rochester	Fletcher	Lipinski
Bonamici	Foster	Loeb
Boyle, Brendan	Frankel	Lofgren
F.	Fudge	Lowenthal
Brindisi	Gabbard	Lowey
Brown (MD)	Galleo	Lujan
Brownley (CA)	Garamendi	Luria
Bustos	Garcia (IL)	Lynch
Butterfield	Garcia (TX)	Malinowski
Carbajal	Golden	Maloney
Carson (IN)	Gomez	Carolyn B.
Cartwright	Gonzalez (TX)	Maloney, Sean
Case	Gottheimer	Matsui
Casten (IL)	Green (TX)	McAdams
Castor (FL)	Grijalva	McBath
Castro (TX)	Haaland	McCollum
Chu, Judy	Harder (CA)	McEachin
Cicilline	Hastings	McGovern
Cisneros	Hayes	McNerney
Clarke (MA)	Heck	Meeks
Clarke (NY)	Higgins (NY)	Meng
Clay	Hill (CA)	Moore
Cleaver	Himes	Morelle
Clyburn	Horn, Kendra S.	Moulton
Cohen	Horsford	Mucarsel-Powell
Connolly	Houlahan	Murphy
Cooper	Hoyer	Nadler
Correa	Huffman	Napolitano
Costa	Jackson Lee	Neal
Courtney	Jayapal	Neguse
Cox (CA)	Jeffries	Norcross
Craig	Johnson (GA)	O'Halleran
Crist	Johnson (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez
Crow	Kaptur	Omar
Cuellar	Keating	Pallone
Cummings	Kelly (IL)	Panetta
Cunningham	Kennedy	Pappas
Davids (KS)	Khanna	Pascarell
Davis (CA)	Kildee	Payne
Davis, Danny K.	Kilmer	Perlmutter
Dean	Kim	Peters
DeFazio	Kind	Peterson
DeGette	Kirkpatrick	Phillips
DeLauro	Krishnamoorthi	Pingree
DelBene	Kuster (NH)	Pocan
Delgado	Lamb	Porter
Demings	Langevin	Pressley

Price (NC)	Serrano	Torres (CA)
Raskin	Sewell (AL)	Torres Small
Rice (NY)	Shalala	(NM)
Richmond	Sherman	Trahan
Rose (NY)	Sherrill	Trone
Rouda	Sires	Underwood
Roybal-Allard	Slotkin	Van Drew
Ruiz	Smith (WA)	Vargas
Ruppersberger	Soto	Veasey
Rush	Spanberger	Vela
Ryan	Speier	Velázquez
Sánchez	Stanton	Visclosky
Sarbanes	Stevens	Wasserman
Scanlon	Suozzi	Schultz
Schakowsky	Swalwell (CA)	Waters
Schiff	Takano	Watson Coleman
Schneider	Thompson (CA)	Welch
Schrader	Thompson (MS)	Wexton
Schrier	Titus	Wild
Scott (VA)	Tlaib	Wilson (FL)
Scott, David	Tonko	Yarmuth

NAYS—195

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

NOT VOTING—7

Aderholt	Deutch	Quigley
Allred	Engel	
Cárdenas	Kinzinger	

□ 1926

Messrs. RUTHERFORD, GRIFFITH, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, and Mr.

SHIMKUS changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mses. BASS, SPEIER and JACKSON LEE changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 230, nays 196, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 86]
YEAS—230

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

Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)

Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky

Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.J. RES. 31, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, 2019

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 131, I call up the conference report on the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 31) making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUTTERFIELD). Pursuant to House Resolution 131, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see Book II of the proceedings of the House of February 13, 2019, at page H1589.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

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

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us would prevent another government shutdown by completing the remaining appropriation bills for fiscal year 2019. It represents what is possible in a strong democratic process when we work hard to reach agreement that puts politics aside and puts the American people first.

This bipartisan compromise rejects the President’s irresponsible budget cuts and, instead, invests in priorities that will strengthen our families, communities, and economy.

Additionally, it does not contain poison pill riders that threaten the environment, public health, and consumer protections in the House Republican versions of these bills.

Among the bill’s vital increases are \$80 million for State and local law enforcement to keep communities safe, \$1 billion for the Census Bureau, \$308 million for research and development at the National Science Foundation, \$25 million for the Environmental Protection Agency, \$293 million for port infrastructure, and \$123 million for grants to combat homelessness.

Strong international affairs funding will help stabilize the world’s economy, meet unprecedented humanitarian needs, and continue our fight against radical extremism and terrorism.

Federal workers will receive a 1.9 percent pay raise that the President attempted to deny hardworking families.

The Homeland Security division of this bill upholds Democratic values and funds smart and effective border security, including construction and screening technology at ports of entry, where most drugs illegally enter the country.

The \$1.375 billion it provides for border barriers is 76 percent less than

NAYS—196

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Billirakis
Bishop (UT)
Bost
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Buchson
Budd
Burchett
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxy (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)

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

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

NOT VOTING—5

Allred
Deutch

Kinzinger
Lieu, Ted

Quigley

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1935

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

what the President demanded for a concrete wall, and critical protections are put in place for environmentally sensitive areas.

Neither Democrats nor Republicans got everything they wanted.

Every Democrat and nearly every Republican who served on the conference committee to write this bill has signed it in support. I thank the conferees for their hard work and commitment to this process, which we couldn't have completed without our excellent, dedicated staff, both majority and minority.

My friends, I urge a "yes" vote.

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

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

I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 31, a bipartisan plan to fund the Department of Homeland Security and the remaining appropriations bills for fiscal year 2019.

Earlier this month, I had an opportunity to travel to the southern border to see firsthand the situation we face and hear from experts on the ground about the best way to address the crisis there. The President is correct; this is a crisis that must be addressed, both for the safety and security of the American people and for the well-being of those who are coming here.

We have a responsibility to come together and support what experts on the border say they need to address the security and humanitarian crisis.

While this bill falls short of what I would like to see, it will provide our Customs and Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents the tools necessary to continue combating the threat we face.

In particular, the bill provides \$1.375 billion for 55 new miles of wall or physical barriers, as well as additional technology to combat human and drug trafficking. It is a good downpayment that will allow us to build new barriers in the areas that the Border Patrol says it is needed most.

The bill also supports Immigration and Customs Enforcement priorities by funding detention beds at a higher level than the amount enacted last year. This will allow agents the flexibility to address surges in illegal immigration and apprehensions.

It also does not include any limits on ICE enforcement actions that could cause dangerous criminals to be released into our country.

□ 1945

The agreement prevents another unnecessary shutdown by including funding for the remaining unfunded appropriations bills: Agriculture; Commerce, Justice, Science; Financial Services and General Government; Interior; State and Foreign Operations; and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development.

By voting for these bills today and funding these vital areas of the Federal Government, we will secure America

and our allies, promote economic prosperity, protect human life, promote the health and safety of all Americans, and make vital investments in our Nation's infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, it would take hours to go through all the bipartisan provisions included in this bill, so let me take a few minutes to discuss some of the highlights.

They increase funding for Federal law enforcement to combat terrorism, espionage, drug traffickers, gangs, and violent criminals; combat the financing of terrorism and terrorist groups; and strengthen the development and enforcement of sanctions against Iran, North Korea, Russia, and Cuba by providing increased funding for the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence.

We keep our commitment to Israel's security by fully funding the new memorandum of understanding.

We encourage economic development and job creation in rural communities across the country.

We boost growth and development of America's small businesses by providing the opportunity to obtain capital through various Small Business Administration loan programs.

We provide funding necessary to implement the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. This will ensure that American families are keeping more of their hard-earned dollars, our small businesses are empowered to grow and expand, and investments are flowing to communities that need it most.

We maintain all pro-life language included in the various bills enacted during the 115th Congress under the Republican majority.

We advance drug treatment and recovery initiatives and improve prevention and enforcement by investing in Justice grant programs that support things like prescription drug monitoring and at-risk youth programs.

We increase and focus funding on medical product safety, including funding to fight opioid abuse. We advance drug and biological product manufacturing within the United States and approve rare disease medications. We modernize generic drug development.

We provide increased funding for the Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service to fight devastating wildfires that threaten our communities.

And we ensure rural areas have the same access to basic utilities that urban areas do by investing in critical infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend, Chairwoman LOWEY, for all her hard work in these negotiations. As always, she has been an honest broker and a tough negotiator throughout the process. I look forward to continuing to work with her in this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank our partners on the other side of the Capitol, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman SHELBY and Vice Chairman LEAHY, for their hard work, and all the

members of the conference committee, especially the House Republicans, Congressmen FLEISCHMANN, PALAZZO, and GRAVES.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I thank the hardworking staff of the Appropriations Committee for their tireless work, over the last 3 weeks in particular.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD), the hardworking chairwoman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking the ranking member of the subcommittee, CHUCK FLEISCHMANN, for the courteous way in which he represented and fought for the minority's priorities.

The negotiations on the DH funding bill were among the hardest I have experienced to date. Although we did not win every battle, we won many.

We prevented new funding for immigration enforcement field personnel. We secured funding to increase detention facility inspections from once every 3 years to twice a year.

We won funding to increase detention facility compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act to provide more victim assistance specialists and to expand the Alternatives to Detention program, including \$30.5 million for family case management.

We held firm on a provision to prevent ICE from using information from the Office of Refugee Resettlement to detain and remove sponsors of unaccompanied children.

We improved transparency by requiring ICE to make information public about the numbers and categories of people in its custody.

While I am not happy with the outcome on border fencing, we did limit funding for border fencing to only \$1.375 billion, no higher than last year. We also won protections for several ecologically sensitive areas in Texas. And we secured hundreds of millions of dollars for humanitarian efforts to ensure migrants who spend time in CBP custody are appropriately cared for.

Our bill also has large investments in equipment to detect drugs and other contraband at our ports of entry, where the real threat lies.

The bill funds 600 new Customs officers to help facilitate commerce and reduce wait times at the ports.

The bill also includes funds for the Coast Guard's first heavy icebreaker in 40 years and provides robust support for FEMA preparedness and disaster response grants.

Compared to the current detention bed level, we significantly reduced the funding available for ICE detention beds for the rest of this fiscal year.

Unfortunately, we were unable to reach agreement on how to prevent OMB from giving ICE a blank check for

detention beds during continuing resolutions, and we were unable to effectively prevent DHS' abuse of its transfer authority to increase detention beds. That transfer authority is intended to address unforeseen changes in circumstances. It is not to be used as a tool for routinely defying congressional intent on spending.

As chair of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, I will demand the Department honor the intent of Congress and fully justify any use of its transfer authority. I will hold public hearings to ensure the American people know when that authority is being abused and, if not corrected, redouble my efforts to ensure that authority is taken away.

While not a perfect bill, the only alternative to this negotiated bill is a yearlong CR, which would not only include DHS but all the civilian departments and agencies for which the bill before us has significant new funding initiatives important to Democrats and Republicans alike.

The fact is, Federal agencies need full-year funding bills if we expect them to carry out their missions effectively, especially after the trauma of the longest partial government shutdown.

It is time to put fiscal year 2019 behind us so we can start in earnest on fiscal year 2020 and the oversight opportunities it provides.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for the bill.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, but first, I want to congratulate our committee's distinguished chair and ranking member on their masterful work in shepherding this compromise to the floor. This is a historic dynamic duo that we have in charge of our committee, and they have produced the historic product that we have before us tonight.

Mr. Speaker, we have a crisis at our southern border, period. There is no denying that our Nation's security is threatened by the seemingly unending flow of drugs that find their way into nearly every American community, as well as the violence of the brutal cartels that profit from this trade.

Where does it take place? On that border. So we do have a problem. It is an emergency. President Trump is absolutely correct that we can't allow this ruthless criminality to continue unchecked.

This bill takes important steps to secure this country: \$1.3 billion for further construction at the border for a wall and additional resources for DHS to hire more personnel and deploy advanced technology in the region.

In addition to the security crisis, there is also a very real humanitarian crisis that we simply can't ignore. Thousands of vulnerable women and children are seeking a better, safer life

in the confines of this country. It is not the American way to turn our backs on these people, and that is precisely why we have processes under Federal law to facilitate legal entry into our country.

This bill also takes important steps to enforce our current immigration laws. The bill funds an expansion of the Alternatives to Detention program. It also increases attorney and courtroom staffing to reduce the backlog of currently pending immigration cases.

While the challenges at our border have rightly grabbed headlines, the bill also funds a number of other important Federal agencies through the end of the fiscal year. Importantly, it ensures that our dedicated public servants can continue to show up to work without fear of losing another paycheck.

In my Kentucky district, for example, hundreds of Federal prison employees showed up to a dangerous, difficult, often thankless job for over a month, not knowing when the next paycheck would come, if at all. I thank them, and I am pleased to support this bill that will continue to support the Bureau of Prisons.

Also for Kentucky, this bill continues our momentum in combating the opioid epidemic by fully supporting community prevention efforts and drug courts to get people into treatment.

This bill also provides \$115 million for the abandoned mine lands pilot program, which helps create economic development in Appalachian coal communities.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee, I am especially pleased that this bill includes significant funding to secure our diplomatic posts and to support critical allies like Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Georgia, Ukraine, and others.

The bill also continues vigorous oversight of U.S. assistance programs, prohibits funding for the Green Climate Fund, and respects the sanctity of life around the world.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is not perfect. It is not everything we wanted, but it is a true product of compromise. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR), a member of the Appropriations Committee and a distinguished conferee.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank Chairwoman LOWEY for her leadership and the staff on both the Republican side and the Democratic side for working so hard.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Speaker PELOSI, Chairwoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ranking Member KAY GRANGER, and, of course, all the members, the conferees, who worked so hard to come up with this bipartisan, bicameral spending package. The conferees worked together to make sure that we seek an acceptable funding solution for the different sides we have.

Now, what do we have here? It is a matter of vision. There are some people who see the border as a crisis, and I respectfully disagree with them. There are some of us who live on the border who see the border as a place of community, opportunity, where we raise our families, where we send our kids to school, and where we have trade and tourism.

In that place called the border, I will tell you that if you look at crime rates, the border crime rate is lower than the national crime rate. I am not going to pick any selective cities, but I can tell you that I can pick any city, and the crime rate in the cities of some of my colleagues are higher than the border crime rate that we have.

□ 2000

We came up with a balance between what those two visions were. What we did is we found a way to provide technology at ports of entry, found a way to balance border security, but, at the same time, provide security.

On the border, we don't believe in open borders. We want to see smart border security, and I think that is what this bill does. We were able to get together. It is a bill that provides funding not only for border security, but, keep in mind, there are six other bills that provide money for agriculture, transportation, education, and healthcare.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to vote "yes" on this conference report.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation.

This bill shows that, despite our disagreements, when we work through our differences to find common ground, we can break the gridlock.

I thank, by the way, Chairman PRICE for his leadership and his partnership. We have worked together now for over 4 years, and I have gained a special appreciation for his dedication to public service and, frankly, for his deep understanding of the programs under our jurisdiction. I look forward to continue working with him and continue developing our friendship.

I would like to say a quick word about Chairwoman LOWEY and Ranking Member GRANGER and the role that they have played in pulling this funding bill together. I have had the privilege, Mr. Speaker, of knowing these two leaders for a number of years now. What all of us saw them achieve in just the last few days is no surprise to any of us in this body who know them well. They only achieved this through hard work, tough compromise, and grit, and they deserve our thanks.

Mr. Speaker, let me turn a minute to the transportation and housing investments included in this bill. This bill doubles down our infrastructure investments from the 2018 T-HUD bill. Frankly, again, it is a second historic downpayment to rebuild our Nation.

With this bill, we provide a total of \$20 billion in new funding over 2 years for roads, for bridges, for rails, and for ports. That is a big number. As I said before, the T-HUD bill is the infrastructure bill and maybe the only one that we will get a chance to vote on.

This bill will create jobs and improve the quality of life for countless Americans.

I am also particularly proud that this bill makes a new investment in port infrastructure with a focus on seaports at high volume locations. This port program, coupled with other transportation investments in the bill, will create opportunities for American manufacturers and exporters.

Mr. Speaker, I am also proud of the housing portion of this bill. This meets our commitments to help the most vulnerable among us with decent, affordable housing.

This is a good bill, Mr. Speaker, particularly if you care about our veterans, our disabled, and our elderly.

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

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. This bill also includes funding to rebuild urban, suburban, and rural communities with block grant funding that goes directly to the local decisionmakers and to the local communities.

Again, this is a good bill, Mr. Speaker. I thank, again, the leaders for putting this together.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on what I believe is a bill that will create jobs, rebuild our communities, secure our future, and, yes, stop the gridlock.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), the distinguished chairman of the Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this conference agreement—bipartisan and bicameral—averting a second reckless Trump shutdown.

This legislation represents the best possible deal to responsibly fund our government and secure our border, while holding true to our values as Americans.

This agreement denies the President billions of dollars for an unnecessary wall. It includes a number of provisions to hold the administration accountable. And it boosts funding for humanitarian support for migrants, alternatives to detention, and family case management.

The bipartisan agreement also includes six additional appropriations bills beyond Homeland Security. For example, the Transportation-HUD bill, on which Chairman DIAZ-BALART and I worked cooperatively for many months, is included in this package.

It increases the Trump budget for infrastructure by \$23 billion, and it includes investments that were totally eliminated in the Trump budget: community development block grants, the HOME program, New Starts for transit, and the BUILD program. All these are made whole, having been, of course, eliminated in that earlier Trump budget.

These six bills were all caught up in the Trump shutdown. They are now salvaged by this agreement. The deal is not perfect. We know that. But it represents the best way to reject the President’s outrageous border demand, keep our government open, and address our pressing national needs.

Mr. Speaker, let’s send this bill to the President’s desk. Then let’s fight to overturn this phony “national emergency.”

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), my friend.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this conference report and commend Chairwoman LOWEY and Ranking Member GRANGER and their staffs for the hard work that goes into this. Not many people understand the important and long time that is spent by the staff in trying to put these bills together.

I could sit here until the cows come home, which might be shorter than we think if we run out of cows and get rid of those. But anyway, I could talk about the provisions in this bill that are important to Idaho, whether it is the PILT payment, the sage-grouse listing, or other provisions, but this is an important bill.

What I would like to bring to my colleagues’ attention is a very important section of this conference agreement, section 7. It is with sadness that this section is included. It honors the late Stephen Sepp.

Sepp, as he was known to his friends and colleagues, spent the last 8 years as a senior adviser to the House Appropriations Committee. He was instrumental in the enactment of division O of the 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act. I know this division well because it was the fire borrowing and forest management reforms I advocated and worked on for several years.

Sepp steadfastly worked with Members, the committees, the administration, and staff over several years to resolve the problems that fire borrowing caused for the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior. More than that, he helped solve a problem that threatens the lives and property of people in the West and, in fact, all over the country.

His strength, his courage, his sense of humor, and his vast knowledge of the Federal budget law and rules made him indispensable, especially to his colleagues. Without Sepp, division O would never have passed.

Along with my fellow colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, the

chairwoman, and the ranking member—and I know our former colleague had a hand in this, Rodney Frelinghuysen—we would all like to express our gratitude to his wife, Diem, and children, Ashley and Matthew, for allowing him the many, many hours he spent with us making Congress and the Nation better.

Our thoughts are with him today as we pass this.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Let’s put the 2019 appropriations behind us so that we can move on to 2020.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), a senior member of the committee and a conferee who worked so hard to put this bill together.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank Chairwoman LOWEY for yielding. Also, I must thank her for her tireless work, day and night, on behalf of the American people.

Also, let me thank our Homeland Security chairwoman, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, for her brilliance and her hard work. She pushed hard for a bill that reflects our American values, and I appreciate her leadership.

The phenomenal work of Chairwoman LOWEY, Chairwoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, all the members of the conference committee, and all the Appropriations chairs and ranking members has just been amazing. I really do salute them for that. This has been a very, very difficult negotiation, but they all did it.

This legislation, of course, Mr. Speaker, is not perfect. It is not the bill that I would have written or chosen. And, yes, I have serious concerns with several of the provisions, which I will discuss.

But let me tell you, this bill will keep the government open. It will prevent another shutdown, which caused so much misery for Federal workers and their families. And it provides funding for humanitarian assistance, which is desperately needed at the border.

Once more, the package of bills includes funding increases for six other spending bills, including housing for people living with AIDS, transportation grants for low-income communities, increased funding for homelessness, and Section 8 vouchers.

As a member of the Department of Homeland Security Conference Committee, I was proud to fight for many of our priorities in this bill, which really reflect our American values.

Being born and raised in the beautiful border town, as I have said before, of El Paso, Texas, I understand what it means to live in a border community and why these issues are so important. They speak to our sense of morality and who we are as a country and, yes, as well as our security.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE of California. With this bill, Democrats held the line, Mr. Speaker, in denying the President \$5.7 billion in funding for an unnecessary concrete wall. Instead, it includes \$1.3 billion in border fencing only. And it includes strong language to protect sensitive locations.

Last year, I traveled to Brownsville and McAllen, Texas, where I saw the horrors of the Trump administration's family detention jails. I saw children sleeping on concrete floors. It was cruel and inhumane.

Not only did we secure \$415 million in this bill for humanitarian relief, including for enhanced medical support, transportation, and food at our border, but we got many, many programs and funding for alternatives to detention.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 10 seconds to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE of California. Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me just say it is the first step. It is far from perfect, but it does lay the groundwork that really addresses many of the issues that myself and my colleagues on the conference committee have fought so hard for.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I ask for an "aye" vote.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN).

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in support of this joint resolution.

Earlier today, our colleagues in the United States Senate overwhelmingly passed this bill. I believe it was 83-16.

At this point in time, I would like to begin by thanking my colleagues in the House: Mrs. LOWEY, the chairman of the committee; Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, the distinguished subcommittee chairman; and Ms. GRANGER, the ranking member. And I have been privileged to serve, Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member, the highest Republican, on the House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee.

Where were we? From time to time, in our great Republic, we hit a blip; we have a problem; we run into a difficulty. We did that in this shutdown. This was a very odd situation. We had actually passed five appropriations bills, and seven were left remaining.

Mr. Speaker, that put us in a very awkward situation where there was a partial government shutdown. I heard the rhetoric on both sides of the aisle, and I know it was sincere, but it hurt. It hurt our country, and it hurt workers. But we reopened the government.

In the interim, Members of the House from both parties and Members of the Senate from both parties came together and convened. There was a wide, wide difference of opinion on that first day. I heard it. I was in that room. Ev-

eryone was acting in good faith, strong-held convictions.

A lot of naysayers and skeptics and cynics said we weren't going to get there, but we owed it to the American people to get there. And, Mr. Speaker, we got there.

We didn't get there with a bill that I would have drawn. My bill, candidly, would look more like the bill that President Trump would have wanted: more money for border security and more money for ICE. But we came up with an agreement that the vast majority of Americans could support and the vast majority of Members in both Houses could support.

□ 2015

And that is what I think the American people need to look to: Where did we agree?

We agreed in this great bill for increased funding for our beloved ally in the Middle East, Israel.

Just in this Chamber the other day, Members of both parties condemned anti-Semitism, as we must. We backed that commitment up with our full support and unprecedented funding for our ally, Israel. We can all be proud of that.

We, Mr. Speaker, came together with a compromise bill that will have some new border wall—not as much as I would have wanted. We will have more ICE beds—not as many as I would have wanted.

But, Mr. Speaker, I have been in this Chamber for 8 years. I saw us come together and work together. My colleagues on both sides of the aisle, sometimes our differences are bipartisan, sometimes our differences are bicameral. Today, we are going to come together as Americans and pass this bill.

It is not a great bill, but it is a good bill. It represents compromise, and it will, I believe, restore the faith of the American people, not only in our institutions, but in our great Republic.

We can be proud that we came together when they said "can't" and we said "can."

So I will vow to continue, as we work forward, to work with Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, a very fine lady. We view the world sometimes differently; sometimes we view it in a very similar light. But as we go into 2020 and we fall under the draconian Budget Control Act, the dreaded sequester, we will have to address that. We will have a debt ceiling vote.

The American people need to know our work will not be easier; it will be harder. But let our resolve be to do the work of the American people, as we have done today and we will do in the future.

May God bless the United States of America.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR), a member of the Appropriations Committee and a very important conferee.

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairwoman for her leadership throughout this process.

It has been 3 weeks, colleagues, since the end of the longest shutdown in American history—35 days—where we saw friends and neighbors who hurt, where this body didn't do enough to push back against a shutdown that hurt our communities and hurt individuals throughout this country.

This is a compromise bill, and we are here today to reflect that good will and that good faith effort of Democrats and Republicans negotiating together to find compromise.

But let's talk a little bit about what this bill would do.

This bill protects our national security. This bill works to improve the only true crisis that we have at our southern border, which is the humanitarian crisis. This bill invests in technology and in ports of entry. This bill ensures that we have the resources to protect this country.

This bill also unlocks the other appropriations bills that will fund the Environmental Protection Agency, make investments in the Census, and make investments in transportation.

What this bill will not do is this bill will not fund the President's wall from sea to shining sea, a wall that he said Mexico would pay for.

So we tried another path. We tried a bipartisan path of working together to iron out our differences and to come to an agreement, to keep government open, to protect our national security. That was the focus of the conferees, and that is what we sought to accomplish.

But we also did two important things in this document. We ensured that the congressional intent was there when it comes to topics that we don't always agree on; and we will ensure, this body will ensure, that we will hold the administration accountable, that we will provide oversight that hasn't been provided, and that we will ensure that national security is protected.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman LOWEY and Ranking Member GRANGER for their leadership throughout this process, for Chairwoman ROYBAL-ALLARD and for Ranking Member FLEISCHMANN. And I would like to thank all of our staff members on both sides of the aisle who worked day and night to make sure that this document was in front of us in a timely manner and that ensured that we didn't have another shutdown.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this joint resolution.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for the opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, this is bad policy following bad process—an 1100-plus-page bill dropped at midnight last night, and we are acting like we can't walk and chew gum at the same time. We are acting like we can't keep our Federal Government open and fix our border situation.

Let's talk about what is happening because that is the problem. At least, if nothing else, we should do no harm. Let's not make the situation worse.

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides amnesty for anyone in a household of an unaccompanied minor, and it protects the people who have smuggled those children into the United States and encourages them to do that even more.

And even more than that, once they are here, we cut \$700 million out of ICE, and we reduced their bed space. So there are less people looking for those people who are here illegally.

Then when we find the criminals, when they have committed some crime and we find them, we can't even keep them. We have to release them back into our communities. Mr. Speaker, city councils are now deciding where we secure our border.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time and urge a "no" vote.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), the chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, this bill—Commerce, Justice, Science—comes in at \$71.5 billion, which is \$1.6 billion above 2018.

One of the highlights of the bill is that it restores many programs that had been zeroed out by the administration, including the Legal Services Corporation, which comes in at over \$368 million.

NOAA gets extra money for climate research, and we put in \$368 million for opioid epidemic issues. The President wanted \$336 million; we came in at \$368 million.

To me, the greatest accomplishment in this particular part of the bill is \$1 billion for the Census, to continue to work on the Census. This is a major victory, and we thank the other side for agreeing that this is something that has to be done and something that is important for all of us.

So I am asking not only for you to applaud the CJS part of the bill but also to vote for the whole bill.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan conference agreement, and I thank my ranking member for yielding time to highlight several items in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies division of this agreement.

I also want to thank my colleague, KEN CALVERT, the former chairman of the subcommittee, for his leadership on this bill last Congress.

The highlights I am about to summarize are really a result of efforts to ne-

gotiate a reasonable compromise with the Senate and our mutual friend and current chair of the subcommittee, BETTY MCCOLLUM.

Division E of the conference agreement provides \$35.6 billion for the Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service, the Indian Health Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and more than a dozen related agencies.

This conference agreement enhances our Nation's economic prosperity in many ways:

By cutting an additional \$15 million from the EPA regulatory programs;

By fully funding the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program, which is critical to the counties with Federal lands; and

By increasing America's investment in its own abundant energy resources.

Additionally, this conference agreement promotes health and safety by providing targeted increases to accelerate the cleanup of America's most polluted lands, waters, and airsheds;

By providing an additional \$300 million for healthcare, law enforcement, and related programs to honor our country's sacred trust and treaty obligations to American Indians and Alaska Natives; and

By providing \$3.9 billion for the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service to fight devastating wildfires that threaten our communities, and to reduce the severity of future wildfires.

Finally, this conference agreement continues to make critical investments in our Nation's infrastructure, including:

\$47 million to reduce the maintenance backlogs at our Nation's national parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands;

\$2.9 billion for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds; and

\$68 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program, which will be leveraged with private investments to finance more than \$7 billion in water infrastructure projects, nationwide.

Personally, I have a vested interest in the resources provided in this bipartisan package. Having grown up in northeast Ohio, I cherish my memories of fishing and swimming in Lake Erie with my family and friends. My wife, Kelly, and I have been proud to share the importance of protecting this precious resource with our children.

The Great Lakes are one of the greatest natural resources and economic powerhouses in the United States. They constitute the largest group of freshwater lakes on Earth and hold 95 percent of the United States' surface freshwater. The lakes also support over 1.5 million jobs and provide \$62 billion in wages, annually.

Protecting the Great Lakes is not a red issue or a blue issue. Many Members of Congress from both sides of the political aisle understand the impor-

tant role the lakes play in our lives and understand the importance of protecting them.

My colleague BETTY MCCOLLUM has been a great partner to work with in my fight to protect the Great Lakes, and I am happy to report that the conference agreement provides full funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which helps us address invasive species like Asian carp, reduce phosphorus runoff that causes harmful algal blooms, and protect and preserve the Great Lakes for future generations.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank the staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work, their professionalism, and their ability to work together under extremely difficult circumstances in order to get an annual appropriation bill over the finish line once again.

I also want to thank the many thousands of Federal employees who carry out the programs funded in this conference agreement. Your dedication to serving your fellow Americans in spite of the sacrifices asked of you by your government—especially this year—is the glue that helps us bind together as one nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this conference agreement.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), the distinguished chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, when I spoke on the floor about finishing the FY19 bills, we were in the midst of what turned out to be the longest government shutdown in our history. Thankfully, that is behind us. But to ensure it stays behind us, we need to pass this conference report.

The bipartisan leadership and staff and the conferees have done an admirable job. This bill is good but not perfect. It makes significant investments in rural development; it includes language setting aside funding for persistent poverty counties; it has a modest increase for the Farm Production and Conservation mission area; and domestic nutrition programs are all well-funded.

On the international side, the bill provides good funding for Food for Peace and the McGovern-Dole Program.

Finally, FDA gets \$3 billion, including significant investments to fight the opioid epidemic.

But I must say, candidly, that I have some regrets. My strongest regret, however, is that we are not considering the disaster supplemental today.

The House and Senate passed separate bills a month ago that would have provided desperately needed relief to our farmers, ranchers, and communities coast to coast, in Hawaii and the territories that were devastated by tragic disasters, but those bills must still be reconciled. The country must get this disaster bill passed, and get it passed soon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEYER). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the conferees have done well; nevertheless, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. It is a good bill.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the compromise appropriations package that includes major wins for our national security and our economic success. In fact, this move tonight will authorize seven different appropriation bills that fund critical agencies and programs within our government.

Now, this is not the bill that I would have written, and this is probably not the bill that any of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would have written, but we have all finally found a compromise that Congress can pass and the President has indicated he will sign into law.

□ 2030

This is not a loss for the President, but a win for the Department of Homeland Security, and a significant step in the right direction for border security.

Democrats called for no wall funding. Today we will approve \$1.4 billion for new barriers. Democrats called for pro-abortion policies, but today, we will approve and maintain multiple pro-life protections.

Democrats called for less ICE detention beds. Today we will be approving funding for an estimated 45,000 beds and an additional \$750 million for 13,000 beds, if needed.

We increased ICE funding by \$500 million; increased CBP by almost \$1 billion; and fund the first Coast Guard icebreaker in over 40 years.

This bill strengthens our national security and brings us one step closer to bringing our southern border under operational control.

This bill also includes many priorities that are of significant importance to northeast Florida. There is \$4 billion in additional funding to help FEMA respond to national disasters like Hurricane Michael and Hurricane Florence.

There is \$468 million to help local communities combat opioid trafficking, which has ravaged parts of northeast Florida.

On the first anniversary of 17 lives murdered in Parkland, Florida, I am proud to vote in support of \$100 million in grants authorized under my STOP School Violence Act which was signed into law last year. Since the passage of this bill, the STOP School Violence Act has yielded over \$175 million in grants to help protect schools across the United States.

I understand this is not a perfect bill before us today, but we cannot afford

another shutdown that puts almost 1 million people out of work. We cannot afford another CR that kicks the can down the road, causing uncertainty and increasing the cost of government.

Let's end this stalemate, build the wall, and secure our southern border. I congratulate the committee, and I urge my colleagues to support this compromise package and send it to the President.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), the chairwoman of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this conference committee report. The Interior and Environment section provides \$35.6 billion, which is \$300 million more than fiscal year 2018 enacted.

We made critical investments in this legislation in Indian Country, environmental protection, public land management, and the arts. The Environmental Protection Agency is funded at \$8.8 billion. This funding will enhance the EPA's ability to protect human health and the health of our environment.

We continue to invest in land and water conservation funds, civil rights initiative programs, and historic preservation. We worked in a bipartisan way to increase funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Humanities.

Finally, it is critically important that this Interior bill upholds the Federal Government's trust responsibilities to our Native American brothers and sisters.

Funding for Indian Country is over \$1 billion more than the President's budget, and we did it in our committee's nonpartisan way. Programs in the Interior bill impact all of us, from preserving our natural and cultural resources, to protecting our health and safety.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to vote for it as well.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), chairwoman of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this bipartisan agreement which, while not perfect, keeps our government open and funds many essential, crucial needs. It also passes sound policy, like one preventing our government from using asylum-seeking children to be used as bait to arrest immigrants seeking to sponsor them.

I urge all Members to vote for this important compromise.

However, I cannot stay silent on the President's threat to declare a national

emergency to pay for his boondoggle of a border wall. This lawless end-run around Congress is a craven act built on lies and distraction.

The President would steal funds we use to support our brave young soldiers just to pay for an ancient monument to waste. Rather than own up to his lie that Mexico would pay for it, Trump would degrade our national security to try to steal his way to his totem to vanity and hate.

Will Trump ever look our soldiers and veterans in the eye and tell them that it is they who will pay for the wall of waste? Of course not.

If this President wants to compromise our military with this tin-pot authoritarian tactic, he is going to have to come through this Congress to do it.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this agreement and reject Trump's big national emergency lie.

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

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I support this conference agreement before us today, and I urge a "yes" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.J. Res. 31.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again thank my fellow conferees. In a divided government, none of us will get everything we want, but I am proud that 16 of us, all appropriators, could work through a series of difficult decisions and sign a bipartisan agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my friends on both sides of the aisle to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Conference Report to Accompany H.J. Res. 31.

Our country used to celebrate being a nation of immigrants, one that protected the most vulnerable and those fleeing from violence and persecution. We are, after all, home to the American Dream. Increasingly, though, this country's policies have become a nightmare for immigrant families, adults, and children.

People, including children, have died under our custody, and immigrants and refugees are being targeted, detained and deported with little oversight or accountability, and with no regard for keeping families together. DHS, specifically its enforcement methods and immigration policy is out of alignment with our American values, and instead of increasing its funding to separate families and cage children, we must step back and conduct an audit of DHS funding and policies, with an eye towards decreasing its budget and ending the militarization of our immigration system. More importantly, we need an audit of our morality as

a country. Our true test is how we treat the most vulnerable amongst us, including our neighbors seeking a better life.

Since the creation of DHS in 2003, both CBP and ICE's budgets have more than doubled, to a total of nearly \$24 billion today. Moreover, transfer and reprogramming authority allow ICE and CBP to siphon money from other departments to support their activities, leaving their true budgets largely unaccountable and often illusory. ICE, for instance, has redirected appropriations to grow its detention camps and enforcement operations, spending beyond what Congress appropriated. This deal does nothing to restrict this transfer authority and will see an increase in immigration detention of more than 11 percent, or 5,000 additional detentions every day, and representing a 25 percent increase total over Obama Administration levels.

It is unconscionable that our federal budget would be spent on private detention centers, like those run by Core Civic and GEO Groups, who hold hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts from DHS for private detention camps. These for-profit camps are violating human rights by not providing hot water, serving spoiled food and denying medical care. Not coincidentally, each of Core Civic and GEO Group gave \$250,000 to President Trump's inaugural committee. Our budget is not a tool for rewarding campaign supporters, and it cannot be used to perpetuate human rights abuses or make a profit on the backs of children and our immigrant neighbors.

The Conference Report also provides \$1.375 billion for wall construction, a complete waste of resources that makes us no safer but perpetuates environmental degradation and dehumanizes border communities. It expands CBP's short term custody without any safeguards, increases funding for Homeland Security Investigation ICE agents who conduct militarized raids and abuse rights and their authority, and funds border security technology despite a long history of DHS abuses.

Once we voted to reopen the government, albeit short-term, a few of my colleagues and I released a letter declaring that we would not vote for an increase in funding for the harmful, hateful, and inhumane actions of some agencies within DHS. We asked that the conference committee work to cut DHS funding, get rid of transfer authority for funds so the Trump Administration can no longer use the DHS as a slush fund, and implement stronger accountability measures beyond just reporting. It is unfortunate that this DHS funding bill includes none of this. Instead, it includes money for a wall, an increase in DHS funding, and lacks necessary accountability measures. We should be fighting for a just border and a comprehensive immigration system. We must demand change. We owe it to the American people and those coming to this country for a better life. A presidency built on misinformation, fearmongering, and division should not be rewarded for its threats of shutdowns and instituting national emergencies.

My Democratic colleagues in the conference have negotiated in good faith with the President and Republican leadership, and even despite this, Republicans have confirmed that once again President Trump will ignore the principles that the Constitution has set forth and declare a National Emergency. Both sides should be alarmed at this continuous degradation of the rule of law, separation of powers, and disregard for our Constitution.

I cannot in good conscious vote for this DHS funding bill. On behalf of my immigrant neighbors, I must reject hateful policies and rhetoric by the Trump Administration. I am committed to working toward a just border, a welcoming country, and a comprehensive immigration system that respects the humanity and dignity of people while inspiring people to live up to the best of our country's ideals.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 131, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on adoption of the conference report.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on adoption of the conference report will be followed by a 5-minute vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 300, nays 128, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 87]

YEAS—300

Adams	Crist	Higgins (NY)
Aguilar	Crow	Hill (AR)
Amodei	Cuellar	Hill (CA)
Armstrong	Cummings	Himes
Axne	Cunningham	Horn, Kendra S.
Bacon	Davids (KS)	Horsford
Balderson	Davis (CA)	Houlahan
Barr	Davis, Danny K.	Hoyer
Barragán	Davis, Rodney	Huffman
Bass	Dean	Hurd (TX)
Beatty	DeFazio	Hurd (TX)
Bera	DeGette	Jackson Lee
Bergman	DeLauro	Jeffries
Beyer	DelBene	Johnson (GA)
Bishop (GA)	Delgado	Johnson (OH)
Bishop (UT)	Demings	Johnson (SD)
Blumenauer	DeSaulnier	Johnson (TX)
Blunt Rochester	Diaz-Balart	Joyce (OH)
Bonamici	Dingell	Kaptur
Bost	Doyle, Michael	Katko
Boyle, Brendan	F.	Keating
F.	Emmer	Kelly (IL)
Brindisi	Engel	Kennedy
Brooks (IN)	Eshoo	Khanna
Brown (MD)	Evans	Kildee
Brownley (CA)	Ferguson	Kilmer
Buchanan	Finkenauer	Kim
Bustos	Fitzpatrick	Kind
Butterfield	Fleischmann	King (NY)
Calvert	Fletcher	Kirkpatrick
Carbajal	Flores	Krishnamoorthi
Cárdenas	Fortenberry	Kuster (NH)
Carson (IN)	Foster	Kustoff (TN)
Carter (TX)	Foxx (NC)	LaMalfa
Cartwright	Frankel	Lamb
Case	Fudge	Langevin
Casten (IL)	Fulcher	Larsen (WA)
Castor (FL)	Gabbard	Larson (CT)
Cheney	Gaetz	Lawrence
Chu, Judy	Gallego	Lawson (FL)
Cicilline	Garamendi	Lee (CA)
Cisneros	Gianforte	Lee (NV)
Clark (MA)	Gibbs	Levin (CA)
Clay	Golden	Levin (MI)
Cleaver	Gonzalez (OH)	Lewis
Clyburn	Gottheimer	Lieu, Ted
Cohen	Granger	Lipinski
Cole	Green (TX)	Lipinski
Collins (NY)	Guest	Lofgren
Conaway	Guthrie	Lowenthal
Connolly	Haaland	Lowey
Cook	Hagedorn	Lucas
Cooper	Harder (CA)	Luetkemeyer
Costa	Hastings	Luján
Courtney	Hayes	Luria
Cox (CA)	Heck	Lynch
Craig	Herrera Beutler	Malinowski

Maloney,	Pocan	Stanton
Carolyn B.	Porter	Staubert
Maloney, Sean	Price (NC)	Stefanik
Matsui	Raskin	Steil
McAdams	Reed	Stevens
McBath	Rice (NY)	Stewart
McCarthy	Richmond	Stivers
McCaul	Riggleman	Suozzi
McCollum	Roby	Swalwell (CA)
McEachin	Rodgers (WA)	Takano
McGovern	Roe, David P.	Thompson (CA)
McHenry	Rogers (KY)	Thompson (MS)
McKinley	Rose (NY)	Thompson (PA)
McNerney	Rouda	Thornberry
Meeks	Roybal-Allard	Titus
Meng	Ruiz	Tonko
Miller	Ruppersberger	Torres (CA)
Moolenaar	Rush	Torres Small
Moore	Rutherford	(NM)
Morelle	Ryan	Trahan
Moulton	Sánchez	Trone
Mucarsel-Powell	Sarbanes	Turner
Murphy	Scalise	Underwood
Nadler	Scanlon	Upton
Napolitano	Schakowsky	Van Drew
Neal	Schiff	Veasey
Neguse	Schneider	Visclosky
Newhouse	Schrader	Wagner
Norcross	Schrier	Walden
Nunes	Scott (VA)	Walorski
O'Halleran	Scott, David	Waltz
Olson	Serrano	Wasserman
Palazzo	Sewell (AL)	Schultz
Pallone	Shalala	Waters
Panetta	Sherman	Watson Coleman
Pappas	Sherrill	Welch
Pascrell	Shimkus	Wenstrup
Payne	Simpson	Wexton
Pelosi	Sires	Wild
Pence	Slotkin	Wilson (FL)
Perlmutter	Smith (NJ)	Wittman
Peters	Smith (WA)	Womack
Peterson	Soto	Woodall
Phillips	Spanberger	Yarmuth
Pingree	Speler	Young

NAYS—128

Abraham	Gomez	Mullin
Aderholt	Gonzalez (TX)	Norman
Allen	Gooden	Ocasio-Cortez
Amash	Gosar	Omar
Arrington	Graves (GA)	Palmer
Babin	Graves (LA)	Perry
Baird	Graves (MO)	Posey
Banks	Green (TN)	Pressley
Biggs	Griffith	Ratcliffe
Bilirakis	Grijalva	Reschenthaler
Brady	Grothman	Rice (SC)
Brooks (AL)	Harris	Rogers (AL)
Buck	Hartzler	Rooney (FL)
Bucshon	Hern, Kevin	Rose, John W.
Budd	Hice (GA)	Rouzer
Burchett	Higgins (LA)	Roy
Burgess	Holding	Schweikert
Byrne	Hollingsworth	Scott, Austin
Carter (GA)	Hudson	Sensenbrenner
Castro (TX)	Huizenga	Smith (MO)
Chabot	Hunter	Smith (NE)
Clarke (NY)	Jayapal	Smucker
Cline	Johnson (LA)	Spano
Cloud	Jordan	Steube
Collins (GA)	Joyce (PA)	Taylor
Comer	Kelly (MS)	Timmons
Correa	Kelly (PA)	Tipton
Crawford	King (IA)	Tlaib
Crenshaw	LaHood	Vargas
Curtis	Lamborn	Vela
Davidson (OH)	Latta	Velázquez
DesJarlais	Lesko	Walberg
Doggett	Long	Walker
Duffy	Loudermilk	Watkins
Duncan	Marchant	Weber (TX)
Dunn	Marshall	Webster (FL)
Escobar	Massie	Westerman
Espallat	Mast	Williams
Estes	McClintock	Wilson (SC)
Gallagher	Meadows	Wright
Garcia (IL)	Meuser	Yoho
Garcia (TX)	Mitchell	Zeldin
Gohmert	Mooney (WV)	

NOT VOTING—4

□ 2059

Mrs. HARTZLER changed her vote from "yea" to "nay."

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

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, as I am back home in Dallas, Texas, on paternity leave with my family, I submit the following vote explanation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 85, "yea" on rollcall No. 86, and "yea" on rollcall No. 87.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, Members are advised that, with House and Senate passage of the fiscal year '19 conference report, votes are no longer expected in the House on Friday, February 15.

Next votes are expected on Monday, February 25, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

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

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

PROVIDING FOR A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.J. RES. 31

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 4) making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 4

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That, in the enrollment of the joint resolution H.J. Res. 31, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall amend the long title so as to read: "Making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes."

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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

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

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask for immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Oklahoma continue to seek recognition?

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, we have had a bill that has been tied up in Judiciary for a long time. It is about defending life. It is about making sure that we do not take away life from people that are unborn. I just ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not been recognized for debate.

HOURLY MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow. There will be no votes expected.

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

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING SPIKE LEE ON HIS ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATION

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to honor a man who represents Brooklyn, New York, to the fullest, a trailblazer, an innovator, and a cinematic genius: Brooklyn's own Spike Lee.

On behalf of the people of the Ninth Congressional District of New York, I would like to congratulate Spike Lee, a son of Brooklyn, on receiving the first-ever best director Oscar nomination despite a more than 30-year career in film.

He joins the ranks of only six other African Americans to ever be nominated for the category.

Mr. Lee was raised in Brooklyn and attended Morehouse College, where he received a bachelor of arts in mass communications. He received a fine arts degree from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Many of Mr. Lee's films have examined race relations, colorism in the Black community, and the role of the media in contemporary life and political issues.

Spike has never ceased to speak out against injustice in the Black community.

He has been outspoken on police brutality, environmental injustice, and other issues that affect communities in Brooklyn and beyond.

His love of Brooklyn is reflected in his activism and his work.

Forty Acres and a Mule, Spike's production company, is based in Brooklyn, contributing in part to the economy that keeps our city running.

He shot films like "Do the Right Thing" and "Crooklyn" in Brooklyn, allowing viewers to experience all that we know and love about Brooklyn.

Spike Lee continues to produce work that pushes the envelope on topics that need to be discussed. "BlacKkKlansman," for which he is being nominated, has received praise and adoration for its topics around combating racism.

REMEMBERING THE HON. WALTER B. JONES, JR.

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

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service and legacy of my friend and colleague from North Carolina, Walter B. Jones, Jr.

Congressman Jones served the people of North Carolina's Third District honorably for more than two decades, being elected 13 times, starting in 1994.

He passed away on Sunday in Greenville, on his birthday.

Congressman Jones will be remembered for his courage, conviction, and character. He was a man led by his faith, never wavering in his support for the unborn. He was known as a staunch pro-life advocate.

He was just as tough when it came to his support of the military. His district covered both the Marine Corps' Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, and he worked hard to give our servicemen and -women a better quality of life.

Our country is better off when people like Walter Jones are serving in this body. Please join me in praying for his family and loved ones throughout this difficult time.

THE REAL NATIONAL EMERGENCY

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. Donald Trump's Presidency is the real national emergency.

President Trump fired the FBI director to protect his national security adviser. He tried to rip healthcare from millions of Americans and destroy protections for people with preexisting

conditions. He orchestrated the largest transfer of wealth from middle class families to rich families.

And Trump has done nothing in the face of epidemic levels of gun violence and devastating impacts of climate change.

Why is Trump lying about a national emergency at the border? He is doing it to distract the American people from the fact that he has no plan to improve healthcare, improve our schools, or do one damn thing for working people in this country.

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

REMEMBERING THE HON. WALTER B. JONES, JR.

(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 tonight in memory of our friend, Walter Jones, congressman from North Carolina.

Walter was a kind, gentle, sweet soul of a man, who I admired even in the brief time we had to serve here together.

I found him to be a man of integrity who always put what he thought was right for the people of his district and this country first.

Sometimes he had a vote he might regret, but he did everything he could to make that right.

He went so far as to make the families of a fallen soldier feel that much more comfortable with a letter—to every one that he could possibly do—showing compassion and showing that at least one congressman knows what their pain is.

So, to his family; his wife, Joe Anne; and his daughter Ashley; all his constituents and friends and neighbors in North Carolina, our hearts are with you at the loss of a man whose main goal was to please God and walk with Jesus Christ. We admire him, and we will miss him.

BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS

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

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my relief that the House of Representatives has passed a bipartisan compromise that keeps our government open, secures our border, and upholds our values.

Now, this is not an agreement that either party would have written on its own, but rather than funding for an ineffective border wall, this bill, instead, prioritizes border security funding for methods and technologies that have proven effective.

This bill also rejects irresponsible budget cuts and, instead, invests additional dollars in important priorities

like funding for economic development assistance programs, environmental protection, and transportation infrastructure.

I want to thank all of the conferees for working together to forge a bipartisan consensus to fund government, invest in our priorities, and keep our country safe.

It is about time that Congress gets to work on more legislative priorities that will strengthen our families, strengthen our communities, and strengthen our economy. That is what the American people elected us to do, and I hope my colleagues will join me in these efforts going forward.

□ 2115

ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I, too, miss my friend Walter Jones. I just greatly treasured the hour each week we spent together visiting. It was a fitting tribute today at his funeral.

I do want to address this bill we just passed. I had hoped to vote for it after I was hearing, well, it is not much money; it is less than \$2 billion. But the trouble is there are provisions in here that are going to make it difficult to remove anybody who is here if they have got a child in there.

And, yes, I know, there is language that says if it is based on information shared by HHS, so that means they are going to be covered up with discovery requests, FOIA requests, probably people will find Obama judges who let people out.

This was not a good bill in the end. That is why I had to vote “no.”

HUMANITARIAN COMPROMISE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, this bill that we came to have to fix as a Republican bill was a compromise, but it was a compromise with humanitarianism and passion and compassion.

This border security and funding bill that Democrats fixed did some good things. In particular, it raised the number to 100,000 alternative detention sites for women and children; it provided healthcare where there was no healthcare so that little children would not die at the border; and it prevented ICE from using data to deport people who are trying to pick up their children.

The good news is our Federal employees will not be held as hostages, and we have given them a 1.9 percent raise. As well, we provided for Food for Peace, for people who are struggling around the world, \$1.7 billion.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, we provided \$423 million for the Byrne Grant; \$178 million to address

sexual assault kits and other DNA; \$100 million for STOP School Violence; \$497 million, Madam Speaker, for the Violence Against Women Act; and \$75 million for gun control, or at least the checks for background.

Madam Speaker, this is a humanitarian bill, and I ask my colleagues to recognize it.

PASS UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECK LEGISLATION

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

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, it is Valentine's Day, and we have all spent the evening together, which is kind of funny. We did it in the service of keeping the government open with a bill that funds the government in a strong, bipartisan vote, and that is a good thing.

But, Madam Speaker, Valentine's Day will never again be a truly happy day because, of course, it is the 1-year anniversary of the Douglas shootings in Florida in which 17 young people, with their lives ahead of them, had those lives snuffed out at the end of a gun.

It is a particularly poignant moment for me and for those of us from Connecticut because we still can't forget, of course, the 20 children, 6 to 7 years old, and six adult staff who lost their lives in December of 2012 at the Sandy Hook Elementary School.

So, Madam Speaker, I just rise to point out that we are hearing a lot tonight about an emergency declaration; and if 30,000 to 40,000 Americans, including these young angels, losing their lives every single year is not an emergency, I don't know what is.

This House, after 8 years of inaction and pathetic moments of silence, moved a bill, H.R. 8, for universal background checks out of committee yesterday. The least we can do as an institution is to take the small step of passing that bill into law to keep young and all Americans safe.

OMNIBUS SPENDING BILL

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

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my relief that Democrats and Republicans have come together to advance a bipartisan spending measure to keep the government open and deliver for the American people.

President Trump's recent irresponsible government shutdown over his demand for an unnecessary, medieval wall was misguided and hurt our dedicated Federal employees and their families and threatened our economy.

I want to applaud my colleagues, the incredible Chairman LOWEY, Representative PETE AGUILAR, Representative

ROYBAL-ALLARD, and all of our conferees for their diligent work to reach the compromise bill that we are sending to the President's desk tonight.

This legislation promotes 21st century border security and humanitarian support for migrants in detention, alternatives to detention, and family case management.

The American people sent a strong message when they elected a Democratic majority in this House in November, and they want Congress to focus on delivering real results that will benefit the lives of hardworking, middle-class families.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019 AT PAGE H1572

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 11 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.J. RES. 31, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, 2019

Mrs. LOWEY submitted the following conference report and statement on the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 31) making

further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes:

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of February 13, 2019, in Book II.)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. QUIGLEY (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of death in the family.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. QUIGLEY (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of death in the family.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

ADJUSTMENT TO COMMITTEE ALLOCATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, pursuant to section 30104 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 and the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, I hereby submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a revised 302(a) allocation for the Committee on Appropriations for fiscal year 2019 that is adjusted to reflect amounts for disaster relief funding.

Questions may be directed to Jennifer Wheelock or Raquel Spencer.

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS—APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION (IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

Table with columns BA, OT and rows for Current Allocation (General Purpose), Fiscal Year 2019, Change for H.J. Res. 31 Disaster Relief Requirements, Fiscal Year 2019, Revised Allocation (General Purpose), Fiscal Year 2019.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 488. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, February 15, 2019, at 10 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2018, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

Large table with columns: Name of Member or employee, Date (Arrival, Departure), Country, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Other purposes (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent).

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018—
Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Travel to South Korea, Japan—October 27–November 2, 2018											
Hon. William M. "Mac" Thornberry	10/28	10/30	South Korea		426.00						426.00
Commercial airfare	10/30	11/2	Japan		673.00						673.00
Jennifer Stewart	10/28	10/30	South Korea		426.00						426.00
Commercial airfare	10/30	11/2	Japan		673.00						673.00
Travel to Afghanistan—October 29–November 2, 2018											
Mark Morehouse	10/30	11/1	Afghanistan		66.00						66.00
Commercial airfare							9,177.13				9,177.13
Jennifer Bird	10/30	11/1	Afghanistan		66.00						66.00
Commercial airfare							9,177.13				9,177.13
Jason Schmid	10/30	11/1	Afghanistan		66.00						66.00
Commercial airfare							9,177.13				9,177.13
William Spencer Johnson	10/30	11/1	Afghanistan		66.00						66.00
Commercial airfare							9,177.13				9,177.13
Travel to South Korea, Laos—October 29–November 7, 2018											
Glen Diehl	10/30	11/4	South Korea		1,739.16						1,739.16
Commercial airfare	11/4	11/7	Laos		298.85						298.85
Craig Greene	10/30	11/4	South Korea		1,739.16						1,739.16
Commercial airfare	11/4	11/7	Laos		298.85						298.85
David Giachetti	10/30	11/4	South Korea		1,614.90						1,614.90
Commercial airfare							5,234.23				5,234.23
Travel to Germany, Belgium—November 4–9, 2018											
Kimberly Lehn	11/5	11/8	Germany		899.96						899.96
Commercial airfare	11/8	11/9	Belgium		312.55						312.55
Lindsay Kavanaugh	11/5	11/8	Germany		899.96						899.96
Commercial airfare	11/8	11/9	Belgium		312.55						312.55
Katie Sutton	11/5	11/8	Germany		899.96						899.96
Commercial airfare	11/8	11/9	Belgium		312.55						312.55
Jamie Jackson	11/5	11/8	Germany		899.96						899.96
Commercial airfare	11/8	11/9	Belgium		312.55						312.55
Travel to Belgium—November 5–9, 2018											
Maria Vastola	11/6	11/9	Belgium		1,099.10						1,099.10
Commercial airfare							2,027.03				2,027.03
Leonor Tomero	11/6	11/9	Belgium		1,099.10						1,099.10
Commercial airfare							2,027.03				2,027.03
Travel to France, Belgium—November 8–13, 2018 with CODEL Carter											
Hon. Steve Russell	11/9	11/11	France		1,310.00						1,310.00
Commercial airfare	11/11	11/13	Belgium		1,084.00						1,084.00
Hon. Ralph Abraham	11/9	11/11	France		1,310.00						1,310.00
Commercial airfare	11/11	11/13	Belgium		1,084.00						1,084.00
Hon. Paul Cook	11/9	11/11	France		1,310.00						1,310.00
Commercial airfare	11/11	11/13	Belgium		1,084.00						1,084.00
Delegation expenses							7,386.00		2,729.00		10,115.00
Travel to Canada—November 16–18, 2018											
Hon. Mike Gallagher	11/16	11/18	Canada		502.00						502.00
Commercial airfare							1,050.92				1,050.92
Kimberly Lehn	11/16	11/18	Canada		502.00						502.00
Commercial airfare							867.94				867.94
Travel to Turkey—November 16–18, 2018											
Hon. Rob Wittman	11/17	11/18	Turkey		467.00						467.00
Commercial airfare							15,511.03				15,511.03
David Siemicki	11/17	11/18	Turkey		467.00						467.00
Commercial airfare							15,511.03				15,511.03
Travel to Afghanistan—November 17–21, 2018											
Hon. Jim Banks	11/18	11/20	Afghanistan		66.00						66.00
Commercial airfare							11,042.03				11,042.03
Hon. Rob Wittman	11/19	11/20	Afghanistan		33.00						33.00
Commercial airfare	11/18	11/20	Afghanistan		66.00						66.00
Mark Morehouse	11/18	11/20	Afghanistan		66.00						66.00
Commercial airfare							10,506.33				10,506.33
Paul Arcangeli	11/18	11/20	Afghanistan		66.00						66.00
Commercial airfare							6,469.33				6,469.33
Travel to Czechia, Uzbekistan, Djibouti, Kuwait, Ireland—November 16–28, 2018											
Hon. Trent Kelly	11/17	11/18	Czechia		385.44						385.44
Commercial airfare	11/18	11/20	Uzbekistan		459.09						459.09
Commercial airfare	11/20	11/21	Djibouti		371.30						371.30
Commercial airfare	11/21	11/23	Kuwait		731.66						731.66
Commercial airfare	11/23	11/24	Ireland		294.30						294.30
Hannah Thoburn	11/17	11/18	Czechia		398.87						398.87
Commercial airfare	11/18	11/20	Uzbekistan		555.40						555.40
Commercial airfare	11/20	11/21	Djibouti		369.50						369.50
Commercial airfare	11/21	11/23	Kuwait		845.02						845.02
Commercial airfare	11/23	11/24	Ireland		201.62						201.62
Committee total					61,544.47		281,034.85		2,729.00		345,308.32

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY, Feb. 1, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Jerry Couri	11/4	11/10	Ecuador		1,488.15		871.60				2,359.75

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Annelise Rickert	11/4	11/10	Ecuador	1,402.75	.....	871.60	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,274.35
Alexander Ratner	11/4	11/10	Ecuador	1,488.15	.....	871.60	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,359.75
Hon. Richard Hudson	11/8	11/11	France	2,394.00	.....	(?)	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,394.00
Hon. David Loeb sack	11/11	11/13	Brussels	400.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	400.00
	11/17	11/18	Germany	260.00	.....	(?)	.....	.....	.....	.....	260.00
	11/19	11/20	Kuwait	802.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	802.00
	11/20	11/21	Ireland	217.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	217.00
Hon. Larry Bucshon	11/17	11/21	Afghanistan	65.00	.....	14,209.83	.....	.....	.....	.....	14,275.83
Hon. Bill Flores	11/18	11/19	Turkey	467.00	.....	15,487.03	.....	.....	.....	.....	15,954.03
Peter Spencer	11/19	11/20	Afghanistan	84.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	84.00
	12/9	12/12	Poland	4,117.32	.....	3,410.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,527.32
Jean Fruci	12/9	12/14	Poland	4,299.32	.....	3,591.13	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,890.45
Committee total				8,518.05	.....	16,824.63	.....	.....	.....	.....	25,342.68

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

HON. GREG WALDEN, Jan. 31, 2019.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

189. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Negative Declarations for Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration and Sewage Sludge Incineration Units for Designated Facilities and Pollutants [EPA-R05-OAR-2018-0600; FRL-9989-36-Region 5] received February 12, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

190. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Reasonable Further Progress Plan and Other Plan Elements for the Chicago Nonattainment Area for the 2008 Ozone Standard [EPA-R05-OAR-2017-0147; FRL-9989-33-Region 5] received February 12, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

191. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Ozone NAAQS Update [EPA-R04-OAR-2018-0531; FRL-9989-38-Region 4] received February 12, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

192. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; OR; Lane County Outdoor Burning and Enforcement Procedure Rules [EPA-R10-OAR-2018-0596; FRL-9989-56-Region 10] received February 12, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

193. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Attainment Plan for the Lake County SO2 Nonattainment Area [EPA-R05-OAR-2015-0699; FRL-9989-48-Region 5] received February 12, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

194. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C.

Act 22-614, "Omnibus Public Safety and Justice Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

195. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-620, "Firearms Safety Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

196. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-625, "Anthony Bowen Way Designation Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

197. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-626, "District of Columbia Department of Aging and Community Living Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

198. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-628, "Limitations on Products Containing Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

199. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-627, "Parent-led Play Cooperative Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

200. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 1.80(b) of the Commission's Rules; Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties to Reflect Inflation received February 14, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

201. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary rule — Safety Zone; Mississippi Canyon Block 20, South of New Orleans, LA, Gulf of Mexico [Docket Number: USCG-2018-1062] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received February 14, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

202. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Security Zone; Puget

Sound, Tacoma, WA [Docket Number: USCG-2018-1082] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received February 14, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

203. A letter from the Attorney, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Hudson River, Albany and Rensselaer, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2017-0926] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received February 14, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

204. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Sacramento New Year's Eve Fireworks Display, Sacramento River, Sacramento, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2018-1089] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received February 14, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. PERLMUTTER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 131. Resolution providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 31) making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, and providing for proceedings during the period from February 15, 2019, through February 22, 2019 (Rept. 116-10). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. LEWIS):

H.R. 1219. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from carrying out seizures relating to a structuring transaction unless

the property to be seized derived from an illegal source or the funds were structured for the purpose of concealing the violation of another criminal law or regulation, to require notice and a post-seizure hearing for such seizures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RYAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BEYER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 1220. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for certain requirements relating to charges for internet, television, and voice services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1221. A bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to reaffirm the authority of the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. HUNTER):

H.R. 1222. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CLYBURN (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HILL of California, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 1223. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the increase in unrelated business taxable income by amount of certain fringe benefit expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER):

H.R. 1224. A bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Reform, House Administration, Education and Labor, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself, Mr. KILMER, Mr. VELA, Mr. COOK, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MENG, Mr. COOPER, Mr. TURNER, Mr. TIPTON, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsyl-

vania, Mr. GAETZ, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LAMB, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. WILD, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SIRES, Mr. STEWART, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. STIVERS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CIGILLINE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. YOUNG, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. KATKO, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. CLAY, Ms. DEAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. BUDD, Mr. COLE, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. LONG, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. STEFANIK, and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 1225. A bill to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER):

H.R. 1226. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing coordinated care for children with complex medical conditions through a health home; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. OLSON (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. DUNN):

H.R. 1227. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to clarify liability protections regarding emergency use of automated external defibrillators; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California (for herself and Mr. KATKO):

H.R. 1228. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to civil forfeitures relating to certain seized animals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mrs. LURIA):

H.R. 1229. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide that an individual may remain eligible to participate in the teacher loan forgiveness program under title IV of such Act if the individual's period of consecutive years of employment as a full-time teacher is interrupted because the individual is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who is relocated during the

school year pursuant to military orders for a permanent change of duty station, or the individual works in a school of the defense dependents' education system under the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978 due to such a relocation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. KATKO, Mr. HURD of Texas, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 1230. A bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal employment discrimination and retaliation claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. FRANKEL (for herself, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 1231. A bill to prevent a nuclear arms race resulting from weakened international restrictions on the proliferation of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 1232. A bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to repeal certain waiver authority relating to the construction of new border barriers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mrs. DEMINGS (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 1233. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a fund for private landowners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VELA (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 1234. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to prohibit seizing private land for a border wall, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 1235. A bill to provide that the term of office of certain members of the Merit Systems Protection Board shall be extended by a period of 1 year, to limit such members from concurrently holding positions within the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BEYER, Mr. DEUTCH, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H.R. 1236. A bill to support State, Tribal, and local efforts to remove access to firearms from individuals who are a danger to themselves or others pursuant to court orders for this purpose; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 1237. A bill to amend the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 to establish an Ocean

Acidification Advisory Board, to expand and improve the research on Ocean Acidification and Coastal Acidification, to establish and maintain a data archive system for Ocean Acidification data and Coastal Acidification data, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. ESTES, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. GUEST):

H.R. 1238. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to treat certain planted soybean crops as harvested commodity crops under the Market Facilitation Program; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. LESKO:

H.R. 1239. A bill to reauthorize Department of Justice programs that combat violence against women, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. GOLDEN, and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 1240. A bill to preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1241. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and make permanent the exclusion for benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERGMAN (for himself and Mr. PETERSON):

H.R. 1242. A bill to enact as law certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. WILD, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TONKO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1243. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a national strategic action plan and program to assist health professionals and systems in preparing for and responding to the public health effects of climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan (for himself, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COX of California, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. CRIST, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Ms.

DELBENE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HECK, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILD, and Mrs. MURPHY):

H.R. 1244. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that all provisions shall apply to legally married same-sex couples in the same manner as other married couples, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 1245. A bill to amend title IV-A of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 1246. A bill to amend title IV-A of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. WENSTRUP):

H.R. 1247. A bill to amend title IV-A of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself and Mr. GOLDEN):

H.R. 1248. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain river segments within the York watershed in the State of Maine as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. GABBARD (for herself, Ms. OMAR, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 1249. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Defense from obligating or expending funds for missiles banned by the INF Treaty; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BABIN (for himself, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. FLORES, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. ROY, Mr. OLSON, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. VELA, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. BRADY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas):

H.R. 1250. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11158 Highway 146 North in Hardin, Texas, as

the "Lucas Lowe Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. KIND, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. HURD of Texas):

H.R. 1251. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax-exempt financing of certain government-owned buildings; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. AGUILAR, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CORREA, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. HUNTER, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BERA, Mr. COOK, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. WATERS, Ms. BASS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. COX of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. RUIZ):

H.R. 1252. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6531 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the "Marilyn Monroe Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. AGUILAR, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CORREA, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. HUNTER, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BERA, Mr. COOK, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. WATERS, Ms. BASS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. COX of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. RUIZ):

H.R. 1253. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13507 Van Nuys Boulevard in Pacoima, California, as the "Ritchie Valens Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 1254. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost of living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 1255. A bill to provide for the more accurate computation of retirement benefits for certain firefighters employed by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. LANDEVIN):

H.R. 1256. A bill to permit disabled law enforcement officers, customs and border protection officers, firefighters, air traffic controllers, nuclear materials couriers, members of the Capitol Police, members of the Supreme Court Police, employees of the Central Intelligence Agency performing intelligence activities abroad or having specialized security requirements, and diplomatic security special agents of the Department of State to receive retirement benefits in the same manner as if they had not been disabled; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KILMER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. SIREs, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GOLDEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COLE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. HIMES, and Mrs. HAYES):

H.R. 1257. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the United States Coast Guard; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 1258. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the inclusion of homeschooled students in Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps units; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio (for himself, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. BANKS, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 1259. A bill to authorize private parties to compel the Securities and Exchange Commission to seek sanctions by filing civil actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 1260. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the charitable deduction to all taxpayers regardless of whether a taxpayer itemizes deductions in order to encourage and increase charitable giving; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. HECK, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 1261. A bill to establish a national program to identify and reduce losses from landslide hazards, to establish a national 3D Elevation Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 1262. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the age at which a rifle or shotgun may be acquired from a federally licensed firearms dealer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 1263. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to subject to the requirements of the National Firearms Act any semiautomatic rifle that has the capacity to accept a detachable magazine; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 1264. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission and the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission with access to certain drug payment information, including certain rebate information; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. GIANFORTE):

H.R. 1265. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act with respect to nursing facility requirements, 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. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 1266. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require firearm assembly kits to be considered to be firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GIANFORTE:

H.R. 1267. A bill to designate a mountain ridge in the State of Montana as "B-47 Ridge"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HUNTER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. TIPTON):

H.R. 1268. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage its infrastructure assets; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. POSEY, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BARR, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FLORES, Mr. BABIN, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 1269. A bill to amend the Revised Statutes of the United States to prevent the use of the legal system in a manner that exports money from State and local governments, and the Federal Government, and inhibits such governments' constitutional actions under the first, tenth, and fourteenth amendments; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 1270. A bill to reauthorize the United States-Poland Parliamentary Exchange Pro-

gram, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. KILMER, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. RYAN):

H.R. 1271. A bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a pilot program instituting a clinical observation program for pre-med students preparing to attend medical school; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SARBANES, Miss RICE of New York, Mrs. MURPHY, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H.R. 1272. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reduce the number of members of the Federal Election Commission from 6 to 5, to revise the method of selection and terms of service of members of the Commission, to distribute the powers of the Commission between the Chair and the remaining members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY (for himself and Mr. STEWART):

H.R. 1273. A bill to direct the Director of National Intelligence to submit an assessment of the intentions of the political leadership of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. WELCH, Ms. MOORE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SChAKOWSKY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MASSIE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HIMES, Ms. OMAR, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. TONKO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. POCAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. AMASH, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. SCHRADER):

H.R. 1274. A bill to repeal Public Law 107-40; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LEWIS (for himself, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 1275. A bill to modernize voter registration, promote access to voting for individuals with disabilities, protect the ability of individuals to exercise the right to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Science, Space, and Technology, Veterans' Affairs, Oversight and Reform, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CISNEROS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. HAALAND, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California):

H.R. 1276. A bill to reaffirm the policy of the United States with respect to management authority over public land, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GALLEGU, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. MOORE, Mr. COX of California, Ms. WILD, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. CLAY):

H.R. 1277. A bill to establish a State public option through Medicaid to provide Americans with the choice of a high-quality, low-cost health insurance plan; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. ESPAILLAT):

H.R. 1278. A bill to establish the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center in New York, New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Ms. DEAN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. SOTO, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. WILD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MENG, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. NORCROSS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York):

H.R. 1279. A bill to authorize the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance to make grants to States, units of local government, and gun dealers to conduct gun buyback programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 1280. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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. ROUZER (for himself and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia):

H.R. 1281. A bill to repeal the Environmental Protection Agency's most recent rule for new residential wood heaters; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 1282. A bill to require certain entities who collect and maintain personal information of individuals to secure such information and to provide notice to such individuals in the case of a breach of security involving such information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 1283. A bill to establish a nonpartisan commission on immigration reform and border security; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. AGUILAR):

H.R. 1284. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to give States the option of monitoring covered criteria air pollutants in designated areas by greatly increasing the number of air quality sensors in exchange for greater regulatory flexibility in the methods of monitoring, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 1285. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish an Office for Under-Banked, Un-Banked, and Underserved Consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. ROUDA):

H.R. 1286. A bill to prohibit consumer credit reporting agencies and lenders from taking adverse action against federal employees and contractors impacted by the government shutdown, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DEAN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CRIST, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SOTO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 1287. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to States and units of local government to implement statutes, rules, policies, or procedures to authorize courts to issue relinquishment orders with respect to individuals charged with or convicted of a crime of domestic violence, or subject to a domestic violence protective order, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 1288. A bill to ensure due process protections of individuals in the United States against unlawful detention based solely on a protected characteristic; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. DUNN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 1289. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for a moratorium on number reassignment after a disaster declaration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio):

H.R. 1290. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain emergency medical devices from the excise tax on medical devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 1291. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt student workers for purposes of determining a higher education institutions employer health care shared responsibility; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VELA (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 1292. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require border community stakeholder consultation before the Secretary of Homeland Security may construct, install, deploy, operate, or maintain additional physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, or technology between ports of entry along the land border with Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. VELA (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. LUJÁN):

H.R. 1293. A bill to prohibit the use of amounts appropriated for military construction or the Army Corps of Engineers for the construction of barriers, land acquisition, or any other associated activities on the southern border without specific statutory authorization from Congress; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 1294. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny the deduction for executive compensation unless the employer maintains profit-sharing distributions for employees; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 1295. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the availability of penalty-free distributions to unemployed individuals from retirement plans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HOYER (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. TRONE, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. WEXTON):

H. Con. Res. 19. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HICE of Georgia:

H. Res. 132. A resolution providing for the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 109) recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VEASEY, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H. Res. 133. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the designation of January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2024, as the "International Decade for People of African Descent"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DELGADO (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. BUDD):

H. Res. 134. A resolution honoring the life of Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. CHABOT):

H. Res. 135. A resolution expressing support for designation of February 14 as World Bonobo Day; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SIRES (for himself, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL):

H. Res. 136. A resolution affirming that the Government of Cuba's foreign medical missions constitute human trafficking; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.R. 1219.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 1220.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 3 and 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 1221.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. KIND

H.R. 1222.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. CLYBURN:

H.R. 1223.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 1224.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 3 and 18 of Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 1225.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, section 3, clause 2

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 1226.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. OLSON:

H.R. 1227.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California:

H.R. 1228.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8 "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 1229.

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. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1230.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. FRANKEL:

H.R. 1231.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Miss RICE of New York:

H.R. 1232.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

By Mrs. DEMINGS:

H.R. 1233.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. VELA:

H.R. 1234.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 1235.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the power to enact this law.

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 1236.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 1237.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

H.R. 1238.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mrs. LESKO:

H.R. 1239.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 1240.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

"To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes"

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 1241.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

'Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.'

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 1242.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 18—"The Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 1243.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan:

H.R. 1244.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 1245.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under 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. LAHOOD:

H.R. 1246.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under 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. LAHOOD:

H.R. 1247.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under 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 Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 1248.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 1249.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The United State Constitution including Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 1250.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 1251.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause I

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 1252.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 1253.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 1254.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 1255.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 1256.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 1257.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 1258.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress "to provide for the common Defence" and to "to raise and support Armies", as enumerated in Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio:

H.R. 1259.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: "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. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 1260.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 1261.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 1262.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 1263.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 1264.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 1265.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 1266.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, 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. GIANFORTE:

H.R. 1267.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 1268.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 (the Spending Clause). The Supreme Court, in *South Dakota v. Dole* (1987), reasoned that conditions and limitations on funds were constitutional and within the power of Congress under the Spending Clause. Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3 (Commerce Clause) If the matter in question is not a purely local matter (intra-state) or if it has an impact on inter-state commerce, it falls within Congress' power to "regulate commerce among the several states."

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18 (the Necessary and Proper Clause) which grants Congress 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 of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H.R. 1269.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 9 ("Congress shall have Power . . . To Constitute Tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court.") and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 ("The Congress shall have Power . . . to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.").

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 1270.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Sec 8. Clause 2: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 1271.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 1272.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 4 of the United States Constitution, granting Congress the authority to make laws governing the time, place, and manner of holding Federal elections.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY:

H.R. 1273.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

United States Constitution, Article I, Section 8

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 1274.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 1275.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 1276.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution

"The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state."

By Mr. LUJÁN:

H.R. 1277.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 1278.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clauses 1, 17, and 18

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 1279.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, 3, and 18

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 1280.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 1281.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Consistent with the understanding and interpretation of Commerce Clause, Congress has the authority to enact this legislation in accordance with Clause 3 of Section 8, Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 1282.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have power to . . . provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States . . .";

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power "To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;" and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof."

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 1283.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: 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. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 1284.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution: The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 1285.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 1286.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Commerce Clause

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 1287.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, 3, and 18; Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 1288.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 1289.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 1290.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution—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.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution—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. TURNER:

H.R. 1291.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution—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.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution—The Congress shall

have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian Tribes.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution—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. VELA:

H.R. 1292.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. VELA:

H.R. 1293.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 1294.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excise ty shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 1295.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excise shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 35: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 51: Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 62: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 93: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 94: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 95: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. ROBY, and Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 96: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 120: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 208: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SOTO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CISNEROS, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. CORREA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 230: Mr. KIM and Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 236: Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 295: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 309: Mr. MCNERNEY and Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 336: Mr. PERRY and Mr. GALLAGHER.

H.R. 339: Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 357: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 394: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 397: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. HILL of California, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 444: Mrs. LURIA and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 447: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 448: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 510: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 517: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 532: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 549: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

H.R. 553: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. HIMES, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 555: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. VISCLOSKY.

H.R. 562: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mr. COX of California.

H.R. 568: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 575: Mr. SPANO and Mr. WRIGHT.

H.R. 587: Mr. STEWART, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, and Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 596: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 598: Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 601: Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 613: Ms. HILL of California, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 615: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 628: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 647: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 663: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. GOSAR, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 678: Ms. WEXTON and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 686: Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 687: Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 708: Mr. FULCHER.

H.R. 714: Mr. HUNTER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 717: Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 721: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. MURPHY, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HIMES, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. MAST, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 737: Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. SIREN, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 748: Mr. COLE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. VELA, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. NEGUSE, Mrs. ROBY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BERA, Ms. MENG, Mr. FERGUSON, and Mr. COOK.

H.R. 761: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 764: Mr. TURNER, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 791: Mr. WRIGHT and Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 792: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 796: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. FLORES, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. POSEY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H.R. 806: Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 808: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. Luján, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HAGEDORN, Ms. WILD, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 810: Mr. SIREN and Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 824: Mr. VISCLOSKY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. GALLEGOS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. WEXTON, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. COHEN, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

- H.R. 832: Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 850: Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 852: Mr. GOLDEN and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 855: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 860: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 861: Mr. HIGGINS of New York and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 864: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 869: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 873: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 874: Mr. LAMB, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GALLEGRO, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 884: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.
H.R. 890: Mr. MITCHELL.
H.R. 900: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 916: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 929: Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. RYAN, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 947: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 949: Mr. WRIGHT and Mr. ABRAHAM.
H.R. 953: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 955: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 956: Mr. BUCK, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. BANKS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. PALMER.
H.R. 959: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 960: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 961: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. TURNER, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 962: Mr. YOHO and Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 1002: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. DEFazio, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 1011: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PALLONE, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 1012: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. MALINOWSKI.
H.R. 1013: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. MALINOWSKI.
H.R. 1025: Mr. GALLAGHER.
H.R. 1041: Mr. WATKINS.
H.R. 1043: Mr. WRIGHT.
H.R. 1046: Mr. SOTO and Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 1049: Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 1054: Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 1055: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 1069: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1074: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 1087: Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 1092: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 1108: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. DEAN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PALONE, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. POCAN, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 1133: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 1137: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MENG, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 1139: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 1142: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 1146: Mrs. LURIA, Ms. DELBENE, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 1154: Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 1181: Mr. WRIGHT and Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 1184: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1185: Mr. ROUDA, Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.
H.R. 1186: Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1193: Mr. ROSE of New York.
H.R. 1205: Mr. COOPER.
H.J. Res. 38: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.J. Res. 45: Mr. CLOUD, Mrs. LESKO, and Mr. BUDD.
H. Con. Res. 15: Mrs. LURIA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. LUJÁN.
H. Res. 33: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mr. ROSE of New York.
H. Res. 60: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. SIMPSON.
H. Res. 72: Mr. BABIN, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. PALMER, Mr. GOODEN, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 75: Ms. WILD and Mr. KIND.
H. Res. 106: Ms. HOULAHAN and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 107: Mr. DUNCAN.
H. Res. 109: Mr. CLAY.
H. Res. 116: Mr. OLSON.
H. Res. 119: Mr. HILL of Arkansas.
H. Res. 129: Mr. CONNOLLY.



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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Pastor Eddie Edmonds of Moler Avenue Church of the Brethren from Martinsburg, WV.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Creator God, we give You thanks and praise for the phenomenal country in which we live, move, and have our being. Our thanks also for the men and women You have called to serve in this government and specifically the Senate. Our prayer is that You will equip, empower, and encourage each individual Senator as they work to answer the call to serve the people of this great Nation. Their decisions impact the lives of not only those they serve but also people the world over. Help them to remember those who have little, need much, and are challenged each day of their lives. Give each Senator strength to make wise decisions and the courage to stand up in the face of adversity, doing the right thing, first time, every time, putting others first in each decision rendered. May Your peace fill the lives of each Senator and those they serve until You come again to claim Your Kingdom.

We pray in the Most Holy Name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 483 and S.J. RES. 8

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there are two measures at the desk due a second reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the measures for the second time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 483), to enact into law a bill by reference.

A bill (S.J. Res. 8) recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, in order to place the measures on the calendar under provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The measures will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, last night, our colleagues Chairman SHELBY and Ranking Member LEAHY filed the final text of a bipartisan, bicameral legislative agreement. For the past couple of weeks, in conference with their House counterparts, they have worked in good faith to reach a compromise to address urgent priorities, including funding for our Nation's border security.

The product of this work is a compromise that no side will view as a perfect deal. For instance, I am frustrated by House Democrats' cynical opposition to including commonsense extensions of the Violence Against Women Act and other important items. Nevertheless, this agreement is something

both sides should view as an important step, and today, I hope we will vote to advance it.

When the Senate votes on the agreement, we will be voting to avoid a second partial shutdown and provide the certainty of a fully functioning Federal Government. We will be voting to deliver another downpayment on the President's commitment to securing our Nation's borders and keeping American communities safe. And we will do it free from the influence of poison pills that sought to derail progress and stifle compromise.

To be sure, in recent months, we have seen the radical left go out of its way to try to gum up the works. Even the Speaker of the House threw her support behind wild assertions that tried-and-true methods of securing sovereign borders were now immoral. They said there wouldn't be more than one dollar for border barriers. They said there should be fewer tools for the men and women who enforce our immigration laws. Fortunately, none of that nonsense has carried the day.

So here we are, with a solemn deal in front of us. As the Senate prepares to vote later today, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Chairman SHELBY, along with Ranking Member LEAHY and my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee. This legislation will mark success for our bipartisan process by finalizing all the regular appropriations bills for the fiscal year. Thanks, as well, to Shannon Hines and the entire Appropriations staff, whose hard work made this agreement and all of last year's progress possible.

Later today, I hope each of my colleagues will join me in moving forward with the agreement produced by this hard work, and the President will sign it into law.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S1337

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.J. Res. 1 occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of William Pelham Barr, of Virginia, to be Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE
VICTIMS OF THE SENSELESS AT-
TACK AT MARJORY STONEMAN
DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, a year ago this afternoon, I was sitting in my office in the Russell Office Building when a news report began to flash about a shooting at a high school in South Florida. I was the father at the time—in the case of one of my two older children—of a child who was still a high school student in South Florida. You would normally be interested, just in being a Senator from the State, but you would be most particularly interested as a parent. As it turns out, the incident and the shooting took place at a school that was about 50 miles—about 50 minutes—from my home, and we all know of the story and of the lives that were lost in this terrible tragedy.

On a personal level, it is clearly an issue that has affected me, first, because I am one of two Senators who represent the State. Every person who was impacted—every victim, everyone who was wounded—is a constituent of ours. Yet, as I have also pointed out, my two oldest children are the same ages as the victims. When you see the pictures and you hear the stories, you can't help but recognize the stories and the pictures, maybe just not individ-

ually. I didn't know any of the victims personally, but the stories are familiar. They are the stories of my children and their friends, who are of the same age and are at the same times in their lives.

It is impossible to fully comprehend unless you have gone through the loss of a child—by the grace of God, I have not—particularly under such tragic and traumatic circumstances. Throughout the last 12 months, as we have reached different milestones in my two daughters' lives, whether it was their proms or graduation days, or whether it was dropping off my oldest at college or attending a class ring ceremony for a junior, we have been almost reminded, for just a moment, of the parents who had expected to have been doing the same during this time of the year but have been unable.

I have learned a lot from those parents, many of whom I have gotten to know personally and have worked alongside, in the last year, on a number of issues. In the year that has passed, they have, as have the students, turned their grief into effective activism. The parents, in particular, are the ones with whom I have interacted the most here in Washington on a regular basis, and it is why I thought it appropriate to come to the floor today. I think they would say that the best way to honor the memories of the children they lost is to take actions that will work to make sure that no other parent will ever have to face this again.

Several of the parents have publicly described what happened a year ago today as the most avoidable mass murder in American history, but what was it that enabled this to happen? Why was it avoidable? What could have been done to address it?

In the brief moments that we have here—my colleague from Florida will have additional statements as well—I want to point to some of the things we now know that we didn't know a year ago today or in the days that followed.

From it, not only should that spark outrage, but it should also spark ideas about how to fix those things so never again will any parent have to face what they did and none of my colleagues will have to stand here and give a speech like the ones my colleague from Florida and I have to give today.

At the outset, let me say that the credit for much of what I am about to speak about belongs to the extraordinary journalists at the South Florida Sun Sentinel, who have done a remarkable job over the last 10 months of revealing to the public many facts that would have been unknown otherwise.

At a time when there is so much debate about journalism and its role in our society and in public service and in politics, they deserve tremendous credit for bringing this to light, and I think it is an example of why journalism remains an important institution in our country.

A lot of the attention in this debate has been paid to the issues that we are

familiar with and have been debating long before this tragedy: a ban on certain weapons, universal background checks, taking on what is described as the gun lobby. These issues dominated the national media coverage, and support for these positions is not new. They predate this tragedy.

In our Republic, people most certainly have the right to advocate for this or against it. They have the right to lobby for it. They have the right to vote for candidates who support these positions and to vote against those who do not. They are valid issues to debate on public policy, but at the end of the day, neither go directly to the heart of this particular case and to the facts that led up to it.

At the heart of this is that the killer, the perpetrator of this terrible tragedy, was known to be dangerous for a long time by many people in positions of power and authority at the school district, the sheriff's office, and at the FBI, and no one did anything about it. This is now a documented fact.

Early in the days after this, we saw images of the sheriff and the superintendent lecturing people and talking about what a great job they had done, but the facts will show that it was their incompetence that allowed this to happen, and, then, even worse, they tried to cover it up.

There is an article entitled "Schools culture of tolerance lets students like [the killer] slide," by Megan O'Matz and Scott Travis, reporters at the South Florida Sun Sentinel. I am going to read from it, and then I am going to introduce it into the RECORD. I am not going to read the whole article.

Here is how it opens:

Broward schools have grown so tolerant of misbehavior that students like [the killer] are able to slide by for years without strict punishment for conduct that could be criminal.

The culture of leniency allows children to engage in an endless loop of violations and second chances, creating a system where kids who commit the same offense for the 10th time may be treated like it's the first.

[The killer] was suspended at least 67 days over less than a year and a half at Westglades Middle School, and his problems continued at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. . . .

The South Florida Sun Sentinel obtained the killer's discipline records, they reviewed discipline policies, and here is what they found:

Students can be considered first-time offenders even if they commit the same offense year after year.

The district's claim of reforming bad behavior is exaggerated.

Lenient discipline has an added PR benefit for the district: lower suspensions, expulsions and arrests along with rising graduation rates.

It goes on to say:

Many teachers and parents say Broward has created a culture in which teachers are expressly told or subtly pressured not to send students to the administration for punishment so a school's image is not tarnished.

One teacher who taught for 37 years in the district before retiring said she

retired early due to her concerns about student discipline.

Here is a quote:

It was so many things. I had three students bring knives to my classroom. One was out of the classroom for one day. Another had so many things on his record, he was gone for five days. None were expelled.

Part of this leniency is a program called the Promise program, which the superintendent of the district claims has a 90-percent success rate by keeping students from reoffending. That is a misleading statistic because, "A student can commit a subsequent infraction without being considered a repeat offender as long as it's not the exact same violation, in the exact same year.

Each year they start with a clean slate.

In the interest of time, I ask unanimous consent that the rest of this article be entered into the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Sun Sentinel, May 12, 2018]
SCHOOLS' CULTURE OF TOLERANCE LETS
STUDENTS LIKE NIKOLAS CRUZ SLIDE
(By Megan O'Matz and Scott Travis)

Broward Schools have grown so tolerant of misbehavior that students like Nikolas Cruz are able to slide by for years without strict punishment for conduct that could be criminal.

The culture of leniency allows children to engage in an endless loop of violations and second chances, creating a system where kids who commit the same offense for the 10th time may be treated like it's the first, according to records and interviews with people familiar with the process.

Cruz was suspended at least 67 days over less than a year and a half at Westglades Middle School, and his problems continued at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, until he finally was forced to leave.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel obtained Cruz's discipline records, reviewed discipline policies and found:

Students can be considered first-time offenders even if they commit the same offenses year after year.

The district's claim of reforming bad behavior is exaggerated.

Lenient discipline has an added PR benefit for the district: lower suspensions, expulsions and arrests along with rising graduation rates.

SCHOOL DISTRICT SHUTS DOWN INFORMATION
AFTER STONEMAN DOUGLAS SHOOTING

The forgiving attitude goes beyond the schools' controversial Promise program, the target of considerable public scrutiny for enabling students to avoid criminal charges for misdemeanor offenses.

The program, the pride of Superintendent Robert Runcie, was designed to use counseling and mentoring to help students avoid the school-to-prison pipeline. Under former zero-tolerance policies, black students ended up suspended, expelled and arrested at rates that were widely disproportionate to their peers.

Desmond Blackburn, then Broward's chief school performance and accountability officer, specifically instructed teachers and staff in a video years ago to challenge and nurture students, while using suspensions, expulsions and arrests as "absolute last resorts."

Now, many teachers and parents say Broward has created a culture in which teachers are expressly told or subtly pres-

sured not to send students to the administration for punishment so a school's image is not tarnished.

Mary Fitzgerald taught for 37 years in the district before retiring from Sunrise Middle in Fort Lauderdale in 2016. She said she retired a year early due to her concerns about student discipline.

"It was so many things. I had three students bring knives to my classroom. One was out of the classroom for one day. Another had so many things on his record, he was gone for five days. None were expelled."

NO ONE HEHEDED WARNING SIGNS ABOUT NIKOLAS CRUZ BEFORE SCHOOL SHOOTING

Safety concerns at Sunrise were brought up at faculty meetings. "The message out there is that the students are untouchable. Habitual negative behavior means nothing anymore," state the minutes of a Faculty Council meeting on Feb. 2, 2015.

"My principal basically would tell me it was his job to market the school. He was adamant about not looking bad," Fitzgerald said.

Runcie, in an interview with the Sun Sentinel, acknowledged there are complaints that discipline isn't consistently enforced.

In a memo to principals Wednesday, Runcie said he reinforced that "we have to be vigilant in reporting every incident so that we can ensure our students who are victims, as well as offenders, get the appropriate intervention and support.

"We're going to try to make sure, from the top, we're sending the right message related to discipline and holding our schools accountable," he said.

The superintendent said in the memo that he will propose the School Board create a Climate and Discipline Department to "better monitor and support school teams as they address students with major challenges and concerns."

THE PROMISE PROGRAM

The Pine Ridge Education Center, just outside Fort Lauderdale, houses the Promise program, as well as secure classrooms for other children who have been expelled from their regular school but need supervision and guidance.

The principal describes it as a "school of promise and encouragement, not a school of punishment." Students call it the "Zap School," as in you've been "zapped" and sent there as punishment.

Runcie claims the Promise program has a 90 percent success rate at keeping children from re-offending, but that statistic can be deceiving.

A student can commit a subsequent infraction without being considered a repeat offender, as long as it's not the exact same violation, in the exact same year.

The following year, they start with a clean slate.

"It's extremely problematic," said Tim Sternberg, a former assistant principal at Pine Ridge Educational Center who administered the Promise program. "You can develop a psyche that it is OK to commit crime because you can refresh the clock every year."

Sternberg says he doesn't have confidence in the district's data. "They aren't tracking kids over time."

Asked about kids starting each year anew, without marks against them from prior semesters, Runcie told the Sun Sentinel he will review it.

"We'll make whatever adjustments we need to. We review the discipline policy every year and have made some adjustments and continue to take feedback."

INSIDE THE MATRIX

The district's Student Code of Conduct, first created in 2004-05, includes a com-

plicated discipline "matrix" that lists the prescribed punishment for a litany of offenses: skipping school, violating rules, being disruptive, having drugs, fighting, destroying property, committing a crime.

It was designed to help staff make fairer and more equitable decisions in handing out penalties. But potential punishments have become more lenient over the years.

More than five years ago, a high school student who used profanity toward a staff member would receive a three- to 10-day suspension. That was reduced to one to two days after the discipline chart was revised.

The first violation for disruptive classroom behavior called for an in-school suspension of one to five days. Later, it was reduced to a suspension of under one day.

Since the 2012-13 school year, suspensions have declined 27 percent, according to the Florida Department of Education. Incidents reported to law enforcement have fallen 8 percent. The number of arrests per 1,000 students: down 64 percent.

The district's menu of choices for dealing with rule-breaking students include detention, internal suspension, out-of-school suspension and expulsion, where children can be sent to an alternative education center.

Or another option: the Promise program.

UNDER ATTACK

Runcie is proud and protective of the program, which was launched under his leadership in November 2013 when the Broward Sheriff's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the NAACP, the state Department of Juvenile Justice and the State Attorney signed an agreement to reduce school-based arrests.

But the program is under attack because of widespread allegations that Cruz, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas school shooter, benefited from it.

Runcie had insisted that Cruz was not in the Promise program, but he did an abrupt shift this week and said Cruz had been referred to it in 2013 for vandalizing a bathroom. Cruz did not complete the three-day stint, the district said, but administrators haven't said why.

BROWARD SCHOOLS BACKTRACK ON GUNMAN
NIKOLAS CRUZ'S PROMISE PROGRAM CONNECTION

A couple of months later, he was sent to a special school for children with severe emotional and behavioral disorders. As a tot, he was found to be developmentally delayed and had been considered a special needs child in school, entitled to certain services and protections under law.

Some parents and community leaders have criticized the superintendent for misleading the public about Cruz, and the school district appears not to be able to make sense of all of the records it has on him.

"To me, it's an indication that the various discipline programs in place at the district are confusing, poorly implemented and executed, and clearly if we take the district at its statement, they've been difficult to track," said Ryan Petty, whose daughter Alaina was one of 17 people shot to death in Cruz's Valentine's Day massacre. "If the records are this difficult to find, clearly it would be difficult to know whether this is helping students or not."

Despite Cruz's history of discipline problems, neither the schools nor police ever steered him to the justice system.

Mr. RUBIO. The second article—I will be brief on this—is from the Sun Sentinel, by Scott Travis: "Broward schools fought against 2013 plan for more security money."

They turned down a proposal to levy \$55 million in tax dollars for school safety, and one of the quotes is this:

One of the school board members slammed the proposal. They said they'd rather ask voters for money to improve technology and renovate old schools, which they did in November of 2014.

In hindsight, that was a terrible mistake.

There is another article from the Sun Sentinel: "What's being done to stop another school shooting." Again, it is a very long article. I will just say this:

Once he decided to shoot up a school, there wasn't much to stop [the killer].

His threats were ignored, the campus was wide open, the school doors were unlocked and students had nowhere to hide.

What has changed after 10 months since the shooting? This was back on December 29, 2018.

At least a quarter of campuses do not have single-entry points to control intruders. Safe spaces to protect children in classrooms haven't been identified.

The killer wasn't welcome at that high school, by the way.

He was known by former classmates and even administrators as a potential school shooter. And still he walked right onto campus.

It goes on to say:

[The killer] didn't keep his homicidal urges quiet. But the schools incompetently handled the threat he represented to his fellow classmates and teachers.

[The killer's] lust for violence had been documented officially 69 times in his life. At least 30 people knew of his troubling behavior before the shooting.

In fact, I have here with me the record of those 69 discipline points. It is extensive, and I ask unanimous consent that that record be entered into the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

The table below shows the history of incidents involving Nikolas Cruz as reported by school officials during his time at Westglades Middle School and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High. In between those schools, Cruz attended Cross Creek, a public school in Pompano Beach for students with emotional and behavioral disorders.

Date	School	Type of incident
5/15/12	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
5/17/12	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
5/30/12	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
6/5/12	WESTGLADES	DISOBEDIENCE/INSUBORDINATION
8/12/12	WESTGLADES	Profanity towards Staff
8/28/12	WESTGLADES	FIGHTING
2/20/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
2/20/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
2/25/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
3/4/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
3/4/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
3/11/13	WESTGLADES	DISRUPTIVE (UNRULY) BEHAVIOR
3/11/13	WESTGLADES	DISRUPTIVE (UNRULY) BEHAVIOR
3/20/13	WESTGLADES	FALSE ALARM/911
4/8/13	WESTGLADES	OUT OF ASSIGNED AREA
4/10/13	WESTGLADES	RULES VIOLATION (Includes Classroom Rules)
4/10/13	WESTGLADES	DISRUPTIVE (UNRULY) BEHAVIOR
4/17/13	WESTGLADES	DISRUPTIVE (UNRULY) BEHAVIOR
4/17/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
4/22/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
5/6/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY DIRECTED TOWARDS STAFF MEMBER
5/20/13	WESTGLADES	OUT OF ASSIGNED AREA
5/21/13	WESTGLADES	DISRUPTIVE (UNRULY) BEHAVIOR
5/22/13	WESTGLADES	DISRUPTIVE (UNRULY) BEHAVIOR
8/23/13	WESTGLADES	DISRUPTION ON CAMPUS (MINOR)
8/27/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
9/3/13	WESTGLADES	DISRUPTIVE (UNRULY) BEHAVIOR
9/11/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
9/16/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
9/18/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
9/23/13	WESTGLADES	DISRUPTIVE (UNRULY) BEHAVIOR
9/24/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
9/30/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
10/1/13	WESTGLADES	LEVEL 3 BUS VIOLATION
10/2/13	WESTGLADES	LEVEL 3 BUS VIOLATION
10/3/13	WESTGLADES	VANDALISM <\$1000
10/15/13	WESTGLADES	DISOBEDIENCE/INSUBORDINATION
10/22/13	WESTGLADES	DEFIANCE OF AUTHORITY/HABITUAL
10/29/13	WESTGLADES	DISRUPTIVE (UNRULY) BEHAVIOR
10/29/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
11/4/13	WESTGLADES	DISRUPTIVE (UNRULY) BEHAVIOR
11/8/13	WESTGLADES	LEVEL 3 BUS VIOLATION
11/12/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY DIRECTED TOWARDS STAFF MEMBER
11/12/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY DIRECTED TOWARDS STAFF MEMBER
11/19/13	WESTGLADES	PROHIBITED/DISTRACTION ITEMS-POut-of-School
11/19/13	WESTGLADES	Suspension/ESSTION/USE
11/20/13	WESTGLADES	DISRUPTION ON CAMPUS (MINOR)
11/25/13	WESTGLADES	DISRUPTION ON CAMPUS (MINOR)
12/11/13	WESTGLADES	VANDALISM <\$1000
12/12/13	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY DIRECTED TOWARDS STAFF MEMBER
12/17/13	WESTGLADES	ASSAULT (VERBAL)/THREAT—LOW LEVEL NON CRIMINAL
12/19/13	WESTGLADES	DISRUPTION ON CAMPUS (MINOR)
1/29/14	WESTGLADES	PROFANITY DIRECTED TOWARDS STAFF MEMBER
2/24/16	STONEMAN	FALSE ALARM/911
9/20/16	STONEMAN	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
9/29/16	STONEMAN	FIGHTING MEDIUM
12/22/16	STONEMAN	PROFANITY/USE OF INSULTING/OBSCENE LANG
1/19/17	STONEMAN	PROFANITY DIRECTED TOWARDS STAFF MEMBER
		ASSAULT (VERBAL)/THREAT—LOW LEVEL NON CRIMINAL

Mr. RUBIO. Wrapping up on this point, there is another article from the Sun Sentinel entitled "Hide, deny, spin, threaten: How the school district tried to mask failures that led to Parkland shooting." It talks about efforts that were made by the school district to keep from the public the sorts of things that we are now finding out.

Finally, "Here's what the [school district] knew about the Parkland shooter" is another article that talks about, time and again, how this killer told people he was going to do this—not just one person, but multiple people—

and nothing was in place to do anything about it.

I wrap up with a couple of points. The first is that the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission empaneled by the State looked at these shootings and from it, I think, are pretty instructive of some of the things I hope we can work on together. It looked at a 20-year period and found that 48 individuals committed 46 of these attacks, and 35 were students, and 10 were former students. So 45 of the 48 were either students or former students.

It found that the most typical weapon used was a semiautomatic pistol. It found that 50 percent of these attacks were done with weapons that were taken from the home—not even purchased, but taken from the home. It found that in four of five incidents, at least one person had some knowledge that they were going to do this, and in more than half of the cases, at least two people knew they were going to do this.

It is on the basis of these discoveries, working with many of the parents whose children lost their lives a year

ago today, that last year we pursued on a bipartisan basis and passed the STOP School Violence Act, which provides, over a 10-year period, \$100 million a year for strengthening school security, providing school training to identify threats before they take action, and creating school threat assessments and crisis intervention. That has passed.

It is why this year I have reintroduced the Extreme Risk Protection Order and Violence Protection Act, which will dedicate the Department of Justice funds to incentivize States to give law enforcement the authority to prevent individuals that pose a threat to themselves or others the ability to purchase or possess firearms, so that if information like what was available to authorities in Parkland is available to people now, they can actually go to court—to prove their case with due process, and take the guns away from this person before they go out and commit this crime. More importantly, they can alert their parents to secure the guns at home so they don't use that gun to commit the crime.

I have also introduced a bipartisan bill, the Threat Assessment Prevention and Safety Act. It creates a task force of experts to provide recommendations for a national strategy to keep our communities safe from targeted violence through threat assessment and management, which experts say is the best way to identify potential killers before they act.

If something like this had been in place, it is highly likely that authorities, putting all this together—what we know today—would have said this individual is a serious threat and we need to do something about it before they take action.

And, finally, yesterday, Senator GRASSLEY and I reintroduced the EAGLES Act, which would reauthorize and expand the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center to help communities proactively mitigate threats of violence in schools.

It is my hope that this terrible tragedy and what we have learned about it will guide us and will provide us a road map of concrete steps that we can take to empower communities, schools, and police departments and parents and families with the tools they need, not just to identify people who are potentially violent but to prevent it from happening and to get out ahead of it—maybe it is a risk assessment or maybe it is institutionalized mental health or wraparound services, but anything that can be done.

I raise all of this today because if you were to speak to the families, as I know my colleague from Florida and I often do, they will tell you that the most important thing we can do to honor the memory of their children whom they lost in this terrible tragedy is to make sure it doesn't happen to anybody else.

Now, there is one more thing we would like to do to honor the victims of this tragedy. My colleague Senator

SCOTT and I have put forth a resolution that commemorates this day. It honors the survivors. It pledges continued support for their recovery. It recognizes the strength and resiliency of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and the community that surrounds it. It expresses gratitude to the emergency medical and healthcare professionals of the community for their efforts in responding and caring for the victims and survivors. Most of all, it commemorates the victims who were killed in the attack, and it offers the Senate's heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the families, loved ones, and friends of the victims.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 71, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 71) honoring the Memory of the Victims of the Senseless Attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School 1 Year Ago.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. RUBIO. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 71) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. RUBIO. I yield the floor.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Florida be given 3 minutes to speak on the resolution of his colleague from Florida, and then I speak on leader time, to be followed immediately by Senators WHITEHOUSE, SCHATZ, and MERKLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I thank my colleague Senator RUBIO for standing with me to remember the victims and their families on this tragic anniversary and for his unwavering commitment to school safety.

Alyssa Alhadeff, Scott Beigel, Martin Duque Anguiano, Nicholas Dworet, Aaron Feis, Jaime Guttenberg, Chris Hixon, Luke Hoyer, Cara Loughran, Gina Montalto, Joaquin Oliver, Alaina Petty, Meadow Pollack, Helena Ramsay, Alex Schachter, Carmen Schentrup, Peter Wang—one year ago today, these 17 souls were taken from us in a brutal act of violence. They were sons and daughters, brothers and

sisters; they were students and athletes and musicians and teachers. Not a day goes that I don't think about that day and the amazing people who were snuffed out by the deranged actions of a madman.

Over the course of the last year, I have spent countless hours with the families of the victims. Unfortunately, I wish we had never met like this. They have been partners in our efforts to ensure that this never happens again. We worked together, along with educators, mental health professionals, and law enforcement, to pass the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act, to make sure our State does everything in its power to prevent tragedies like this from happening again.

Today, the State of Florida stands united with heavy hearts. Nothing we say here today can bring back the lives that were lost. Nothing we do can replace the angels of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School who were taken from us too soon. But we must never forget them. We must honor their memory every day, and we must rededicate ourselves to the goal of ending violence in our schools.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, later today we will vote on the agreement by the conference committee to keep the government open, as well as provide additional border security. Once again, I applaud the members of the conference committee and their staffs. They were the nub here, and they did outstanding work, nights and weekends, to reach an agreement. We knew that if the conference committee were allowed to work, they could bring this together. The agreement is a validation of the idea that when you put Members of both parties in a room to negotiate in good faith, when everyone is willing to give and take, progress is never out of reach. So, again, I thank the members of the committee.

The agreement is a reasonable compromise. It provides additional funding for smart, effective border security. It does not fund the President's wall, but it does fund smart border security initiatives that both parties have always supported, including increased security at our ports of entry and humanitarian assistance at our border. Most importantly, it will keep our government open.

Everyone, I believe, including the President, wants to avoid a repeat of what happened before Christmas. Everyone wants to avoid another senseless government shutdown. I expect Congress will pass this bill sometime this afternoon, and President Trump should sign it immediately.

THE GREEN NEW DEAL

Madam President, on another subject, this morning, I challenge Leader MCCONNELL to say that our climate change crisis is real, that it is caused by humans, and that Congress needs to act. Let me elaborate.

The Republican leader fashions himself as someone who doesn't waste time with political stunts. I am not sure I could count the number of times he has shrugged off a piece of legislation by calling it a "futile gesture" because the President will not sign it or because he thinks it would be a waste of the Senate's time.

Yet, on Tuesday, the Republican leader announced he would bring up his Green New Deal resolution for a vote because he wants to make sure everybody has the "opportunity to go on record and see how they feel" about it, knowing full well his entire party will vote against it, including himself, and that it will not pass.

Since Republicans took control of this Chamber in 2015, they have not brought a single Republican bill to meaningfully reduce carbon emissions to the floor of the Senate—not one bill. Republicans have controlled this Chamber for 4 years and have not brought a single bill to significantly reduce carbon emissions.

We are supposed to conduct the business of the Nation. We are supposed to tackle our country's greatest challenges. Well, climate change is the No. 1 threat to our planet, yet not a single Republican bill that addresses climate change in a meaningful way has reached the floor—not a one. In fact, the Republican majority has spent the Senate's time on legislation that would make climate change even worse. In one instance, the Republican leader moved to repeal a commonsense and vital program to reduce methane emissions, and it failed only because a few brave Republicans joined all of the Democrats in voting no.

Now, with amazing irony, the first measure to address climate change from the Republican leader—the first one in 4 years—will be one that he wants all of his Members to vote against. Let me say that again. The Republican leader announced he is going to bring up a resolution he intends to vote against.

That is what the American people hate about Congress, the pointless partisan games. Next time you see congressional approval level hovering around 15 percent, don't ask why. This is why: Leader MCCONNELL proposing resolutions so he can vote against them and never proposing anything on this subject, climate change, that is constructive.

I hope the American people are paying attention because they need to see what is going on here. The American people need to see that this is all there is to the Republican plan to deal with climate change. This is all they can muster—a political stunt, not designed to make progress, not designed to move

the ball forward. They are bringing a resolution forward so that they can all vote against it.

This cheap, cynical ploy evidently represents the sum total of Senate Republicans' leadership on the vital issue of climate change, an issue that cries out for serious engagement by Members of both parties. But rather than seriously engage on the issue, our Republican colleagues are taking a page from President Trump's petty playbook, trying to make this a game of political "gotcha." They are taking their lead from the President, a man who is so willfully ignorant and foolish that he thinks he is clever by ridiculing the global scientific consensus on climate change whenever it snows.

Well, the American people are not laughing. They weren't laughing when a U.S. Senator brought a snowball to the floor of this Chamber to mock climate science. They weren't laughing when President Trump called climate change a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese. The rest of the world isn't laughing either, not when basically every country in the world—including Syria, North Korea, and Iran—is working together to reduce carbon emissions while the Trump administration has forced the United States to sit on the sidelines. I would say to our Republican colleagues that this is no game, and it is no joke. Climate change is deadly serious, and the time for all of us to treat it that way is now, before it is too late.

So when the Republican leader says he wants to bring the Green New Deal resolution up for a vote, I say: Go for it. Bring it on. You think it might embarrass Democrats to vote on a non-binding resolution that some of us may support but not others. Trust me, we will be fine because the American people know that our entire party actually believes that climate change is happening and it is caused by humans. We actually believe the consensus of the worldwide scientific community that climate change is an existential threat to this planet, one that threatens not only our children and our grandchildren but all of us right now.

We actually believe that we need to do something about climate change. Do Republicans believe that? Do Republicans agree with the overwhelming consensus of the scientific community? Does Leader MCCONNELL? I seriously want to know, and so do the American people.

So today, I am issuing a challenge to the majority leader. I don't do this often, and my colleagues know I would rather work in a bipartisan way on climate change, but this stunt—his cynical stunt—demands a response.

I challenge Leader MCCONNELL to say that our climate change crisis is real, that it is caused by humans, and that Congress needs to act. That is what two-thirds of the American people agree with—two-thirds.

My strong suspicion, unfortunately, however, is that McConnell can't say

that and won't. Leader MCCONNELL has voted six times against sense-of-the-Senate resolutions that climate change is real and human activity has contributed to it. He has dodged the issue time and again, but maybe his opinion has changed. So when Leader MCCONNELL brings his Green New Deal resolution forward for a vote, we Democrats demand our own amendment votes. Let's see if anything has changed since 2015, when only five brave Republicans were able to vote yes on a resolution saying climate change is real and caused by humans. Two of them aren't even here anymore.

If Leader MCCONNELL blocks amendments, we will know where he and his party stand: against science, against fact—ostriches with their heads buried in the sand as the tide comes in.

If Leader MCCONNELL allows amendments, allows an actual, real debate on climate change, we will see which of our Republican friends are finally ready to admit that climate change is real—is happening right now—and are ready to act on it. Unlike what Leader MCCONNELL is proposing, that would be actual progress.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, let me start by thanking Leader SCHUMER for his incredible remarks this morning. There is a surge of energy around this issue. He has represented that surge of energy very well. He challenged the other side of the aisle to bring it on. Let me sign up right now as the proud member of the "bring it on" caucus. Bring it on. We are looking forward to this conversation on our side.

It is clear that the people of America want action. The polling is immensely strong on this issue. It is clear that the people of America see this issue in their daily lives. This is not academic theory any longer. They see the wildfires. They see the droughts. They see the floods. They see the sea level rise. They see the fish moving about. This is in their lives now, and the polling shows that.

A vast majority of Americans say they are—and this is the word in the poll—"worried" about climate change. The world has reported they see this as the No. 1 issue facing the world's security.

Against that backdrop of an active, engaged, and knowledgeable American population and a world that is looking for the United States to lead, the city on the hill, what—what—do we get from the Republican majority in the Senate? We get a bill, a measure brought to the floor—the first time, as Leader SCHUMER pointed out, that the Republican-controlled majority has brought any meaningful legislation related to climate change to the floor—that they intend to vote against.

Who brings a bill to the floor that you intend to vote against? How is that possibly sincere or serious, and what is

your alternative? If you don't like the Green New Deal, what is your plan? Where is there one?

The fact is, since the Citizens United decision and since the fossil fuel industry powered up its political efforts, there is now no Republican Senator in the Senate who has cosponsored any serious bill to significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions. They stay away from this issue like the plague.

The world has changed around us. The 2020 election has already begun, in many respects. Voters are alert to this. A Democratic House is ready to produce real legislation, meaningful legislation. With any luck—actually on the House side, somewhat bipartisan legislation, and here in the Senate, the blockade continues, and the only measure brought to the floor is a trick vote that its sponsors will actually vote against. That is a pathetic statement of where our friends on the other side are on this.

I hope this actually turns into a breakthrough moment in which there are some serious conversations on the other side to say this is not tenable; this is ridiculous; we are going to be embarrassed by this; but on our side, we say bring it on.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, our friends on the other side of the aisle—the Republicans—are misreading the moment. The planet is in an emergency situation, and instead of coming to the table with ideas on how to fix it, they are running the same play they always run; that is, that they take a popular idea—investing in clean energy, maybe making college more affordable, making the Tax Code more fair—and they try to characterize it as a liberal project so people put on their partisan uniforms.

Our ideas are popular, and what they have done recently is, they have taken a batch of our ideas and have said: Socialism. You are going to turn into Venezuela if you do all of these things. I know you think you want affordable college. I know you think you want climate action. I know you think you want to not get ripped off by the Tax Code, but that will cause you to be Venezuela.

This is the play they run every time, and they run it with cover from the Wall Street Journal's editorial board and FOX News to try to trick the American people into opposing ideas they actually like.

That is what is happening with this nonbinding resolution that 12 Senators have cosponsored. Republicans are trying to take frequently asked questions—a document that was posted on the website of a new Member of Congress, and then subsequently taken down and disavowed, and make you believe this is what Democrats want to do when it comes to climate action. They want you to believe we want to

take away ice cream and aviation and everything that is good in the world because they know their position on climate change is absolutely untenable.

Over the last couple of days, I read some what we call very serious people in Washington, DC, sort of marveling at Leader MCCONNELL's trolling exercise. This is supposed to be the world's greatest deliberative body. It is not Twitter. This is supposed to be where we solve the greatest problems facing the United States. This is not where we troll each other. This is where we are supposed to have the great debates.

Senate Democrats have done all sorts of work on climate: the ITC and the PTC for solar and wind, conservation and efficiency, carbon pricing, fighting deforestation. So Republicans do not have the high ground here. They are trying to make this a partisan exercise, where you have several news organizations churning because they don't want to deal with climate change.

If the Senate Republican leadership wants to bring up anything about climate, I echo the words of Senator SCHUMER and Senator WHITEHOUSE: We have never been more fired up. We are going to take this opportunity to have a real debate about climate because Republicans do not have a plan to address climate change. That is not a rhetorical flourish. That is not an accusation. That is just an observation. They don't have a plan to stop climate pollution. They do not agree with 99 percent of the scientific community saying not just that this problem exists but that Congress must act.

If you look at the last session of Congress, it is actually worse than that. I want to put this in context. The last session of Congress spanned two of the worst years of weather in U.S. history.

In 2017, there were about 10 million acres that were burned by wildfires. There were Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. In 2018, we had the costliest and deadliest wildfires California had ever seen. In these two record-setting years, climate change cost the economy and the taxpayers billions of dollars. Communities all across the country struggled to rebuild and recover. People lost their lives, their homes, and their livelihoods.

In these 2 years, the number of pieces of legislation that Republicans put forward to address climate change—even if I thought they were inadequate, even if I thought they were the wrong approach, even if I thought they were half measures or too private sector-oriented, whatever the criticism might have been, I can't even make criticisms of their climate policy. They have no climate policy other than to make things worse.

They have allowed coal companies to leak dirty water and waste into streams without having to clean it up. They voted to make it easier for oil and mining companies to pay foreign governments. They allowed the President to start the process of pulling out

of the Paris accords. They allowed him to begin the process of rolling back your fuel efficiency standards, to repeal the Clean Power Plan, to prop up coal—even though it makes no economic sense in a lot of instances anymore—and they put climate deniers in top science positions in the government.

They put Secretary Zinke in charge of the Department of the Interior, and the first thing he did was to open up lands for oil and gas leases. They put Scott Pruitt in charge of the EPA, and when he finally proved to be a political liability—not for his climate policy but because of his personal habits—they replaced him with someone with the same policies, Andrew Wheeler, who is literally a coal lobbyist.

If you wrote all of this into a screenplay, people would say: That is a little too on the nose. That is a little too obvious. This is ridiculous. This is not actually how Washington works. They wouldn't put a coal lobbyist in charge of the Environmental Protection Agency, would they? They did. They did.

It is not just that Republicans don't have a plan to make things better, it is that the Democratic approach is to treat this like the emergency it is and invest in clean air, clean water, and smarter infrastructure, and the Republican approach is to put polluters in charge to actively, aggressively, and proudly make climate change worse.

I have seen the right approach work in Hawaii. For decades, since the demise of the sugar plantation, we relied on imports of fossil fuels for our energy needs. As recently as 2010, we got more than 90 percent of our electricity from burning oil, which is the dumbest way to do things. It is very expensive and very dirty. Less than a decade later, we are well on our way to 100 percent clean energy.

We have addressed the legitimate concerns, we ignored trolls, and we moved forward together. We have quintupled clean energy, lowered electricity rates, and created tons of jobs. Clean energy is the future for Hawaii, and it is the future for the United States. This can be done. Do not be afraid.

If Republicans think the Democratic ideas are no good, fine; then offer a different plan. They are the only major political party in the developed world that doesn't even believe climate change is a problem. There is no other issue where the majority party denies that the problem exists at all, not cyber security, not healthcare, not even income inequality. This is not tenable.

Whenever a Senate Democrat or a group of Senate Democrats come to the floor to talk about climate change, we usually have a good little group over here, and always—always—in my 7 years in the U.S. Senate, there is always an empty Chamber on the Republican side—empty. The only Republican I am ever talking to is someone who is maybe waiting to give a speech about

something else or the Presiding Officer. That is because Republicans in the Senate have no plan at all as it relates to climate change.

We have trillions of dollars in infrastructure that needs to be addressed over the next couple of decades. We could make those investments in ways that also address climate. We could offer tax breaks for clean energy. We should reenter the Paris accord, but they are pulling the same play they always do, to make this so partisan, to mock the issue itself so they can continue to do nothing. They are whistling past the graveyard.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, how do we make our communities, our States, our Nation, and our planet better for our children? How do we make it better for our children's children and their children? Isn't that the task we have in the U.S. Senate, to make things work better, not worse?

We have this question before us: Do we have a carbon pollution problem? What is the answer, yes or no? I ask each of my colleagues, yes or no?

Presiding today is a new Member of the Senate from Florida. I have been down to Florida. I will tell you that I heard about the rising seawater polluting the aquifers and creating freshwater supply problems for communities in Florida. I heard about coastal erosion. I heard about coral reefs being damaged and the fish offshore. I heard about the toxic red algae on the gulf side—so toxic it is killing fish and dolphins and turtles and manatees, and they are washing up on the shore of Florida on the gulf side.

The people have two problems. The toxic algae is creating breathing problems, and then there is a stench arising from the dying sea life. People on the gulf side of Florida say: We have to take inland vacations.

I know my colleague presiding today knows about these issues in his State because we see the impacts of carbon pollution and climate chaos in every single State. We certainly see it in my State. We see it through the more powerful forest fires—hotter, more acreage, and more destruction. We see it in the smoke affecting the communities and the economies throughout Oregon. Of course, we saw the devastating forest fires in California, wiping out the town of Paradise and afflicting so many other communities.

It is not just the impact on the natural world; it is the impact on the people. When you affect the fisheries, you affect the fishermen. When you affect the forests, you affect the timber industry. When you proceed to produce conditions of more floods and more droughts, you affect the farmers and ranchers of America. It is the people of America.

How about the Panhandle of Florida. It was wiped out by a more powerful hurricane, driven by those warmer

ocean temperatures. What does one say to them—that there is not an issue; that we don't have a problem?

The entire scientific community of the world has said you can see the facts on the ground, but we don't need them to see the facts on the ground. We see it through the everyday impacts on Americans, on our farmers, our ranchers, and on our communities plagued by smoke or wiped out by hurricanes.

So we do have a problem. The answer is, yes, we do have a problem. If you say there is no problem, then your head is stuck in the tar sands, and you are failing your responsibility not just as a U.S. Senator, you are failing your responsibility as a human being. You are failing your constituents if you think there is no problem, while their lives and their economy are being so dramatically impacted by this issue.

I ask my colleagues, did you come here to fail your constituents, to fail as a Senator, to fail as a human being to address this issue? Did you come to fail, or did you come to take on the issues that face us and build a better world for your children?

If you believe there is a significant challenge, what are you doing about it? What actions are you planning? Because if you believe there is a problem and you are not putting forward a plan to address it, then your leadership is a failure.

So we have a choice on the Republican side of the aisle. Is it that you are too obsessed with the power of the Koch Brothers to address the needs of the citizens of the United States of America, that you have your heads stuck in the tar sands? Is that the issue, or is it that you want to sit on the sidelines? You know there is a problem, but you want to sit on the sidelines and do nothing, in which case you are a failed leader.

So how about reject ignorance, and how about reject failed leadership and come together to make a better world for our children. That is what we need to do, all of us, together, because the impacts we see from carbon pollution and climate chaos—those are not impacts affecting blue America or red America; they touch the lives of every citizen, no matter which political party they belong to. It is going to affect every child we have now and every child born in the future, whether they register as a Democrat or a Republican. We have already wasted decades in getting at this issue. Let's waste no more time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Pursuant to the order of February 13 with respect to the Barr nomination, I ask the Chair to put the question on the nomination of William Barr to be Attorney General at 12:30 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from West Virginia.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, before I begin with my remarks, I would like to take a moment, as I think everybody here in the country should, to remember and honor all the lives lost 1 year ago today during the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL. It was a horrible act, as the Presiding Officer of the Senate is well aware, and its reverberations are still felt deeply today, especially among those who lost friends and loved ones, many of whom work day in and day out to keep their memory alive.

We have before us on the floor today a bipartisan government funding measure, and as the chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, I rise in support of the conference agreement to secure our border and fund our government and end any possibility of a shutdown at the same time. This agreement is a compromise between Republicans and Democrats, between the House and the Senate, and because it is a compromise, none of us really got everything we wanted.

When you are working to reach an agreement, whether you are in government or in a family, it is important to understand the difference between compromising on details and compromising on your principles. While this agreement may compromise on some of the specifics, it does not compromise on our commitment to our Nation and to secure our Nation. That commitment is also shared by our President, who has been unwavering in his promise to strengthen our border. It is a goal we must achieve in a smart and informed way to address the real and ever-changing challenges we face as a nation.

On the border itself, I have been very clear that our agreement had to include three critical elements, three legs of the stool: physical barriers, technology, and personnel.

There were a few sticking points with our Democratic colleagues. We did hear from the Speaker of the House that there would be no wall or there would not be \$1 for the wall. Instead, this agreement provides almost triple the money for new wall construction that we appropriated last year. In fact, we will pay for 55 new miles of wall in the Rio Grande Valley where Customs and Border Protection has told us it is desperately needed. This agreement will build twice as many miles of new wall as last year's appropriations, despite the fact that we were negotiating with those who didn't want to have any wall.

Would I have preferred more money for the wall? Of course. But this bill provides the most money ever in a single appropriations bill for a barrier. I drafted legislation—passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee last June—that would have fully funded the President's budget request for the wall. I would have voted for higher amounts—and did, actually, in committee—of funding for the wall. That is

because I believe strongly that physical barriers are a vital part of securing our border. I saw it myself when I toured the borders in California and Texas. I saw the need. I saw how the walls work. And I will stand side by side with the President as he works to secure additional money to construct a border wall in the future.

We got \$1.375 billion, and that is a long way from \$1. It is a critical downpayment on the President's ultimate border security goal. The best path forward to secure our border today is to pass this agreement.

The bill also stands with the men and women of ICE, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. A statutory cap on the number of ICE detention beds would have required dangerous criminals to be released from ICE custody. It would have posed a threat to families and communities across the country, and it would have compromised an important principle. This agreement rejects that anti-ICE proposal.

I have said many times that I support the men and women of ICE and their important work to secure our Nation, and that is why the agreement before us gives ICE the operational flexibility it needs to accomplish its goals. Taking advantage of the flexibility this bill provides, ICE can utilize 18 percent more detention beds than they are currently using. That means ICE can continue interior enforcement efforts and be ready to respond to any surges on the border, so it gives ICE the flexibility they need.

I say to my friends who, like me, want more money for the wall: This agreement is better for the wall and better for ICE than any other alternative. Rejecting this agreement will cost dozens of miles of new wall and jeopardize ICE's ability to detain dangerous criminals.

Another government shutdown cannot and should not be allowed to happen. We need to provide certainty to our Federal workers and the American people whom we serve. I also think we need to restore trust in our ability to work across the aisle, to work across party lines to reach settlement, negotiated settlement that moves us forward, because if we are in a stalemate, we are standing still. In my opinion, if you are standing still, you are actually going backward, and we don't want to do that as a nation.

The work done by the men and women in our Federal workforce during the shutdown should continue to be applauded. Without pay and in a period of great uncertainty, thousands of men and women did their jobs at the highest level. We should be thankful for their service, and we are.

One of the things I am proud of in this bill is a 1.9-percent pay increase for the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security. This is ICE. This is Border Patrol. To the Coast Guard, Secret Service, FEMA, we salute you.

Under this agreement, we will also hire 200 new Border Patrol agents over

the fiscal year 2018 funded level to defend and police our border, and we will add \$600 million for nonintrusive inspection technology.

As I have said before, border wall, personnel, and technology are all vital parts of securing our border. They are very critical in addressing the drug epidemic that has plagued my State of West Virginia and many other parts of this country.

This bill includes the highest level of funding ever in a homeland security appropriations bill to combat the opioid epidemic—more than \$700 million—and it has funds for investigations when it comes to human trafficking, looking into the dark web, and other crimes.

The homeland security portion of this agreement also takes a major step forward in advancing our Nation's Coast Guard by building a new polar security cutter to help address operational needs in the Arctic. This is critical to our homeland security. We also address the needs of the TSA, the Secret Service, and FEMA—to name just a few of the other entities within this title.

This bill is not the bill I would have written alone. I don't get to do that. It is the product of give-and-take that is necessary to forge a bipartisan consensus. It is a strong compromise that will help secure our border and make America safer.

Senator JON TESTER, the ranking member of our subcommittee and the Senator from Montana, has been an excellent partner as we have worked to deliver a bill worthy of the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security. So I thank him for his efforts throughout this process. We have worked very well together.

I also want to thank Chairman SHELBY and Vice Chairman LEAHY for their work in guiding the Appropriations Committee to a deal. These are seasoned appropriators who know how to get the job done. Their leadership has demonstrated that the Appropriations Committee can come together and forge bipartisan consensus in the national interest.

The leaders of the House Appropriations Committee, Chairman NITA LOWEY, whom I know very well; and Ranking Member KAY GRANGER, who is a good friend of mine from my service in the House; as well as my counterpart in the House and chairman of Homeland Security, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD; and Ranking Member CHUCK FLEISCHMANN, of the Homeland Security Subcommittee. They deserve our gratitude for forging ahead with a willingness to negotiate.

I also appreciate the contributions of all the members of our conference committee, and I would like to thank a group of individuals who have dedicated a lot of nights, weekends, and family time to this effort. Their knowledge of the facts and their commitment to the cause never waned, even though their time to sleep did wane. Shannon

Hines, who is Chairman SHELBY's right-hand woman on the committee, was fantastic. Thank you to Adam Telle, Peter Babb, Christian Lee, Chris Cook, and Thompson Moore of the Homeland Security Subcommittee staff, which I chair, as well as to my own appropriations staffer, J.T. Jezierski. I say thank you—a big thank you.

I have spent the majority of my time today and the last several weeks on my bill—our bill. My thanks and congratulations also go to my fellow chairmen who have titles in this package. They have produced legislation that will help West Virginia expand access to broadband, combat the opioid epidemic, enhance our transportation, foster economic development, and advance scientific research and discovery. They, too, faced similar challenges to draft bipartisan legislation, and they too got it done.

In closing, although conferees compromised on details, we did not compromise our principles. Passing this conference agreement is in our national security interest. It will provide the resources, the direction, and the support that the President has said many times he needs to protect our Nation.

I am very proud to have been a part of this process, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in a bipartisan fashion in passing this bill later this afternoon.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF LYNCHING ACT OF 2019

Ms. HARRIS. James Baldwin once said:

Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced.

That is why we are here again today, to face the history of lynching in this country. From 1882 to 1986, the U.S. Congress failed to pass anti-lynching legislation when it had the opportunity more than 200 times.

We have an opportunity, once again, to right this wrong and face the ugly history of lynching in America. Let's recall this stain on America's history. Lynching is an act of terror. It is murder.

These were summary executions. Victims of lynching were dragged out of their homes. They had ropes wrapped around their necks. They were hanged on trees. In many cases, they were castrated and burned as crowds of people watched and applauded. The premise underlying all of these acts was that Black people were not full human beings.

According to the Equal Justice Initiative, lynching was used as an instrument of terror and intimidation 4,084 times during the late 19th and 20th centuries.

In 1955, Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African-American boy, was lynched in

Mississippi after being accused of offending a woman in her family's grocery store. When Emmett Till's mother held open her son's casket at his funeral, the image of his body became one of the starkest examples of racial violence in America.

These lynchings, I think no one can deny, were acts of violence. They were needless, horrendous acts of violence, and they were motivated by racism. Lynchings were crimes that were committed against innocent Americans. These crimes, for the most part, did not go without consequence. They rarely were followed by an arrest or the charging of a crime or the prosecution of a crime or the punishment for the crime. Of course, the victims of these acts and their families never received justice in our courts of law or in their community.

This is an uncomfortable history to think of, to talk about, and understandably makes many people uncomfortable because of the violence we are describing, because it is part of America's history, because it is something we have never truly acknowledged and recognized, in terms of the crime it was, the crime it is, and how we, through our laws, must recognize the seriousness of it.

Today we have that opportunity, and we must recognize the context in which we discuss it today. Just in the last month, we have had difficult and high-profile conversations about slavery and blackface, issues that are claimed to be part of a bygone era. However, it is clear that in many ways our past is our present.

Lynching is not a relic of the past. In 2011, three men in Brandon, MS, murdered an African-American man, James Craig Anderson. They robbed him, beat him, and ran him over with a truck. That is modern-day lynching.

Let's be clear. No one should have to fear for their life because of their race, national origin, religion, or sexual orientation. We must confront hate directly.

In December of 2018, our Senate colleagues, I am proud to say, voted unanimously, in a bipartisan way, to pass the Justice for Victims of Lynching Act, which I proudly introduced with Senators BOOKER and SCOTT. After 100 years and more than 200 failed attempts in the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Senate finally spoke the truth about lynching.

Today I have reintroduced the bill and will ask the Senate to pass it again. The Justice for Victims of Lynching Act is a historic piece of legislation that would make lynching a Federal crime for the first time in American history. With this bill, we finally have a chance to speak the truth about our past and make clear that these hateful acts should never happen again and, God forbid, they do, we are making clear there will be swift, serious, and severe consequences.

We can now finally offer some long overdue justice and recognition to the

victims of lynching and their families. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said: "The time is always right to do what is right."

I now yield the floor to my friend and colleague, the great Senator from the great State of New Jersey, CORY BOOKER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Thank you.

Mr. President, I thank Senator HARRIS for her partnership and leadership on this bill. I also thank my colleague and my friend, TIM SCOTT from South Carolina, for his leadership and partnership on this legislation.

As Senator HARRIS just said, this is not the first time we have come down to the floor of the U.S. Senate to implore this body to recognize lynching for what it is—bias-related terror. It is not the first time we have come down to this body to try to right the wrongs of history. After numerous attempts—dozens and dozens—during the height of lynchings in the United States, this body failed to act. This body did not stand up to protect American citizens and condemn the horrors of lynching.

In December of last year, as Senator HARRIS and I were standing here, this body actually made a historic decision. It was a profound moment, an emotional moment. They made the decision to pass the Justice for Victims of Lynching Act by unanimous consent—no opposition.

After a long, painful, and shameful history of this body, the U.S. Senate finally voted unanimously to make lynching a Federal crime. Unfortunately, the bill was not taken up in the House before the end of the last Congress. So we are here today with the hope and expectation that for the second time this body will make history by passing Federal anti-lynching legislation and that, for the first time in history, this bill will actually become the law of the land.

Senator HARRIS referenced the Equal Justice Initiative, which documented over 4,000 cases of racially motivated lynchings between 1877 and well into the 20th century. Lynchings were used to terrorize, marginalize, and oppress Black communities, to kill human beings in order to sow deeper fear, inequality, and injustice for generations.

The use of lynching to inflict racial terror is ugly, disturbing. It is a tragic part of our history, but we know its legacy does not just live in our history books. Less than 2 weeks ago, an actor and activist was brutally attacked in Chicago by two men yelling racial and homophobic epithets.

Lynching is not a relic of the past. We are seeing in the present pernicious evil, and we still have yet to confront this in this body. Bias-motivated acts of violence and intimidation in America are actually on the rise. Hate crimes are on the rise for the third year in a row. Hate crimes against Black Americans are on the rise. Hate crimes against Jewish Americans are

on the rise. Hate crimes against LGBTQ Americans and Muslim Americans are on the rise. This is unacceptable. Justice for the victims of lynching has been too long denied, and as we look forward we must collectively in this body make a strong, unequivocal statement.

The last time Senator HARRIS and I came to the floor with this request, I read from an excerpt of a speech given by Congressman George Henry White, the first Member of Congress to introduce an anti-lynching bill more than a century ago and the last Black Member of Congress to serve for decades following Reconstruction.

In 1901, in the last speech he ever gave on the floor, the last speech of a Black Congressman for decades, he said about the terror of lynching: "This evil peculiar to America, yes, to the United States, must be met somehow, some day."

For too long in this body, in the U.S. Congress, we have relied on the inevitability of "some day" when it comes to addressing this profound injustice. For too long we have failed—failed—to ensure justice for the victims of lynching, and failed to make clear that in the United States of America, in this great country, lynching is and always has been not just a Federal crime but a moral failure.

We have the opportunity right now, again, to make history in this moment. We have the opportunity right now to recognize the wrongs of both our history and our recent past, to honor the memories of those so brutally murdered, and to leave a legacy that future generations can look back on. We will know, after some 200 attempts in this body in more than 100 years, that on this day, this moment in American history—notably Valentine's Day; as one leader once said, "Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public"—that on this day, we can right this wrong.

I would like to recognize the Senator from California.

Ms. HARRIS. Thank you, Senator BOOKER. Happy Valentine's Day to you.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 488, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 488) to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Ms. HARRIS. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 488) was passed as follows:

S. 488

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 “Justice for Victims of Lynching Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The crime of lynching succeeded slavery as the ultimate expression of racism in the United States following Reconstruction.

(2) Lynching was a widely acknowledged practice in the United States until the middle of the 20th century.

(3) Lynching was a crime that occurred throughout the United States, with documented incidents in all but 4 States.

(4) At least 4,742 people, predominantly African Americans, were reported lynched in the United States between 1882 and 1968.

(5) Ninety-nine percent of all perpetrators of lynching escaped from punishment by State or local officials.

(6) Lynching prompted African Americans to form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (referred to in this section as the “NAACP”) and prompted members of B’nai B’rith to found the Anti-Defamation League.

(7) Mr. Walter White, as a member of the NAACP and later as the executive secretary of the NAACP from 1931 to 1955, meticulously investigated lynchings in the United States and worked tirelessly to end segregation and racialized terror.

(8) Nearly 200 anti-lynching bills were introduced in Congress during the first half of the 20th century.

(9) Between 1890 and 1952, 7 Presidents petitioned Congress to end lynching.

(10) Between 1920 and 1940, the House of Representatives passed 3 strong anti-lynching measures.

(11) Protection against lynching was the minimum and most basic of Federal responsibilities, and the Senate considered but failed to enact anti-lynching legislation despite repeated requests by civil rights groups, Presidents, and the House of Representatives to do so.

(12) The publication of “Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America” helped bring greater awareness and proper recognition of the victims of lynching.

(13) Only by coming to terms with history can the United States effectively champion human rights abroad.

(14) An apology offered in the spirit of true repentance moves the United States toward reconciliation and may become central to a new understanding, on which improved racial relations can be forged.

(15) Having concluded that a reckoning with our own history is the only way the country can effectively champion human rights abroad, 90 Members of the United States Senate agreed to Senate Resolution 39, 109th Congress, on June 13, 2005, to apologize to the victims of lynching and the descendants of those victims for the failure of the Senate to enact anti-lynching legislation.

(16) The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, which opened to the public in Montgomery, Alabama, on April 26, 2018, is the Nation’s first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved Black people, people terrorized by lynching, African Americans humili-

ated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence.

(17) Notwithstanding the Senate’s apology and the heightened awareness and education about the Nation’s legacy with lynching, it is wholly necessary and appropriate for the Congress to enact legislation, after 100 years of unsuccessful legislative efforts, finally to make lynching a Federal crime.

(18) Further, it is the sense of Congress that criminal action by a group increases the likelihood that the criminal object of that group will be successfully attained and decreases the probability that the individuals involved will depart from their path of criminality. Therefore, it is appropriate to specify criminal penalties for the crime of lynching, or any attempt or conspiracy to commit lynching.

(19) The United States Senate agreed to unanimously Senate Resolution 118, 115th Congress, on April 5, 2017, “[c]ondemning hate crime and any other form of racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination, incitement to violence, or animus targeting a minority in the United States” and taking notice specifically of Federal Bureau of Investigation statistics demonstrating that “among single-bias hate crime incidents in the United States, 59.2 percent of victims were targeted due to racial, ethnic, or ancestral bias, and among those victims, 52.2 percent were victims of crimes motivated by the offenders’ anti-Black or anti-African American bias”.

(20) On September 14, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed into law Senate Joint Resolution 49 (Public Law 115-58; 131 Stat. 1149), wherein Congress “condemn[ed] the racist violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place between August 11 and August 12, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia” and “urg[ed] the President and his administration to speak out against hate groups that espouse racism, extremism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and White supremacy; and use all resources available to the President and the President’s Cabinet to address the growing prevalence of those hate groups in the United States”.

(21) Senate Joint Resolution 49 (Public Law 115-58; 131 Stat. 1149) specifically took notice of “hundreds of torch-bearing White nationalists, White supremacists, Klansmen, and neo-Nazis [who] chanted racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-immigrant slogans and violently engaged with counter-demonstrators on and around the grounds of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville” and that these groups “reportedly are organizing similar events in other cities in the United States and communities everywhere are concerned about the growing and open display of hate and violence being perpetrated by those groups”.

(22) Lynching was a pernicious and pervasive tool that was used to interfere with multiple aspects of life—including the exercise of Federally protected rights, as enumerated in section 245 of title 18, United States Code, housing rights, as enumerated in section 901 of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3631), and the free exercise of religion, as enumerated in section 247 of title 18, United States Code. Interference with these rights was often effectuated by multiple offenders and groups, rather than isolated individuals. Therefore, prohibiting conspiracies to violate each of these rights recognizes the history of lynching in the United States and serves to prohibit its use in the future.

SEC. 3. LYNCHING.

(a) OFFENSE.—Chapter 13 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 250. Lynching

“Whoever conspires with another person to violate section 245, 247, or 249 of this title or section 901 of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3631) shall be punished in the same manner as a completed violation of such section, except that if the maximum term of imprisonment for such completed violation is less than 10 years, the person may be imprisoned for not more than 10 years.”.

(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 13 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 249 the following:

“250. Lynching.”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Congratulations.

Ms. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you to all of our colleagues.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, late last night, we received the text of the appropriations agreement to fund the remaining portions of the government through the end of this fiscal year, which is through the end of September.

We were successful in doing something that we had not done in a long time previously, which was to fund 75 percent of the Federal Government, leaving 25 percent remaining. Unfortunately, the remaining 25 percent was held hostage to this unreasonable and unnecessary debate over whether we should fund border security. I say the debate was unnecessary because I thought that we all shared a conviction that it was important to secure our border.

It is important to note that most of the bill that we will vote on later today has been out in the public domain for more than 6 months. It is the product of bipartisan deliberation by the Appropriations Committee and has been available to any Senator who might want to be acquainted with the details.

The part that is relatively new is the detail relative to border security. I am pleased that, notwithstanding Speaker PELOSI’s statement that physical barriers are somehow immoral, this does authorize and fund up to 55 miles of additional fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border.

I believe that border security consists of three components: physical barriers in hard-to-control locations; technology, which is important as a force multiplier; and then, of course, the boots on the ground—the Border Patrol agents, who are absolutely essential. I am pleased to say that this piece of legislation incorporates all

three of those components of what makes up smart and sensible border security.

I am also happy to see that the initial demands made by our colleagues across the aisle that we limit the number of detention beds are not in this bill and that law enforcement can continue to detain people with criminal records who happen to be illegally in this country so that we can discourage and deter further illegal immigration.

One of the worst aspects of our broken immigration system is this notion of catch-and-release. During the George W. Bush administration, I remember talking to Secretary Chertoff about this huge upsurge in Brazilians coming across our border. I asked Secretary Chertoff why we were seeing all these Brazilians coming. He said it was catch-and-release. They knew that if there were no penalty associated with coming across or if they wouldn't be detained, there was no deterrence.

I am glad to see that this appropriations bill, which will prevent another government shutdown, contains no cap on detention beds to detain criminal aliens and others who are exploiting vulnerabilities in our immigration system.

I would say, though, one of the things that is notably absent in this bill is an extension of the Violence Against Women Act, which provides resources to assist women who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Republicans made absolutely clear from the get-go that we wanted to extend the current law. I am incredulous that our Democratic colleagues objected to extending the current law, the Violence Against Women Act.

It is really hard for me to believe that Speaker PELOSI and House Democrats object to a modest extension of this critical legislation, which helped countless victims receive the support they need, but because of the political jockeying, the Violence Against Women Act will expire at midnight tomorrow. There were two options available to us. One was to provide an extension through the end of the fiscal year—through the end of September—which would have allowed us to work on a long-term reauthorization under regular order. The second option, which our Democratic colleagues chose, is to do nothing and let this important legislation expire while trying to plot out a long-term plan. The choice seemed pretty obvious to me, but apparently not to Speaker PELOSI and not to the Democratic leader here in the Senate.

Since my days as attorney general, I have long been a believer in advocating for victims' rights. I am beyond disappointed that we have ended up in this situation. It is shameful to play politics with the Violence Against Women Act. But because of their obstruction, this important resource for victims across the country will lapse tomorrow night at midnight.

THE GREEN NEW DEAL

Mr. President, we have seen a lot of discussion lately about the so-called Green New Deal. It has been stealing headlines and capturing people's imaginations. It has been the subject of a lot of social media interaction and certainly has had a lot of coverage on TV and in the papers.

It has ended up causing quite a headache for our colleagues across the aisle who have tried to explain exactly what they are trying to do and how they are trying to do it. Last week, the junior Senator from Massachusetts introduced with Congresswoman OCASIO-CORTEZ of New York a resolution that was framed as a way to create jobs and fight climate change. A number of Presidential aspirants here in the Senate—and there are a lot—quickly embraced this resolution.

If you lived in a vacuum and you saw only the text of the resolution, you might say: Well, this is a pretty good idea. It mentions things like creating high-wage jobs, ensuring economic prosperity, investing in infrastructure and industry, and securing clean air and water for all. That sounds pretty good. But the resolution does not spell out how we are supposed to achieve all of those things.

Fortunately, one of the authors released a summary, which, oddly enough, provided more details on what the Green New Deal strives to do. It tells us more than the actual resolution does. One of the lines of the resolution says to ensure "prosperity and economic security for all people of the United States." But the summary clarifies that this is, in reality, a new entitlement program on steroids. This, at a time when our national debt just hit \$22 trillion, adds additional entitlement spending on top of it.

This provision would guarantee every person in the United States a job, healthcare, education, healthy food, and paid vacations. They might have thrown in free beer and pizza too. But they take it even a step further. According to the Green New Deal, the government will foot the bill for any person who is "unable or unwilling to work." If you don't like your job, don't want to get out of bed in the morning, don't feel like going to the office today, no worries. The Green New Deal says you don't have to go to work. And the people who do go to work—the hard-working taxpayers of America—will foot the bill.

Another component of this Green New Deal is to move to 100 percent clean and renewable energy in just 10 years. I come from an energy State, the State of Texas. When people think about Texas, they think about oil and gas, but we actually believe in all of the above. We generate more electricity from wind than any other State in the country because we have more infrastructure deployed for that.

I actually think moving toward cleaner and renewable energy is a good thing. But they want to do it in 10

years, and they don't answer the question about how much it will cost. Some estimates put the pricetag at \$5.7 trillion. That is \$2 trillion more than our annual tax revenue. In other words, it would add \$3.7 trillion to the national debt.

Remember, that is just for the energy portion of the Green New Deal. There are other components, as well. There is Medicare for All, which, of course, would destroy the private insurance industry and employer-provided coverage and would be unaffordable. They offer free college, paying the way for people who are able but don't want to work.

This is an extraordinary wish list, combining the most costly ideas of the radical fringes on the left in one place. It is really remarkable they were able to condense all of these into one place, where we could understand the entire picture.

The resolution also commits to update "all existing buildings . . . to achieve maximal energy efficiency, water efficiency, safety, affordability, comfort, and durability." I am all for local and State government and, where it is appropriate, Federal Government to talk about building codes and energy efficiency. That is a desirable thing. But to try to retrofit every government building, every airport, every football stadium, every home, every grocery store, and every shopping mall—every single building in the United States would have to be updated. How crazy is that? How much would that cost?

On second thought, I guess we don't have to worry about updating airports because the Green New Deal also calls for building "high-speed rail at a scale where air travel stops becoming necessary." I saw an interview with our friend the Senator from Hawaii, who was asked about that component of the Green New Deal. She said: Well, that wouldn't work very well for Hawaii. High-speed rail wouldn't exactly get you from the west coast out to Hawaii.

I hate to burst their bubble, but this is not something that is feasible or easy to do. Look at California talking about high-speed rail. Earlier this week, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the State was hitting the brakes on a high-speed rail project because it would take too long and cost too much. I bet Governor Newsom and I don't agree on a lot from a political standpoint, but I agree with him on that.

Last March, California estimated that the project would cost between \$77 and \$98 billion, and that is just to connect Northern and Southern California. I can't imagine how much it would cost to build a high-speed rail to connect California to Maine. If the word "green" refers to the amount of money this would cost, then at least that point is accurate.

There are no details on how we are going to pay for all of this, of course, because our Democratic colleagues know that the Green New Deal is entirely fantasy—it is unrealistic. These

are just talking points that have been designed to appeal to the fringe of their political party and to make a political statement. That is why a number of our colleagues on the Democratic side changed their tune once the majority leader announced that the Senate would vote on this resolution.

Generally speaking, in my experience in the Senate, if you introduce a bill or a resolution, you are thrilled to hear the majority leader say he is going to schedule it for a vote on the floor—but not the Senator from Massachusetts, one of the proponents of the Green New Deal. Following the leader's announcement, he released a statement that derided Senator MCCONNELL's effort to "sabotage" the Green New Deal by his giving them a vote on their resolution. Apparently, holding a vote on something you have introduced is now a form of sabotage in this wild and wacky world in which we currently live. The Senator from Minnesota, who announced her bid for President, later downplayed her support and brushed it all off as aspirational.

Our constituents didn't send us to Washington to advocate for partisan wish lists that will never be voted on. They want us to be accountable as their elected Representatives. They sent us here to craft legislation that can and will make our country stronger. This Green New Deal is nothing more than a Socialist agenda that is being disguised as feel-good environmental policy, and it is indicative, unfortunately, of the hard left turn our friends across the aisle, the Democratic Party, have taken.

The Green New Deal is not what our country needs, and as we have heard from both Republicans and Democrats over the last several days, it is not what our country wants.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, later today, we hope we will have an opportunity to vote on legislation that will fund the government and provide much needed support for border security. While no agreement is perfect and not everybody gets everything one wants, this makes a significant downpayment on a border wall as well as on other border security measures. At the same time, it funds all of the appropriations bills for this fiscal year.

I hope, as our Members review the text, they will have an opportunity to conclude that we will be able to get the votes that will be necessary to move the legislation through the Senate and, hopefully, ultimately, through the House and to the President and that

the President will be able to sign it into law. So stay tuned on that. Hopefully, that will all transpire later today.

TAX REFORM

Mr. President, tax reform is working. When Republicans took office 2 years ago, we had one goal in mind, and that was to make life better for the American people. Key to that goal was getting our economy going again after years of economic stagnation under the Obama administration. We took action to lift burdensome regulations, and in December of 2017, we passed the historic, comprehensive reform of our Nation's Tax Code.

Why the Tax Code?

Well, the Tax Code plays a huge role in the health of our economy. It helps to determine how much money individuals and families have to spend and to save. It helps to determine whether a small business can expand and hire. It helps to determine whether larger businesses hire, invest, and stay in the United States. A small business owner who faces a huge tax bill is highly unlikely to be able to expand her business or to hire a new employee. A larger business is going to find it hard to create jobs or to improve benefits for employees if it is struggling to stay competitive against foreign businesses that pay much less in taxes. A larger business is also unlikely to keep jobs and investment in the United States if the Tax Code makes it vastly more expensive to hire American workers.

Before we passed tax reform a year ago in December, our Tax Code was not helping our economy. It was taking way too much money from American families, and it was making it harder for businesses, large and small, to create jobs, increase wages, and grow. That is why, after months of work, we passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

This legislation cut tax rates for American families, doubled the child tax credit, and nearly doubled the standard deduction. It lowered tax rates across the board for owners of small- and medium-sized businesses, farms, and ranches. It lowered our Nation's massive corporate tax rate, which, up until January 1 of last year, was the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world. It expanded business owners' ability to recover the costs of the investments they make in their businesses, which frees up cash that they can reinvest in their operations and in their workers. It also brought the U.S. international tax system into the 21st century so that American businesses would not be operating at a competitive disadvantage next to their foreign counterparts.

I am proud to report that the Republicans' economic policies are working. Our economy is thriving. The economy grew at a robust 3.4 percent in the third quarter of 2018. January marked the 11th straight month that unemployment has been at or below 4 percent. That is the longest streak in nearly five decades. The number of job

openings hit a record high in December. Once again, there were more job openings than job seekers. In fact, job openings outnumbered job seekers by more than a million jobs. Think about that. There are more job openings than there are people who are looking for work. It is not just by a little but by a lot—by a million job openings.

The Department of Labor reports that the number of job openings has outnumbered the number of job seekers now for 10 straight months. Wage growth has accelerated. Wages have now been growing at a rate of 3 percent or greater for 6 straight months. The last time wage growth reached this level was in 2009—a decade ago.

A Bloomberg article from yesterday reported:

A strong labor market is proving to be [a] blessing for job switchers as they pocket bigger raises amid record openings. Median wage growth for those who jumped to new positions picked up to 4.6 percent in January from a year earlier—the fastest pace since October of 2007.

Median household income is at an all-time, inflation-adjusted high of \$61,372, and the list goes on.

These are a lot of statistics, but behind those numbers are American families whose lives are improving, thanks to Republican economic policies—American families who no longer have to choose between a car repair and a dentist's bill; American families who now have a little extra every month to put away for the kids' college or for their retirement. Thanks to Republican economic policies, Americans are feeling more optimistic and more hopeful about their futures.

Gallup reports: "Americans' optimism about their personal finances has climbed to levels not seen in more than 16 years, with 69 percent now saying they expect to be financially better off 'at this time next year.'"

There are 57 percent of Americans who "rate the economy as excellent or good," according to Gallup, which is the highest level since January of 2001.

There are 69 percent of Americans who say that now is a good time to find a quality job, which is the highest percentage that Gallup has ever recorded.

There is optimism in this country. There is optimism within families, and there is optimism within small businesses. There is optimism at every level when it comes to this economy and the jobs and the wages that are being created as a result of these economic policies.

When it came time to draft tax reform, we had hoped it could have been a bipartisan endeavor. After all, many of the ideas that we included were the product of both Republican and Democratic proposals. As someone who has been around tax policy for a number of years and had served as a member of the Senate Finance Committee when tax reform was written, I have seen many of the bills that have been introduced.

A few years ago, I led a task force that took ideas from both sides and incorporated them into a document that

we put out there that provided for many of the ideas that were included in tax reform, and some of those were Democratic ideas. What happened, unfortunately, was that the Democrats were not over the 2016 election, and they absolutely refused to collaborate on tax reform legislation. Now they are trying to pretend that the economic progress we have made over the past 2 years doesn't exist.

In a recent tweet, one Democrat Presidential hopeful here in the Senate went so far as to actively mislead Americans about tax reform by falsely suggesting that tax reform raised taxes for the middle class when, instead, it lowered taxes for an estimated 90 percent of middle-class Americans. The Washington Post called her tweet "nonsensical and misleading." Presumably, most Americans are well aware that the size of their tax refunds has nothing to do with the size of their tax bills.

That statement—made by a Democratic candidate for President—peddles a blatantly false narrative in the hopes of scoring political points, and for that statement, she was awarded four Pinocchios by the Washington Post, which is about as big a whopper as you can get. Luckily, no matter how much the Democrats try to pretend that our economy isn't improving, they can't hide the reality that Republican economic policies are making life better for American families.

I am proud of everything we have accomplished so far, and we are going to keep working to ensure that our economy can thrive for the long term and to make sure that every American will have access to a secure and prosperous future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the government funding agreement announced last night. I greatly appreciate the work of Senator SHELBY, Senator LEAHY, and the Appropriations Committee in their efforts to reach a bipartisan agreement. I appreciate the efforts of Senator MCCONNELL, Senator SCHUMER, and our House counterparts, as well, to reach an agreement.

I am glad we will avert another government shutdown and also make critical investments in several areas that are important to my home State of Minnesota; however, there is an important piece of unfinished business that wasn't included in the agreement, and that is to provide backpay for the employees of Federal contractors who were forced out of work for more than a month during the shutdown.

During the longest Federal shutdown in history, thousands of Americans who serve as contractors to the Federal Government lost over a month's pay through no fault of their own, and these are people who work as security guards and clean office buildings, and

they work shoulder to shoulder with Federal employees for all of us. Unfortunately, and this is important, while Federal employees have received backpay—a bill this Chamber passed unanimously—their contractor counterparts have been left out in the cold with no backpay.

I have introduced legislation, which has bipartisan support, which would right this wrong, and it should have been included in the final budget deal, but it appears that the White House blocked it.

I have talked with many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle here in the Senate Chamber, and I have not found a single person who says contractors don't deserve backpay. We all agree on this, and that is why every Democrat in this Chamber has cosponsored my bill, and that is why several of my Republican colleagues and many others in this room have not only cosponsored but have also expressed support for finding a solution to this challenge.

So why not provide backpay to contractors in the funding bill before us today? Because it appears the White House apparently has said not to do it. But I have talked to the White House just in the last week. I didn't hear any fundamental reasons why our plan couldn't go forward and why challenges couldn't be resolved.

While I don't claim to know the White House's motivation in opposing this bill, I do know there are several misconceptions about this legislation that I would like to address today.

First, some have claimed that the problem is just too complicated to solve or that it would involve an untested process, but that is not right.

My bill would allow Agencies to make what is called equitable adjustment to contract prices to compensate contractors who provide backpay to their furloughed employees. This equitable adjustment process is used regularly by contracting officers and contractors. It has already been used to address other shutdown-related claims, including hundreds of claims for shutdown-related compensation this year alone. This process has already been used to pay contractors, just not for backpay. So my bill would build on the existing processes already in place. These processes are established, and it is just not that complicated.

Second, some have claimed that the administrative costs of the bill would just be too large, and that is simply false.

It is true that Agencies would need to take administrative steps to implement the bill, just as they do with the passage of any legislation. But, again, my bill builds on an existing administrative process that is used regularly and efficiently without large administrative costs.

Let me be clear. If the White House or anyone has suggestions on ways to improve this legislation to make it easier to implement, we are all ears.

We would be happy to accommodate any reasonable suggestion; we just haven't seen any. We haven't received any specific suggestions.

Too often, contractors are invisible to the public, but they suffered greatly during this recent shutdown. Representative AYANNA PRESSLEY and I recently authored an op-ed about this, and it included a story about a woman named Tamela, whom we both met. We wrote in our op-ed:

Tamela was worried that she would fall behind on her mortgage and car payments, ruining the good credit she'd worked so long and so hard to build. And as she spoke, beads of sweat rolled down her face. Was she nervous about speaking in front of a crowd? No. As Tamela explained, she's diabetic and has high blood pressure. Without her regular paycheck, she hadn't been able to afford the co-pay for a doctor's appointment to have her blood pressure tested and her prescription renewed. So she was going without her medicine.

I recently received a letter from Annie, a Federal contractor in Duluth. Annie wrote to me:

I am losing wages that I count on each month to make significant payments towards my student loans and contributions to my savings, (including my retirement savings). I can honestly say I never thought I'd be applying for unemployment, especially as a 31-year-old, but today I did just that.

These employees deserve backpay. They had nothing to do with creating this crisis, and we should all be able to come together in a bipartisan way to make sure these Federal contract employees receive backpay. So I stand here today to say I am going to continue working to get this bill passed, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to find a path forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today we hope to vote on a bipartisan, bicameral agreement that will fully fund the government and provide additional measures to strengthen our border security.

I want to applaud all of the members of the conference committee who worked on this agreement. I particularly want to recognize those Senate Members, led by Chairman SHELBY and Vice Chairman LEAHY, for negotiating a bipartisan compromise that will keep the government's doors open. Neither side got everything they wanted—that is why it is called a compromise—but in the end, fully funding the government and keeping it open is what is best for the American people.

What we saw during the 35-day government shutdown was that it took a terrible toll on our Federal workers, and it cost the U.S. economy \$11 billion—including \$3 billion that is gone forever, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Across the country, Federal workers have been very anxiously waiting to see if we were going to come to an agreement, if they were going to be

able to pay their mortgages, afford groceries, and get their prescriptions. Well, today, hopefully we can put their minds at ease. We can pass this legislation, and hopefully the President will sign it, because failure to do so would once again deprive Americans of important government services and throw our economy into a tailspin.

I urge all of our colleagues in Congress to take up this funding legislation, to pass it, and the President to sign it as soon as it reaches his desk.

Protecting our borders should not be an exercise in partisanship, and I am glad to see that this bill supports commonsense investments that focus on the technology, infrastructure, and personnel that are needed at the southern and northern borders to provide actual security that works.

The bill provides \$1.375 billion for targeted fencing in vulnerable areas along the southern border and more than \$800 million for Border Patrol agents, better surveillance and screening technologies, and increased security at our ports of entry. When resourced and deployed appropriately, these types of smart investments are far more likely to interrupt the flow of narcotics than a costly and ineffective border wall.

Importantly, the legislation also includes \$77 million for opioid equipment and staffing to interdict fentanyl and other synthetic opioids that are shipped through international mail and express consignment facilities. This is particularly important to States like mine, New Hampshire, where we have the second highest overdose death rate from opioids in the country. So many of those deaths are caused by the synthetic fentanyl. The opioid epidemic is a true national emergency, and Federal investments like these are needed to stop the illegal flow of these drugs into the country.

When Congress takes up and passes this deal, it will not only pass the appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security but also six other appropriations bills that have unfortunately been waylaid by our shutdown. This appropriations package supports critical Federal investments across all government Agencies, and I want to highlight just a few of those, starting with the programs funded in the bipartisan Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 2019.

As ranking member of the CJS Subcommittee, I worked closely with my colleague Senator MORAN from Kansas, who chairs the subcommittee, and we crafted what I believe is a truly bipartisan bill that will promote the economy, protect the American people, and secure our Nation's leadership in science and innovation.

For example, the fiscal year 2019 CJS bill provides \$468 million in dedicated Justice Department grant programs to tackle the opioid epidemic. The legislation will provide funding to State and local governments and those organiza-

tions working on the frontlines—providing a balanced approach of law enforcement, treatment, and recovery resources to help our communities that are dealing with opioid and fentanyl deaths. This amount is \$21 million higher than the fiscal year 2018 level and \$336 million higher than the President's budget request. For communities desperately fighting opioid addiction, any further delay in funding is dangerous and could be deadly, so it is critical that we pass this bill today.

Importantly, the legislation also contains the highest funding level ever for the Office on Violence Against Women—\$497.5 million for critical programs that provide training for police officers and prosecutors, rape prevention programs, and funding for women's shelters.

While I am glad that the appropriations package provides funding for these Violence Against Women Act programs, more work needs to be done to better support survivors of domestic and sexual violence. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address the complex issue of domestic violence.

The appropriations package also supports investments in our national infrastructure and provides more than \$49 billion to the Federal Highway Administration to modernize our highways and repair our bridges.

This legislation would also provide a \$1.3 billion increase for housing programs like rental assistance and homeless support services. For us in New Hampshire, that means that 9,500 low-income households will continue to have a place they can call home.

I am pleased that the appropriations package includes a 1.9-percent pay increase for Federal civilian employees. This is a cost-of-living increase that is long overdue.

During the shutdown, I had a chance to meet with a number of our Federal workers, and one of the things that impressed me the most was the dedication those workers had to their jobs and to serving the people of this country. They were going to work without getting paid and without knowing when they were going to get paid. Yet they showed up every day because of their commitment to the people of this country.

In addition to passing this appropriations package, Congress should take further action to provide financial security to Federal employees and contractors. We just heard our colleague TINA SMITH talking about the importance of providing the pay to those people who so far are not slated to get backpay. I have cosponsored legislation to secure backpay for the Federal contractor employees, including janitorial, food, and security service workers who were furloughed or forced to accept reduced work hours as a result of the shutdown. I hope we in Congress will take up and pass the bills Senator SMITH outlined as soon as possible.

I know you know this, Mr. President, because we have talked about it, but

Americans are tired of partisanship. They expect their elected officials to work together to come to a bipartisan compromise and to do what is good for the country, and I couldn't agree more.

The Senate will soon consider an appropriations package to supply Federal investments for programs that support national defense, small businesses, conservation of public lands, food assistance for low-income families, and so much more. This package also includes compromised proposals to improve our border security.

I hope that we will pass this package this afternoon and that the President will sign this legislation into law as soon as it passes the House.

Federal workers are dedicated to serving the American people, and they have families to care for. They should never again be used as pawns. We should never again use shutting down the Federal Government as an excuse over disagreements over policy issues. It is time for our elected leaders to move away from the partisan politics and to live up to the expectations of our constituents. Let's fund the government, and let's do it today.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, William Barr is unquestionably qualified to serve as Attorney General, a position to which he was confirmed unanimously in 1991, in President George H.W. Bush's administration. Mr. Barr's record of public service and long career in the law are exemplary. I have carefully reviewed his record, listened to his testimony before the Judiciary Committee, and questioned him for an hour in my office. Given the significant issues before the Department of Justice and the fact that it is currently led by an unconfirmed, Acting Attorney General, I will vote to confirm Mr. Barr.

It is imperative that the Senate confirm an Attorney General who is committed to allowing the Special Counsel to complete his investigation unimpeded. Mr. Barr gave this commitment under oath to the Judiciary Committee and again to me in our private meeting. He testified clearly that he will not permit any interference in Special Counsel Mueller's investigation into Russian attempts to influence the 2016 election. In fact, Mr. Barr told the committee that he believes "the overarching public interest is to allow [Special Counsel Mueller] to finish." He also said he would resign if he were ordered by the President to fire the Special Counsel without good cause. Mr. Barr testified, "The country needs a credible resolution to these issues, and if confirmed, I will not permit partisan politics, personal interests, or any other improper consideration to interfere with this or any other investigation. I will follow the Special Counsel regulations scrupulously and in good faith, and on my watch, Bob [Mueller] will be allowed to finish his work."

Not only must the Special Counsel be allowed to finish his work, but also his conclusions must be as open and transparent to the public as possible. The

Special Counsel regulations, put in place during the Clinton administration, have guided administrations from both parties for two decades. Those regulations instruct the Special Counsel to submit a confidential report to the Attorney General, and Mr. Barr testified that he will be as transparent as possible about the report, consistent with the law. He told me he will always err on the side of disclosure and believes transparency is critical to the public's confidence in the investigation. When asked whether he would allow the President or his attorneys to edit any report, Mr. Barr told the committee, "That will not happen."

Mr. Barr and I also discussed the memo he wrote in 2018 about obstruction of justice and his views on executive power. I asked him whether suborning perjury would be obstruction. He said yes. I asked him what he would do if the President asked him to stop an otherwise lawful investigation. He said he would resign. We discussed the political checks that exist to limit Executive power, and he described the Special Counsel as a "super charged political check."

Some have suggested, however, that Mr. Barr's memo means he believes the President cannot obstruct justice at all. In a letter to Chairman Graham, Mr. Barr responded: "Quite the contrary, [the memo] expressed my belief that a President, just like anyone else, can obstruct justice if he or she engages in wrongful actions that impair the availability of evidence. Nor did the memorandum claim, as some have incorrectly suggested, that a President can never obstruct justice whenever he or she is exercising a constitutional function. If a President, acting with the requisite intent, engages in the kind of evidence impairment the statute prohibits—regardless whether it involves the exercise of his or her constitutional powers or not—then a President commits obstruction of justice under the statute. It is as simple as that."

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein has said publicly that Mr. Barr's memo had no impact on the investigation. Mr. Rosenstein also noted, "Lots of people offer opinions to the Department of Justice, but they don't influence our own decision making."

Mr. Barr's views on executive power, while legitimate, differ from my own and do concern me as a member of the legislative branch. His opinions highlight the tension that sometimes emerges among the branches of government and which is rooted in the separation of powers. On any given matter, I would likely argue for a more limited approach to Executive power. Regardless of his philosophy, Mr. Barr has noted correctly that the President is not above the law.

Mr. Barr brings considerable experience to bear on important legal policy matters at the DOJ. He testified that he supports efforts to protect the civil rights of LGBT individuals and that he

is against discrimination against anyone on account of their gender identity or sexual orientation. He further stated that he is willing to support "red flag laws" as a step toward preventing gun violence.

Mr. Barr offered his commitment to implementing the newly enacted FIRST STEP Act, a bill I supported and that he described as one that "recognizes the progress we have made over the past three decades in fighting violent crime." Mr. Barr is also committed to combating scams and fraudulent schemes that target seniors, which, as chairman of the Senate Aging Committee, I have investigated and urged the Department to prioritize.

Finally, Mr. Barr has served our country previously with distinction. One hundred and twenty former officials and employees from various administrations have praised Mr. Barr's "character of unwavering commitment to the rule of law without regard to favor or politics." His nomination is supported by many leaders from the law enforcement community, including the Fraternal Order of Police and the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association. In his testimony before the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Barr pledged to run the Department of Justice with professionalism and integrity. He noted that the President did not seek any promises from him and that he made none to the President.

Mr. Barr has pledged his allegiance to the rule of law, the Constitution, and the American people. He has served our country honorably in the past, and I believe he will do so once again.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to support William Barr's nomination to be Attorney General of the United States. After meeting with Mr. Barr, I am convinced he is a qualified candidate and is committed to upholding our constitutional liberties.

Mr. Barr's record of achievement and civil service to our country stretches back over 30 years. Early in his career, he served as an intelligence analyst at the CIA and an assistant attorney general in the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel. He was later appointed Deputy Attorney General in the George H.W. Bush administration before becoming our 77th United States Attorney General. Mr. Barr's suitability for the role of attorney general has been tested before; in fact, he has excelled in that capacity.

Concerns have been raised regarding Mr. Barr's position with respect to the Second Amendment. Wyoming is a State of gunowners, and I am a strong defender of our Second Amendment rights, so naturally I probed these concerns. I had the opportunity to personally meet with Mr. Barr and directly ask him about his stance on the Second Amendment. He gave me direct answers and made it clear that he does not support limiting our Second Amendment rights.

Ultimately, the Constitution solely grants Congress power of law-making. I

am prepared to work with my Senate colleagues to protect against any efforts that would undermine our constitutional rights, and I will continue to conduct congressional oversight on the executive branch, a duty I take very seriously.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to vote against William Barr's nomination to serve as Attorney General. Although Mr. Barr has served as Attorney General in the past, I do not believe he is the right candidate to lead the Department of Justice at this time.

Americans are facing unprecedented times. The President fired former FBI Director James Comey to circumvent and frustrate a Federal investigation. Former Deputy Director of the FBI Andrew McCabe confirmed today that he opened an investigation into the President himself regarding his potential ties to Russia after Comey's firing. Special Counsel Robert Mueller is investigating President Trump and his campaign for collusion and Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential elections. Some of the President's close confidants have been indicted, pled guilty and are cooperating with the Special Counsel. Yesterday, a judge ruled that President Trump's former campaign manager, Paul Manafort, lied to Federal investigators about his interactions with Russians during the campaign.

During this tumultuous time, Americans need an Attorney General who values transparency, who is independent, and who can stand up to a President who has shown repeatedly that he believes that the Attorney General of the United States is his personal attorney and not the attorney of the American people. After closely following Barr's nomination hearing and analyzing his record, I do not believe he will stand up to the President and effectively lead the Department.

Before Barr was formally nominated to be Attorney General, he wrote and distributed a 19-page memo where he characterized the Mueller investigation as "fatally misconceived" with "potentially disastrous implications not just for the Presidency, but for the Executive branch as a whole and for the Department in particular." Barr wrote this memo well aware that his knowledge of the facts surrounding the Mueller probe is severely limited to public reporting.

Nevertheless, Barr concluded that Trump's publicly reported interactions with former FBI Director James Comey could not constitute obstruction of justice and sent the memo to Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, Assistant Attorney General Steve Engel, the Solicitor General, White House Special Counsel, Jared Kushner's attorney, and Donald Trump's personal attorneys. He made certain that everyone in Trump's orbit knew his name and knew about this memo.

This behavior should alarm not only Senators but every American. Former

FBI Director Comey testified under oath that President Trump said to him, "I need loyalty, I expect loyalty." President Trump publicly railed against former Attorney General Sessions for following the guidance of Department of Justice ethics officials and recusing himself from anything pertaining to the Russia investigation. During his confirmation hearing, Barr would not commit to following the advice of career ethics officials at DOJ if they recommend that he recuse himself from the Russia investigation to avoid any appearance of conflicts of interest. Instead, he said that he would rely on his own judgment. Mr. Barr is essentially asking Senators to trust him and his judgment. Why should Senators trust his judgment when there are systems and processes in place that were created for this exact circumstance? Mr. Barr cannot call himself an institutionalist concerned with maintaining the rule of law while seemingly being unwilling to submit to the rule of law when it applies to him.

It is not surprising that the President would select as his next Attorney General someone who not only refuses to recuse himself from the investigation but also believes that elements of Mueller's probe are "fatally misconceived."

Finally, during his confirmation hearing, Barr was repeatedly pressed by Republicans and Democrats on whether or not he would agree to release the final Mueller report in its entirety. Barr would not commit to do so. I believe that the report should be made available not only to Members of Congress but to all Americans so that they can see the evidence for themselves and reach their own conclusions. If we want Americans to trust their judicial system, we must insist on transparency and honesty.

Beyond those issues, I am concerned about Mr. Barr's commitment to civil rights. During his confirmation hearing, he seemed ignorant about the disparate treatment between Whites and Blacks in our criminal justice system. When he served as Attorney General under President George W. Bush, he advocated for policies that have in turn led to mass incarceration of nonviolent offenders. In 2015, he publicly opposed the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act, bipartisan legislation that would have reduced Federal mandatory minimums, and required the Bureau of Prisons to provide more rehabilitative programming to prisoners.

Last year, Congress passed the First Step Act with broad bipartisan support. The First Step Act included similar provisions to the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act. The First Step Act will not be successful without direction from the Attorney General. I intend to use my position on the Appropriations Committee to hold Barr accountable and to make sure he is proactively implementing this law.

Americans deserve to have an Attorney General who is loyal to the office

and not to the President. I do not believe Mr. Barr is that Attorney General.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON BARR NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Barr nomination?

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 45, as follows:

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 24 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Alexander	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Inhofe	Rubio
Cassidy	Isakson	Sasse
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Jones	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Sinema
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Manchin	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Tillis
Enzi	McSally	Toomey
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—45

Baldwin	Harris	Reed
Bennet	Hassan	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Paul	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Burr

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS OVERSIGHT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, it is no secret that the 116th Congress got off to a rocky start as we tried to address the ongoing partial shutdown. Despite that, I remain optimistic that we can work together to get things done for the American people.

Those looking for an example of how to find common ground should look no further than the important work Congress has done, and continues to do, for our veterans. The hearing room of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee is traditionally one of the most bipartisan places in Washington. It is also one of the busiest.

Last Congress, under Chairman ISAKSON's leadership, we held 30 hearings, considered 56 pieces of legislation, and sent to the full Senate 17 of President Trump's nominees to serve our veterans.

That spirit of cooperation continued here on the floor. During the last session of Congress, the Senate passed 23 major pieces of veteran-related legislation. As a result, the President signed into law bills that significantly enhance healthcare, education, retirement, and other benefits for our veterans.

I want to talk briefly about two of the more notable measures—the VA MISSION Act and the Forever GI bill—to underscore why it is so important for Congress to operate in a collaborative manner. Bipartisan oversight of the Departments and Agencies that implement the laws we pass in that Chamber is critical to ensuring that the executive branch follows the intent of Congress. These two laws highlight just how important that is.

Let's start with the VA MISSION Act. This law was passed to replace the Veterans Choice Act, which was created in response to the VA Health Administration scandal of 2014. This was a good first step. The Choice Program addressed many shortcomings within the VA system. However, my colleagues and I quickly learned it had its own share of troubles. Specifically, we heard repeated stories of difficulties navigating the complex and confusing bureaucratic process. Despite the new reforms, many veterans were still facing unacceptably long wait times at VA medical centers.

Through our oversight of the Choice Program, we recognized that more needed to be done to strengthen and streamline VA healthcare services and its community care programs. That was the genesis of the VA MISSION Act. One of the key reforms in the VA MISSION Act is that it enables veterans to seek quality healthcare services in their own communities, whether inside the VA system or from a private sector provider.

Specifically, the law requires the Department to establish access and quality standards that will be used as the framework for the VA and the veteran to decide when to get care in a VA facility and when to get care in the community. If the VA is unable to meet certain designated access standards, veterans will be given the option to receive care in the community. Last week, the VA announced the proposed new access standards to determine a veteran's eligibility for the community care that will take effect this June.

I am pleased that the VA maintained the spirit of the law in its proposed access standards. We understood that by providing additional access to community healthcare resources, there would be an added cost. As chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee that has jurisdiction over the VA, the entire committee will be closely working with the Department and my colleagues. Together, we will have the responsibility of making sure that the allocation of resources to support veterans' healthcare is spent wisely.

Oversight is also crucial to uncover negligence on the part of the Agencies charged with implementing the law. This is exactly what happened when the VA failed to fully comply with the housing stipend rates set by the Forever GI bill.

Passage of the initial GI bill after World War II was seen as a turning point in the way our Nation treated those who have served. The program is designed to give service men and women the building blocks they needed to succeed after leaving the military. The problem is, those building blocks have changed in the 70-plus years since the GI bill was first instituted. Since then, Congress modernized the GI bill when it passed the post 9/11 GI bill. After 17 years of war, it was once again time for an update.

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act—also known as the Forever GI bill—brings educational benefits to veterans so that they can receive them in this modern era. It became apparent, however, that the VA was implementing key provisions of the law incorrectly. When Secretary Wilkie testified before the VA Committee last September, I pressed him about the Department's failure to fully award the housing allowances for more than 340,000 Forever GI bill beneficiaries.

According to the statute, the VA should have used the Department of Defense's 2018 basic allowance for hous-

ing rates. This should have been calculated based on the ZIP Code where the student takes the majority of classes, rather than on the ZIP Code in which the school's main campus is located. Instead, some GI bill recipients were receiving housing stipends at the 2017 rate and based on the school's ZIP Code. This was clearly unacceptable.

Once it was evident that the VA was not following the statute, Congress had an obligation to act. That is why Senator SCHATZ and I introduced the Forever GI Bill Housing Payment Fulfillment Act to demand an immediate fix from the VA. That bill became law within a matter of weeks from its introduction.

With this law, what we are asking of the VA is really threefold. The first is to make every unpaid or underpaid veteran whole. The second is to be accountable for the errors that have happened and prevent them from recurring in the future. The third is to fix the problems to prevent them from recurring so that we will not go through this problem again. It is promising to see that the VA has begun to carry out some of the requirements that have been dictated in the Forever GI Bill Housing Payment Fulfillment Act.

The VA recently announced the members of the tiger team that the VA is required to assemble per the statute. For those who are unfamiliar with the term, a tiger team is a team of specialists tasked to achieve a specific goal. In this case, it is comprised of six senior benefits and IT officials at the VA who will be tasked with providing Congress a detailed plan to correct this egregious error. Hopefully, the move to quickly establish this team is reflective of the seriousness with which the Department takes this mandate. It is frustrating that it has taken another act of Congress to get to this point, but all of us are committed to ensuring that the VA follows the law as written.

In a spirit of cooperation, the leadership of the congressional committees who oversee the Department recently sent a letter to Secretary Wilkie to request that the VA work collaboratively with Congress throughout the implementation process. This message was echoed during a recent subcommittee hearing I chaired about the VA's implementation of a modern, commercial, electronic health record. It is important to ensure that the VA is able to share information with the Department of Defense and community healthcare providers while it undertakes the largest health record modernization project in the Nation's history. With all of the reforms getting underway simultaneously, it is vital for the VA to share information openly, even predecisional information, so that we can work together and have a common understanding of the impact of changes, including costs, and can assess the challenges that may arise.

The laws we pass in this Chamber are a key part of our legacy, but our oversight responsibilities are of equal im-

portance. The bipartisan manner in which the Veterans' Affairs Committee works to uphold that oversight responsibility sets an excellent example for the rest of Washington to follow.

We appreciate the hard work of Secretary Wilkie and that of his team and all of those in the VA system who work so very hard on behalf of our Nation's veterans. In working together, we can ensure that veterans receive the benefits they deserve and were promised.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. I thank the Presiding Officer.

Mr. President, from time to time, I come to the floor of the Senate to share with my colleagues stories of the victims of gun violence. I had hoped the statistics that consistently show this country has a gun violence rate that is 10 to 20 times higher than those of other similar high-income nations—data that shows this continuing epidemic of mass slaughter during which we average a mass shooting almost every day—would have compelled my colleagues to action. It hasn't. So I have tried to come down to the floor as often as I can to explain who these people are and to explain the genius that has been lost from this world when lives are cut so short by gun violence—gun violence that is largely preventable in this country.

I come to the floor with an unusually heavy heart because I want to talk about some of the lives that were lost a year ago today at the shooting in Parkland, FL, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. It was a year ago that I was actually walking to the floor to give a speech on immigration when I learned of another mass shooting. It hits hard for those of us who represent Connecticut because we are still working through the ripples of grief that never ever disappear in a community that has been shattered by an episode of catastrophic gun violence—in our case, in Sandy Hook, CT.

In February of last year, 17 students and teachers were gunned down in their classrooms at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. One of them was Peter Wang.

Peter was 15 years old. He was a U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet. He was getting ready to celebrate the Chinese New Year with his family. His two younger siblings and many other friends called him a natural leader.

When the shooter entered the high school, Peter had a choice to make: He could run and protect himself or he could try to help his fellow students in need. He chose the latter. He chose to hold a door open to help his classmates escape. He saved other people's lives while he lost his own.

Classmate Jared Burns said: "For as long as we remember him, he is a hero."

“He yanked open a door that allowed dozens of classmates, teachers and staffers to escape,” officials said.

His middle school basketball coach said that he was just a “joyful person.” His sacrifice, according to his coach, “just made perfect sense” because he was that selfless.

Peter was posthumously accepted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for his heroic actions on that day.

Alex Schachter was a freshman who played the trombone and baritone in the marching band, and he loved to play basketball. He loved music so much that in middle school, he took two band classes so that he could get ready to join the marching band in high school, which was his dream. His Eagle Regiment Marching Band actually won the State championship in Tampa.

His dad said that he was just a sweet-heart of a kid. He said that he just wanted to do well to make his parents’ happy.

His dream was to attend the University of Connecticut. He told everybody. He was only a freshman, but he knew where he was going to college. He wanted to go to my State, to Connecticut. He wore a UConn sweatshirt almost every single day to school. His favorite song was an old one by Chicago, “25 or 6 to 4,” which is kind of an odd choice for a 14-year-old. Yet UConn’s band actually chose to play that song at halftime at one of UConn’s football games, and UConn admitted Alex posthumously because his dream was to be a UConn Husky.

Helena Ramsay was full of laughter and had this infectious smile. She was 17 when she was shot that day. She loved all kinds of music, although she was mostly into K-pop. She had all sorts of other interests too. She was interested in human rights and the environment. She joined the school’s United Nations Club and the Christian faith-based First Priority Group. She was always looking out for her friends.

One of her friends said: “When I was stressed out from my chemistry lab that I thought I was going to fail, she calmed me down and told me that it was going to be OK.”

One of her best friends said that she was “one of the kindest people I’ve ever met.”

When the gunman walked into her classroom, she turned to her friend to make sure that her friend was safe and told her to shield herself with books. People described it as a “moment of bravery in the face of horror.”

Another hero that day was Aaron Feis. He was an assistant football coach, and he was a security guard. He threw himself in front of his kids. That is how he died that day.

The football program’s spokesperson said:

[Aaron] died the same way he lived—he put himself second. . . . He was a very kind soul, a very nice man. He died a hero.

One of his football players who had been going through leukemia treat-

ments remembered that Aaron had guided him through those treatments.

He would send me prayers. He would send me Bible scripts and just stuff to cheer up my day.

Aaron died while protecting the kids at that school.

These 4 stories are amongst those of the 17 people who died at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Yet 93 people die every day from gun violence. Most of those are suicides. A bunch of them are homicides. Others are accidental shootings, but they are all preventable.

As we remember today the mass shooting at Parkland, it is important that even on those days on which nobody puts up on cable news a mass shooting, there are still somewhere around 90 people who die every day, and I will tell you about one of them.

Corey Dodd was 25 years old when he died last month in Baltimore, MD. That morning, he told Marissa, his wife, to stay home and rest with their 3-year-old and their 3-week-old while he took the 5-year-old twins to school. After he dropped the twins off at school and pulled up outside their home, he was shot to death. The 3-year-old was inside. Marissa had to tell her kids that Daddy wasn’t coming home.

She said:

I’ve told the kids that Daddy is done. He’s not coming back.

Their family was planning to move because Corey was looking for work, and they were going to move to wherever he found work. He had recently finished a program to earn his commercial driver’s license. Things were looking up for Corey and Marissa and their four kids.

I didn’t know Corey, but I know something about his death because I happened to be in Baltimore on that day. I happened to be at Corey’s kids’ school at the moment he was shot. I was inside that school when an announcement came over the loud speaker that there was a code green. I didn’t know what a code green meant. A few minutes later, I found out that it is what happens inside schools in Baltimore when there is a shooting in the neighborhood. They locked down the school and our classroom and pulled down the shades, and we turned off the lights. A few minutes later, the police notified us that the scene was clear, that the school was safe, and that the day could go on. Yet, unbeknownst to me, just down the hall from me inside that school were two twins whose father had been shot blocks away from that school. Their lives will never be the same.

Part of the reason we care so much about this epidemic is that it is not just the victims; it is also about the people who are left behind. Imagine going to an elementary school in which you fear for your life when you walk to and from school and where parents of your friends are shot at 10:30 in the morning. It changes their brains, the trauma these kids go through in a

school like that. It makes their little, tiny, developing brains unable to learn. There is a biological process that actually happens to these kids. That trauma is what Parkland has been going through for the last year, and that trauma is what kids in Baltimore, New Haven, Hartford, Chicago, and New Orleans go through every single day. We are ruining millions of children all across this country because of an epidemic that we could choose to solve, that we could choose to do something about.

This week, the House of Representatives had a hearing and a meeting to move forward with a universal background checks bill that is supported by 97 percent of Americans. It will pass the House of Representatives, with Republican and Democratic support, with flying colors. Do you know what that tells us? It tells us that the most important thing we could do to save lives, to cut down on the 93 people who are killed every day, is to pass that universal background checks bill. In States that have universal background checks, there is about 30 percent less gun crime and fewer gun homicides than in States that don’t have those universal background checks.

As we remember 1 year since the massacre at Parkland and as we strive to understand that this is an epidemic that takes 90 people every day, know that it is within our power to do something about it. We can’t eliminate every single gun death. We can’t stop every suicide or every homicide, but with commonsense legislation that is supported by 97 percent of Americans, we can make a big difference, and we can send a signal to would-be shooters who are contemplating violence that they should not interpret our silence as a quiet endorsement. It is up to us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

REMEMBERING WALTER JONES

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I come to the floor with a heavy heart today. A colleague in the House passed away, and right at this very moment, down in Greenville, NC, we have a number of Congressmen and friends and family members congregated to celebrate the life and mourn the death of Congressman Jones.

Congressman Jones served in Congress for over 24 years. His dad served before that. Between the two of them, the Jones family has represented the eastern portion of North Carolina for 50 out of the last 53 years.

Now, Congressman Jones was somebody who was a bit of a maverick and a bit of an independent spirit on the House side, and we didn’t agree on certain measures. But I never doubted his sincerity and his heart and his commitment to North Carolina and to this great Nation.

He is survived by his wife Joe Anne of over 50 years. In fact, they were married in 1966.

He has a number of people in the statehouse who served with him, in a chamber where I was speaker of the house. They are mourning his death today. I couldn't be there in person because we have to be here for the votes that we are taking up this afternoon, but I wanted the Jones family to know, and all the people in Eastern North Carolina, how much I cared for and loved Walter Jones.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, one of the reasons why I continue to be here in Washington rather than visiting with family and friends of Congressman Jones is that we have a very important vote that we expect the Senate to take up here sometime this afternoon.

It is a vote that is borne out of compromise. To quote Winston Churchill—I think it was—it is the worst possible option except for all the other options considered up to this point.

It is not perfect, but it is important that we get the votes and that we encourage the President to sign this bill into law.

Now, I walked through the hallway this morning, and I had the press come up to me. Some in the press probably want to report honestly, but others want to create a narrative.

So the latest narrative is this: Senator, how do you feel about a bill that just got published last night—1,200 pages—and you are going to be asked to vote on it today?

I told them, specifically, because I have been following this measure since the last Congress. I said: Are you referring to the almost-1,200-page bill, of which all but 41 pages were matters that were taken up in the Appropriations Committee, voted out of committee unanimously in all but one case and with 26 votes in the other case? Are you referring to that bill?

If the Senators are doing their job and the Congressmen are doing their job, they read that months ago when they were passed out of the Appropriations Committee. Most of this is not new information. About 41 pages of it relates to the compromise that ultimately—because we couldn't get a compromise back in December—resulted in the government shutdown.

It absolutely funds some of the President's priorities for border security. There are people that get caught up on either end of the spectrum. It reminds me of how my kids used to fight in the back of the minivan when we used to take them on vacations. It is a childish argument: It is a wall.

No, it is not.

It is a wall.

No, it is not.

Look, it is steps taken forward in a positive way for border security. It is a structure that makes sense. It is technology. It is personnel. It is what we need to ultimately secure the border.

Some people can call it a wall because you could argue that in total it

is. Other people could say it is not a wall. I don't care as long as you ultimately recognize that voting for this measure and sending the signal to the President that we have his back, that we understand his priorities, and that we will continue to work on other measures on a bipartisan basis makes sense.

So I intend to support it today. It is not a vote that I am going to enjoy, but sometimes we have to do things here to make progress, to compromise, and to move on. We owe it to the American people to keep the government open. We owe it to border security to listen to their recommendations to fund people, technology, and infrastructure. This is a step in the right direction.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, it was a year ago today that I was presiding and something occurred to me. One is that in the 12 years that I have been in public service, I have virtually spent none of those Valentine's Days at home. Last year, I was thinking about how I messed up. I didn't even order flowers or do the things that I would normally do, although, I usually get flowers on Valentine's Day.

But then I started contemplating the Senate rules, and I know that there are a number of, well, things you just can't do on the floor.

I determined, for example, that you can't do an ad hoc prop and say something because it would be a violation of the rules. So although I thought about putting this heart up and presenting this and saying, "I love my wife Susan Tillis of 32 years," I am not going to do that because I think it would be a violation of the rules.

But in the event that someday we do change the rules and we are able to come to the floor and express our love for our spouses and people who sacrifice as much as we do, I hope someday to be able to give that speech on the Senate floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about an experience I had this weekend that was extremely memorable to me.

I used to live in Texas. I used to be involved in businesses in the Valley, as they call it there—from Brownsville to Weslaco, to Edinburg, to McCowan. This past weekend, a good colleague of mine, Senator STEVE DAINES from Montana, and I traveled to the southern border to visit the Customs and Border Patrol people, to visit with ICE people, and to see firsthand what goes on in a typical night. We were there overnight on Sunday night. We had a remarkable evening, and we saw firsthand what these people are up against.

Before I make my comments, I want to say that from Deputy Chief Ortiz all the way down in the organization in that sector—the McCowan sector that we were in—the best of America is in uniform right now, every day and night, protecting our rights and privileges here in the United States. I was proud to meet these people and to be a part of this trip.

What we saw this weekend is disturbing on many levels. We spoke directly to Border Patrol agents. We went to the retention center. We saw firsthand that we have not just illegal immigration there, but we have a national security crisis. We saw it firsthand.

This is a situation that the border agents face every day, and it is a grim situation. It is shameful that we here in Congress have not given Border Patrol agents adequate resources to do their jobs.

First, the real tragedy at the border is the dramatic increase in illegal drug trafficking. Even though the conversation in this room deals mainly with illegal immigration across that border, in this sector, the drug traffic increases are remarkable.

This year alone, fiscal year 2018—this is from October 1 to today—we had a 22-percent increase of heroin seized at the southern border, a 38-percent increase of methamphetamine and a 73-percent increase in fentanyl.

The amount of fentanyl seized by ICE so far this year is enough to kill every American citizen by overdose. Let me say that again. The tonnage of fentanyl seized is up 73 percent this year across the entire southern border, and that is not 100 percent of what is crossing that border. That is a 73-percent increase over the last year. The tonnage that has been seized this year is enough to kill every American citizen by overdose.

What is so remarkable is the estimate that only 7 to 10 percent of the drugs that they are attempting to bring across the border are actually interdicted—less than 10 percent. That is consistent with what our SOUTHCOM combatant commander tells us repeatedly year after year. By the end of fiscal year 2019, CPB—Customs and Border Patrol—will have seized 1.7 million pounds of narcotics at the border.

The Border Patrol agents we spoke to estimate that they are only able to stop, again, about 10 percent, and that is because they don't have the resources.

The movement of drugs from Mexico to the United States at the southern border is the greatest drug threat to our country. These drugs pouring across the border are destroying communities across the Nation. Congress has to act to give these Border Patrol agents and our ICE agents the infrastructure they need to address this dramatic spike in illegal drug trafficking.

I know that the illegal immigration topic is a hot topic. I don't disagree

with that, but we are not talking about this at the level that we should.

We have had historic opioid legislation. I was a supporter of that. Now we need to move on and make sure we secure the southern border.

The second point I want to make is that agents on the ground told us how Mexican drug cartels just across the border use migrants—illegal immigrants coming up out of Central America—to camouflage what they are doing and to distract our border agents from the real war that is going on, and that is the intrusion of illegal drugs into the country.

The cartels charge a toll for every individual who comes through their area of control. It is amazing right now. The charge is \$8,000 per person. There are some estimates that this toll business on illegal immigrants coming across the southern border is somewhere around \$2.1 billion in revenue for the cartels. These are the illegal cartels just south of the Rio Grande Valley in Texas. This doesn't account for the billions of dollars these cartels earn from the drug trade every year, which is a primary business.

There are some estimates that the \$2 billion they get in tolls for illegal immigrants coming into the United States is overshadowed by tenfold, relative to the drug trade. Some estimates are \$25 to \$30 billion of first cost value in revenue from the drugs that are coming across that border.

Many of the illegal immigrants being exploited by these cartels are unaccompanied children and family units. We met some of these people. It breaks your heart. The number of these to claim asylum has surged at our southern border since 2014. This massive surge is due to loopholes in our asylum and immigration laws.

These laws allow unaccompanied minors and family units to easily assert broad asylum claims. Again, the number of family units, individuals with children, and unaccompanied children has skyrocketed over the last 5 years.

Due to certain provisions in the law and court rulings currently enforced, these children and individuals are released into the United States while they are theoretically waiting for their formal removal proceedings to begin months or years down the road.

These loopholes, combined with programs like DACA, have led to a staggering increase in the number of unaccompanied children and family units at the border.

In fiscal year 2019 to date, there is a 280-percent increase in the number of family units apprehended at the border compared to the same point in fiscal year 2018. From just 1 year ago, there is a 280-percent increase.

The monthly apprehension numbers we are currently seeing even surpass those during the Obama administration. I think this chart shows it best. We see what happened over here, in blue, under the last administration. This is a dramatic increase in the num-

ber of illegal apprehensions at the southern border, primarily driven by catch-and-release and the implementation of some of these loopholes we are talking about right now. That was a dramatic increase—more than a 2½ times increase—250 percent in just 8 years.

The word got out that the new President, who was elected in November—right here—said: Well, we are going to enforce the law. They began to do that, and we saw a dramatic decrease in illegal immigrants coming across the border—a dramatic decrease.

Then there was a court case that said: Well, you can't really do that. That court case is being appealed, and what we have seen since then is that the cartels are back in business. This is one measure of the drug trade that we don't talk about. These are the poor souls who are coming across our border illegally right now.

By the way, we are at a point now that is higher than at the peak during the Obama administration. People say: Well, you know, we don't have a crisis here. It is not a problem. Well, the numbers are down.

I don't know what numbers they are looking at, but these are the numbers. These are facts. I believe right now we have a full-blown crisis at the southern border.

I am not trying to define how we use money to put up a border wall or anything. That is not what I am trying to do in this speech. What I am trying to do is point out that we have a full-blown crisis of illegal immigrants and illegal drugs crossing the southern border. I saw it firsthand on patrol with our border agents over the weekend. I am contrasting that with years ago, when I used to go across that same border, when this was not a crisis.

The last four Presidents have built 654 miles of barriers. We saw some of it in this sector. They have built 654 miles of barriers. Now we have 2,000 miles of total southern border. The four Presidents—from George H. W. Bush all the way to President Obama—have built border barriers because they all agreed that this is a crisis. It was intended to stop or slow down drug trafficking and the illegal incursion of illegal immigrants.

President Obama built 135 miles. President Trump has 124 miles under construction right now. What we have been talking about here in the last few weeks is just 55 miles; we heard today it is an additional 55 miles.

The question is, Do these barriers work? Well, we have three areas where, over the last 30 years, border barriers have been built—San Diego, Tucson, El Paso—and we have actual numbers to show that the illegal crossing of drugs and illegal immigrants in those sectors where those barriers were put up dropped 95 percent. But what they have done is, they have pushed this traffic to areas that don't have those barriers. One of those was the McCowan district, which we visited this weekend.

There are 250 miles of border across 19 counties. It is a crisis down there. Right now, what we have there is 55 miles of barrier with 35 gaps in it. They have 55 miles that were built in 2006 in this sector. It is totally ineffective. The quickest thing we could do in that sector is close the 35 gaps. There were supposed to be gates, but there are no gates there. There is some litigation regarding that, but we need to fix that and make that barrier effective.

The U.S. Capitol Police—who do such an outstanding job protecting Members of Congress, our staffs, the Capitol building, and several blocks around every day—employs about 2,000 officers. The Metropolitan Police Department here in Washington has over 4,000 employees to help protect an area of 68 square miles.

Let's put that in perspective. There are 55 miles of barrier with 35 miles of gaps in it, and only 3,000 agents in that entire sector. I think you can see where the problem might be.

We have to give these men and women the tools they need to be successful and to protect our country. The longer we wait to take action, the more money cartels will make off drug trafficking, the more people will die, the more families will be destroyed, and the longer our communities will be in danger.

Some estimates show that my home State of Georgia has over 70,000 gang members in it—70,000. It is a destination for these people.

There were Hondurans who were apprehended that night while we were on patrol. We asked them where they were going. One said New York; one said Miami; and one said Woodstock, GA.

As we continue to debate this issue, I want to say clearly and unequivocally that Congress has to do better. We all must do better. For the men and women who put their lives on the line every day to protect our Nation's border, we must do better for our country.

We can start by passing disaster funding for the people in Georgia and other States who are hurting from historic hurricanes and fires. It is outrageous that the funding package being considered here today does nothing to help these farmers and victims of these wildfires out west and of the hurricanes in the southeast.

When President Trump came to Georgia to tour the damage after the hurricane, he said:

Farmers really got hurt, especially in Georgia, but we're going to get it taken care of.

Vice President PENCE said:

We will rebuild these crops and these communities. We will restore southwest Georgia. We will restore the Sunbelt region bigger and better than ever before.

We have a moment right now in time where Congress needs to act. Today we have to get this funding done and move forward. We have to get this disaster relief, I think, moved forward in a supplemental, if that is what we are going to do, but this has to happen immediately. Disaster relief should be considered right now—no more excuses.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I want my colleagues to listen to some ideas that I have about tariffs, generally, and where we are on tariffs and where we might be on tariffs in a couple of weeks, depending on what the Secretary of Commerce says, because in a few days, that Secretary is expected to provide the President a report.

This report will detail his Department's findings in the investigation of whether imports of automobiles and auto parts pose a national threat to the United States. Common sense tells me it doesn't. Let me repeat that because I think it is important for us to understand whether the cars that everyday Americans rely on to get to work, to drive their children to schools, to visit their families—whether or not the importation of those automobiles threatens national security.

Now, having said that, you might think that I disagree with the President—and I don't—that we must have fair and enforceable trade agreements that benefit Americans. Sometimes we have to make hard decisions in order to get and have fair and enforceable agreements. I do not agree that we should alienate our allies or jeopardize the health of our economy to achieve the good outcomes of fair and enforceable agreements.

The Tax Foundation has found that a 25-percent tariff on auto imports would amount to roughly a \$73.1 billion tax increase. According to the Center for Automotive Research, a 25-percent tariff on auto imports would also result in the loss of 700,000 jobs and raise the price of an average car by nearly \$7,000.

Dealers would see a decline in annual sales by as many as 2 million vehicles. Consumers would face up to a 10-percent increase in the cost of repairs and replacement parts. In short, raising tariffs on cars and parts would be a huge tax on consumers who buy or service their cars, whether those cars are imported or domestically produced. Make no mistake, Americans will be paying those taxes.

Tariffs are a tax paid at the time of import. Historically, they have been a protectionist tool intended to prop up domestically produced goods by making foreign goods more expensive. Tariffs are not a long-term solution, and nobody wins with the producing of tariffs.

While they may provide short-term protection for domestic industries, they do so at the expense of ordinary consumers and industries increasingly dependent on a complex global supply chain. On the whole, I think this all adds up to damaging the economy. For an administration, including this Senator and most Republicans on this side

of the aisle, who have been crowing about the benefits of the tax bill of late 2017 and the jobs it has created and the good it has done for workers, why would you want to put on a \$73 billion tax increase through tariffs that would undo a lot of good that we say and the President says the tax bill has done. Let me repeat it again. On a whole, this is going to be damaging to the economy.

A 2018 study by the International Monetary Fund reviewed tariff changes across 151 countries between the decades of the 1960s to 2014. The International Monetary Fund found that tariff increases led to less output and less productivity, and, then, you know what happens. There is more unemployment, and when you have more unemployment, you get greater inequality.

The recent U.S. tariff increases have invited tariff retaliation from our trading partners. I know because Iowans are bearing the brunt of this retaliation. Imposing tariffs on auto parts will inevitably invite more retaliation, and we simply can't afford more of that.

The United States must continue to lead the world on trade and economic issues, as we have for at least the period of time since World War II. We have benefitted from one of the most open markets in the world, and we must continue to lead the world by providing a good example. We have led to a better world since World War II, and the results have been these. Several decades ago, 50 percent of the world's population was in poverty. Today, it is less than 10 percent. Recently, in two or three references I have seen, the fact is that right now or next year, as for major middle class status in the various countries around the world and in different ways around the world, half of the world is middle class. President Trump is right to hold our trading partners accountable. So I don't find fault with him there.

We can't take benefits we have received from international trade for granted. International trade has been a tremendous benefit to farmers and businesses in my State of Iowa and across the country. We are better off because we can sell our products around the world.

Our farmers say they don't want aid from the Federal Treasury. They want markets. They want to trade. You develop those markets and you keep those markets. Tariffs and retaliation send a signal to other countries that you might not be a reliable supplier, and they go elsewhere to create relationships that they can depend on. America ought to be able to be depended upon any place in the world from the standpoint of trade.

When you talk about America and Iowa exporting products, these are some of the best products in the world. In this vein, then, I hope the President will heed my call to forego the auto tariffs and instead focus on opening up new markets.

The U.S. auto industry is a major driver of our economy, supporting nearly 10 million American jobs and accounting for 3 percent of the gross domestic product. Without question, any tariffs that are imposed will have a negative effect on the U.S. auto industry and our economy.

Our focus, instead, should be on strengthening our relationships with our allies, while targeting China's harmful trade practices and policies. Tariffs on autos and auto parts will not help us achieve these critical priorities.

TAX POLICY

Mr. GRASSLEY. On another subject, I would like to, as I did yesterday, remind my colleagues about some of the benefits of tax policy. This is speaking about tax policy that I thought would be adopted as part of the upcoming appropriation bill to make sure we don't shut down government.

For several months now, we have been working to extend a set of tax provisions that expired at the end of 2017. Around here we commonly refer to these as "tax extenders." We have also been working to enact bipartisan disaster tax relief to help families and businesses that continue to recover from the disasters that occurred across the country in 2018, and I thought that, too, would be in the bill we are going to vote on later today.

The best and most timely option to advance these provisions is with the government funding deal being worked on this week, but that isn't going to happen. There have been press reports stating that if the extenders aren't part of the funding bill, they are dead, and I reject that conclusion.

Regardless of what happens on the bill to keep the government open, I will continue to fight to get the extenders enacted and to work toward a longer term resolution. Since the House has failed to send us a government funding bill that includes the tax extenders and disaster tax relief provisions, look for me to introduce a bill addressing these tax matters here in the Senate, and I would ask my colleagues on the Finance Committee to join me in that effort.

When these provisions were extended early last year, the tax extenders had been expired for more than a year already. Now we are back in the very same place, with these tax incentives now expired for more than a year, again.

It seems to me that the right thing to do now is to extend these provisions for 2018 and 2019. Some people are saying you ought to do it longer. Why 2 years?

First, we need to provide clarity for taxpayers trying to file their 2018 returns, which are due in just over eight weeks. Even though the year has obviously ended, a repeated extension of many of these provisions has led individuals and businesses to assume that we will do so again.

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These business people relied on last year to make business decisions. In other words, people did what we wanted them to do when these provisions were created. We shouldn't retroactively punish them now for making those decisions that we wanted them to make.

Second, we should provide certainty for this year to give room to take a long-term view on all of the tax extenders. I want to stress that I want to find a long-term resolution of these provisions so that we can stop repeated extensions of temporary tax policy, but while we work on that, these extenders are intended to be incentives, and, to be successful, they need to be in effect when individuals and businesses are considering whether to make the investments required to take advantage of these particular tax extenders.

I want to go into more detail on what the tax extenders are. The numbers have changed over time, but there are now currently around 26 temporary tax provisions that expired at the end of 2017. At one time we were dealing with 50 to 55 such tax extenders, so we have reduced the number considerably. What we are dealing with now include provisions incentivizing alternative fuels, electric vehicles, and the construction of energy-efficient homes. These are provisions that incentivize the production of coal on Indian lands, provide an exclusion from income of the discharge of indebtedness on a principal residence, and provide a deduction for tuition and related expenses. Within these 26 provisions there is probably something that is very important to all 100 Senators, whether you are Republican or Democrat.

I want to focus on two of them in particular. The first is the railroad track maintenance credit, otherwise known as the short line credit. This provision provides short line railroads a credit equal to a percentage of the capital they invest to maintain and improve their tracks.

Short line railroads are small business railroads that are vital to keeping rural and small town America connected to the national economy. They are a particularly important part of our transportation system for getting agricultural and other products to market across the country and, hopefully, abroad.

For example, the Iowa Interstate Railroad, which operates between Council Bluffs and Chicago, connects Iowa companies such as the Elite Octane ethanol plant in Atlantic, IA, to the world market.

According to the American Short Line and Regional Rail Association, short line railroads operate more than 47,500 miles of track and make up 29 percent of the freight rail network of our Nation.

In a report prepared by PWC last year, it was noted that the short line industry directly provided more than 17,000 jobs in the United States in 2016 and supported more than 61,000 jobs

overall. This credit has been extended many times since it was first enacted on a temporary basis in 2004. Legislation introduced in the last Congress would have made the short line credit permanent, and the bill had 56 cosponsors in the Senate. The bill is led by Senators CRAPO and WYDEN and has already been reintroduced for this Congress.

Another tax extender that is very important, particularly for Iowa, is the biodiesel tax credit. Generally, this provision provides a tax credit of \$1 per gallon for biodiesel and renewable diesel. This credit helps provide for a more sustainable future by reducing our dependency on fossil fuels and promoting a renewable domestic resource.

Plans for promoting environmental efficiency have been in the news lately, and an extension of the biodiesel tax credit is needed to keep more people working at their jobs in this industry. For example, I have learned that Western Iowa Energy in Wall Lake, IA, has reduced runtime forecasts by 60 percent, consequently running at 40 percent capacity. They are also putting capital improvement projects on hold.

In Wall Lake, this reduction in runtimes means that there are 26 trucks per day that are not operating, and potential layoffs are on the horizon if the tax credit is not extended as soon as possible.

According to the National Biodiesel Board, the U.S. biodiesel industry supports more than 60,000 jobs and generates more than 11 billion in economic impact.

A group of renewable energy stakeholders wrote to congressional leaders last week. Their letter reads in part: "Allowing these tax incentives to lapse has created uncertainty for investors and the industry—"

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). Will the Senator yield?

Mr. GRASSLEY. "jeopardizing the long-term investments necessary for the development of these biofuels."

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD letters to Congress regarding tax extenders from biofuel and biodiesel businesses and associations across the United States.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Majority Leader,
Washington, DC.
Hon. RICHARD NEAL,
Chairman, House Committee on Ways & Means,
Washington, DC.
Hon. CHARLES GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee,
Washington, DC.
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
House Republican Leader,
Washington, DC.
Hon. CHARLES SCHUMER,
Senate Democratic Leader,
Washington, DC.
Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways & Means,
Washington, DC.
Hon. RON WYDEN,
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, REPUBLICAN LEADER MCCARTHY, MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, DEMOCRATIC LEADER SCHUMER, CHAIRMAN NEAL, RANKING MEMBER MCCARTHY, CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY, AND RANKING MEMBER WYDEN: As you continue your negotiations on the final Continuing Resolution Fiscal Year 2019, the advanced and cellulosic biofuels industry urges you to extend a suite of critical advanced biofuels tax incentives—the Second Generation Biofuel Producer Tax Credit, the Special Depreciation Allowance for Second Generation Biofuel Plant Property, the Biodiesel and Renewable Diesel Fuels Credit, and the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property.

These tax extenders expired at the end of 2017 after having been extended retroactively in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. Allowing these tax incentives to lapse has created uncertainty for investors and the industry about the availability of these credits; jeopardizing the long-term investments necessary for the development of these biofuels. Availability of these credits are critical as our companies make significant investments to create new agricultural supply chains, build infrastructure for liquid biofuels, and develop innovative new technologies. These credits have enabled our industry to create new jobs, contribute to rural prosperity, and diversify our nation's energy supply. However, the continued delays in extending these credits puts these investments and benefits at risk.

In the interest of job creation, infrastructure development, innovation, and energy security, we respectfully ask Congress to immediately pass a seamless multi-year extension, which includes 2018 retroactively, to ensure companies will be able to account for these credits in this year's tax filings.

We look forward to working with you to achieve this important goal.

Sincerely,

ADVANCED BIOFUELS
BUSINESS COUNCIL,
ALGAE BIOMASS
ORGANIZATION,
BIOTECHNOLOGY
INNOVATION
ORGANIZATION,
GROWTH ENERGY,
NATIONAL BIODIESEL
BOARD,
RENEWABLE FUELS
ASSOCIATION.

FEBRUARY 5, 2019.

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

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Republican Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. Richard Neal,
Chairman, House Committee on Ways and
Means, Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER MCCONNELL, SPEAKER PELOSI, LEADER SCHUMER AND LEADER MCCARTHY, AND CHAIRMEN GRASSLEY AND NEAL: On behalf of the entire biodiesel supply chain—including biodiesel producers, feedstock providers, blenders, fuel marketers and consumers—we urge you to maintain and extend the biodiesel blenders' tax credit as soon as possible. In light of Congress's past practice of retroactively extending the tax credit after it lapses, our industry has been compelled since January 1, 2018 to operate on the assumption that the credit would be extended, effectively pricing the credit's value into our costs of doing business. It is essential that the businesses that have priced product artificially low are made whole. In addition, we urge Congress to extend the credit prospectively, thereby augmenting consumer benefits and encouraging additional investment in clean-burning biofuels.

The blenders' credit has worked successfully to build a robust biodiesel and renewable diesel industry in the United States. As a result, the U.S. biodiesel and renewable diesel market has grown from roughly 100 million gallons in 2005 to nearly 2.6 billion gallons in 2017. The tax credit is an important demand stimulus, which improves plant efficiencies, encourages investment in U.S. distribution infrastructure, and supports high-paying jobs throughout the country, all while incentivizing consumption of fuels that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The biodiesel tax credit lowers the price that truck drivers pay for fuel, and lowers the price that heating oil customers pay to heat their homes.

Extending the biodiesel blenders credit will allow us to continue to provide these economic and environmental benefits.

Unfortunately, the uncertainty caused by the "on-again, off-again" tempo of legislative extensions, including the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 which retroactively extended the biodiesel tax incentives through the end of 2017, has somewhat frustrated our sector's ability to anticipate the availability of the incentives and make the necessary investments. This severely disrupts access to capital, as well as the ability to hire and expand.

Since the credit's inception, the market responded as Congress intended. The undersigned trade associations are united in urging Congress to act on a multiyear extension of this successful program and provide our industry long-term certainty as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

Advanced Biofuels Association, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Trucking Associations, National Association of Convenience Stores, National Biodiesel Board, National Rerders Association, NATSO, Representing America's Travel Centers and Truckstops, New England Fuels Insti-

tute, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America.

FEBRUARY 11, 2019.

Hon. CHARLES GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. RICHARD NEAL,
Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. RON WYDEN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN GRASSLEY AND NEAL, AND RANKING MEMBERS WYDEN AND BRADY: The undersigned organizations represent users, retailers, customers, fleet managers, utilities, and producers of clean alternative transportation fuels.

We ask your support for including a reinstatement of the \$0.50/gallon alternative fuels tax credit (AFTC) (26 USC 6426(d) and 6427(e)) in a fiscal year 2019 government spending package. The AFTC is a credit of \$0.50 per gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE) of certain transportation fuels, including natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, P Series Fuels, liquefied hydrogen and others. Extending the AFTC retroactively for 2018 and prospectively for 2019 will allow businesses and customers to continue to deploy cleaner alternative fuel technologies. A full five-year extension of the AFTC would provide business certainty along with a significant contribution to our nation's economic growth. Unfortunately, the credit has currently lapsed as of December 31, 2017 and many fleets, businesses, and manufacturers are unable to plan future investments as they manage current uncertainty. Immediately reinstating the AFTC for 2018 and 2019 is necessary to encouraging further deployment of new, clean transportation technology.

Extending the AFTC will bring significant environmental benefits, improved air quality, and enhance our energy independence by lowering our dependence on foreign oil. Renewal of the AFTC also promotes increased private-sector investment in infrastructure and equipment, which leads to more jobs and economic output.

Thank you for your continued support for the AFTC and for the use of cleaner-burning alternative transportation fuels. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

NGVAmerica; National Propane Gas Association; American Public Gas Association; Hydrogen Fuel Cell and Energy Association; American Natural Gas; Clean Energy Fuels Corp.; Schwan's Company; Trillium; United Parcel Service; VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority; Waste Management; 1975; 1st Class Real Estate; 21st Century Coop; 3G CNG Corporation; 4th Generation Home Builders, LLC; A&B Propane; A-1 Propane & Services, Inc.; ACE Solid Waste.

Ace-Robbins, Inc.; Acme Propane Gas; Advanced Propane, Inc.; Advantage Propane; Aero Propane Gas, Inc.; Agility Fuel Solutions; AGL Welding Supply Co. Inc.; AgVantage FS; AgWest Commodities LLC; Air & Gas Technologies, Inc.; Airpark; Alabama Propane Gas Association; Alameda County Industries; Algas Inc.; Allaround Propane Inc.; Allgas Inc. of Montgomery; Allied Propane Service; Ameresco; American Biogas Council; American Fueling.

American Natural Gas; American Public Gas Association; AmeriGas; AmeriGas Propane; Amp Americas; Anderson BlueBird Bus Sales of NE; AnywherEnergy L3C; Apadana Inc.; Apex Gas and Appliance Co.; Apex Trucking Inc.; Applebee Oil & Propane; Ap-

plied LNG; Aria Energy; Armory Advisors; Arrick's Bottle Gas INC; Arrick's Propane; ARRO Autogas; Arrow Disposal Service; Arrowhead LP Gas; Associated Development.

Athens Services; Atlantic City Jitney Association; Atlas Disposal; Atlas Disposal of Utah; Atlas Road Clean Fuels, LLC; ATZ, Inc. dba Doug Fox Parking; Automatic Gas Co.; Auxier Gas, Inc.; Aviation CNG; AVSG LP; Bair Propane LLC; Bakers Propane; Barrett Propane; BayRunner Shuttle; Beaudry Oil & Propane; Bergquist, Inc.; Berico Fuels; Black Hills Energy; Blackburn Propane Service, Inc.; Blackhawk Propane.

Blossman Gas and Alliance Autogas; Blossman Gas, Inc.; Blue Bird Bus Sales of Pittsburgh, Inc.; Blue Diamond Disposal, Inc.; Blue Energy Group; Blue Line Transfer, Inc.; Blue Springs School District; Blue Star Gas; Blue Star Gas SLC Co.; Bluhms Gas Sales; Boehlke Bottled Gas Corp.; Bolinger's Propane Service; Bosselman Energy; Boulden Brothers Propane; Boyertown Oil & Propane; Boye's Gas Service, Inc.; Brooks Gas Co., Inc.; Buatane & Propane Gas Co.; Budget Meter; Building Products Plus LLC.

Burke County BOE Transportation; Buster Brown Propane; Butane Propane News (BPN); C. Blackburn Inc.; C.A.T. Inc.; C3H8 Consulting LLC; Caglia Diversified Management; Caglia Environmental; Calif Renewable Power; Callahan's Gas Inc.; CalMet Services; CalPortland Company; Cans Unlimited (CUI); Cardinal Bus Sales & Service, Inc.; Carlson Home & Auto; Carolina Wholesale Gas Company Inc.; Carson Gas Company; Catalina Composites; Cavagna North America; Cedar Avenue Recycling & Transfer Station.

Cedarburg Police Department; Centennial SD; CenterPoint Energy; Central Butane Gas Co.; Central Energy Co LLC; Central Gas Service; Central Jersey Propane, Inc.; Central Montana Propane; Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority; Central States Bus Sales, Inc.; Certified Contracting; Champagne's Energy, Inc.; Cherry Energy; Chesapeake Utilities; Chilton Oil Company; Chilton Propane Gas Company; CHS Brandon; CHS Devils Lake; CHS Herman; CHS Inc.

CHS Rochester; Citizen; City of Albuquerque, NM; City of Beverly Hills; City of Columbia, MO; City of Commerce; City of Edmonds; City of Montebello City of Port Washington Police Department; City of Redmond, Washington; Clean Communities of CNY; Clean Energy Fuels Corp.; Clean Fuels Consulting; Clearwater Gas System, FL; Cleburne Propane, LLC; CNG Center; CNG Services of Arizona; CNG Source, Inc.; CNG-One, LLC; CoEnergy Propane.

Cokesbury Transportation; Colorado & New Mexico Propane Gas Associations; Comfurt Gas, Inc.; Community Transportation Association of America; Consolidated Gas; Consolidated Utilities Corp.; Consulting Solutions, LLC; Consumer Oil & Propane, Inc.; Contract Transport Services LLC; Coombs Gas, Inc.; Core-Mark; Core-Mark Carolina; Core-Mark International Tampa Division; Core-Mark International, Inc.

Cornerstone Environmental Group—A Tetra Tech Company; Corporate Green, LLC; Council Rock School District; Country Propane Inc.; Coyne Oil & Propane; CR&R Incorporated; CS Gas Inc.; Cultural Care Au Pair; Cummins Westport Inc.; Cycle World; Cylinder Exchange Service LLC; D and D Gas; D. Fox Consulting; D.F. Richard Energy; Davidson-Macri Sweeping, Inc.; D-B Cartage, Inc.; DCC Propane, LLC.

Dead River Company; Deftor Bros. Heating Cooling Energy; DeKalb County Fleet Management; Delco Foods; Delta Liquid Energy; Delta Liquid Energy/ARRO Autogas; DFI Transport LLC; Dick's Sanitation Service, Inc.; Dillon Logistics, Inc.; Dixie Gas & Oil

Corp.; Dixie Land Energy; Dominion Energy; Doonan Truck & Equipment of Wichita, Inc.; E. G. Smith Inc.; E.J. Harrison & Sons, Inc.; Early Dawn Refreshment Services, Inc.; Eastern Propane Inc; ECI; Eco Friendly LLC; Edco Disposal Corporation; EDGE Gathering Virtual Pipelines 2, LLC; EDL.

Edmonston & Associates; Edward Zengel and Son Express Inc.; Ehrhart Energy; EIV Capital, LLC; Electric Motor Shop, Inc.; Emerald Alternative Energy Solutions, Inc.; Eneidyne; Energy Distribution Partners; Energy Technology Training; Energy Vision; Energy's USA Inc.; EnergyUnited Propane, LLC; Enviro Express Inc; Estes Express Lines; Evergreen FS Inc.; EVO CNG; EVO Transportation and Energy; Services, Inc.

Expo Propane/Sal's Propane/Energy Distribution Partners; Express Mondor; Farmers Co-op Oil; Farmers Cooperative Assn; Farmers Union Oil; FCA Transport LLC.; Federal Signal.

Felker Truck and Equipment Inc.; Fend Oil & LP Co., Inc.; Filter Supply; First Alt. Fuel, Inc.; First Coop Association; Fisk Tank Carrier; Flinthills Environmental, LLC; Florida Propane Gas Association; Florida Public Utilities; Florida Transportation Systems, Inc.; Foothill Transit; France Propane Service, Inc.; Franger Gas Co, Inc.

Frank Lamparelli Oil Co., Inc.; Fred Garrison Oil Company; Freedom CNG; Freedom Fuel Equipment, LLC; Freeway Propane; Fresno Chamber of Commerce; Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy; Association; Gala Gas Co., Inc.; Garrow Propane; Gateway FS; G-Energy, LLC; Georgia Gas Distributors, Inc.; Gibson's Heating & Plumbing Inc.; Gladstein, Neandross & Associates; Gold Coast Transit District; Golden Empire Transit District; Granite Propane Inc; Great River CNG, LLC; Greens Propane Gas Co. Inc; Greentree Consulting LLC.

Greenwood RRST, LLC; Growmark, Inc.; GS Hydraulic Hose Corp; G's Logistics, Inc.; Guard Construction and Contracting; Corporation; Guntown LP Gas Company; GW Ehrhart Inc; H&M Gas Co.; H&S Bakery Inc.; Hall Oil and Propane, Inc.; Hamilton Utilities; Harris Feeding Company; Heetco Inc.; Hempfield School District; Henry County Schools Transportation; Heritage Propane; Hexagon; High Plains Cooperative; Hisway Partners Inc. DBA.

Hometown Comfort; Hocon Gas, Inc.; Holland Bus Company; Homewood Disposal Service, Inc.; Honeyville Propane Inc.; Hoover Truck & Bus Centers; Houston Distributing Company; Hudson Fire Protection District; Hunt Propane, Inc.; ICOM North America; IGS CNG Services; Illini FS; Independence Fuel Systems, LLC; Independent Propane Co; InduMar Products, Inc.; Indy Propane LLC; Innovative Ag Service.

Iowa Propane Gas Association; J&J Compression, LLC; J. Rayl Transport, Inc.; J.S. West Propane; Jack's Butane Service; Jaycox Construction CNG; JaySan Gas Service, Inc.; JBI; JEB Lease Service Inc.; JG Energy Solutions; JM Reynolds Oil Co., Inc.; Johnson Oil; JR Leonard Construction Co; KALM Transport; Kamps Propane; Kansas City Area Transportation Authority; KB Johnson Oil & Gas Co.; Kentuckiana Cleanfuel, LLC.

Kentucky Propane Gas Association; KI BOIS Area Transit System; Kinetrex Energy; Klemm Tank Lines; Knight Waste Services Ltd; Kopy's Propane, Inc.; L H Dickens & Son Inc.; L&L Enterprises of Waupaca, Inc.; L.G. Jordan Oil Co., Inc.; LA Gas Autogas station; LaFerry's LP Gas Co. Inc.; Lamers Bus Lines, Inc.; Lampton Love Inc.; Landi Renzo USA; Landmark Services Cooperative; Leaf River Ag Service; Lee's Propane Service, Inc.; Lee's Summit RVII Schools; Level Lifestyle; Liberal CNG Coop; Liberty Propane.

Lincoln Liquefied Gas Company; Lindens Propane; Livermore Sanitation Inc.; Locks Mill Propane; Long's Propane Gas LLC; Louisiana Clean Fuels; Louisiana Propane Gas Association; LP Gas Insurance Specialists of America; LPG & NH3 Supply, Inc.; M & B Products, Inc.; M&M Cartage Co Inc.; M. A. Brightbill Body Works, Inc.; MacAllister Transportation; Maschmeier fuels; Mascott Equipment Co; Mbg enterprises; McAbee Trucking, Inc.

McCraw Oil Company, Inc.; McMahan's Bottle Gas; McNeill Oil and Propane Inc; Medstar transportation; MFA Oil Company; Michigan Propane Gas Association; Mid States Propane; Mid Valley Disposal; Midwest Energy Solutions, Inc.; Midwest Roofing & Construction LLC; Mississippi Propane Gas Associations; MN Propane Association; Modern Disposal Services Inc.; Modern Gas Company; Modern Welding Company; Momentum Fuel Technologies; MOR-GAS, INC; Morongo Basin Transit Authority; Morrissey Consulting, LLC.

Morrow Renewables; Mountain Gas; Moyers Gas Service, Inc.; Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery; MTankCo; MTC Transportation; Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia; Muskogee County Public Transit Authority; Mutual Liquid Gas & Equipment Co., Inc.; MVP Airport Parking; Napa County Recycling & Waste Services, LLC; NASA Services Inc; Nat G CNG Solutions; National Propane Gas Association; National Waste & Recycling Association; Natural Gas Supply LLC; NC Propane Gas Assoc.

Neill Gas Inc.; Nel Hydrogen; Nevada Propane Dealers Association; New Century Farm Service; New Frontier Holdings, LLC; New Jersey Natural Gas; Newport News Public Schools; Newport West LLC; Nexceris; NGV Solutions; NGV America; NICE Bus; NiteHawk Sweepers; NJ Propane Gas Association; Normandy Distributing DBA; AAA Advanced Chem-Dry; North Central Bus and Equipment; North County Transit District.

North Kansas City #74 School District; North Kansas City Schools; North Star Energy LLC; Northern Recycling and Waste Services; Northern Resources Cooperative; Northwest Propane Gas Company; Northwest Transport, Inc.; NOVUS Wood Group; Nutrien Ag Solutions; NW Alliance for Clean Transportation; NW Natural; O'Connor Bus Sales; Ogen Polar; Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition; Ohio Propane Gas Association; Oklahoma Liquefied Gas, Inc.; Oklahoma Propane Gas Association; Oklahoma State University and; Stillwater Community Transit; Oklahoma Transit Association.

Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc.; OLG Propane; OMetro, Inc.; Omnitek Engineering Corporation; Omnitrans; Onboard Dynamics; OnCue; O'Nealgas, Inc.; Orange Avenue Disposal, Inc.; Owens Energy; Pacific Coast Propane; Paladin Propane Partners, LLC; Palm Springs Disposal Services; Palmer Gas & Oil; Palmetto Gas Corp.; Palmetto Propane; Palmetto Propane, Fuels & Ice; Paraco Gas Corporation & Subsidiaries; Parden LP Gas & service Co., Inc.; Pariso Logistics Inc.; Parker Gas Co., Inc.; Paso Robles Country Disposal, Inc; Paso Robles Roll Off; Paso Robles Waste & Recycle; Payne Oil Company; Pecos Propane, Inc.

PELGAS; Penn Valley Gas; Pennsylvania Propane Gas Association; PepsiCo; Phelps Sungas, Inc.; Philadelphia Gas Works; Phillips Energy; Phoenix Energy Corp; Piece of Mind, LLC; Polk-Burnett Propane; Portage Area Regional Transportation; Authority; Porter Gas Service Inc.; Postal Fleet Services; Prairieland FS, Inc.

Premier Cooperative; Prescott Transit and Executive; Transportation; Presto Tap, LLC; Pro Image Communications; Professional Propane Services; ProGas Inc.; Progressive Power, LLC; Propane Autogas LLC; Propane

Education and Research Council Member; Propane Gas Association of New England; Propane Marketers Association of Kansas; Propane People Inc.; PS Logistics FL; PT Risk Management Insurance Services L; Quantum Fuel Systems LLC; R.D. White and Sons; R.E. Michel Co; Rand Wade OilCo; Ray Murray Inc; RCLegacy Holdings LLC.

Recology CleanScapes; Red Baker Propane Inc.; Reddaway; Redigas Inc.; Redmark Cng Services L.L.C.; ReFuel Energy Partners; Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada; Rego Products; Renergy, Inc.; Renzenberger, Inc; Republic Services, Inc.; Rhoads Energy; Riverside Transit Agency; RNGA Energy Group; Robert H. Hoover & Sons Inc.; ROUSH; ROUSH CleanTech; Ruan Transportation Management Systems; Rush Enterprises; Rutherford Equipment.

Safety, Training, and More LLC; Salem Area Mass Transit District; Salmon River Propane; San Diego Metropolitan Transit System; Sapp Bros Inc.; SchagrinGAS; School Lines, Inc.; Schwan's Company; Select Milk Producers, Inc.; Self Heating & Cooling, Inc.; Sentara; Sequoia Gas Company; Sharp Energy; Shaw Propane LLC; Sheehy Mail Contractors Inc.; Shifflett Safety and Support; Shuttle Park Two Inc.; Simple-Fill, Inc.; Slate Spring LP Gas Co., Inc.; South Central FS.

South Central Oil and Propane; South Florida Gas Co.; South Jersey Industries; South San Francisco Scavenger Co Inc.; South West Transit Association; Southwest Transportation Agency; Southwestern Energy Company; Sparq Natural Gas, LLC; Specialized Biogas Services; SporTran; Stanfords Propane Autogas Service Center; Stanfords Propane Gas Conversion Center; Stanfords Propane Gas Appliance Center; Stanfords Propane Gas LLC; Stark Area Regional Transit Authority; Stirk Compressed Natural Gas; Stuck Enterprises, Inc; Suburban Disposal Corp.; Sullivan Propane; Sumter County Board of Education.

Superior Energy Systems; Superior Gas Inc., Notasulga; Superior Gas, Inc.; Superior Plus; Superior Propane Incorporated; Superior Ready Mix; Supervalu/UNFI; Tankfarm LLC; Tarantin Industries; Taylor Gas Company, Inc.; Tech Air dba Scully Propane Service; Tech Air Mid-Atlantic; Ted Johnson Propane Co.; Tennessee Propane Gas Association; Tesei Petroleum, Inc.; Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Alliance; Texas Propane Gas Association; The American Trucking Associations; The Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas (RNG Coalition); The Rural Gas Company.

ThompsonGas, LLC; Thornton's Gas Service; Three Rivers FS Company; Thunder Ridge Transport Inc.; Time Transport, Inc.; TN GAS, LLC; Tops Markets; Torrance Transit System; Town of Berthoud; Transfuels LLC and Capital Fuels, LLC; Transportation Energy Partners; Tri-Gas Company; Trillium; TruStar Energy; Tucker Properties; U.S. Gain; UBCR LLC; United Parcel Service; United Propane Autogas Solutions Group; United Rail Partners, Ltd.

United Truck Body Co, Inc.; Unitrans (ASUCD/City of Davis); USA Hauling & Recycling; USBiogas; USF Holland LLC.; Van Unen Miersma Propane; Vegas Propane Inc.; Veriha Trucking, Inc.; VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority; Viafield; VT Accounting Associates, LLP; Walters Gas Service, Inc.; Warco Inc.; Warco Transportation; Ware Disposal Inc.; Waste Connections Lone Star; Waste Connections of California Inc.dba Greenteam of San Jose; Waste Connections, Inc.; Waste Industries.

Waste Management; Waste Pro; Waste Pro of Florida; Waste Pro of Georgia; Waste Pro USA; Waste Pro USA, Waste Pro of Florida; Waukon Feed Ranch Inc.; WCA Waste Corporation; Webbtown Propane Company; Webster & Garner Inc.; Wells Propane Inc. dba:

Baygas Propane; Wessels Oil Co. Inc.; West Propane; West Virginia Propane Gas Association; Western Natural Gas Co.; Western Propane Gas Association; Western Propane Services, Inc.; Westhoff, Cone & Holmstedt; WGL; Whidbey Seatac Shuttle; White River Distributors.

Williams Energy Group; Wilson Oil & Propane; WIN Propane; Winnebago County Sheriff's Office; Wisconsin Bus Sales; Wittenberger Bus Service; WJDAYTECH Inc.; WoodFuel.com LP; Woodruff Energy; Worthington Industries; X3CNG; XPO Sales INC.; Yavapai Bottle Gas; YRC Worldwide; Zebulon Innovations.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I hope the next time I have a chance to have the floor, I will not be interrupted.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I just had an opportunity to speak to President Trump, and I will state to all of my colleagues, he is prepared to sign the bill.

He will also be issuing a national emergency declaration at the same time, and I indicated to him that I am going to support the national emergency declaration.

So for all of my colleagues, the President will sign the bill we will be voting on shortly.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair lay before the Senate the conference report to accompany H.J. Res. 31.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 31), having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of February 13, 2019.)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the conference report.

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 con-

ference report to accompany H.J. Res. 31, making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.

Richard C. Shelby, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, John Boozman, John Thune, Johnny Isakson, Lindsey Graham, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Steve Daines, James E. Risch, Jerry Moran, Mike Rounds, Mitch McConnell.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote on the conference report to accompany H.J. Res. 31 occur at 3:30 p.m. today; further, that if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be yielded back and the Senate vote on the adoption of the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as someone who has been here for some period of time, I was glad to see Republicans and Democrats, both in the House and the Senate, come together in the past few weeks, especially this week.

We ignored the distractions and tweetstorms coming from the White House. We reached an agreement to fund our government and make responsible investments for the American people.

Not one of us—none of the final four who did the negotiations, sitting in that room, felt that this was an agreement that any one of us would have individually written.

There are things in this bill that I support and things I disagree with, but that could be said by all four of us, Republicans and Democrats. You try to find as much common ground as you can. Everybody had to give something, but we ended up with a bipartisan compromise. We had to deal with facts that are based on reality, not rhetoric based on political fantasy.

Democrats have always supported border security, but we support smart border security, targeted strategies that address the real problems facing us at our southwest border. That is what we tried to accomplish here. We stood together. We rejected the toxic and hate-filled immigration tweets coming from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

The agreement does not fund President Trump's wasteful wall. After all, he gave his solemn promise to the American public that Mexico would pay for it, so let them work on that. It does not fund President Trump's requested deportation force, and it rejects the unjustified and dramatic increase in the detention bed levels the President would have used to enforce his extreme immigration policy.

But just as important as what this agreement rejects is what we were able to accomplish.

We invested hundreds of millions of dollars in new technology to stop the

flow of illegal drugs through our ports of entry. All Republicans and all Democrats supported that. We provide funds to hire more judges to address the immigration backlog in our country. We provide more than half a billion dollars to support Central American countries, addressing the root causes of undocumented migration. We included \$400 million to improve medical care and address the humanitarian concerns at the border. Every one of us has seen enough of what is going on there; we are trying to show that America—the greatest Nation on Earth, also the wealthiest and the most humanitarian—will address it.

This is what a compromise looks like. This is how the American people expect our government to function—not by tweets but by reasonable, reality-based compromise.

Unfortunately, often lost in this debate over border security were the more than 800,000 public servants and their families who were held hostage by the Trump shutdown for weeks. They once again lived in fear and uncertainty that their next paycheck may not come because the President chose to use them as hostages. This agreement ensures that these public servants remain on the job doing the important work of the American people through the end of the fiscal year, and also all those who are not on a government payroll but support all our different Agencies that were involved in this. They weren't paid either.

This agreement funds nine Federal Departments. Keep in mind—it is not just the borders; it is nine Federal Departments and their related Agencies. I will give a couple of examples. It increases funding for the Environmental Protection Agency. It supports our national parks. It rejects the anti-science know-nothingism of the administration by supporting research and our dedicated scientists.

This is extremely important to me because Senator CRAPO and I wrote the last Violence Against Women authorization. We wrote the expansion of that law. Our bill today provides the highest funding level ever for the Office on Violence Against Women to support programs that prevent domestic violence. It also provides more than half a billion dollars to combat the opioid crisis. In my earlier career, I saw too many deaths because of the violence against women. I saw too many deaths of young people from drug overdoses, and the numbers have only dramatically increased from the days when I was a prosecutor. Supporting the Violence Against Women Act brought Republicans and Democrats together.

The agreement invests in rural America, secures our interests abroad, rebuilds our highways, and supports public housing.

This week, four of us met—first in Chairman SHELBY's Appropriations Committee office and then later into the evening several times in my office here in the Capitol. Senator SHELBY,

Representative LOWEY, Representative GRANGER, and I proved that we can set aside the political struggles in Washington to find a path to progress for the American people—two Republicans and two Democrats who are four of the most senior Members of the House and the Senate. I thank them for their effort.

If I can go to a personal matter for just a moment, I want to thank Senator SHELBY for his friendship and his partnership. Senator SHELBY and I come from different parts of the country. We are much different politically, but he is one of the closest friends I have here. He and his wonderful wife, Dr. Annette Shelby, my wife Marcelle, and I have traveled to so many places together. Some were very grim areas of this world. But we understand how grownups have to act in the Congress and how they have to work together. We worked together with our House counterparts—the senior Democrat and senior Republican in the House—on this conference. We worked together. We didn't pass just Homeland Security; we passed all 12 appropriations bills on a bipartisan basis. I hope we do the same thing for fiscal year 2020. I hope that we can begin very soon, with Senator SHELBY and me working together, to pass the fiscal year 2020 bills. We passed the ones last year out of our committee virtually unanimously. We were able to get Members of both parties to join us. I thank him.

I also thank the Appropriations Committee staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work. I joke that Senators are merely constitutional impediments to their staff. Evening after evening, sometimes into the wee hours of the morning, weekend after weekend, I saw dedicated men and women in the Appropriations Committee staff working line by line to try to get us through this.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a list of their names be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Charles E. Kieffer, Chanda Betourney, Jess Berry, Jay Tilton, Hannah Chauvin, Dianne Nellor, Adrienne Wojciechowski, Teri Curtin, Jean Toal Eisen, Jennifer Eskra, Blaise Sheridan, Jordan Stone, Ellen Murray, Diana Gourlay Hamilton, Reeves Hart, Scott Nance, Chip Walgren, Drenan E. Dudley, Rachael Taylor, Ryan Hunt, Tim Rieser, Alex Carnes, Kali Farahmand, Dabney Hegg, Christina Monroe, Jordan Stone, Shannon H. Hines, Jonathan Graffeo, David Adkins, Margaret Pritchard, Carlisle Clark, Patrick Carroll, Elizabeth Dent, Hamilton Bloom, Amber Beck, Allen Cutler, Matt Womble, Sydney Crawford, Andrew Newton, Lauren Nunnally, Brian Daner, Courtney Bradford, Adam Telle, Peter Babb, Chris Cook, Thompson Moore, Christian Lee, Leif Fannesbeck, Lucas Agnew, Emy Lesofski, Nona McCoy, Clare Doherty, Gus Maples, Rajat Mathur, Jason Woolwine, LaShawnda Smith, Robert W. Putnam, Christy Greene, Blair Taylor, Jenny Winkler, Hong Nguyen, Clint Trocchio, George A. Castro, Elmer Barnes, Penny Myles, Karin Thames, Shalanda Young, Chris Bigelow, Anne Marie Chotvac,

Johnnie Kaberle, Gerry Petrella, Meghan Taira.

Mr. LEAHY. I conclude by saying it takes a lot of long days and it takes a lot of long nights to produce a bill of this magnitude. I appreciate their hard work.

I think we may have others who will want to speak.

Mr. President, how much time do we have before the vote?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Four minutes remains.

Mr. LEAHY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the Senate will soon vote on the agreement by the conference committee and keep the government open. The agreement was a product of a lot of hard work and long nights and weekends by members of the conference committee and their staffs. I want to salute Senator LEAHY and Senator SHELBY. I want to salute all of the conferees.

When Leader MCCONNELL and I met—as we moved to open up the government for a short period of time—I suggested that we do a conference committee because I had a great deal of faith in the members of the conference committees on both sides of the aisle, and that faith has proved to be vindicated. I thank Senator LEAHY, Senator SHELBY, their staffs, and all the members of the conference committee for the great job they have done.

The agreement will provide smart border security, increasing support for technologies at our ports of entry. It will not fund the President's expensive, ineffective wall. It will provide desperately needed humanitarian assistance—medical support, transportation, food, and clothing—for children and families in detention. It will provide funding to our neighbors in Central America to fight the actual root causes of migration—the violent gangs and drug cartels.

In short, it represents a fair compromise that includes priorities from both sides of the aisle. I expect the legislation will pass this Chamber with a significant bipartisan majority, pass the House, and be sent to the President with plenty of time to avoid a government shutdown tomorrow at midnight.

There is word that the President will declare a national emergency. I hope he won't. That would be a very wrong thing to do. Leader PELOSI and I will be responding to that in short order, but before that, I just want to say that in order to reach this point, in order to attain this bipartisan compromise, 800,000 public servants were forced to suffer without pay for over a month as President Trump put the country through a completely unnecessary shutdown that snarled airports, delayed loans for farmers and small businesses, trashed our national parks, and took billions of dollars out of our economy.

We still need to address the plight of government contractors who still have

not been made whole. Regrettably, we were unable to include that in the agreement, but we are going to keep working and fighting for Senator SMITH's proposal to ensure our contractors are made whole again.

The Senate was in the very same position just before Christmas, with a deal in hand, when the President reversed himself and engineered the longest shutdown in American history. After all of the pain of the shutdown caused by President Trump, we are basically right back where we started, with nearly the same parameters of a bipartisan agreement we were ready to pass around Christmas. Leader PELOSI and I, for instance, offered the President \$1.37 billion for border security with the same language that would have prohibited the wall then as is in the agreement now.

Let this be a lesson. Government shutdowns don't work. I hope President Trump has learned that lesson once and for all. I hope we never go down the road to shutdowns again. The American people suffer and very little is accomplished.

President Trump should sign this bill ASAP.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I will be brief.

First of all, I thank Senator LEAHY, the vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, who worked diligently for the past year to get to where we are today in a bipartisan way and also, recently, in the conference committee, which we thought last week had broken down. I also thank MITCH MCCONNELL, the majority leader, and CHUCK SCHUMER, the Democratic leader. I thank everybody else who has contributed to get us to this point.

Nothing is perfect, but we think this is a good bill for the American people. It opens up all of the government—the 25 percent that we had not addressed.

The conference report includes a robust and comprehensive investment in border security, providing funding for personnel, technology, and infrastructure that is critical to keeping our nation secure and our people safe. Critically, the bill provides nearly \$1,400,000,000 to further construction of a barrier along the southwest border. But that is only a down payment. More resources are required. Fortunately, the President has at his disposal both constitutional and existing statutory authorities that allow him to supplement the congressional investment in border security that was made today. This bill preserves those authorities, and I support action by the President to use them to the fullest extent permissible to secure our border. In particular, this bill does not restrict the President's ability to declare a national emergency or to exercise emergency authorities under such a declaration. Nor does this bill further restrict the Administration's ability, previously granted by the Congress, to

transfer funds in support of efforts to gain operational control of our southwest border and to cease the trafficking of persons and drugs across it.

I am going to get on with the vote.

I want to say thank you to everybody, including Shannon Hines on our staff and everybody else who contributed to this.

At this point, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture vote on the conference report to accompany H.J. Res. 31.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.J. Res. 31, making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.

Richard C. Shelby, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, John Boozman, John Thune, Johnny Isakson, Lindsey Graham, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Steve Daines, James E. Risch, Jerry Moran, Mike Rounds, Mitch McConnell.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the conference report to accompany H.J. Res. 31, an act making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 84, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 25 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Alexander	Crapo	King
Baldwin	Daines	Klobuchar
Barrasso	Duckworth	Lankford
Bennet	Durbin	Leahy
Blackburn	Enzi	Manchin
Blumenthal	Ernst	McConnell
Blunt	Feinstein	McSally
Boozman	Fischer	Menendez
Braun	Gardner	Merkley
Brown	Graham	Moran
Cantwell	Grassley	Murkowski
Capito	Hassan	Murphy
Cardin	Heinrich	Murray
Carper	Hirono	Perdue
Casey	Hoeven	Peters
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Portman
Collins	Isakson	Reed
Coons	Johnson	Risch
Cornyn	Jones	Roberts
Cortez Masto	Kaine	Romney
Cramer	Kennedy	Rosen

Rounds	Sinema	Udall
Sanders	Smith	Van Hollen
Schatz	Stabenow	Warner
Schumer	Sullivan	Whitehouse
Scott (FL)	Tester	Wicker
Shaheen	Thune	Wyden
Shelby	Tillis	Young

NAYS—15

Booker	Hawley	Rubio
Cotton	Inhofe	Sasse
Cruz	Lee	Scott (SC)
Gillibrand	Markey	Toomey
Harris	Paul	Warren

NOT VOTING—1

Burr

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 84, the nays are 15.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate adopt the Conference Report to accompany H.J. Res. 31?

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 83, nays 16, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 26 Leg.]

YEAS—83

Alexander	Gardner	Portman
Baldwin	Graham	Reed
Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Bennet	Hassan	Roberts
Blackburn	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Blunt	Hoeven	Rounds
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Brown	Isakson	Schatz
Cantwell	Johnson	Schumer
Capito	Jones	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	Kennedy	Shelby
Casey	King	Sinema
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Smith
Collins	Lankford	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Thune
Cramer	McSally	Tillis
Crapo	Menendez	Udall
Daines	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Moran	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murphy	Wicker
Ernst	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Perdue	Young
Fischer	Peters	

NAYS—16

Booker	Hawley	Sasse
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	Markey	Warren
Gillibrand	Paul	
Harris	Rubio	

NOT VOTING—1

Burr

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 83 and the nays are 16.

The conference report is adopted. The majority leader.

PROVIDING FOR A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.J. RES. 31

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 4.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 4) providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.J. Res. 31.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 4) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT—Motion to Proceed

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 17, S. 311.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 17, S. 311, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 17, S. 311, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, John Cornyn, Johnny Isakson, James M. Inhofe, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Lindsey Graham, Ben Sasse, Roy Blunt, John Thune, John Boozman, John Barrasso, Joni Ernst, James E. Risch.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 16.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Eric D. Miller, of Washington, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Eric D. Miller, of Washington, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, Mike Crapo, Johnny Isakson, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, James M. Inhofe, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Lindsey Graham, Roy Blunt, John Thune, John Boozman, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, Richard Burr, John Hoeven.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 6.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Michael J. Desmond, of California, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michael J. Desmond, of California, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

James E. Risch, Johnny Isakson, Todd Young, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Rob Portman, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, John Boozman, Roger F. Wicker, James Lankford, Tim Scott, Steve Daines, Michael B. Enzi, John Hoeven, Mitch McConnell.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 10.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, John Boozman, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Roger F. Wicker, John Barrasso, Joni Ernst, Mike Rounds, John Thune, John Cornyn, Jerry Moran, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 12.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of John L. Ryder, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2021.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John L. Ryder, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2021.

Mitch McConnell, Steve Daines, John Thune, John Cornyn, James M. Inhofe, Pat Roberts, Mike Crapo, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Jerry Moran, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, Johnny Isakson, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, let me congratulate the Chamber on the overwhelming vote for the appropriations bill. It is good news that we passed it by a lot of votes, and I hope the House does it by a lot, too.

I need to comment on the news that President Trump may declare a national emergency in an attempt to build his border wall. If President Trump decides to go forward with a disaster declaration, he will be making a tremendous mistake.

Declaring a national emergency would be a lawless act, a gross abuse of the power of the Presidency, and a desperate attempt to distract from the fact that President Trump broke his core promise to have Mexico pay for the wall. It will be another demonstration of President Trump's naked contempt for the rule of law and congressional authority.

Congress just debated this very issue. There was not support for the President's position. Congressional intent on this issue is very clear. The President's wall has been before Congress several times and has never garnered enough votes to even merit consideration. For the President to declare an emergency now would be an unprecedented subversion of Congress's constitutional prerogative.

The fact is, this is not an emergency, and the President's fearmongering doesn't make it one. A policy dispute about our southern border does not constitute a national emergency.

Democrats support and have always supported strong border security, but the fact is, according to the CBP, apprehensions at our southern border are at historic lows.

President Trump couldn't convince Mexico, he couldn't convince the American people, and he couldn't convince their elected representatives to pay for his ineffective and expensive wall. Now he is trying an end run around Congress in a desperate attempt to put taxpayers on the hook for it. Make no mistake—Congress will defend our constitutional authorities in every way that we can.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

RUSSIA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, over the last 2 years, many of us have grappled with a very difficult question about our President. It is a question that never before could we even imagine thinking about an American President, let alone saying it out loud on the floor of the Senate. I am talking about the entirely legitimate question of whether Donald Trump could be compromised by the Russian Government. It is more than a legitimate question; it is the natural question that comes to mind every time we learn more about the links between President Trump, his associates, and the Russian Government.

With the Mueller investigation possibly coming to a close in the near future, we may be forced to deal with—both Congress and the American public—some very stark facts about the President's ties to Russia. Just think about the reported revelations over the last month or so.

We have learned that President Trump took unprecedented steps to conceal the contents of his conversations with Putin from his own advisers.

We have learned that following one of the meetings with Putin, Trump phoned a New York Times reporter to argue that Russia did not interfere in the 2016 election—once again carrying the Kremlin's water in direct conflict with the entire U.S. intelligence community.

We have learned that over the past year, President Trump repeatedly argued for pulling the United States out of NATO—something that Putin desires.

We continue to learn new details about Paul Manafort's—President Trump's campaign chairman—meetings with Konstantin Kilimnik, a Russian national with suspected ties to Russian intelligence and an associate of Oleg Deripaska's. We know that Manafort met with Kilimnik repeatedly, provided him with polling data, and discussed ending U.S. sanctions and adopting a Russia-friendly peace plan for Ukraine. This is perhaps the most significant indication that Trump's inner circle was discussing pro-Kremlin policies in the months before the election.

Tellingly, just last night, we learned that Manafort has lied again and again about the truth of his contacts and his conversations. Did Manafort determine that lying to prosecutors was a better alternative to telling the truth?

Finally, let's not forget the revelation from just a few weeks ago that the Nation's top law enforcement agency reportedly opened a counterintelligence investigation into the President, in part for firing the FBI Director because of "this Russia thing."

You can't make this stuff up. Not even in your wildest dreams, not even on the TV set of "Homeland" could you make this stuff up. The news of a possible counterintelligence investigation against a sitting President should shake us all to the core. Instead, we are barely even surprised.

For the rightwing pundits who spoon-feed a warped reality to President Trump every hour of the day, it is just one more excuse to paint him—the most powerful man in the world—as a victim, but for the rest of us, these revelations only sharpen the dread that gnaws at us as we search our minds for any explanation for President Trump's perplexing posture toward Russia.

Look, I may have my differences with the President on tax policy, on immigration policy, on healthcare policy, and more, but let me assure you, every time he was set to meet with Putin, I, for one, hoped and prayed that our President would prove our suspicions wrong.

I hoped that the President of the United States would stand up to Putin and demand accountability for Russia's interference in the 2016 elections—the cyber attacks, the stolen data, the malign social influence campaigns designed to stoke division and doubt in the American people. I hoped President Trump would make clear to Putin that legal aggression against Ukraine and the continual denial of Ukrainian sovereignty is unacceptable and will result in consequences. I hoped President Trump would not congratulate Putin on another sham election victory but operate from a position of truth about his grip on power—that it comes from the oppression of the Russian people, the seizure of their assets, the torture and murder of dissenters, the building of a chemical weapons arsenal, and the denial of a free press and basic human rights. And of course I hoped President Trump would not budge an inch on sanctions on the Kremlin.

But time and again, our President has let us down. He has let our country down. He has left Americans to lie awake at night asking themselves: What does Putin have on our President? Why won't he hold Russia accountable? Why won't he champion the values of democracy, freedom, and human rights that transcend political parties and define our greatest ideals as a nation?

Instead, our President champions talking points that could have only come out of the Kremlin. Let me provide just a few examples.

He told the leaders of the G7 that Crimea should be a part of Russia. He told the President of France to leave the EU. He said that Montenegro, a NATO member, could start World War III because they are "very aggressive people." He said that the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan because "terrorists were going into Russia" and Russia was "right to be there."

The Wall Street Journal rightly said that "we cannot recall a more absurd misstatement of history by an American President."

I challenge anyone to find one person—one person in the State Department, the Defense Department, the National Security Council—who believes these statements and would have put them in the President's ear. So who does he get these ideas from? I can think of only one person—his good friend Vladimir Putin.

Thus far, our greatest insights into what may be driving President Trump's peculiar behavior toward Russia have come out of Special Counsel Mueller's investigation and the additional investigations spawned by it. With every new court filing, we learn that the tentacles of Russian influence over the President and his associates are wrapped tighter than we previously thought.

Meanwhile, the President and his cheerleaders on FOX News continue to discredit the Mueller probe as some kind of partisan witch hunt, when the truth is that it has already resulted in 4 individual sentences, 7 guilty pleas, and a total of more than 30 people and 3 Russian entities charged.

But all of this still begs the question why. Why does President Trump behave as though he has been compromised by the Russian Government? Why is he so deferential to Putin? We saw that at the Helsinki summit. Why have those around the President gone to such great lengths to cover up and lie about the extent of their interactions with Russia and with Russians?

Of course, if we can consider the possibility that the President is an asset of the Russian Government, we then have to wonder whether he is a witting or an unwitting asset.

On the one hand, it seems as though most of what President Trump does is unwitting. Perhaps his refusal to take Russian interference in 2016 seriously is merely an outgrowth of his narcissism, a symptom of a fragile ego that cannot accept that maybe, just maybe the unprecedented malign influence campaign orchestrated by the Kremlin did indeed sway some votes on election day.

On the other hand, the more I learn about President Trump's strange behavior toward Russia, the more I wonder if he knows exactly what is going on; the more I wonder if he knows that his campaign was making promises about pro-Kremlin positions and rolling back sanctions; the more I wonder if Trump knows that he is indebted to Russia and cannot allow the truth of

his business dealings to come to light, for the truth may tell us that Trump's overtures to Putin, his disparaging of NATO, his refusal to fully apply congressionally mandated sanctions, and his mixed messages on Ukraine are actually instances of conspiracy with the Kremlin in real time.

Perhaps it is because I am from New Jersey and I have lived through decades of Donald Trump's questionable business dealings, but I cannot understand why anyone would flat out reject the proposition that he is indebted to Russia. He is the first Presidential candidate in decades to refuse to disclose his tax returns. He is the first President in modern history to refuse to divest from his business interests, leaving us wondering whether he and his family are profiting from his position in the Oval Office.

Beyond the myth of the man, Trump is no business genius. He was a millionaire by age 8, thanks to his father. He ran the business into the ground. He defaulted on debt, refused to pay workers, and declared multiple corporate bankruptcies. Eventually, American banks saw through him and refused to lend him money, so Trump had to look elsewhere for cash. When you have been essentially blacklisted from the U.S. banking system, where do you turn? You turn to less savory sources.

The fact that the Trump Organization courted and sold real estate to wealthy Russian buyers and financiers is no secret, nor is the reality that to be wealthy in Putin's Russia means to have close ties to the Kremlin. Much of the stolen wealth amassed by Putin and his cronies must be hidden from the global financial system, so where do you turn? Real estate.

After a string of bankruptcies and racking up debt for years, the Trump Organization suddenly began making a spate of large, unexplainable cash purchases, totaling \$400 million over 9 years. Giant, mysterious, inexplicable cash transactions are the hallmark of money laundering. So where did they get the cash? Well, if we are to believe the words of the President and his sons, much of it came from Russia. In fact, it was Donald Junior who said in 2008 that "we see a lot of money pouring in from Russia" and Eric Trump who reportedly said in 2014 that "we don't rely on American banks. We have all the funding we need out of Russia."

We know that several Trump projects, like Trump SoHo and Trump Toronto, received significant funding from Kremlin-linked financiers. In fact, Trump Toronto was funded by an asset sale by the Russian bank VTB—a transaction that would have likely needed approval from Putin himself. We now know that the Trump Organization pursued the Trump Moscow project for far longer than he led on, including well into his campaign for President.

The President has unequivocally said that he has "zero investments in Russia." Well, here is the problem: Donald

Trump may not have investments in Russia, but it is quite possible that the Kremlin has an investment in him.

That is what keeps me up at night.

That is why I believe the time is now to pass legislation requiring all Presidential candidates to disclose their tax returns and why I am the sponsor of such legislation.

So many of my colleagues decried Trump's shattering of this norm, but since he arrived at White House, the Republicans have done nothing to stop it from becoming the new normal.

We still don't know who is behind the vast majority of the Trump organization projects around the world, many of which continue to this day. We have to follow the money to get to the truth. How else will we ever know why our President is either unable or unwilling to publicly stand up to Putin?

What too many of my Republican colleagues seem to forget is that at the end of the day, this is not about Donald Trump; it is about the American people. It is about whether an American President may be beholden to foreign interests and how those interests fare against our own.

When the President embraces our greatest adversaries and gives the back of the hand to our closest allies; when he continually denies Russia's interference in 2016 and belittles the findings of our entire intelligence community; when, in spite of those findings, he suggests lifting sanctions on the Russians; when he backs down from challenging Putin after Russia commits an unacceptable act of aggression against Ukraine in the Sea of Azov, an international border, then we need a Congress willing to live up to its role as a coequal branch of government.

We cannot blindly follow a potentially compromised President down this dangerous path in which our alliances are suffering, our leadership on the global stage is waning, and our competitors are seeking to fill the void.

We need to know the facts—not the latest spin dropped by Rudy Giuliani—the facts. The American people deserve to know whom they elected to be their President. They deserve to know if he is, in fact, putting America's interests first. They deserve to know if Donald Trump is wittingly or unwittingly an agent for the Russian Federation.

Congress must carry out its constitutional duty to fully and thoroughly investigate where the facts lead. That is why we must protect the integrity of all oversight efforts including the objective, sober investigation still being conducted by Robert Mueller, and that is why we must push for his final report to be made public to the American people.

At the same time, this administration's deference to the Kremlin demands Congress be proactive in shaping U.S. foreign policy toward Russia, especially with respect to sanctions. We saw that with the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanc-

tions or CAATSA law passed in 2017 with the support of 98 Senators.

Given the circumstances we face today, we need additional legislation to protect American interests. That is why Senator GRAHAM and I introduced just yesterday the Defending America's Security from Kremlin Aggression Act or DASKA, a bipartisan piece of legislation that is joined by several of our Republican colleagues.

This comprehensive legislation will ensure our diplomats have the tools to advance our interests and stand up to the bully in the Kremlin. It includes new sanctions, as well as provisions designed to harden our democratic institutions and make us less vulnerable to attack. Perhaps most urgently, DASKA requires Senate consent, should the President act on his desire to pull the United States out of NATO. To risk letting this President pull our Nation out of a military alliance so vital to America's security would be a tragedy fit for the ages.

The collapse of NATO is No. 1 on Mr. Putin's wish list, and with leaders like Secretary Mattis no longer around to babysit this President, Congress has a responsibility to act. This bipartisan bill is essential to giving the United States a more solid footing against the Kremlin moving forward.

We should treat DASKA with urgency. The time to pass this legislation is now. We need hearings, a vote on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and swift consideration on the floor of the Senate.

Likewise, we must finally pass legislation to protect the Mueller investigation and to require that all Presidential candidates release their tax returns.

I know, deep down, that many of my Republican colleagues share my concerns. I have talked with them, a fair number of them, yet they are afraid of angering the Party of Trump. Well, I believe that they would be seen as American heroes.

Should the facts confirm our greatest fears to be true, I ask my colleagues to consider what the history books will say about those who knew the President of the United States might very well be compromised by a foreign power, yet still did nothing. I am talking about my Republican colleagues who seem to have numbed themselves to the latest bombshell revelations about the President's posture on Russia. Apparently, they don't want to know why Russia interfered in 2016 to help Trump win. They don't want to know why the Republican platform's strong language on Russia was watered down by the Trump team. They don't want to know how someone deeply indebted to Russian oligarchs and later caught giving polling data to Russian intelligence contacts became chairman of the campaign. They don't want to know why Russia began hacking Hillary Clinton's emails the same day that Candidate Trump asked them to do so.

They don't want to know why the President undermines our intelligence community and attacks law enforcement for investigating Russian interference. They don't want to know why he seeks to dismantle NATO, a pillar of security, prosperity, and the defense of western democratic ideals. They don't want to know why he shares Putin's joy when discord unfolds in Europe. They don't want to know why Trump forbade his interpreter from disclosing the contents of his conversations with Putin and took his notes. In short, they don't want to know the truth.

Well, now is not the time to ignore the facts or avoid the truth. We are living in a time of unthinkable questions, and should the facts reveal the most unthinkable of answers, we must do what is necessary to protect the interests of the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, first, let me commend the Senator from New Jersey for his very articulate, detailed, and factually specific discussion of Russian malign influence across the globe but, particularly, here in the United States.

RUSSIAN HYBRID WARFARE

Mr. President, today I rise to continue my series of speeches with regard to Russian hybrid warfare and, specifically, to provide policy recommendations in response to the threat from Russia, particularly the threat from information warfare, which was exhibited so substantially in the 2016 election.

The first part of the speech I gave on January 24 of this year, but let me briefly recap. As I described in my previous speech, Russia is prosecuting an ongoing, persistent campaign of information warfare targeted at the United States and Western democracies. These information operations are conducted along specific lines of effort and employ tactics, techniques, and procedures that Russia has developed over years of experimentation. Russia has been particularly effective in adapting its information warfare playbook to the digital age, weaponizing social media to magnify fear and mistrust, create chaos, and undermine our ability to respond effectively.

There are four steps we must adopt to more effectively counter Russian information warfare. First, we need the President to fulfill the obligations of his office and unite the American people in confronting this national security threat. Second, we need a coordinated strategy across our government and society to counter those threats.

Third, and flowing from the coordinated strategy, we need to ensure our government and society are organized and have the right capabilities to manage this ongoing confrontation in the information space. Finally, we need to develop, in coordination with our allies and partners, our own playbook to fight back.

Let me address each of these proposals in turn.

First of all, we need the President to be straight with the American people. The President's own national security officials and intelligence community agree about the existence and seriousness of the attacks being conducted by Russia against our democracy. The President, as our Nation's leader, must embrace the same conclusion. By conveying to the American people the urgency of this national security threat, the President can ensure that as a nation we are responding with the same level of commitment as we would to a military threat. This will elevate the urgency and gravity of the matter and help ensure we are committing the necessary level of resources for both military and nonmilitary measures to counter the Russian threat and build resilience against these malign activities.

Presidential leadership is necessary to help us move past domestic parochial politics. We have already seen how the failure to put national security over partisan politics all but decimated our ability to counter Russian information warfare during the 2016 election. The German Marshall Fund concluded in their policy blueprint from last year that "removing partisanship from the calculus in responding to this threat is critical." This is not a Democratic or a Republican problem. This is a national security problem, and it is severe. If we are going to overcome Russian efforts to magnify fear and distrust, we need our President to put our national security first.

Presidential leadership is just as imperative beyond our borders. The President speaks to the American people. His words must send a clear and consistent message to the Kremlin that we will not tolerate attacks against the United States. A real opportunity was missed when the President did not use his platform during the State of the Union to denounce Russian attacks on our democracy and showcase to the world the depth of his commitment in countering this threat.

The world must understand that the President is serious and committed to protecting the United States, its allies, and its partners against information warfare and will do so for as long as required. As a recent report by the Treasury Department on efforts by the United States to combat illicit finance noted: "Russia must . . . realize that the United States and its allies will not waver in our determination to prevent it from undermining our democracies, economies, institutions, and the values on which these pillars of global sta-

bility—ensured by United States leadership—will continue to stand."

The President should heed his own administration's guidance. He should do so publicly and with the resolve expected of the Commander in Chief.

Unfortunately, the President's history on this subject to date is far from encouraging. His policy positions do not follow dictums outlined by the Treasury Department and others in his administration but, instead, mirror Russian strategic objectives. His foreign policy goals and those of Russia seem to overlap. The President's devastating threats to withdraw from NATO and his denigration of the European Union, our trading partners, and those he considers his domestic political adversaries create or exacerbate internal divisions. The President must be made to realize that Russia supports his approach to foreign relations and domestic politics.

The President is, of course, by no means alone in demonizing those with whom he disagrees, but his voice is far more powerful as a result of the office he holds, and it is his obligation and duty to lead. Not only must the President distinguish his policy positions from those that Russia promotes overtly and through disinformation campaigns to tear up the fabric of the West, he must wholeheartedly reject those tactics and defend our Nation against them.

The President needs to get on the same page with much of the rest of the U.S. Government and Congress. The heads of the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence all came together to send a tough message to Russia ahead of the 2018 midterm elections. Congress has been united, as well, as evidenced by the overwhelmingly bipartisan passage of the Russia sanctions bill as part of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act or CAATSA.

Yet this tough messaging to Russia is completely undermined when the President fails to confront Putin over Russian malign activities and, instead, repeatedly downplays the significance of Russian interference with our democracy and society.

It is further undermined when he mirrors Putin's talking points and dismisses the Russian nationals indicted by the special counsel, including 12 Russian military intelligence or GRU agents, as merely "bloggers from Moscow." It is further undermined when the administration unwinds sanctions against a business of Putin crony Oleg Deripaska. I would note that this deal went forward in spite of bipartisan action in the Congress to try to block it. The President's mixed messages and failure of leadership in mounting sustained and credible deterrence must end.

Despite the lack of Presidential leadership, there is work underway to counter Russian hybrid warfare—and

specifically information warfare—at the Departments of Homeland Security, State, Treasury, Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as the National Security Agency, Cyber Command, and broader elements of the Department of Defense.

These efforts include standing up task forces between DHS and the FBI to target foreign influence within our borders, reorganizing the internal structures of DHS, and establishing the Russia Influence Group across several national security agencies. NSA and Cyber Command also established a working group called the Russia Small Group to counter Kremlin information warfare campaigns.

We must recognize the results these efforts have yielded to date. As authorized by this year's National Defense Authorization Act, or the NDAA, Cyber Command has undertaken offensive cyber operations. Treasury has sanctioned more than 270 Russian individuals and related entities. The Department of Justice has used our legal system to expose GRU and the Kremlin-linked troll organization activities.

These efforts signify that our capable civil servants and military officials have developed ways to mitigate aspects of the threat against us, but what is lacking is a synchronized campaign, prosecuted in a unified manner, to counter Russian hybrid warfare against the United States, our allies, and our partners.

General Scaparrotti, the head of European Command—who is on the frontlines of this threat—testified to the Armed Services Committee last March: “[I] don’t believe there is effective unification across the interagency, with the energy and the focus that we could attain.”

The Trump administration’s national defense strategy emphasizes the “re-emergence of long-term strategic competition,” including with Russia. I agree that this is an appropriate place to focus attention, but I have yet to see the changes needed to align with those priorities.

We must develop wholesale, scalable strategy to counter these threats below the level of armed conflict, including on the 21st-century battlefields of information and cyber space. It must be noted that Congress, including in the NDAA, has repeatedly urged the administration in this direction.

Two years ago, I secured a provision, along with my colleagues, to require the Department of Defense, in conjunction with the Department of State and other Agencies, to craft a Russian malign influence strategy. That strategy was finally delivered a few months ago, and it highlights the various efforts U.S. Government Departments and Agencies are undertaking. However, as I have said before, the administration must build on and implement that strategy, and these efforts must be conducted in a unified manner at the direction of the President both operationally and also as the chief spokesperson to the Nation and to the world.

This year’s NDAA authorized the appointment of a foreign influence coordinator on the National Security Council staff. This would be a good step toward organizing a whole-of-government approach to counter Russian information warfare. However, it remains to be seen whether the administration will stand up such a position.

Once we have laid out a comprehensive strategy, we must ensure that it can be successfully executed. This will require the support of the right organizational structures across the government and the whole of society.

The National Defense Strategy Commission concluded in its report that Russia “developed national strategies for enhancing their influence and undermining key U.S. interests that extend far beyond military competition . . . [C]omprehensive solutions to these comprehensive challenges will require whole-of-government and even whole-of-nation cooperation extending far beyond DOD.

As the Commission notes, we need to be institutionally capable of anticipating Russian information warfare developments. As a nation, we have been too slow, too late, and too divided in acknowledging the severity of these attacks on our governmental institutions and society. We watched Kremlin-directed information attacks in the Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere, but we didn’t conceive that this Russian playbook would be deployed against us.

What is more, we are starting from a deficit in terms of the way our government is organized. After the Cold War, we dismantled the apparatus in place to recognize and counter threats from the Soviet Union. More recently, we found ourselves embroiled in two long counterinsurgency wars, which reoriented our planning, our systems, and our weapons to counter those threats of insurgents in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. We took our eye off the growing challenges to the international order in Europe, and frankly we were late to realize that the Russians had either pushed past any reset in U.S.-Russia relations or had never actually stopped seeing us as their enemy. So we need to rebuild our capacity to challenge this threat.

First, we must ensure that we have the intelligence capabilities in place to yield a more complete understanding of the nature of the threat. One of the reasons that the Kremlin caught us off guard is because we significantly downsized the office in the CIA unofficially called Russia House, which was tasked with countering Russia during the Cold War.

While the number of Russian analysts has grown in recent years, we must make sure that we grow and retain the expertise and the budget dedicated to analyzing, attributing, anticipating, and exposing Russian information warfare campaigns on a persistent basis.

As I quoted in part 1 of this speech, the senior vice president of the Center

for European Policy Analysis, Edward Lucas, explained that we “are still playing catch up from a long way behind. We are looking in the rearview mirror, getting less bad at working out what Russia just did to us. We are still not looking through the windshield to find out what’s happening now and what’s going to be happening next.”

If we are ever going to get out from looking at this problem through the rearview mirror, we need to understand the patterns of Russia’s aggressive behavior and be able to anticipate the next attack.

In addition to ramping up Russia expertise, there needs to be a coordinating body across the national security apparatus to provide intelligence and analysis sharing. This body would work to provide a common operating picture for our government and help with strategic coordination across U.S. Government Agencies involved in countering hybrid warfare.

A proposal to stand up an inter-agency fusion cell similar to what I am describing was recommended in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee minority staff report from January 2018. That report envisioned that such a center “should include representatives from the FBI, CIA, the Departments of Homeland Security, State, Defense, and Treasury, and it should immediately produce a strategy, plan, and robust budget that coordinates all current and projected government programming to counter Russian Government interference and malign influence.”

Similarly, the Defending American Security from Kremlin Aggression Act, or DASKA, a bill that Senator MENENDEZ indicated was reintroduced yesterday in a bipartisan fashion—Senator MENENDEZ and Senator GRAHAM are leading this effort—includes language to establish such a fusion center. I urge my colleagues to support this type of a center. It will go a long way toward further integrating a whole-of-government approach.

In conjunction with standing up such a center, Congress may need to examine the authorities of some intelligence agencies, as it becomes harder to detect and counter Russian operations that look increasingly “American” in nature.

Our military institutions also need to be structured to counter Russian information operations—in particular those conducted by the GRU. As laid out in part 1 of this speech, these operations are persistent and ongoing, reflecting current Russian military doctrine, and follow discernable lines of effort. We must bring appropriate military tools to counter this threat.

Last November, General Nakasone, who serves as both the head of Cyber Command and the Director of the NSA, explained that America’s adversaries, including Russia, “are looking to take us on below the level of armed conflict. Our military must be able to . . . compete below the level of armed conflict.

This is what great power competition looks like today, and it's what we will look at as we look to the future."

Indeed, this type of conflict requires new tools in cyber space, including offensive cyber operations and updated protocols for using them.

It should be noted that Cyber Command took important steps to safeguard the 2018 midterm elections. Several days prior to the election, National Security Advisor Ambassador John Bolton acknowledged this role, stating that the United States was "undertaking offensive cyber operations . . . aimed at defending the integrity of the electoral process." Similarly, the Department of Defense explained that it worked to "frustrate and prevent adversary interference in the 2018 election cycle." It appears that these cyber operations contributed to more successful deterrence or a blunting of the Russian information warfare campaign than during the 2016 Presidential election.

That said, we also must acknowledge that the Russians have not stopped their operations against us, and they don't undertake information warfare campaigns only at election time. As we learn to counter their operations, they learn better methods to attack us, often with increased sophistication and less detectability. In order to stay up to speed, we must institutionalize the temporary arrangements that the Department of Defense assembled for addressing information warfare operations in the midterm elections and make them permanent. Our efforts must be persistent and scalable to ensure we have the operational capacity to respond to these attacks against our democracy.

Along those same lines, in last year's NDAA, we required the Secretary of Defense to establish a process to integrate strategic and cyber-enabled information operations across the Department. While information operations were a feature of military operations during the Cold War, today they are sometimes an afterthought. Having better integrated procedures for these types of operations would be a good start for getting organized inside DOD to effectively counter Russian information warfare below the level of conventional conflict.

Just as important as ensuring that we have the right military and intelligence tools, is ensuring that we have the appropriate nonmilitary tools to counter the threat. An additional cast-off after the Cold War was the U.S. Information Agency, which was devoted to advancing public diplomacy, building narratives, and extolling American virtues to foreign audiences. We should consider carefully whether it makes sense to revive some of these capabilities for today's information age.

One important step toward reestablishing such a capability was enlarging the mission of the State Department's Global Engagement Center in the fiscal year 2017 NDAA to "lead, synchronize,

and coordinate efforts of the Federal Government to recognize, understand, expose, and counter" foreign state propaganda and disinformation targeting U.S. national security interests. However, the Global Engagement Center has been under resourced and slow to execute its mission. We need to accelerate this effort.

We also need to look at our tools and tactics for informing our domestic audience, including how best to address concerns about the integrity of elections arising as a result of Russian meddling.

As a recent report from CSIS on election security stressed, "Credibility is as important as accuracy." We should examine what approach would best serve the American people in terms of validating the integrity of election results, as well as mobilizing to respond should our elections come under attack.

This effort could be centered around a dedicated office or assigned to a group of current or former trusted government officials. Their mission would be to rapidly communicate to the American public regarding the integrity of elections in response to Russian efforts to undermine the public faith in democracy, including through information warfare attacks.

The administration has taken steps in this direction, including the President's Executive order regarding election interference from last September, which requires a 45-day report assessing attacks from foreign adversaries. But this won't be fast enough to counter information warfare campaigns in real time. These attacks are moving at the speed of the internet. We don't have 45 days to wait.

As we look to the 2020 Presidential elections, it is imperative that we invest more in election security. While progress has been made since 2016, it has paled in comparison to the magnitude of the challenge.

Last Congress, I was disappointed when an amendment to provide an additional \$250 million in election security grant funding was blocked by my colleagues on the other side. This funding would have built upon the \$380 million that was appropriated for election security grants in the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act. At the time of the vote last summer, the initial funding was already committed to the States, and 91 percent of those funds had been disbursed. We will need to provide the funding necessary if we are to claim that we are committed to improving election security. In addition, the Kremlin exploits the existence of insecure or outdated systems to promote information warfare operations against us, furthering the narrative that there are so-called cracks in our democracy.

Our government is not the only actor that must play a role in meeting these threats. We must also look to our society and the private sector. As I discussed, the government failed to have

the imagination to fully realize the extent of the coming threat. Unfortunately, the ways in which the social media companies responded to these attacks mirrored the government's failure of imagination. Social media companies were held up as beacons of innovation with a view that technology could bring people together in common cause, but these companies failed to conceive that these same tools could also be used for malign purposes—to misinform as well as to inform.

When originally confronted with the notion that the Kremlin had had an impact on the 2016 election, Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg dismissed out of hand any role his company may have played. He said: "To think . . . [Facebook] influenced the election in any way is a pretty crazy idea." Yet we now know that the manipulation of social media is one of the primary lines of effort used by the Kremlin and Kremlin-linked actors to mount their information warfare campaigns against us.

Certain social media companies have made some reforms and worked with law enforcement and DHS to take down fraudulent networks—or what the companies deem as inauthentic accounts. For instance, late last month, Twitter announced that before the 2018 midterms, it removed 418 Russian accounts whose behavior mimicked that of the Kremlin-linked troll organization. However, we just can't assume, going forward, that these companies will act in the best interest of U.S. national security and continue to cooperate without some guidance or, perhaps, even regulation. These are private, for-profit companies, and like any company, they are worried how reputational damage will affect their bottom lines. If they cannot organize themselves effectively to combat warfare campaigns, Congress will have to legislate solutions.

Such an effort is already underway in the European Union, which has worked on several fronts to protect users of social media. The EU has established data privacy rules, known as the General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, that seek to strengthen individual rights for the protection of personal data. In addition, the EU has worked with online platforms which are developing voluntary standards to fight disinformation, known as the Code of Practice on Disinformation. As well, EU member nations have also made threats of regulation and fines if social media companies do not do more to address disinformation and fake accounts. It would make sense to look closely at what the EU is implementing to see what might be appropriate for our purposes.

As I discussed in part 1 of this speech, one of the main issues in the 2016 election was that social media companies didn't have the visibility into what had occurred across platforms, including Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and others, making it harder to detect and combat Russian information warfare operations. As mentioned

previously, two independent reports commissioned by the Senate Intelligence Committee examined a subset of data provided by the social media companies relating to the 2016 election, and they identified significant Russian activity across social media platforms that was not discovered at the time.

As we look at how society must organize to counter this threat, we need greater visibility across platforms so that we can more effectively anticipate these operations coming and defend against future interference. One approach to further that goal could be the establishment of a social media repository to compile data relevant to identifying and countering foreign information operations. This database would be a tool for trusted independent researchers and academics to gain insight into cross-platform trends and provide an analysis of attacks.

To this point, last month, Cyber Commander General Nakasone testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee that the analysis of the independent reports, based on the limited data provided by a few social media companies, was “very effective.” He added:

As we prepared for the 2018 midterms, we took a very, very close look at the information that was provided there. We understood our adversary very well, and we understood where their vulnerabilities also lie.

Imagine how helpful it would be if this repository were ongoing and comprehensive.

America’s intelligence and defensive capabilities are vast and adaptable. To be sure, there is considerable work ahead to restructure, realign, and focus efforts across the government and society, but America will only be best positioned to prevent these attacks in the future once we move from a defensive posture to a strategy that plays to our strengths.

We must come up with our own American playbook to counter Russian information warfare. The Kremlin has resorted to these dirty tricks because it knows it will not win in a fair fight. We should not try to play by their rules or be symmetric in our response. We should counter Russia in the arenas where we have strategic advantages. We should counter Russia in ways that uphold and enhance our democracy and the rule of law. We should counter Russia in ways that show our strength and credibility.

As President Reagan stated: “The ultimate determinate in the struggle now going on for the world will not be bombs and rockets but a test of wills and ideas—a trial of spiritual resolve, the values we hold, the beliefs we cherish and the ideas to which we are dedicated.”

As I have explained, Kremlin and Kremlin-linked propaganda and disinformation seek to amplify fear and mistrust and convince the American public that our democracy is no better than the autocratic regime in Moscow. To push back against this

moral equivalence promoted by Putin and other authoritarian regimes, we must promote and highlight our values. In doing so, we can showcase our adherence to justice and the rule of law by exposing Russian aggression against us, our allies, and our partners.

We must assist and protect journalism, including in countries where criticizing the Kremlin and exposing the truth may put reporters in danger. In concert with allies and partners, we must encourage and support civil society groups here and abroad to protect human rights and enhance rule of law protections. We can use sanctions as a tool to expose Kremlin abuses and raise reputational costs to Putin and his cronies, such as the sanctions provided in the Magnitsky Act.

Our American playbook must also include options for responding to Russian malign activities in cyberspace. The Russians are weaponizing information stolen from our government officials and candidates for public office. We must define and harden our cyber doctrine and clearly understand how to use our military in these new domains. Our responses are likely to be asymmetric rather than employing the same dirty tricks from the Russian playbook. Ultimately, the integrity of our electoral campaigns should lead all U.S. political parties and actors to pledge not to use hacked or stolen materials to attack or smear each other.

The media, too, should contemplate what its responsibilities are to the citizens of this country when covering elections. They should be wary of covering aspects of political campaigns in ways that may aid or abet foreign information operations. While we must always protect the constitutional right of freedom of the press, the media may come to conclude that covering hacked materials without appropriately framing the source of those materials or including comments from Kremlin-linked trolls claiming to be American citizens is no longer appropriate.

Further, as I discussed in part 1 of this speech, a major line of effort for Russia is Kremlin-directed deception operations using social media to penetrate our political and social debates and magnify feelings of fear and mistrust. Our American playbook must also include ways to educate our citizens with knowledge of these plots and provide additional media literacy tools, including teaching our young people how to evaluate what they see online and further make the case to the public for the importance and value of democratic institutions.

In addition, we must strengthen support for one of our greatest strategic advantages—our alliances and partnerships globally. We must take steps to educate the American public about the central role alliances play for our national security. We must also look outward, supporting our alliances and stepping up our diplomatic outreach to help resolve longstanding regional conflicts overseas so that Russia may no

longer use information warfare campaigns to exploit those situations to their advantage.

Our responses to Russian information operations are most effective when we act in concert with allies and partners. The sanctions levied on Russia after their illegal annexation of Crimea were effective because they were implemented together with the EU. We have also witnessed the effects of the more than 25 countries expelling Russian diplomats in solidarity with the United Kingdom in response to the Skripal poisoning. The United States worked closely with Greece to blunt Russia’s attempts to undermine an agreement between Greece and North Macedonia that would open the door for North Macedonia to join NATO. As these examples show, the cost to Russia is greater when they aren’t simply dismissed as a unilateral shunning by the United States.

As the former Estonian Foreign Minister and Ambassador to Russia stated:

Joint initiatives are more likely to deter hackers. If they don’t take seriously one country, they will take seriously 30 countries when they will jointly blame a hacker or foreign nation for an attack.

Last week, the Acting Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security certified that our government “concluded there is no evidence to date that any identified activities of a foreign government or foreign agent had a material impact on the integrity or security of election infrastructure or political/campaign infrastructure used in the 2018 midterm elections.”

However, we should not take that certification as a reason to let down our guard. We seem to be getting better at responding to the types of attacks perpetrated against the United States in 2016, but that is no indicator that we have become better at anticipating future attacks. The Director of the Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency warned last November:

The [2018] midterm is . . . just the warm-up or the exhibition game. . . . The big game for adversaries is probably 2020.

This statement was reinforced by DNI Coats, who testified to the Senate Intelligence Committee late last month: “Our adversaries and strategic competitors are probably already looking to the 2020 U.S. elections as an opportunity to advance their interests,” and also “Moscow may employ additional influence toolkits—such as spreading disinformation, conducting hack-and-leak operations or manipulating data—in a more targeted fashion to influence U.S. policy, actions and elections.”

We must think creatively to ensure that we are ahead of this curve. I am confident that this is a challenge that we can meet and conquer with Presidential leadership, a whole of government approach, and the energy and resources necessary. We can and we must do this.

As President John F. Kennedy said: "We are not here to curse the darkness but to light the candle that can guide us through that darkness to a safe and sane future."

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I had planned to come to the floor this evening to talk about our national parks and to talk about the lands bill that just passed, but I also want to talk for a moment, if I could, about the legislation we just voted on on this floor. It had to do with border security, and it had to do with six other appropriations bills that include many of our Departments and Agencies. It also had to do with keeping the government from shutting down. If this legislation is now passed by the House tonight, which is expected, and is signed into law by the President, which is expected, we will avoid a government shutdown, which is really important. We don't need to go there again.

I also want to talk, for a second, about the package itself and the most controversial part of it, which has to do with the border. I voted yes this evening, and I did so because the legislation we just signed takes really important steps towards strengthening our southern border. Frankly, I am not hearing much about that on either side of the aisle.

First, let me just say that President Trump had a proposal on the border. His was a comprehensive proposal—yes—of more barriers and fencing but also of more cameras, more remote sensing, more screening at ports of entry, more judges, more Border Patrol, and so on.

That legislation that he asked us to take up included \$22.8 billion—a lot of money, right?

Now, some will say: But Congress didn't follow what President Trump wanted to do because they gave him less money.

The border security funding in this package is actually about \$300 million less than the President asked for. It is \$22.5 billion.

But Congress decided—and I think Congress is right about this—that our southern border is in need of help right now. Some call it a crisis. Some just say it is a big problem. I don't care what you call it. We need more help on the border. We need more barriers, but we also need more cameras, more remote sensing, and more ways to stop the drugs from coming in, most of which come through the ports of entry. Yes, we need more people to be able to respond. Yes, we need more judges to be able to handle this backlog of immigration cases that has built up. Yes, we need more humanitarian assistance.

By the way, the Trump administration and the Democrats from Congress supported both of those things. The place where there was a difference was the amount of funding to put into the

barriers. They gave him less money than he asked for for new barriers and new fencing.

The agreement includes nearly \$1.4 billion for that—for the new barriers and new fencing. By the way, it might also surprise you to learn that that is the most money Congress has ever appropriated for fencing and new barriers in any fiscal year.

Let me repeat that. This is the most money Congress has ever voted for to provide more barriers along the border. And these are new barriers.

Now, again, if you listen to folks—sometimes on both sides of the aisle—on this issue, you might not hear that, but this is the most ever in any one fiscal year. By the way, we are already 4½ months into this fiscal year.

I am glad we provided the funding because I think it is needed. I believe we do have a crisis on the border. I believe it has to do with illegal immigration, but also it has to do with drugs that are devastating my home State of Ohio.

Crystal meth is on the rise—pure crystal meth from Mexico, almost all of it. Ninety percent of the heroin coming into my State comes across that southern border.

We now have fentanyl coming in from across the border in addition to coming straight from China. We now have, of course, cocaine coming across the southern border. We have serious drug problems that need to be addressed.

I have done a lot of work on the issue of human trafficking, and I can just tell you that what we have learned, sadly, is that the amount of trafficking going on along the southern border increases as you have more and more people who are trafficking human beings for work—illegal immigration, which I think is mostly for people coming here to find a better life for work, but they are bringing with them a lot of people who are trafficking women and children.

So the trafficking issue is real. That is what the experts tell us, and that is another reason for us to have a more secure southern border. So I am glad that we are providing the funding.

With regard to the new barriers, what the President had asked for is that his funding go to fund the top priorities of the Border Patrol. Customs and Border Protection has a border security improvement plan. You can check it out online. The border security improvement plan has a number of priorities. The President wanted to fund those priorities. This proposal that we voted on tonight does fund about 55 miles of new barriers—not just fixing up old barriers, but new barriers—which comprise the top two priorities of that border security plan.

Would the President like to do more in terms of barriers? Yes, he would, and he is talking about ways to do that.

But my point tonight is very simple. If you really care about the southern border, then, this was the right vote to

take because, with regard to barriers, this is the most Congress has ever provided for new barriers, new fencing.

I hope this will work to help stop this flow of drugs into our country, to help control the illegal immigration that is happening, to help stop the trafficking of women and children that goes on along the border, but it is going to require more work. We all know that. This is a start, and my hope is that by passing this legislation we can help to start those even more serious efforts to deal with our broader issues here, including our broader immigration issues that have to be dealt with.

So I am hopeful that the House will pass it. I am hopeful that the President will sign it. I think he will. He says he will.

I am also glad that we are not going into a shutdown. Shutdowns make no sense. We have legislation, as some of you know, to try to stop government shutdowns from happening in the future. Why? Because they are bad for taxpayers, who end up paying more, not less, often because workers who are furloughed actually get paid even when they are not working, but also because of the inefficiencies of government during a shutdown. Taxpayer services are reduced—everything from meat inspection to the security lines, to the IRS information line to figure out how to file your doggone taxes. I mean, all of that gets affected.

So shutdowns don't make sense. It really doesn't make sense for the men and women who work for the Federal Government and for their families. During this last shutdown of 35 days, workers who were told they were essential, therefore, had to report for work, and they were not getting paid. So, again, those who weren't working got paid after the fact, and those who were working were not getting paid during the shutdown. That doesn't make a lot of sense to me.

By the way, missing two pay periods is a big deal for a lot of the government workers I know because they live paycheck to paycheck. They had rent payments. They had house payments, in some cases. They had car payments. They had real issues getting through this. Let's not put them through it again. It is not their fault. They shouldn't be pawns in this.

So my hope is that we can pass the "end government shutdown" legislation. It has 33 cosponsors now, which is a lot for around here, and it gets you started. A third of the Senate has said: Yes, let's stop these things. That is a big deal. My hope is that on both sides of the aisle our leadership agrees to take this to the floor. Let's have a vote on it. Let's decide whether people think shutdowns are a good idea or not. I think they are a bad idea.

By the way, it is the fifth Congress in which I have introduced this legislation, and I must say that we have never had this many cosponsors. So I do think more and more people are realizing that this is just not the way we

ought to operate. It is no way to run a railroad or a government.

NATIONAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT

Earlier this week, as I was saying earlier, the Senate passed other legislation called the lands bill, but it is really about land conservation. It is about ensuring that we have the ability to protect treasures around our great country.

There were two provisions that were in this land bill that were very important for Ohio. One had to do with something called the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area. You have probably heard of the Erie Canal. It ran through Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, and other States. The national heritage area is a 110-mile route on that canal from Cleveland to New Philadelphia, OH. It follows the route of the canals that went along the Cuyahoga River. It is a beautiful, beautiful area. It is the 87-mile trail, which is now enjoyed by 2.5 million visitors a year, that we wanted to be sure to protect in this legislation.

I have been there, and my family has been there. It is a great place to hike and great place to bicycle. It is a great place to go bird watching. It is a great place just to enjoy time with your family.

It is our history that we are preserving. The canalway was established as a national heritage area by Congress in 1996, and although Congress has authorized funding for the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area through fiscal year 2021, we had reached a funding cap this year, which meant we were at risk of losing about 100,000 bucks. That may not sound like much in the context of the Federal budget, but \$100,000 is a big deal to the canalway. Why? Because we use the Federal money to leverage private money and State and local money, and it is a critical part of making sure that we continue to have this beautiful treasure in our State that brings 2.5 million visitors a year. It adds a lot of economic benefits to our area. So Senator BROWN from Ohio and I have promoted this. We know that this limited Federal funding is going to be critical to leveraging those public-private partnerships, helping to create 4,200 jobs in the region and generating \$408 million in economic benefits.

It is important to have that kind of stable funding in our heritage areas so they can continue to do what they do—to tell our Nation's rich history and to provide the recreational opportunities to the people I represent. So I am glad that that was included in the land package.

There was also another piece of legislation that was passed. It was a bill that Senator CARDIN from Maryland and I had been promoting called the Migratory Birds of the Americas Act, and it reauthorizes the Fish and Wildlife's program that promotes long-term conservation, research, and habitat protection for more than 380 different species of migratory birds.

This is a big deal to our State of Ohio. We are a big bird-watching State.

We have a lot of migratory species, including our State bird, the cardinal.

George Voinovich, whose seat I hold, was a big champion for this program in his time in the Senate, and he used to talk about the importance of this from an economic point of view. It is true that bird watching brings more than 75,000 visitors a year to just one single birding event in Ohio. For the birders who are listening, you probably know it. It is in northwest Ohio at the Maumee Bay State Park. It is called the "Biggest Week in American Birding," and polls have ranked it as the top birding event in the country. We like to think it is.

There is a study out of Bowling Green that indicates that bird watching around Lake Erie has contributed more than \$26 million annually to our local economy—\$26 million a year—and it has created almost 300 jobs.

So passage of this legislation is great news for us. It is about protecting that habitat in Ohio but also the habitat where these birds go in the wintertime. They are snow birds. They go south. We ensure they are going to come back and ensure we can continue to have that economic benefit and enjoy that natural beauty.

So I commend Senators MURKOWSKI, CANTWELL, and MANCHIN for working to get this legislation through the Senate. I look forward to the House's taking it up. It also has a good provision in there for helping our sportsmen and ensuring that we have public access to public lands. So my hope is that can move forward and we can ensure that we begin to deal with the issues that were addressed in that lands package.

One thing that was not addressed in the lands package that I want to be sure we don't lose sight of is the condition of our national parks.

Now, again, if you are going to talk about the treasures of our country, you have to put the national parks right at the top. We have this amazing park system that is the envy of some of the other countries around the world and the reason so many foreign visitors come to our country. The national parks now attract 330 million visitors annually. By the way, that is more visitors in the last few years than in the previous few years. So it is actually going up some.

These 330 million visitors come to see 84 million acres of parks and historical sites. Again, it is a huge economic boon to our country because a lot of people are coming from outside the country but also from the local areas, where people travel to get a beautiful vacation with their family, one they can afford. So we need to do everything we can do to hold our parks up.

Here is the problem. We have, over time, funded the parks' day-to-day operations but not funded their longer term maintenance problems. So think of a building that has a roof that is leaking. Now we are funding the program within that building and the naturalists, but what we are not funding is

the actual reconstruction of that building. It is called a maintenance backlog. That backlog has grown and grown and grown over the years to the point that we now have a \$12 billion maintenance backlog in our parks, and the park funding that we provide every year can't come close to providing that funding. So what some of us have done over the years is tried to bring attention to this and to figure out a way to get funding that was specifically focused on how to ensure that our national parks don't continue to deteriorate.

Again, they are such a beautiful part of our country, our history, and our culture. We have to preserve that legacy.

In Ohio, we have eight national parks, including Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Cuyahoga Valley National Park is one of the top 14 visited parks in the country. We are very proud of that. Whether it is biking, hiking, fishing, or kayaking, 2.7 million visitors a year go to Cuyahoga Valley. I am one of them. I like to do all of that there.

So these parks need to be sure that they can continue to be this treasure for the future. The infrastructure—the water infrastructure, the roads, the buildings, the bridges—is all deteriorating to the point where actually some of it can't be used.

If you go to a national park today, you may see that there is a trail closed or there is a visitors center that can't be visited. You may see that some of the campgrounds are closed or some of the bathrooms are closed because those facilities have not been able to keep up with their deferred maintenance.

So I think we should be putting more money into deferred maintenance and bringing our parks up to speed and addressing this \$12 billion backlog than the idea of expanding parks. We ought to be focused more on the stewardship of the parks we have, and that \$12 billion is impossible to find within the parks' budget that we have.

Think about your own house. If you allow deferred maintenance to build up and you don't take care of the roof, as an example, what happens? Well, you get a leak in the roof and then pretty soon your drywall is ruined, and I am pretty sure you would find out that your floor is ruined, and the costs mount up. That is what is happening in our parks. So we are not fixing the deferred maintenance, and we are creating other costs and other problems, and I have seen it. I have gone to four of our larger parks in Ohio to see, specifically, what their priorities are in terms of deferred maintenance.

One is a leaky roof. Another is a bridge. Another is part of a railroad track that runs through it, a tourism railroad track. Another is a seawall on Lake Erie. If that is not fixed, it then causes other damage.

My hope is that we can, on a bipartisan basis, deal with this because these problems compound. They get worse and worse if you don't deal with

them. We can't wait any longer to address these maintenance needs.

Even though we don't have Yellowstone Grand Teton, or Yosemite in Ohio—we don't have huge parks like those—we have a \$100 million backlog in deferred maintenance in our smaller parks in Ohio—\$100 million.

I toured Cuyahoga Valley National Park with Superintendent Craig Kenkel and Deb Yandala, who is CEO of the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Deb is also president of the national association of friends groups for our parks. These friends groups are fantastic. They provide a lot of funding for the parks, private sector funding. I think that is an incredibly important part of our overall park funding, but they can't afford these maintenance projects either.

Today, there is more than \$45 million at Cuyahoga Valley alone in unmet maintenance needs—\$875,000 for badly needed renovations for their welcome center. I have been there. I have seen it. They need it. More than \$3 million is needed to renovate parking lots that are crumbling, and more than \$2 million is needed for trail repair for the extensive trail system throughout the park.

I have also been to other parks in Ohio and have seen what some of the deferred maintenance is. At the Perry's Victory & International Peace Memorial up on Lake Erie, \$47.7 million is needed in long-delayed maintenance, which includes millions to repair the cracks in the seawall there to enable the rest of the monument to continue to exist, and the visitor's center has to be made ADA compatible and needs repairs.

Everything we talk about here in terms of the parks is normally very positive. Democrats and Republicans alike love the parks. People in America love our parks. But I think they are surprised to learn that just underneath the surface, our parks are crumbling. We have to do more to ensure they are going to be enjoyed for generations to come.

From 2006 until 2017, annual visitation increased by 58 million people. As these needs are growing, more people are coming, putting more and more pressure on the parks. Keeping up with this aging infrastructure and increased visitation has really stretched the Park Service and required them to focus on just the very immediate maintenance needs and postpone or delay these other projects. We can't continue to use these bandaids. We have to address the underlying issue.

I feel this is a debt unpaid. This is deferred maintenance that has built up over the last couple of decades that we should have addressed and we didn't, and now we need to go back and do it to ensure that it doesn't cause additional costs. So this week, I have reintroduced legislation I have worked on in the last three Congresses. I have reintroduced it with three of my colleagues—Senator MARK WARNER from

Virginia, Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER from Tennessee, and Senator ANGUS KING from Maine. Two Republicans, one Democrat, and one Independent—that makes it tri-partisan. It is called the Restore Our Parks Act—a common-sense solution to deal with this \$12 billion backlog of long-overdue maintenance projects.

I thank my colleagues for stepping up and working on this together, and we have. We have had different proposals out there. Senator WARNER came up with the idea of using offshore and onshore revenue from oil and gas drilling. We combined with the bill that Senator ALEXANDER and Senator KING had put forward. There are others who have great ideas. Senator STEVE DAINES from Montana is one of our strong supporters. He is chair of the National Parks Subcommittee of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. As he said, he grew up in the shadow of Yellowstone Park. We have lots of colleagues on both sides of the aisle who care about this and are involved, and I thank them for their hard work.

Senator ALEXANDER told me that in the 100-year history of our national parks, there has never been a single bill more important than this one. That is saying a lot. Since Teddy Roosevelt decided to acquire this land for our national parks, there have been lots of ways we have tried to help the parks, including, recently, legislation that I drafted on the centennial of the parks that helps us get more public and private money into the parks. That is good, but it is not enough to handle these incredible—\$12 billion—deferred maintenance costs we have now.

The legislation creates what is called a legacy restoration fund, which will get half of all the annual energy revenues over the next 5 years that are not otherwise allocated, and it will be used for priority deferred maintenance projects. These are royalties from onshore and offshore energy development. The Trump administration is doing more of that development, so there is more revenue coming in. The bill caps the deposits into the fund at \$1.3 billion annually, so no matter what, even if there is a lot more money coming in, we will have a cap of \$1.23 billion annually, which will provide a total of \$6.5 billion for deferred maintenance projects over the next 5 years.

I said \$12 billion earlier, and that is the amount, but for the urgent priorities, it is about \$6.5 billion. That is how we came up with that number. So what we are trying to do is—at least let's address the urgent priorities in the next 5 years using the revenues coming into our government from these offshore and onshore energy projects, oil and gas projects. Again, if it is allocated for something else, like the Land and Water Conservation Fund, we don't touch it. It is just funding that is not already allocated somewhere else.

Last year, we had 37 cosponsors here in the Senate for this legislation, Re-

publicans and Democrats alike—more than one-third of this Chamber.

A similar House bill, our House companion bill, had 234 Members cosponsoring it—more than the 218 needed, more than the majority.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee reported this bill out on a bipartisan basis last fall. I was on the committee. We had a good debate on it. We reported it out with a 19-to-4 vote. There is not a lot we do around here that is that bipartisan.

We received overwhelming support from conservation and outdoor recreation groups. This includes the National Parks Conservation Association, the Outdoor Industry Alliance, the Trust for Public Land, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and others. At our hearing we had on the legislation last year, the director of the Pew Charitable Trusts said it well: "Supporting this bipartisan bill is a wise investment for our National Parks System and has overwhelming support from the American public, generates hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars for the economy each year and provides access to world class recreation opportunities and helps preserve our nation's history."

Yes, the parks do all of that. That is why it is so important that we preserve them and ensure that this long-term problem gets addressed now.

I am proud to introduce legislation in the Senate this week, and I am proud that the House companion bill is being introduced today by Representatives BISHOP and KILMER. I look forward to working with my colleagues to get this bill across the finish line. I thank the Senators who have already signed up as cosponsors. I hope we can continue to build support for this and get this commonsense bill done to help preserve our national treasures.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOINT REFERRAL OF NOMINATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that PN175, the nomination of John Lowry III, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, sent to the Senate by the President, be referred jointly to the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Veterans' Affairs Committees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

REMEMBERING JOHN DINGELL

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I arrived in the U.S. Congress in January 1983—a new Congressman from downstate Illinois, the son of an immigrant mother—and I was in awe.

Just listen to this list of House Committee chairmen back then: chairman of the Rules Committee: Claude Pepper; Judiciary chairman: Peter Rodino; Veterans Affairs chairman: Sonny Montgomery; Interior Committee chairman: Mo Udall; Ways and Means Committee chairman: Danny Rostenkowski.

Yet even among these legends, John Dingell, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, stood out. He was a giant among giants, and not just because he stood 6 foot 3. A 26-year veteran of the House at the time, he was revered as the architect of Medicare and a driving force behind some of the most important civil rights and environmental laws in America's history. He went on to become the longest serving member of Congress in American history. But it is the quality and courage of John Dingell's service, even more than its length, that made John Dingell one of the most influential legislators of all time. He helped write most of the Nation's major environmental and energy laws. He helped save the American auto industry twice: in 1979 and again during the great recession.

His nickname—"Big John"—was a reflection not only of his commanding height but also of his moral stature. Of the more than 25,000 votes he cast in Congress, the one he was most proud of was his vote in support of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. That vote led to a brutal reelection fight later that year. It was the second time John Dingell ever had a cross burned on his lawn and the closest he ever came to losing a race. But John Dingell was unbowed. He went on to champion the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and—many more major civil rights laws.

John David Dingell, Jr. was born in 1926, the eldest of three children. His family, he once said, was as "poor as Job's chicken."

In 1932, when John was 6 years old, his father was elected to Congress, where he became a leading champion of the New Deal. He stood behind FDR as he signed the law creating Social Security.

In 1943, John Senior introduced America's first national health insur-

ance bill—to help seniors and children from poor families. The bill never passed.

In 1955, John Senior died in office from tuberculosis. That same year, at the age of 29, his son was chosen in a special election to finish his father's term.

At the start of every new Congress, John Dingell introduced a bill to create a Medicare Program to provide health insurance for older adults. He never gave up on fulfilling his father's dream. When Medicare finally came up for a vote in 1965, he was given honor of presiding over the House, in memory of his father. He lent the gavel he had used that day to Speaker NANCY PELOSI when the House voted to pass the Affordable Care Act in 2010. John Dingell sat by President Obama's side when he signed the Affordable Care Act into law in 2010. Millions and millions of Americans can afford to see a doctor today and retire with a bit of security and dignity because of John Dingell.

Chairman Dingell's father taught him that public service through politics can be a noble calling. He treated everyone with dignity. He cared about people who struggle, as his own family struggled when he was young. The priest who officiated at his funeral mass in Dearborn yesterday told a story about a woman who approached him recently and told him, "If not for John Dingell, I would not have been able to put food on the table."

Last week, on the day he died, John Dingell dictated some reflections to his wife, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL. She was John's partner and his rock for 40 years, and she now holds the seat that John and his father once held. John's "parting thoughts," as he called them, were published in the Washington Post. They are profoundly moving and wise. One in particular stands out for me. Chairman Dingell said that it always grated on him to hear it said that a person "has" power. "In democratic government," he wrote, "elected officials do not have power. They hold power—in trust for the people who elected them."

I'll close with one last story—one final more bit of wisdom—from my friend John Dingell.

In 1944, when he turned 18, John enlisted in the U.S. Army. The following year, he was supposed to be among the first wave of American soldiers to invade mainland Japan. Only the surrender of Japan saved him from what would have been near-certain death. All of his life, he remained proud of his service and deeply committed to other veterans and to their families.

When President George H. W. Bush died shortly after Thanksgiving, Chairman Dingell wrote a posthumous tribute—the last World War II veteran to serve in Congress, writing to honor the last World War II veteran to occupy the Oval Office. It was published in the Detroit News. This is what John Dingell wrote:

Both of us understood how fragile this American democracy was and the atrocities

that were occurring in the world. Both of us signed up immediately when war was declared and knew our moral responsibility to defend America and fight for the freedom of mankind.

He went on to say:

We were from a political generation that understood delivering for the American people was more important than political wins. The success of government and good public policy is the success of hard-working men and women.

He closed with a plea, almost a prayer:

May the stories of my good friend help us find our way back to a society that promotes dialogues, not demagogues, and that it helps us to remember we, the people, have the ability to restore this great nation to common ground rather than letting it continue its downward spiral into constant chaos.

In closing, Loretta and I send our deepest condolences to John's wife, the love of his life, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL moreover, to John's three surviving children: Chip, Christopher, and Jennifer; and their families, including John's three grandchildren; to his brother and sister; his countless friends and the countless more who thought of him as a friend and mourn his passing.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, in his tortuous attempt to make a case for billions of taxpayer dollars to wall off our southern border, President Trump claimed that a wall would stop human trafficking, which has been touted as a priority of this administration.

On several occasions, the President has depicted human trafficking as women and girls smuggled across the border with their hands and legs tied and duct tape across their mouths. No doubt there are such cases, but the overwhelming majority of trafficking victims in this country are U.S. citizens, and among non-citizen victims, nearly 80 percent cross through legal points of entry. As we have seen time and again, President Trump makes short shrift of the truth and relies on scare tactics, rather than evidence, to garner support for his misguided policies.

Not only would the President's border wall do next to nothing to combat the most common instances of human trafficking in the United States, his administration's policies have actually harmed trafficking victims, especially non-citizen victims.

Last year, the administration announced that applicants who are denied a T visa—an immigrant visa that enables certain victims of sex or labor trafficking to temporarily remain in the United States—may be required to appear in immigration court, the first step in deportation proceedings. This policy has reportedly had a self-censoring effect on victims and victims' advocates who are hesitant to apply or to encourage their clients to apply for a visa that may ultimately land them in immigration court.

The administration also eliminated grant funding for criminal record sealing or expungement for survivors of human trafficking, previously made available by the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime. Survivors may have a criminal record associated with their trafficking, such as an arrest for prostitution or for a charge tangential to their trafficking such as loitering or theft. Helping survivors clear their criminal record is a critical step in their recovery, one that gives survivors a greater chance at securing stable employment, affordable housing, higher education, visas and green cards, and more.

So once again, we are forced to try to reconcile the President's rhetoric with the actions of his administration. They don't align. If this White House were serious about combating human trafficking, it would focus less on creating a false narrative about trafficking across our southern border and instead devote the resources to ensure that trafficking victims can come forward knowing they will be protected and assisted on their path to recovery.

THE FREEDOM TO EXPORT TO CUBA ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I want to commend Senator KLOBUCHAR for introducing the Freedom to Export to Cuba Act, of which I and Senator ENZI are cosponsors. I urge other Senators to join us.

This bill is about ending the anachronistic prohibitions in U.S. law that for decades have limited U.S. engagement with Cuba, including preventing American companies from exporting their products to Cuba. The fact that legislation to do so is even necessary is illustrative of the absurdity of the situation in which we find ourselves. Companies from Europe, Russia, China, Mexico, and every other country can sell their products to Cuba, which is just 90 miles from our coast, but American manufacturers and retailers are largely shut out of the Cuban market.

For example, Cuba buys rice from Vietnam and powdered milk from New Zealand, half a world away, not from Alabama, Vermont, or Michigan. That makes no sense. This bill would enable American companies to compete, which every believer in a free market should support.

It is also important for Senators to know that punitive actions by the Trump administration last year to further restrict the right of Americans to travel to Cuba have had devastating consequences for Cuba's fledgling private sector, the very people the White House and supporters of the restrictions profess to want to help. The fact that they have said nothing about the harm they are causing Cuba's struggling entrepreneurs demonstrates that they care more about continuing their failed policy of sanctions, regardless of who they hurt, than about helping the Cuban people or about protecting the right of Americans to travel freely.

The latest ill-conceived attempt by the White House to punish Cuba would permit Title III of the Helms-Burton Act to go into effect. This would allow, among others, individuals who were Cuban citizens when their property in Cuba was expropriated half a century ago to sue in U.S. courts any Cuban, foreign, and even American company whose business in Cuba today uses that property. That could be an airport, port, warehouse, hotel, restaurant, you name it. Virtually every American and foreign company investing in Cuba would suddenly be liable for treble damages.

The purpose, as the law's authors made clear when it was enacted 23 years ago, is to harm Cuba's economy by making it completely inhospitable for foreign investment.

As my friend in the House, Representative JIM MCGOVERN, has pointed out;

"It's no mystery why Presidents Clinton, Bush, Obama, and Trump blocked Title III from going into effect every six months for the past 23 years.

It is hypocritical—it penalizes companies for doing what American companies do all over the world.

It is contrary to international law, which recognizes the right of expropriation and requires compensation.

It is an extraterritorial sanction that guarantees a response from our trading partners, like Canada, Spain and the EU, including complaints at the World Trade Organization.

And if you care about agriculture, be warned: It will open a new front in the trade war, with all the repercussions that can bring.

It will allow Cuba to claim victim status and rally international support.

It will clog our courts with lawsuits.

It will make it impossible to negotiate compensation for U.S. claims in Cuba, and, in the end, hurt the very Americans who seek compensation for the property they lost.

It will divide us from friends and allies who are now working for a peaceful solution in Venezuela.

And it will guarantee that new investment in Cuba will come from the Russians, Chinese and others who are hostile to the United States, and whose state-owned companies can't be sued in U.S. courts."

I agree with my friend in the other body. What the White House is considering would trigger an avalanche of unintended consequences that would bring U.S. commerce with Cuba to a halt, harm relations with our allies in this hemisphere and beyond, and make resolving property claims more difficult. I ask unanimous consent that a piece by William Leogrande on Title III of the Helms-Burton Act published in the February 13, 2019 issue of OnCubaNews be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

Like many issues, Members of Congress have strong feelings pro and con about U.S. relations with Cuba. It is no secret that, after more than half a century of a policy of isolation that has achieved none of its objectives and primarily hurt the Cuban people, I, like Senators KLOBUCHAR and ENZI and many others in this body, favor closer relations.

Conversely, there are those in Congress and the Trump administration who believe strongly that we should ratchet up the pressure on the Cuban Government in an attempt to achieve those elusive goals.

I have often spoken publicly about the lack of political freedom and civil liberties in Cuba, but I also think it is important to try to be objective: to criticize when called for and to acknowledge positive changes when they occur.

I recognize that those who favor maintaining the failed economic embargo have a longstanding, visceral antagonism and resentment toward the Cuban Government. While they rarely, if ever, mention the corrupt and brutal Batista regime that enjoyed unqualified U.S. support until it was overthrown in 1959, they have legitimate reasons to criticize the mistreatment of the Cuban people by the current government and its support for the corrupt and repressive Maduro regime in Venezuela.

But they too should acknowledge that threatening and bullying Cuba has not worked. In fact, it has made the situation worse and provided an excuse for the Cuban Government to blame its own failures on us. They should also acknowledge positive changes in Cuba, but they never do—not ever. It is almost as if they are psychologically, ideologically, or emotionally incapable of saying one positive thing about the Cuban Government, no matter what positive things it does.

Perhaps they are afraid that, if they did, they would alienate their donors in the Cuban-American community. Of course, we know that Cuban-Americans are divided about the U.S. embargo. Some are hardcore believers in the embargo, and they always will be. But at least as many—and increasing numbers—oppose the embargo, especially those who were born after the Cuban revolution.

I wonder what the pro-embargo isolationists would say if the Cuban Government were to stop harassing and abusing dissidents who favor a more democratic system. Would those who oppose the embargo say anything positive?

What if the Cuban Government decided to embrace a free market economy and let private businesses flourish? Would those who oppose the embargo say anything positive?

I doubt it. I doubt it because no matter what positive reforms occur in Cuba, they will continue to defend the embargo until Cuba is a full-fledged democracy and those who currently hold power either die or are voted out of office.

We all want Cuba to become a democracy, where civil and political rights are respected, and the sooner the better, but those same defenders of the embargo support billions of dollars in U.S. aid—and weapons sales—to countries that are led by authoritarian, brutal, and corrupt dictatorships and monarchies, some of which have held power for decades or generations.

How do the pro-embargo diehards reconcile that? They don't, and they can't.

The fact is, Cuba is changing—not nearly as fast as we and the Cuban people would like, but it is changing in ways that few would have predicted not very long ago.

Last year, Raul Castro's hand-picked successor, Miguel Diaz-Canel, became President, and he promised a government more accessible and responsive to the people's needs. How he delivers on that promise remains to be seen.

Since 2010, after the Cuban Government recognized that the internet is essential if Cuba wants to be part of the modern world, internet access has exploded. The government has opened hundreds of public Wi-Fi hot spots and cyber cafes in the past 5 years, and home internet access became legal and available in 2017. Today, almost half of the Cuban people have personal cellphones that were illegal just a decade ago.

As others have pointed out, these changes have encouraged new forms of communication, networking, and organizing via social media.

But change does not come easily in Cuba, as it does not in many countries. Last July, the government announced onerous new regulations on the private sector, covering a wide range of issues: food safety, labor contracts, procurement, taxation, limits on the size of private businesses. The new rules were an attempt by hardliners to crack down on the private sector, which was criticized for black marketeering.

But private entrepreneurs resisted, and they challenged the regulations as contradictory to the government's own plans that recognizes the private sector as important to economic growth and employment. They appealed to government officials and spoke publicly about the harm the new rules would have on their businesses.

When the final regulations were issued, several that had caused the most resentment were dropped. According to the Minister of Labor and Social Security, the decision to revise the rules was due to "the opinion and experiences of those directly involved."

The government also retreated on a new law—Decree 349—requiring artists, musicians, and performers to register with the state and pay a large commission on their earnings from private engagements, and it banned work with objectionable content and empowered inspectors to shut down any offensive exhibition or performance. Clearly, an attempt to further limit free expression.

Since the 1980s, Cuban artists have had more freedom to be critical of the government than other social sectors, and so it was not surprising that Decree 349 ignited widespread protests. After social media was used to mobilize opposition within the Cuban arts community and among artists abroad, the government agreed not to enforce the law until implementing regulations are

drafted in consultation with the arts community.

According to one observer, "during [the latter half of last year], nearly 8.9 million Cubans debated the draft of a new constitution in their workplaces, neighborhoods and schools. Communist Party members were told not to argue with even the most radical proposals for amendments, and the ensuing debates were freewheeling, often lasting past their scheduled time. Among the main topics: whether the president and state governors should be directly elected by voters; whether the concentration of wealth and property should be allowed; whether term limits and age limits for leaders were a good idea; and whether the Communist Party should be subordinated to the constitution and hence the law." Not long ago it would have been unthinkable to openly debate these issues, especially as part of a constitutional reform process.

One article that attracted intense debate recognized same-sex marriage and was promoted by Raul Castro's daughter, a long-time activist for LGBTQ rights. The proposal sparked strong opposition from evangelical churches supported by the Catholic Church. Gay rights advocates countered with campaigns of their own. The chance of a significant "no" vote on the entire constitutional reform led the government to drop the provision from the final draft of the constitution with a pledge to consider it later.

This surge in mobilization by well-organized constituencies utilizing social media to resist government policy, from burdensome private sector regulations to gay marriage, is unprecedented in Cuba. The government's willingness to not only tolerate these organized challenges but to change policies in response to them is significant.

As has been noted, none of these issues dealt with the rigid structure of the Cuban system. Cuba remains a one-party state, in which those who challenge the system are treated as criminals, but the precedent of organized interest groups mounting successful campaigns to challenge and change government policy is now established, which is positive.

None of the longstanding critics of the Cuban Government in the U.S. Congress or the Cuban-American community have acknowledged any of this, nor are they likely to. For them, anything less than a wholesale change of government in Cuba is unworthy of mention, even though they apply a very different standard—a double standard—to other authoritarian governments. In fact, they would ridicule anyone who regards such changes as positive or worthy of recognition.

As we know from our own experience, political reform is difficult. Our own Electoral College, an anachronism designed to protect a slave-holding minority, remains in effect more than two centuries later. Five times, in the world's oldest democracy, it has pre-

vented the winner of the most popular votes from being elected President.

The Cuban people want to live better and they want a lot less government control over their lives. Armed with cellphones and the internet, they are going to make increasing demands of their government. This is happening at a time when Venezuela's economy is collapsing and the survival of the Maduro regime, Cuba's closest ally in the hemisphere, is in question. Not surprisingly, the Cuban Government is trying to limit the pace of change and to secure other benefactors. It is turning increasingly to Russia, Algeria, Iran, and other countries that welcome the chance to challenge U.S. influence in this hemisphere.

This is a time for the United States to be actively and visibly engaged in Cuba, for Americans to be traveling to Cuba, for expanding educational, cultural, and professional exchanges between the U.S. and Cuba, and for American companies to be competing in Cuba. It is not a time to return to a failed policy of threats and ultimatums, driven by domestic politics rather than by what is in our national interests.

That is why I am cosponsoring the Freedom to Export to Cuba Act, and it is why I intend to support other bipartisan legislation to replace our failed Cuba policy with one that serves America's interests, not the interests of a shrinking minority, and not the interests of Russia and other countries that are reaping the economic benefits of our self-defeating policy of isolation.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From OnCubaNews, Feb. 13, 2019]
PRESIDENT TRUMP RISKS ALIENATING ALLIES
OVER CUBAN AMERICAN PROPERTY CLAIMS
(By William M. LeoGrande)

The Trump administration is seriously considering whether to allow Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (Helms-Burton) to go into effect in March, according to National Security Adviser John Bolton. On January 16, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that he was suspending Title III for just 45 days instead of the usual six months while the administration reviews whether its implementation would promote democracy in Cuba. He warned foreign companies doing business on the island that they had better "reconsider whether they are trafficking in confiscated property and abetting this dictatorship."

Title III allows U.S. nationals to file suit in U.S. courts against anyone "trafficking" in their confiscated property in Cuba—that is, anyone profiting from it. If President Trump allows Title III to go fully into effect, he will open the door to as many as 200,000 law suits by U.S. nationals, most of them Cuban Americans, whose property was taken by the Cuban government after 1959. U.S. courts would be swamped, the ability of U.S. companies to do business on the island would be crippled, and allies abroad might retaliate for U.S. suits brought against their companies in Cuba. Once the suits have been filed, there will be no way to undo the resulting legal chaos and the tangle of resulting litigation could take years to unwind.

The U.S. Foreign Claims Settlement Commission has certified 5,913 claims of U.S. nationals whose property was seized. These are

the claims that Cuba recognizes and that the United States and Cuba had begun to discuss during the Obama administration. But Title III takes the unusual position of allowing naturalized Cuban Americans who lost property to also file suit against alleged traffickers. Normally, international law recognizes the sovereign right of governments to dispose of the property of their own citizens. According to the Department of State, by including Cuban Americans who were not U.S. citizens when their property was taken, Title III creates the potential for an estimated 75,000–200,000 claims worth “tens of billions of dollars.”

Back in 1996, when the law was being debated in Congress, angry opposition from U.S. allies Canada, Mexico, and the European Union, whose companies doing business in Cuba would be the targets of Title III law suits, led President Bill Clinton to insist on a presidential waiver provision in Title III. As a result, the president has the authority to suspend for six months the right to file Title III law suits, and he can renew that suspension indefinitely. Every six months since the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act was passed, successive presidents, Democrat and Republican alike, have continued the suspension of Title III.

U.S. allies have denounced Title III’s extraterritorial reach. Mexico, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the European Union all passed laws prohibiting compliance with it. The European Union also filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization, which it did not pursue after President Clinton suspended Title III. In fact, the principal justification both President Clinton and President George W. Bush offered for continuing the suspension was the need to maintain cooperation with European allies.

If President Trump does not renew the suspension, all these old wounds with allies will be reopened as U.S. claimants try to haul foreign companies into U.S. courts for doing business in Cuba. We already have enough tough issues on our agenda with Mexico, Canada, and Europe without adding another one. At this very moment, Washington is trying to muster their support in dealing with the Venezuelan crisis, support that could be endangered if the administration picks a fight with them over Title III.

U.S. businesses would not be exempt from potential liability. A Cuban American family in Miami claims to have owned the land on which José Martí International Airport was built, so any U.S. carrier using the air field

could conceivably be sued under Title III. Another family that owned the Port of Santiago could file suit against U.S. cruise ships docking there.

Moreover, it would be almost impossible for a U.S. or foreign company to know in advance whether a proposed business opportunity in Cuba might become the subject of Title III litigation. “This will effectively end for decades any attempt to restore trade between the U.S. and Cuba,” attorney Robert Muse told the Tampa Bay Times.

When President Trump announced new sanctions on Cuba back in June 2017, senior administration officials said they were designed “to not disrupt existing business” that U.S. companies were doing in Cuba. If the president fails to continue the suspension of Title III, business relations will be disrupted far more severely and irreparably than they would be by any regulatory change.

BUDGET ENFORCEMENT LEVELS

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, BBEDCA, establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits. In addition, sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 allow the chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments.

The Senate will soon consider the conference report for H.J. Res. 31, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019. This measure provides full-year appropriations for Federal Government agencies and contains spending that qualifies for cap adjustments under current statute.

This measure includes \$8,165 million in budget authority that is designated as being for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of BBEDCA. Of that amount, \$165 million is for spending in the security category and \$8,000 million is for nonsecurity spending. CBO estimates that this

budget authority will result in \$2,980 million in outlays in Fiscal Year 2019.

This measure also includes \$12,000 million in nonsecurity discretionary budget authority designated for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of BBEDCA. This designation makes the spending associated with this provision and its associated outlays of \$600 million eligible for an adjustment.

This legislation repurposes nonsecurity discretionary budget authority for emergency efforts. This funding is designated pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of BBEDCA. CBO estimates that this repurposing of funds will result in \$10 million in outlays this fiscal year.

As a result of the aforementioned designations, I am revising the budget authority and outlay allocations to the Committee on Appropriations by increasing revised security budget authority by \$165 million, revised nonsecurity budget authority by \$20,000 million, and outlays by \$3,590 million in Fiscal Year 2019. Further, I am increasing the budgetary aggregate for Fiscal Year 2019 by \$20,165 million in budget authority and \$3,590 million in outlays.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES
(Pursuant to Sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

	\$s in millions	2019
Current Spending Aggregates:		
Budget Authority		3,619,159
Outlays		3,546,419
Adjustments:		
Budget Authority	20,165	
Outlays	3,590	
Revised Spending Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	3,639,324	
Outlays	3,550,009	

REVISION TO SPENDING ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

(Pursuant to Sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

	\$s in millions	2019
Current Allocation:		
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority		715,835
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority		600,577
General Purpose Outlays		1,352,810
Adjustments:		
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority	165	
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	20,000	
General Purpose Outlays	3,590	
Revised Allocation:		
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority		716,000
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority		620,577
General Purpose Outlays		1,356,400

Memorandum: Detail of Adjustments Made Above	Regular	OCO	Program Integrity	Disaster Relief	Emergency	Total
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority	0	165	0	0	0	165
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	0	8,000	0	12,000	0	20,000
General Purpose Outlays	0	2,980	0	600	10	3,590

RECOGNIZING IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, along with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Representative MIKE SIMP-

SON, I recognize an important anniversary being celebrated at the U.S. Department of Energy’s, DOE, 890–square-mile site in eastern Idaho.

On February 18, 1949, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission decided to build

the National Reactor Testing Station in Idaho.

For 70 years, work done by the scientists, engineers, technicians, and support staff at Idaho’s lab has helped

promote American prosperity and contributed to our national security.

Since 1967, research conducted at Idaho National Laboratory's, INL, Advanced Test Reactor has powered and modernized the U.S. Nuclear Navy.

Fifty years ago, the Navy had to refuel its nuclear fleet frequently, an expensive and time-consuming process.

Today, as a result of experiments conducted at the Advanced Test Reactor, ATR, the Navy's nuclear fleet can run the lifetime of the ship—more than three decades—without refueling. That saves American taxpayers millions of dollars and ensures that our fleet is actively defending U.S. national security instead of sitting in port waiting to be refueled.

Roughly a decade and a half ago, Congress designated INL as the Nation's lead nuclear energy research and development laboratory. This is fitting because on December 20, 1951, INL first demonstrated nuclear fission could be used to generate power to light our homes and cities. Throughout its history, INL has built and operated 52 original nuclear reactors and helped establish an American industry that today produces approximately 19 percent of our Nation's electricity and more than half of our carbon-free electricity. INL has become a world leader in cyber security research and works actively with government and industry to protect and make the Nation's most critical infrastructure more resilient. INL has advanced broader clean energy research, informing electric vehicle deployment and developing bioenergy solutions that benefit the environment and our Nation's farmers. Even as we celebrate INL's 70 years, the lab's leadership and staff are looking ahead. Those seven decades of service provide a foundation upon which today's INL will help this Nation build a brighter future. INL leads the effort to maintain and extend the lives of America's nuclear reactor fleet, while helping industry develop advanced reactor designs, including small modular reactors and microreactors. INL's vital national and homeland security work grows more important every day as our systems become increasingly automated and interdependent.

As we eye the energy systems that will power U.S. prosperity into the future, INL's clean energy research is developing breakthroughs that will help integrate renewables into the power grid and allow our manufacturing and transportation systems to operate more efficiently and with less environmental impact.

It is our great honor to congratulate INL and DOE on this important anniversary, and to wish its employees well as they work to resolve our nation's pressing clean energy and national security challenges.

TRIBUTE TO BRENDAN MACKIE

Mr. COONS, Madam President, I rise to recognize with gratitude the dedi-

cated service of Jeffrey Brendan Mackie to Delawareans as a member of my constituent services staff. Brendan is smart, funny, kind, and creative, with a deep respect for our Nation's history and institution and a genuine, intense passion for public service.

Over the past 5½ years, Brendan has put the needs and challenges of people from across Delaware first. Brendan worked on my constituent outreach and communication teams, serving as veterans advocate, staff photographer, and press assistant. In total, Brendan resolved more than 1,500 cases for constituents and in his last year alone produced more than 350 documents and postings for our communications team.

Brendan has also served with distinction in the U.S. Army, Delaware National Guard, Hawaii National Guard, twice overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, as a first responder following Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Maria, and served as an AmeriCorps volunteer with the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Brendan's ability to balance his workload while focusing on his own professional development was equally admirable. While on my team, he graduated from Wilmington University in 2014, Officer Candidate School in 2015, Military Intelligence School in 2016, and Air Assault School in 2017. These milestones have strengthened Brendan's capacity as a leader and have increased his knowledge of defense and intelligence matters.

Tomorrow, Brendan will finish his service with my Senate office and soon after will join the staff of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, where I know he will be a zealous advocate for members of the military and veteran community. His colleagues—now friends—who enjoy his wit and wisdom will miss him. While we will miss his regular anecdotes laced with historical references, we know we will continue to enjoy his “on this day” Facebook posts and updates as he continues to read biographies on every American president.

In sum, Brendan stood out amongst my staff and demonstrated a level of intelligence, analytical ability, character, and a devotion that will serve him well in the future. I will miss his insights and his constant focus on making things better for the constituents we serve, and I look forward to hearing about his successes to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

• Mr. CASEY, Madam President, today I wish to honor Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown, a notable public servant in Pennsylvania, as she concludes 20 years of service within the Philadelphia City Council. Throughout her career, Councilwoman Reynolds Brown

has worked to improve the lives of Philadelphians as an educator, community activist, and political leader.

The oldest of seven children, Blondell Reynolds Brown was born in Sumter, SC, to Sadie Reynolds, a schoolteacher, and the late Whittimore Reynolds, who worked in construction. At the age 5, Reynolds Brown and her family moved to Philadelphia, where she would go on to graduate from the Philadelphia High School for Girls.

Councilwoman Reynolds Brown demonstrated an early proclivity for public service. Following her graduation from Pennsylvania State University, she was on track to join the Peace Corps, but instead decided to start her service in Philadelphia and teach in the city's public schools.

In 1999, Reynolds Brown was elected to one of seven at-large city council seats. It was her time as a legislative aide for a State senator that inspired her initial decision to run for city council. During this time, Reynolds Brown noticed a lack of Black women in leadership roles and led her own efforts to promote equity and diversity in public office.

During her time in office, Reynolds Brown has championed meaningful legislation in service of children, women, arts and culture, education, small business development, and the environment and sustainability. Councilwoman Reynolds Brown's major legislative accomplishments include the creation of the Fund for Children, the establishment of requirements for menu labeling within Philadelphia, the implementation of sexual harassment training for city of Philadelphia employees, the overhaul of the parks and recreation system, and the expansion of domestic partner benefits within city contractors. She also did a great deal to advocate for the appointment of woman to board positions and helped leverage funding for mentorship, early childhood education, the arts, and Philadelphia tourism.

Beyond her work on city council, Reynolds Brown is an active member of the Philadelphia community. She is a board member of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the Marian Anderson Award, Philadelphia Young Playwrights, the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, and Wynnefield Residents Association. Reynolds Brown is also an ex-officio member of the board of the Philadelphia Dance Company, and a general member of the Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

I wish to thank Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown for her long service to Philadelphia on its city council. I wish her success in all her future endeavors to serve the people of Pennsylvania.●

TRIBUTE TO SETH BEAL

• Mr. CRAPO, Madam President, along with my colleague Senator JAMES E. RISCH, I congratulate Seth Beal, who is

retiring after more than 30 years of serving as a commissioner for Butte County, ID.

Seth Beal has dedicated so much of his time and talents to serving others throughout his communities. He was appointed to the Butte County Commission on June 6, 1988. Seth has said that efforts that established far-reaching benefits for his communities have been the most satisfying parts about his job. This includes the establishment of the rural addressing of Butte and South Custer Counties. He also assisted with Federal legislation providing for small community and arid landfill design. He was involved with ensuring that local counties could access Payment in Lieu of Taxes, PILT, payments because of the local presence of U.S. Department of Energy facilities. Another highlight of his work on the Butte County Commission is the commission's establishment of the Butte County Elected Scholarship, which awards three scholarships per year to Butte County High School seniors.

Through his work and public service, Seth has helped improve his local communities and supported area youth. In addition to his service on the county commission, Seth has served as an assistant football coach for 8 years at Butte County High School. He has served as bishop and stake president in the Idaho Falls Temple Presidency. He has also been involved with the purchase and renovation of buildings that provide improved facilities for the county.

In addition to his extensive service on the Butte County Commission, he has served in numerous other leadership positions that include service on several boards, including the Idaho County Risk Management Program for 20 years; GEM PLAN, the county's insurance plan, for 14 years; East Central Idaho Development Association for 12 years; founding member of the Regional Development Alliance and 21 years of service; 7th Judicial District Commissioner for 24 years; District 6 elected officials chairman for 5 years; Idaho National Lab Citizens Advisory Board member for 7 years; founding member of the 3-B Juvenile Detention Center; and founding member of the Energy Communities Alliance.

Seth Beal, congratulations on your retirement after more than three decades of serving on the Butte County Commission and in many other leadership positions. Your thoughtful and committed leadership all these years is a prime example of what makes our communities so great. Thank you for your dedication and extensive service on behalf of our fellow Idahoans.●

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL JAMES

● Mr. DAINES. Madam President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Russell James of Missoula County for his impact on the Whitewater community.

A third generation Montanan, Russell was born and raised in Ovando, MT. Mr. James graduated high school from Thompson Falls, where he went to the University of Montana. Directly after graduation in 1980, Russell dove into the workforce, taking a job as a professional truck driver.

Russell has been a professional truck driver for 38 years and has accumulated over 1 million accident-free miles. He has won numerous awards during his tenure as a driver, including the 2008 YRC employee of the Year Award and the 2018 YRC Road to Excellence Award. He has represented YRC every year at the Montana Truck Driving Championships since 2005, as well as the National Truck Driving Championships in 2011 and 2014. Russell is active in the community, volunteering with the Blackfoot River Preservation Group and environmental quality improvement and wildlife habitat. He is also an avid outdoorsman and enjoys tending to his small family farm.

I congratulate Russell on his lifetime of outstanding achievements and willingness to give back to his community. A tried and true Montanan, I look forward to seeing his success in his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER MILOS GRUBNIC

● Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, today I wish to honor supervisory Transportation Security Officer Milos Grubnic for going above and beyond his duties while serving with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration, TSA, at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, IL.

On November 26, 2018, Officer Grubnic was featured in TSA Today after he and a fellow Transportation Security officer, John Kozcur, helped a passenger recover his stolen cell phone. Not only did they handle the situation in a thorough and professional manner by reviewing security footage, tracking the individual down and returning the item, but they were able to do so before the passenger boarded his flight. Many times, the hard work of our Transportation Security officers goes unnoticed and unreported, and I am thankful for all they do to keep us safe.

Officer Grubnic's actions in November displayed his steadfast dedication and passion for public service. Throughout his time at O'Hare International Airport, Officer Grubnic has worked to support all aspects of TSA's mission, including assisting my family and me at security checkpoints as we travel.

I commend Officer Grubnic's hard work, passion, and commitment to safeguarding the public and achieving TSA's mission to protect our Nation's transportation systems. May his continued dedication serve as an inspiration to us all.●

REMEMBERING BISHOP MCKINLEY YOUNG

● Ms. HARRIS. Madam President, our Nation mourns the loss of one of the country's greatest servant-leaders, The Right Reverend, Senior Bishop McKinley Young, whose life work ministering to countless individuals and whole communities in search of both hope and democracy exemplifies faith in action.

Senior Bishop McKinley Young was born on November 10, 1944, in Atlanta, GA; the eldest son of Reverend Lonnie C. Young and Mrs. Nellie Cummings Young. He attended Morris Brown College, where he earned his bachelor's degree and later received two master's degrees from Andover Newton Theological School and the University of Chicago Divinity School respectively.

Early in his ministry, Bishop Young pastored churches in the first, fourth, and sixth Episcopal Districts, including the historic Big Bethel A.M.E Church in Atlanta, GA. After being elected and consecrated the 109th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1992, his first episcopal assignment was to the 15th District of Angola, South Africa, and Namibia where he led the Centennial Celebration of African Methodism. Bishop Young would later serve as presiding prelate in Texas, Florida, and the Bahamas. His final episcopal assignment was with the third District, which includes Ohio, West Virginia, and Western Pennsylvania, where he served until his transition to the church triumphant on Wednesday, January 16, 2019.

Bishop Young's commitment to the church community was as strong as his commitment to voter education, voter registration, and getting people from the pews to the polls. This passion came from his lifelong belief that "a vote-less people is a hopeless people." For decades, Bishop Young organized voter registration drives across the United States, empowering those who were historically voiceless in the voting process. His commitment to democratic values led him to South Africa, where he worked on voter registration efforts during the first free democratic election of the President of South Africa.

Throughout his journey and in addition to his ministerial and civic work, Bishop Young worked diligently to increase educational opportunities for African-American students, especially those attending historically black colleges and universities. He served on the board of trustees for Payne Theological Seminary, led the church in financially stabilizing Paul Quinn College, helped raise \$2 million to secure Edward Walters College's accreditation, and would later serve as chancellor of Wilberforce University.

Bishop Young has served the ecumenical community faithfully for over 40 years. He was a devoted leader of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Service and Development Agency, Inc., SADA for over 20 years and served as

chair of the board. Bishop Young's leadership among other faith councils only amplified the effectiveness of his advocacy across the faith community, including as a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches, the World Methodist Council, and the Conference of National Black Churches.

Bishop Young was a courageous servant leader, activist, and champion for civil and human rights whose service and dedication to countless communities will continue to inspire others for generations to come.

We wish every member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church that he served and those whose lives were touched by Bishop Young peace during this difficult time, especially his wife Dr. Dorothy Jackson Young, his children, Karyn, Deana, Andrea, and Stephanie, and eight grandchildren:●

TRIBUTE TO HEATHER MCGLAUFLIN

● Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I am proud to recognize Heather McGlaulin of New Boston, NH as the February Granite Stater of the Month for her remarkable work to help prevent substance misuse. Now a high school senior, Heather has worked with a number of organizations since her sophomore year to help prevent substance misuse among her peers and to fight for young people to have a seat at the table in efforts to combat this devastating epidemic.

Heather's advocacy on this issue began after a guidance counselor encouraged her to attend a weekend training with CADCA, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America. At the end of the weekend, Heather participated on a panel of students proposing solutions to government officials and advocates on how to strengthen the response to this crisis that was broadcast live on New Hampshire's WMUR.

The CADCA training inspired Heather's continued activism, and in the years since, she has gotten involved in a variety of initiatives such as training younger students on over-the-counter medication safety, presenting on the importance of youth advocacy to DEA agents from across New England and the country, and participating in a public service announcement training with the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation. As a result of her work with the Mark Wahlberg foundation, Heather created several PSA's which were selected for further production and participated in an Emmy-winning PSA with WMUR. Heather also helped found Empower Youth 603—a youth coalition focused on substance misuse in New Hampshire—and she recently presented at CADCA's national conference in Washington, DC, where I met Heather and heard more about her work.

Heather says she is driven by the stories of her friends and peers, too many

of whom have been impacted by New Hampshire's devastating opioid crisis. She believes that it is critical to stop substance misuse before it happens and that the best messenger for young people is often someone their own age.

For her continued efforts in preventing substance misuse, I am proud to recognize Heather McGlaulin as February's Granite Stater of the Month.●

TRIBUTE TO JENNIE CYRAN

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Jennie Cyran, the Polk County Teacher of the Year from Horizons Elementary School in Davenport, FL.

In receiving this award, Jennie credited her colleagues and students for her success, believing she would not be in this position if it were not for them. She considers successful teachers to be those that devote their time to building trust and relationships with their students and their families.

Jennie considers the classroom to be a student's second home, free from judgement and a place where they can embrace their mistakes as learning opportunities. She tutors her students on weekends at school or at their homes and offers parents the resources to help their children succeed in school and later in life.

Jennie has been a teacher for 13 years and enjoys working with new teachers so that they are not overwhelmed with their new jobs. She also mentors female students through the Girls of Integrity program and volunteers as a Special Olympics coach and unified partner for several sports.

I would like to thank Jennie for all her hard work to provide students with a successful learning environment. I extend my best wishes to her and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO HOLLY MICKLER

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I honor Holly Mickler, the Pasco County Teacher of the Year from Pasco Middle School in Dade City, FL.

Holly is an Advancement Via Individual Determination teacher. She focuses on preparing her students for college level writing, reading, and critical thinking skills. She also teaches them the non-academic skills, such as perseverance, time management, curiosity, manners, and character building, that are so important for students success in the classroom and in life.

While she develops a general lesson plan for her students, she also individualizes these plans and shifts her end goals based on their needs. Holly believes having an intentionally flexible lesson plan is what turns good teachers into great teachers because it allows them to adapt their student's needs.

Holly has taught at Pasco Middle School for 14 years. She earned her bachelor's degree in special education

from Appalachian State University. Outside of the classroom, she works with her husband in their prison ministry, Hostage of Hope Ministries. They provide inmates with personal items and transcribe sermons from the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Holly for her dedication to her students and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, this year marks the 160th year that the Church of St. Michael the Archangel has served the people of South Providence and the larger Rhode Island community. Rhode Island's earliest values are of inclusion, acceptance, and respect for difference. The founder of our State, Roger Williams, went off into an unknown wilderness and established a land in which tolerance and religious openness were the new standard. In keeping with these founding principles, the community of St. Michael's has been a place of welcome since its inception.

Generations of immigrants built this country; yet too often, those who come seeking the American dream are met with discrimination. Originally serving Irish and Western European immigrant populations often pushed to the margins of society, St. Michael's has expanded to incorporate the Providence of today, a multicultural, multilingual community.

Faith compels work toward fairness and justice for all living beings, regardless of nationality or social status. St. Michael's has fostered a vibrant community of people who are answering that call. The people of St. Michael's have partnered with nonprofit groups and other faith organizations to carry out meaningful advocacy work and provide direct services to those in need. It has been a privilege to know and work alongside church leaders like Sister Mary Reilly, Father Ray Malm, and the late Sister Ann Keefe. Their tireless advocacy and spirit of service have been manifested through the good works of numerous community organizations including Sophia Academy, Providence CityArts, AIDS Care Ocean State, and the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence. These groups have made rich and diverse contributions to the character of Rhode Island.

The immigrant spirit of perseverance is shared in the moral fiber of this country. In Rhode Island, St. Michael's church has been a symbol of refuge and hope for 160 years. They have made our State and the city of Providence better through their dedication to public life. I applaud the work of St. Michael's and its pastor, Father Robert Perron, and I congratulate the venerated parish on 160 years of service.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:31 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 bill and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 995. An act to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of settlement agreements, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 37. Joint resolution directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill and joint resolution were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 995. An act to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of settlement agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.J. Res. 37. Joint resolution directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill and joint resolution were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 483. A bill to enact into law a bill by reference.

S.J. Res. 8. Joint resolution recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SHELBY, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2019" (Rept. No. 116-1).

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. CASEY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LEAHY, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 485. A bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal employment discrimination and retaliation claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 486. A bill to waive the penalty for withdrawals from retirement plans for certain Federal employees and contractors affected by a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 487. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a natural gas demand response pilot program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. JONES, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BENNET, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. ERNST, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PORTMAN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 488. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. UDALL, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 489. A bill to establish a State public option through Medicaid to provide Americans with the choice of a high-quality, low-cost health insurance plan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 490. A bill to designate a mountain ridge in the State of Montana as "B-47 Ridge"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. UDALL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 491. A bill to reaffirm the policy of the United States with respect to management authority over public land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 492. A bill to amend the FAST Act to improve contracting opportunities for service-connected disabled veteran-owned small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. YOUNG:

S. 493. A bill to require Federal agencies not performing security functions to relocate throughout the United States by the beginning of fiscal year 2030; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 494. A bill to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 495. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reauthorize and expand the

National Threat Assessment Center of the Department of Homeland Security; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. CANTWELL, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 496. A bill to preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. REED):

S. 497. A bill to improve diversity and inclusion in the workforce of national security agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 498. A bill to provide for an independent outside audit of the Indian Health Service; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 499. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to apply to territories of the United States, to establish offshore wind lease sale requirements, to provide dedicated funding for coral reef conservation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. KING, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 500. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 501. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the increase in unrelated business taxable income by amount of certain fringe benefit expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 502. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require disclosure to States of the basis of determinations under such Act, to ensure use of information provided by State, Tribal, and county governments in decision-making under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 503. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide the opportunity for responsible health savings to all American families; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 504. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 505. A bill to ensure due process protections of individuals in the United States against unlawful detention based solely on a protected characteristic; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 506. A bill to support State, Tribal, and local efforts to remove access to firearms from individuals who are a danger to themselves or others pursuant to court orders for this purpose; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. JONES, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 507. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to clarify that a State may not use an individual's failure to vote as the basis for initiating the procedures provided under such Act for the removal of the individual from the official list of registered voters in the State on the grounds that the individual has changed residence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 508. A bill to extend the authorization for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 509. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the United States Coast Guard; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 510. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for certain requirements relating to charges for internet, television, and voice services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 511. A bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 512. A bill to establish an advisory office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud targeting seniors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 513. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to civil forfeitures relating to certain seized animals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. VAN

HOLLEN, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 514. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. REED, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARPER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. COONS, Mr. KING, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. JONES, Mr. BROWN, Mr. TESTER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. UDALL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 515. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that all provisions shall apply to legally married same-sex couples in the same manner as other married couples, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KING, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 516. A bill to require the use of prescription drug monitoring programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 517. A bill to establish a tiered hiring preference for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WICKER, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. KING, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. COTTON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. DAINES, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. JONES, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 518. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 519. A bill to amend certain appropriations Acts to repeal the requirement directing the Administrator of General Services to sell Federal property and assets that support the operations of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center in Plum Island, New York; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 520. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an energy efficiency materials pilot program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 521. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 522. A bill to establish the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center in New York, New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 523. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a national strategic action plan and program to assist health professionals and systems in preparing for and responding to the public health effects of climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. UDALL, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 524. A bill to establish the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. RISCHE, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 525. A bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. UDALL):

S. 526. A bill to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 527. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the earned income tax credit to account for the amount by which economic growth has outpaced income growth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 528. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to provide a lactation room in public buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 529. A bill to establish a national program to identify and reduce losses from landslide hazards, to establish a national 3D Elevation Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 530. A bill to establish the Federal Labor-Management Partnership Council; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 531. A bill to permit disabled law enforcement officers, customs and border protection officers, firefighters, air traffic controllers, nuclear materials couriers, members of the Capitol Police, members of the

Supreme Court Police, employees of the Central Intelligence Agency performing intelligence activities abroad or having specialized security requirements, and diplomatic security special agents of the Department of State to receive retirement benefits in the same manner as if they had not been disabled; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. JONES):

S. 532. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide that an individual may remain eligible to participate in the teacher loan forgiveness program under title IV of such Act if the individual's period of consecutive years of employment as a full-time teacher is interrupted because the individual is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who is relocated during the school year pursuant to military orders for a permanent change of duty station, or the individual works in a school of the defense dependents' education system under the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978 due to such a relocation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 533. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to consider certain transactions related to precious metals for purposes of identifying jurisdictions of primary money laundering concern, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 534. A bill to prohibit certain funds from being transferred or reprogrammed to plan, develop, or construct a new physical barrier along the southwest border, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 535. A bill to enable Federal employees and contractors to correct their credit reports to remove adverse items of information reported as a result of a shutdown, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 71. A resolution honoring the memory of the victims of the senseless attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School 1 year ago; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Mr. JONES, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 72. A resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SASSE, Mr. KAINE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 73. A resolution calling on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to immediately release Saudi Women's Rights activists and respect the fundamental rights of all Saudi citizens; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. ERNST, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. JONES):

S. Res. 74. A resolution marking the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity by honoring the bravery, determination, and sacrifice of the people of Ukraine during and since the Revolution, and condemning continued Russian aggression against Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. BURR):

S. Res. 75. A resolution honoring the life, achievements, and distinguished public service of John David Dingell, Jr., and expressing condolences to his family on his passing; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. ERNST):

S. Res. 76. A resolution designating March 1, 2019, as "National Speech and Debate Education Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KING, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. JONES, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ENZI, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. Res. 77. A resolution designating the week of February 16 through 23, 2019, as "National FFA Week," recognizing the important role of the National FFA Organization in developing young leaders, and celebrating 50 years of female membership in the National FFA Organization; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. Con. Res. 4. A concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.J. Res. 31; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. UDALL):

S. Con. Res. 5. A concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 80

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 80, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 130

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 130, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 208

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 208, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 283

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 283, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and utilization of, bone mass measurement benefits under part B of the Medicare program by establishing a minimum payment amount under such part for bone mass measurement.

S. 285

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 285, a bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes.

S. 286

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 286, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 286, supra.

S. 311

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 311, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 317

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 317, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing coordinated care for children with complex medical conditions through a health home.

S. 336

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 336, a bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report on the response of law enforcement agencies to reports of missing or murdered Indians.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 362, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 380

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 380, a bill to increase access to agency guidance documents.

S. 426

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 426, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the General Schedule and other statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3.6 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 455

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 455, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for Federal Exchange outreach and educational activities.

S. 465

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 465, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to make reforms to the benefits for Public Service Officers, and for other purposes.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. JONES, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MUR-

PHY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BENNET, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. ERNST, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PORTMAN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 488. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

S. 488

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 “Justice for Victims of Lynching Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The crime of lynching succeeded slavery as the ultimate expression of racism in the United States following Reconstruction.

(2) Lynching was a widely acknowledged practice in the United States until the middle of the 20th century.

(3) Lynching was a crime that occurred throughout the United States, with documented incidents in all but 4 States.

(4) At least 4,742 people, predominantly African Americans, were reported lynched in the United States between 1882 and 1968.

(5) Ninety-nine percent of all perpetrators of lynching escaped from punishment by State or local officials.

(6) Lynching prompted African Americans to form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (referred to in this section as the “NAACP”) and prompted members of B’nai B’rith to found the Anti-Defamation League.

(7) Mr. Walter White, as a member of the NAACP and later as the executive secretary of the NAACP from 1931 to 1955, meticulously investigated lynchings in the United States and worked tirelessly to end segregation and racialized terror.

(8) Nearly 200 anti-lynching bills were introduced in Congress during the first half of the 20th century.

(9) Between 1890 and 1952, 7 Presidents petitioned Congress to end lynching.

(10) Between 1920 and 1940, the House of Representatives passed 3 strong anti-lynching measures.

(11) Protection against lynching was the minimum and most basic of Federal responsibilities, and the Senate considered but failed to enact anti-lynching legislation despite repeated requests by civil rights groups, Presidents, and the House of Representatives to do so.

(12) The publication of “Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America” helped bring greater awareness and proper recognition of the victims of lynching.

(13) Only by coming to terms with history can the United States effectively champion human rights abroad.

(14) An apology offered in the spirit of true repentance moves the United States toward reconciliation and may become central to a new understanding, on which improved racial relations can be forged.

(15) Having concluded that a reckoning with our own history is the only way the country can effectively champion human rights abroad, 90 Members of the United States Senate agreed to Senate Resolution 39, 109th Congress, on June 13, 2005, to apologize to the victims of lynching and the de-

scendants of those victims for the failure of the Senate to enact anti-lynching legislation.

(16) The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, which opened to the public in Montgomery, Alabama, on April 26, 2018, is the Nation’s first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved Black people, people terrorized by lynching, African Americans humiliated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence.

(17) Notwithstanding the Senate’s apology and the heightened awareness and education about the Nation’s legacy with lynching, it is wholly necessary and appropriate for the Congress to enact legislation, after 100 years of unsuccessful legislative efforts, finally to make lynching a Federal crime.

(18) Further, it is the sense of Congress that criminal action by a group increases the likelihood that the criminal object of that group will be successfully attained and decreases the probability that the individuals involved will depart from their path of criminality. Therefore, it is appropriate to specify criminal penalties for the crime of lynching, or any attempt or conspiracy to commit lynching.

(19) The United States Senate agreed to unanimously Senate Resolution 118, 115th Congress, on April 5, 2017, “[c]ondemning hate crime and any other form of racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination, incitement to violence, or animus targeting a minority in the United States” and taking notice specifically of Federal Bureau of Investigation statistics demonstrating that “among single-bias hate crime incidents in the United States, 59.2 percent of victims were targeted due to racial, ethnic, or ancestral bias, and among those victims, 52.2 percent were victims of crimes motivated by the offenders’ anti-Black or anti-African American bias”.

(20) On September 14, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed into law Senate Joint Resolution 49 (Public Law 115–58; 131 Stat. 1149), wherein Congress “condemn[ed] the racist violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place between August 11 and August 12, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia” and “urg[ed] the President and his administration to speak out against hate groups that espouse racism, extremism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and White supremacy; and use all resources available to the President and the President’s Cabinet to address the growing prevalence of those hate groups in the United States”.

(21) Senate Joint Resolution 49 (Public Law 115–58; 131 Stat. 1149) specifically took notice of “hundreds of torch-bearing White nationalists, White supremacists, Klansmen, and neo-Nazis [who] chanted racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-immigrant slogans and violently engaged with counter-demonstrators on and around the grounds of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville” and that these groups “reportedly are organizing similar events in other cities in the United States and communities everywhere are concerned about the growing and open display of hate and violence being perpetrated by those groups”.

(22) Lynching was a pernicious and pervasive tool that was used to interfere with multiple aspects of life—including the exercise of Federally protected rights, as enumerated in section 245 of title 18, United States Code, housing rights, as enumerated in section 901 of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3631), and the free exercise of religion, as enumerated in section 247 of title 18, United States Code. Interference with these rights was often effectuated by multiple offenders and groups, rather than isolated individuals. Therefore, prohibiting conspiracies

to violate each of these rights recognizes the history of lynching in the United States and serves to prohibit its use in the future.

SEC. 3. LYNCHING.

(a) OFFENSE.—Chapter 13 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 250. Lynching

“Whoever conspires with another person to violate section 245, 247, or 249 of this title or section 901 of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3631) shall be punished in the same manner as a completed violation of such section, except that if the maximum term of imprisonment for such completed violation is less than 10 years, the person may be imprisoned for not more than 10 years.”.

(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 13 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 249 the following:

“250. Lynching.”.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 495. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reauthorize and expand the National Threat Assessment Center of the Department of Homeland Security; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EAGLES ACT

Mr. President, I come to the floor today to take a moment and remember the tragedy that occurred a year ago at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

One year ago today, on Valentine's Day, 17 innocent lives were lost at the hands of a troubled, evil young man who entered a high school and opened fire.

The tragedy in Parkland cannot be forgotten.

We in the Senate cannot afford to forget such senseless acts of violence, and instead must continue to fight to prevent dangerous attacks in our country and our schools.

I remain dedicated to keeping weapons out of the hands of those who seek to harm others.

That is why I am proud to reintroduce the EAGLES Act of 2019.

Along with Senators RUBIO, SCOTT from Florida, JONES, MANCHIN, and GARDNER, I am reintroducing a piece of legislation today that proactively works to mitigate threats of violence on school campuses.

The EAGLES Act is named after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Mascot, the Eagles.

It reauthorizes and expands the U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center which is used to study targeted violence and develop best practices and training to identify and manage threats before they result in violence.

This legislation also allows the Secret Service to focus a significant portion of its efforts directly on school safety by equipping communities and schools with training and best practices on recognizing and preventing school violence.

In the wake of the Parkland shooting, there has been a flurry of activism, opinions, and action on the issue of gun safety, gun violence, and rights guaranteed to law abiding citizens under the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

It's our obligation as members of Congress to discuss issues, shortcomings, and room for advancement.

The EAGLES Act is part of the solution to prevent future violence in our communities.

This past year in the Senate, we took important steps to address gun violence and solutions to prevent future attacks.

Through investigations, hearings, oversight of federal agencies, and legislation, I worked with my colleagues to shed light on the issue and seek solutions.

For example, last Congress, two instrumental pieces of legislation to help protect Americans from future acts of violence were signed into law.

The first was the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act, which provides funding to schools to strengthen their infrastructure to make it more difficult for shooters to enter schools.

The other bill signed into law was the Fix NICS Act.

This law penalizes Federal agencies who fail to comply with the requirements in current law to report dangerous individuals and violent criminals to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

These laws enjoyed bipartisan support and will help keep our communities safe.

As former Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I also held a number of hearings on gun violence, one which specifically addressed the government's role and failures in preventing the Parkland shooting.

It was because of the lack of government coordination, successful identification of threats, and mitigation of dangers that I introduced the EAGLES Act last Congress.

As we learned in the hearing following the Parkland shooting and through subsequent investigations, there was much more that should have been done to prevent the Parkland shooting from happening.

There's still more to do to address the issue of targeted violence.

I expect my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will continue to propose solutions.

It's a conversation worth having. We should find more ways to keep weapons out of the hands of dangerous individuals while still protecting important constitutional rights.

It's in that spirit that I am reintroducing the EAGLES Act.

By passing this Act, we can do more to assess threats, train communities and schools, and prevent violence.

We cannot undo the tragedies of the past, but together we can do a better job to prevent future tragedies.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important priority.

I yield the floor.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. JONES):

S. 532. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide that an individual may remain eligible to participate in the teacher loan forgiveness program under title IV of such Act if the individual's period of consecutive years of employment as a full-time teacher is interrupted because the individual is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who is relocated during the school year pursuant to military orders for a permanent change of duty station, or the individual works in a school of the defense dependents' education system under the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978 due to such a relocation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to bring the Senate's attention to the bipartisan Preserving Teacher Loan Forgiveness for Military Spouses Act of 2018, which I am introducing today with Senators CORNYN and JONES. This legislation eliminates a barrier for teachers in military families to earn federal student loan forgiveness for their years of public service.

The Department of Education's Teacher Loan Forgiveness program rightfully incentivizes teachers to commit to students in our lowest income school districts in exchange for up to \$17,500 in Federal student loan forgiveness. Teachers qualify for the Federal student loan forgiveness once they have taught full-time for at least five consecutive years at a low income school or educational service agency. Teachers who are forced to move in the middle of the school year to follow their spouse's relocation or reassignment to another installation in the United States or abroad lose their accrued eligibility for the program and must restart their five years of service under current law.

Last Congress, a Maryland constituent brought to my attention the barriers her daughter faced when seeking Federal student loan forgiveness despite her commitment to public service. Her daughter, a teacher married to a member of the military, was in the middle of her fifth consecutive year teaching at one of Maryland's lower income schools. As any military spouse knows, relocation or reassignment orders can come at any time, upending the lives of the service member and their family. Rather than being able to complete a fifth year of teaching in a Maryland school, this family had to relocate with three months left in the school year. Despite this family's double commitment to service for our military and our schoolchildren, this military spouse missed the opportunity to have a portion of her Federal student loans forgiven. No military spouse

should be punished for following his or her spouse's relocation or reassignment.

The legislation that Senators CORNYN, JONES and I have introduced is a common sense proposal to allow military spouses to earn the benefits that they have dutifully worked towards and continue to incentivize individuals to teach our hardest to educate children. Our legislation provides a waiver from the Department of Education's Teacher Loan Forgiveness program's five consecutive years of service requirement for qualified military spouses if their spouse is relocated during the school year pursuant to military orders from the Armed Forces. This waiver will allow individuals to remain eligible for the Teacher Loan Forgiveness program should they resume teaching full-time at a qualifying low-income school district within one year of their relocation. In addition, this legislation requires the Department of Education to provide a report to Congress every two years on the number of military spouses who remained eligible for Teacher Loan Forgiveness due to this legislation. In addition, it would allow military spouses that follow their service member overseas to accrue periods of service towards the Teacher Loan Forgiveness program if they teach in one of the Department of Defense Education Activities operated schools.

I urge my colleagues to join in this effort to help families who are wholly committed to public service by supporting the Preserving Teacher Loan Forgiveness for Military Spouses Act. No family committed to service of our country should lose out on earned benefits due to a technicality.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 71—HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SENSELESS ATTACK AT MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL 1 YEAR AGO

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 71

Whereas, on February 14, 2018, a mass shooting that took the lives of 17 teachers and students took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida;

Whereas the people of the United States continue to pray for those who were affected by this tragedy;

Whereas President Donald Trump stated: "No child, no teacher, should ever be in danger in an American school. No parent should ever have to fear for their sons and daughters when they kiss them goodbye in the morning.";

Whereas the Parkland community has shown strength, compassion, and unity in the past year; and

Whereas February 14, 2019, marks 1 year since the horrific attack: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the victims killed in the attack and offers heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the families, loved ones, and friends of the victims;

(2) honors the survivors and pledges continued support for their recovery;

(3) recognizes the strength and resilience of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School community; and

(4) expresses gratitude to the emergency medical and health care professionals of the Parkland community for their efforts in responding to the attack and caring for the victims and survivors.

SENATE RESOLUTION 72—HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FORT BENNING IN COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Mr. JONES, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 72

Whereas 2018 was the 100th anniversary of Fort Benning, a military installation operating in Columbus, Georgia;

Whereas Fort Benning is named after Brigadier General Henry Lewis Benning, a resident of Columbus, Georgia;

Whereas Fort Benning resides on land originally belonging to the Creek Tribe of the Muskogee Nation;

Whereas, on April 4, 1917, the day after President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war against Germany, the citizens of Columbus began advocating for an Army camp to be constructed near Columbus, Georgia;

Whereas the War Department decided to move the Infantry School of Arms at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, to a more spacious site to train soldiers on infantry skills and tactics;

Whereas, on August 27, 1918, with the help of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, an 84-acre farm on Macon Road in Columbus, Georgia, was selected as the site for the infantry camp;

Whereas, on September 18, 1918, the Adjutant General ordered troops from Fort Sill to report to the newly selected site by October 1, 1918;

Whereas, on October 19, 1918, Columbus native Anna Caroline Benning, daughter of the brigadier general, raised the United States flag over the United States Infantry School of Arms and the site was formally christened Camp Benning;

Whereas, after the end of World War I, the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate ordered construction on Camp Benning to be halted on January 9, 1919;

Whereas Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia strongly advocated for congressional hearings to receive testimony on resuming construction of the post, allowing for Columbus-area supporters, as well as infantry commanders who fought in World War I, to testify about the need for the post;

Whereas, on March 8, 1919, the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate voted to resume building Camp Benning;

Whereas the post quickly outgrew the Macon Road location and, on June 17, 1919, Camp Benning was moved to its present site, which included the 1,800-acre plantation of local businessman Arthur Bussey;

Whereas, on January 9, 1922, the War Department issued General Order No. 1, making Camp Benning a permanent military installation and appropriating more than \$1,000,000 of additional building funds for the Infantry School of Arms, which later became the Infantry School;

Whereas, on May 12, 1920, 10 Army aircraft were assigned to Camp Benning as the air detachment of the post, marking the first use of aviation at Camp Benning;

Whereas, on February 8, 1922, Camp Benning was redesignated as Fort Benning;

Whereas, on June 17, 1932, the tank school of the United States Army officially moved from Fort Meade, Maryland, to Fort Benning;

Whereas Fort Benning played a critical role in World War II, training thousands of soldiers for the European, African, and Pacific theaters of war;

Whereas, on June 25, 1940, the commandant of the Infantry School was directed by the Adjutant General to provide a platoon of volunteers for parachute test duty, leading to the formation of the Parachute Test Platoon;

Whereas, on September 16, 1940, the War Department approved the formation of the first Parachute Battalion at Fort Benning;

Whereas, on October 1, 1940, the 501st Parachute Battalion was activated;

Whereas, in July 1941, the modern Officer Candidate School for Infantry was established at Fort Benning to provide a rigorous training venue for new officers;

Whereas, in December 1943, the 555th Parachute Infantry Company, later redesignated as Company A, 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, the first African-American parachute unit, which was known as "Triple Nickles", was activated at Fort Benning;

Whereas, after World War II, Fort Benning continued to play a vital role in training soldiers for every conflict involving the United States;

Whereas the Ranger Training Center was established on October 12, 1950, which trained personnel for the Korean War;

Whereas, during the Korean War, Fort Benning opened the Officer Candidate School on February 18, 1951, which has trained—

(1) thousands of infantry officers to serve as leaders in the Army; and

(2) since 1973, officers of all branches to serve as leaders in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the 11th Air Assault Division was activated at Fort Benning on February 7, 1963, to test and develop the air mobile concept;

Whereas the 11th Air Assault Division was inactivated on July 1, 1965, and replaced by the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and deployed to Vietnam on September 11, 1965, specializing in flying troops in and out of combat zones via helicopter;

Whereas Fort Benning served as a major staging ground for troops sent to the Middle East during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, and later during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas, in 2009, tanks from the Armor School at Fort Knox arrived at Fort Benning, combining infantry and armor at 1 post and forming the Maneuver Center of Excellence;

Whereas, on August 16, 2017, the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade was activated at Fort Benning and subsequently deployed to Afghanistan to assist forces of the Government of Afghanistan;

Whereas the Maneuver Center of Excellence consists of—

(1) the Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate;

(2) the United States Army Infantry School;

(3) the United States Army Armor School;

(4) the 194th Armored Brigade, 316th Cavalry Brigade, and 198th and 199th Infantry Brigades;

(5) the Directorate of Training and Doctrine; and

(6) additional tenant units;

Whereas some of the most respected United States military leaders in the 20th century were stationed at Fort Benning, including—

- (1) General Omar Bradley;
- (2) General Dwight Eisenhower;
- (3) General George Marshall;
- (4) General George Patton;
- (5) General William Livsey; and
- (6) General Colin Powell;

Whereas Fort Benning has helped foster changes in the role of women in the military;

Whereas, on December, 14, 1973, Privates Joyce Kutsch and Rita Johnson became the first women to graduate the Basic Airborne Course, and later, the United States Army Quartermaster School Parachute Rigger Course;

Whereas, on August 21, 2015, Captain Kristen Griest and 1st Lieutenant Shaye Haver became the first 2 women to graduate from the Army Ranger School at Fort Benning;

Whereas, on December 1, 2016, 13 women became the first ever to graduate from the Army Armor Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Benning;

Whereas, on May 19, 2017, Company A, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 198th Infantry Brigade, graduated 137 new Infantry soldiers, including 18 women who completed the first inter-gender Infantry One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning;

Whereas, on June 22, 2017, 4 women became the first ever to graduate from the Cavalry School of the Army at Fort Benning;

Whereas Fort Benning is the sixth largest military installation in the United States covering approximately 182,000 acres, with a \$5,500,000,000 economic impact to the “Tri-Community” and approximately 120,000 military and civilian personnel;

Whereas the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Columbus, Columbus 2025, and other partnering groups fought to establish and have continued to support Fort Benning from its inception;

Whereas the people of the Tri-Community fought to establish and have continued to support Fort Benning from its inception; and

Whereas the following visionary citizens displayed the foresight, vision, and leadership to fight to establish Camp Benning near Columbus, Georgia:

- (1) Mr. John Betjeman.
- (2) Mr. Rhodes Browne.
- (3) Mr. John Ralston Cargill.
- (4) Mr. Lucius H. Chappell.
- (5) Mr. Henry B. Crawford.
- (6) Mr. J. Homer Dimon.
- (7) Mr. Robert Ernest Dismukes.
- (8) Mr. W. J. Fielder.
- (9) Mr. Reynolds Flournoy.
- (10) Mr. Frank U. Garrard.
- (11) Mr. Ralph Curtis Jordan.
- (12) Mr. Albert Kirven.
- (13) Mr. A. F. Kunze.
- (14) Mr. Frank G. Lumpkin.
- (15) Mr. Leighton W. MacPherson.
- (16) Mr. H. R. McClatchey.
- (17) Mr. T. T. Miller.
- (18) Mr. Marshall Morton.
- (19) Mr. Roger M. Page.
- (20) Mr. T. G. Reeves.
- (21) Mr. Walter A. Richards.
- (22) Mr. H. C. Smith: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia, on its 100th anniversary;

(2) commends the thousands of men and women who have worked and trained at Fort Benning;

(3) honors the people of the “Tri-Community” including those in Columbus, Georgia, and Phenix City, Alabama, for their continued support of Fort Benning; and

(4) encourages Fort Benning to continue its instrumental role in preparing the brave men and women of the United States for the battlefield.

SENATE RESOLUTION 73—CALLING ON THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA TO IMMEDIATELY RELEASE SAUDI WOMEN’S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AND RESPECT THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF ALL SAUDI CITIZENS

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SASSE, Mr. KAINE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 73

Whereas the United States Government and the Government of Saudi Arabia share an important security partnership;

Whereas Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said during an April 2018 interview with *The Atlantic* magazine, “I support women . . . In our religion there is no difference between men and women . . . We don’t want divided treatment for different people”;

Whereas Saudi authorities, since Mohammed bin Salman became Crown Prince, have relaxed some repressive restrictions on women, including by allowing women to drive, attend certain sporting events, and enter some professions which were previously closed to them;

Whereas, in May 2018, Saudi authorities began arresting women’s rights activists and their supporters, including those who had campaigned for the right to drive ahead of the government’s announcement granting women the right to drive effective June 24, 2018;

Whereas those detained included—

- (1) Samar Badawi, who petitioned Saudi authorities to allow women the right to drive, vote, and run in municipal elections;
- (2) Nouf Abdelaziz, who expressed solidarity with arrested women’s rights activists;
- (3) Mayaa al-Zahrani, an activist and friend of Abdelaziz;
- (4) Nassima al-Sadah, who campaigned for the right to drive and against the government’s male guardianship laws;
- (5) Hatoun al-Fassi, a professor of women’s history who was one of the first Saudi women to acquire a driver’s license; and
- (6) Loujain al-Hathloul who spent 73 days in detention for defying the driving ban in 2014–15;

Whereas one of the detained women, Aziza al-Youssef, is a United States permanent resident who maintains a residence in Virginia;

Whereas Saudi authorities, on June 2, 2018, announced that they would provisionally release eight individuals and refer nine individuals to trial, where they could face the following serious charges that carry penalties of up to 20 years in prison “cooperating with entities hostile to the kingdom,” “recruiting persons in a sensitive government agency to obtain confidential information to harm the interests of the kingdom,” and “providing financial and moral support to hostile elements abroad”;

Whereas, in 2012, Samar Badawi, one of the activists detained by the Saudi authorities, received the International Women of Courage Award from the United States Department of State;

Whereas Samar Badawi’s brother, Raif Badawi, has remained imprisoned in Saudi Arabia since 2012 and was publically flogged for his work calling for free speech on his website “Free Saudi Liberals” and his lawyer, Waleed Abu al-Khair, is serving a 15-

year sentence for his work defending human rights;

Whereas, according to a 2018 Human Rights Watch report, “Saudi interrogators tortured at least three of the Saudi women activists’ detained beginning in May 2018”;

Whereas the reports of torture include electric shocks, whippings, beatings, and sexual harassment and assault;

Whereas, according to news reports, a top adviser of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saud al-Qahtani, has been present during interrogation sessions with the women’s rights activists;

Whereas, on January 16, 2019, more than 200 academics from around the world sent a letter to the Saudi King calling on the Government of Saudi Arabia to release “Dr Hatoun Aiwad-al-Fassi and other women’s rights advocates who remain in detention”;

Whereas the United States Senate resolved on International Women’s Day on March 8, 2018, that the empowerment of women is inextricably linked to the potential of a country to generate economic growth, sustainable democracy, and inclusive security;

Whereas the Department of State’s 2017 report on human rights practices in Saudi Arabia stated that the Government of Saudi Arabia’s review of guardianship laws had not yet been completed, that the Government of Saudi Arabia restricts the foreign travel of women, and that the Government of Saudi Arabia continues to discriminate against women;

Whereas the arrests of women’s rights activists and their supporters since May 2018 are contrary to the Government of Saudi Arabia’s stated reform goals; and

Whereas the detention and reported abuse of women’s rights activists and the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, a Washington Post journalist and United States resident, demonstrate a blatant disregard for human rights and the freedom of expression: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to immediately release and drop any politically motivated charges against the detained Saudi women’s rights activists related to peaceful activities to advance human rights in Saudi Arabia, which are protected under international law;

(2) expresses concern over the reported use of torture by the Government of Saudi Arabia against the women’s activists, and urges investigation into such allegations and the holding accountable of perpetrators;

(3) recognizes that the strategic relationship with Saudi Arabia is in the national interest of the United States;

(4) reaffirms that the global recognition and protection of basic human rights, including women’s rights, is in the national security interest of the United States;

(5) urges the Government of Saudi Arabia to reform its laws that restrict basic human rights, including women’s rights, such as by abolishing the male guardianship system;

(6) urges the President and the Secretary of State to affirm the support of the United States for the right of activists to peacefully advocate for the protection of universal human rights;

(7) calls on the President to press the Government of Saudi Arabia to immediately release all political prisoners, human rights defenders, journalists, and bloggers, including Raif Badawi, Waleed Abu al-Khair, and others who support religious freedom, and the women’s rights activists detained after May 2018; and

(8) calls on the President to comply with the request submitted under subsection (d) of section 1263 of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328; 22 U.S.C. 2656

note) for a determination under subsection (a) of that section with respect to the persons responsible for the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

SENATE RESOLUTION 74—MARKING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S REVOLUTION OF DIGNITY BY HONORING THE BRAVERY, DETERMINATION, AND SACRIFICE OF THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE DURING AND SINCE THE REVOLUTION, AND CONDEMNING CONTINUED RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. ERNST, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. JONES) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 74

Whereas, on November 21, 2013, peaceful protests began on Independence Square (Maidan) in Kyiv against the decision by the government of then-President Viktor Yanukovich to suspend signing the Ukraine-European Union (EU) Association Agreement and instead pursue closer ties with the Russian Federation;

Whereas the Maidan protests, initially referred to as the Euromaidan, quickly drew thousands of people and broadened to become a general demonstration in support of Ukraine's integration with the European Union and against the corrupt Yanukovich regime;

Whereas, on the night of November 30, 2013, Ukrainian police forces surrounded and violently dispersed peaceful protestors on the Maidan;

Whereas the next day, thousands of Euromaidan demonstrators regrouped and resumed the protests for three months, despite facing continuing and increasing violence from the police;

Whereas, on January 16, 2014, anti-protest laws, known as the "dictatorship laws", were adopted by the Government of Ukraine, which sought to restrict the actions of the Euromaidan protestors;

Whereas these laws were condemned by Euromaidan protestors as well as Western officials, including then-Secretary of State John Kerry, who called them "anti-democratic";

Whereas many of these laws were repealed just 11 days after being signed into law;

Whereas, on the night of February 18, 2014, police assaulted and burned down the Trade Union Building in Kyiv, which had been used as a headquarters for the Euromaidan movement;

Whereas Yanukovich's government forces began using live ammunition against the Euromaidan movement, leading to the deaths of more than a hundred protestors who are now remembered in Ukraine as the "Heavenly Hundred";

Whereas, on February 21, 2014, in the face of the ongoing Euromaidan protests demanding his resignation, then-President Viktor Yanukovich fled Kyiv, and then fled Ukraine the next day;

Whereas, on February 22, 2014, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine recognized that Yanukovich had ceased his functions as president, voted him from office, and scheduled early presidential elections for May 25, 2014;

Whereas, on February 25, 2014, fulfilling demands of the Maidan, Ukraine's special police force known as the Berkut was dissolved, as it had been heavily involved in the violence against the Euromaidan protestors;

Whereas the Ukrainian government's use of force against activists throughout the Euromaidan protests, including the use of live bullets, was widely condemned by Western governments, including the United States, and ultimately failed to discourage the Euromaidan movement;

Whereas, on September 1, 2017, the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement came into force after its signing by the Government of Ukraine and the EU;

Whereas, in response to Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity, the Russian Federation launched military aggression against Ukraine, illegally occupied Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, and instigated a war in eastern Ukraine, which is still ongoing and has killed more than 10,000 Ukrainians;

Whereas the Russian Federation's attempted invasion and annexation of Crimea has been widely seen as an effort to stifle pro-democracy developments across Ukraine in 2014 in the wake of the Revolution of Dignity;

Whereas 2019 marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Budapest Memorandum, which committed the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Russian Federation to refrain from the threat or use of force against Ukraine's territorial integrity in exchange for Ukraine giving up its nuclear weapons;

Whereas the Russian Federation is a signatory to the 1994 Budapest Memorandum and thus committed to respect the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation is further obligated to respect the sovereignty of Ukraine pursuant to its commitments as a signatory to the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of the United Nations;

Whereas, on March 27, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 68/262 calling on states and international organizations not to recognize any change in Crimea's status and affirmed the commitment of the United Nations to recognize Crimea as part of Ukraine;

Whereas the United States and European Union have imposed sanctions on individuals and entities who have enabled the attempted invasion, annexation, and occupation of Crimea;

Whereas, pursuant to the Revolution of Dignity's goal of fighting corruption in Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law on the National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) of Ukraine on October 14, 2014;

Whereas, on June 26, 2017, the Law of Ukraine On the Establishment of the High Anti-Corruption Court was signed into law;

Whereas, on July 5, 2018, the Law on National Security was adopted, which has strengthened civilian control over the Ukrainian military, increased transparency in the security sector, and more clearly delineated the powers of law enforcement agencies;

Whereas, on January 6, 2019, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople granted autocephaly to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, thus establishing the first independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church in over 300 years;

Whereas despite requests by the Government of Ukraine, the Government of the Russian Federation has repeatedly refused to extradite former President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich to stand trial in Ukraine;

Whereas, on January 24, 2019, a Ukrainian court found Yanukovich guilty in absentia of high treason and complicity in conducting an aggressive war against Ukraine, and sentenced him to 13 years in prison;

Whereas, in order to help Ukraine preserve its sovereignty in the face of Russian aggression, the United States Government has provided Ukraine with over \$1,000,000,000 in security assistance, including critical defensive items such as Javelin anti-tank missiles and Island-class cutters; and

Whereas, in the 115th Congress, both the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives passed resolutions commemorating the 85th anniversary of the Holodomor, the Soviet Union's manmade famine that it committed against the people of Ukraine in 1932 and 1933: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) remembers the courage and resolve shown by the Ukrainian people in the Revolution of Dignity;

(2) solemnly honors the "Heavenly Hundred" who were killed during the Revolution of Dignity while fighting for the causes of freedom and democracy in Ukraine;

(3) applauds the progress that the Government of Ukraine has made since the Revolution of Dignity in strengthening the rule of law, aligning itself with Euro-Atlantic norms and standards, and improving military combat readiness and interoperability with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

(4) encourages the Government of Ukraine to continue implementing crucial reforms to fight corruption, build strong and free markets, and strengthen democracy and the rule of law;

(5) affirms the United States Government's unwavering commitment to supporting the continuing efforts of the Government of Ukraine to implement democratic and free market reforms, restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity, as well as providing additional lethal and non-lethal security assistance to strengthen Ukraine's defense capabilities on land, sea, and in the air in order to improve deterrence against Russian aggression;

(6) condemns the Russian Federation's ongoing malign activities against Ukraine and renews its call on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately cease all activity that seeks to undermine Ukraine and destabilize the European continent;

(7) reiterates its strong condemnation of the provocative actions and unjustified use of military force by the Government of the Russian Federation in the Kerch Strait against the Ukrainian Navy on November 25, 2018, as a blatant violation of the Russian Federation's commitments under international law and the 2003 Treaty Between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on Cooperation in the Use of the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait;

(8) expresses its support to all Ukrainian political prisoners convicted on fabricated charges and incarcerated by Russian or Russian-controlled authorities, including the Ukrainian sailors seized in the November 25, 2018, attack near the Kerch Strait who are due treatment under the 1949 Geneva Conventions and have been illegally kept in detention in the territory of the Russian Federation, while renewing its strong call on the Kremlin to immediately release these Ukrainian citizens;

(9) affirms the Department of State's Crimea Declaration, announced on July 25, 2018, that rejects Russia's attempted annexation of Crimea and pledges to maintain this policy until Ukraine's territorial integrity is restored;

(10) believes that the Nord Stream 2 pipeline poses a major threat to European security, seeks to further undermine Ukraine's economic stability, and threatens to increase the country's vulnerability to further Russian military incursions;

(11) calls upon the United States Government, as well as its international allies and partners, to maintain a strong sanctions regime against the Russian Federation until it upholds its international obligations towards Ukraine, including the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances and the Minsk Agreements; and

(12) congratulates the people of Ukraine on the announcement on January 6, 2019, of autocephaly for an independent Orthodox Church of Ukraine, which has marked an important milestone in Ukraine's pursuit of its own future free from Russian influence.

SENATE RESOLUTION 75—HONORING THE LIFE, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE OF JOHN DAVID DINGELL, JR., AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO HIS FAMILY ON HIS PASSING

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 75

Whereas, on February 8, 2019, the death of Representative John David Dingell, Jr. (referred to in this preamble as "John Dingell"), former Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, brought a sense of deep personal loss—

(1) to his family, including his wife, Representative Deborah "Debbie" Dingell of the 12th congressional district of Michigan, and his children and grandchildren;

(2) to his many former colleagues and friends;

(3) to Members of Congress; and
(4) to the people of the United States;

Whereas John Dingell represented the people of southeastern Michigan with distinction in the House of Representatives for 59 years, from December 13, 1955, to January 3, 2015, making John Dingell the longest serving Member of either chamber of Congress in the history of the United States;

Whereas the father of John Dingell, the late John David Dingell, Sr., preceded John Dingell in service as a Member of the House of Representatives from March 4, 1933, to September 19, 1955;

Whereas the wife of John Dingell, Deborah Dingell, succeeded John Dingell on January 3, 2015, and continues to serve as a Member of the House of Representatives;

Whereas the people of southeastern Michigan have entrusted John David Dingell, Sr., John Dingell, and Deborah Dingell together to serve as their voice in Congress for the past 86 years;

Whereas John Dingell was raised from the age of 6 in southeast Michigan, the home State of the parents of John Dingell, and the State that John David Dingell, Sr., was elected to serve in the 73rd Congress;

Whereas John Dingell was fiercely proud of his Polish-American roots and throughout his life shared the joys of his heritage with others, including by delivering paczki pas-

tries to colleagues, staff of the House of Representatives, and visitors to the Capitol;

Whereas John Dingell had his first taste of public service and participation in government as a page for the House of Representatives;

Whereas John Dingell, while serving as a page for the House of Representatives, in the Hall of the House of Representatives on December 8, 1941, witnessed President Franklin Roosevelt deliver the iconic address asking for a declaration of war against Japan following the bombing of Pearl Harbor;

Whereas John Dingell was drafted into the United States Army at the age of 18 and served honorably;

Whereas John Dingell received a Bachelor of Science degree and a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University;

Whereas, prior to being elected to the House of Representatives, John Dingell worked—

(1) in private law practice;

(2) as a park ranger with the National Park Service; and

(3) as an assistant prosecutor;

Whereas John Dingell was elected to the House of Representatives following the death of John David Dingell, Sr., in 1955 and was reelected 29 times;

Whereas John Dingell—

(1) advocated for affordable health insurance coverage for seniors in the United States, a cause championed by John David Dingell, Sr.; and

(2) worked to secure the enactment of the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) in 1965, presiding over the passage of the Social Security Amendments of 1965 (Public Law 89-97; 79 Stat. 286) in the House of Representatives;

Whereas John Dingell witnessed President Lyndon B. Johnson sign into law the Social Security Amendments of 1965 (Public Law 89-97; 79 Stat. 286), which enacted the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.);

Whereas John Dingell was a crusader for the environment, helping to author and shepherd to passage—

(1) the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

(2) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(3) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (Public Law 92-500; 86 Stat. 816), which formed the basis of the modern Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(4) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(5) the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

Whereas John Dingell fought to make civil rights a part of the platform of the Democratic Party in 1960, standing up to people who believed it would alienate certain voters and declaring that making civil rights a platform issue was the right thing to do;

Whereas John Dingell was a strong supporter in the House of Representatives of—

(1) the Civil Rights Act of 1957 (Public Law 85-315; 71 Stat. 634);

(2) the Civil Rights Act of 1960 (Public Law 86-449; 74 Stat. 86);

(3) the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.); and

(4) the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.);

Whereas John Dingell served as chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives from January 3, 1981, to January 3, 1995, and again from January 3, 2007, to January 3, 2009, and served as the ranking minority member during the years in between, making John Dingell the senior Democratic member on that Committee for 26 years;

Whereas, during every Congress in which he served, John Dingell introduced legislation to provide universal access to health care;

Whereas, in 2010, John Dingell invited Speaker Nancy Pelosi to use the gavel with which he presided over passage of the Social Security Amendments of 1965 (Public Law 89-97; 79 Stat. 286), which included the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.), to preside over passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18001 et seq.) in the House of Representatives;

Whereas John Dingell, over the course of his tenure in the House of Representatives, served with the following 11 Presidents: Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama;

Whereas John Dingell served as Dean of the House of Representatives from January 3, 1995, to January 3, 2015;

Whereas John Dingell retired from the House of Representatives in 2015 and was succeeded by his beloved wife, Deborah, whom he referred to as his "lovely Deborah";

Whereas Deborah Dingell carries on the legacy of John Dingell and now serves as co-chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee in the Democratic Caucus;

Whereas, in 2014, President Barack Obama awarded John Dingell the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor of the United States;

Whereas John Dingell, both before and after retirement, gathered a large following on Twitter, where he demonstrated wit, wisdom, and clever commentary on politics in the United States while promoting greater civility, patriotism, tolerance, justice, and inclusion; and

Whereas John Dingell was held in the highest esteem by Members of Congress from both parties because of his record tenure in office, sharp intellect, good humor, congeniality, and belief in working together to achieve consensus through trust and camaraderie: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life, achievements, and distinguished public service of John David Dingell, Jr.; and

(2) expresses condolences to the family of John David Dingell, Jr., on his passing.

SENATE RESOLUTION 76—DESIGNATING MARCH 1, 2019, AS "NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE EDUCATION DAY"

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 76

Whereas it is essential for youth to learn and practice the art of communicating with and without technology;

Whereas speech and debate education offers students myriad forms of public speaking through which students may develop talent and exercise unique voice and character;

Whereas speech and debate education gives students the 21st-century skills of communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration;

Whereas critical analysis and effective communication allow important ideas, texts, and philosophies the opportunity to flourish;

Whereas personal, professional, and civic interactions are enhanced by the ability of

the participants in those interactions to listen, concur, question, and dissent with reason and compassion;

Whereas students who participate in speech and debate have chosen a challenging activity that requires regular practice, dedication, and hard work;

Whereas teachers and coaches of speech and debate devote in-school, afterschool, and weekend hours to equip students with life-changing skills and opportunities;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day emphasizes the lifelong impact of providing people of the United States with the confidence and preparation to both discern and share views;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day acknowledges that most achievements, celebrations, commemorations, and pivotal moments in modern history begin, end, or are crystallized with public address;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day recognizes that learning to research, construct, and present an argument is integral to personal advocacy, social movements, and the making of public policy;

Whereas the National Speech & Debate Association, in conjunction with national and local partners, honors and celebrates the importance of speech and debate through National Speech and Debate Education Day; and

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day emphasizes the importance of speech and debate education and the integration of speech and debate education across grade levels and disciplines: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 1, 2019, as “National Speech and Debate Education Day”;

(2) strongly affirms the purposes of National Speech and Debate Education Day; and

(3) encourages educational institutions, businesses, community and civic associations, and all people of the United States to celebrate and promote National Speech and Debate Education Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 77—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16 THROUGH 23, 2019, AS “NATIONAL FFA WEEK,” RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION IN DEVELOPING YOUNG LEADERS, AND CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF FEMALE MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KING, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. JONES, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ENZI, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. ROMNEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 77

Whereas Future Farmers of America (FFA) was established in 1928 and is now known as the National FFA Organization;

Whereas the National FFA Organization is comprised of more than 8,500 chapters in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and Washington, D.C.;

Whereas more than 650,000 students in secondary schools, community and technical colleges, and universities are members of the National FFA Organization;

Whereas 2019 marks 50 years of female membership in the National FFA Organization;

Whereas the National FFA Organization welcomes students with diverse backgrounds;

Whereas the mission of the National FFA Organization is to develop the potential of students for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education;

Whereas, through classroom education and hands-on work experience, the National FFA Organization prepares students for college and a broad range of careers, including more than 255 careers in agriculture;

Whereas members of the National FFA Organization strengthen their communities through service and by preparing the next generation of leaders to meet agricultural challenges; and

Whereas members of the National FFA Organization will celebrate National FFA Week during the week of February 16 through 23, 2019: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 16 through 23, 2019, as “National FFA Week”;

(2) recognizes the important role of the National FFA Organization in developing young leaders and providing educational and career opportunities to students; and

(3) celebrates 50 years of female membership in the National FFA Organization.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4—PROVIDING FOR A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.J. RES. 31

Mr. SHELBY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 4

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That, in the enrollment of the joint resolution H.J. Res. 31, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall amend the long title so as to read: “Making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.”.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 5—SUPPORTING THE LOCAL RADIO FREEDOM ACT

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. UDALL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. CON. RES. 5

Whereas the United States enjoys broadcasting and sound recording industries that are the envy of the world due to the symbiotic relationship that has existed among these industries for many decades;

Whereas, for nearly a century, Congress has rejected repeated calls by the recording industry to impose a performance fee on local radio stations for simply playing music on the radio, as such a fee would upset the mutually beneficial relationship between local radio and the recording industry;

Whereas local radio stations provide free publicity and promotion to the recording industry and performers of music in the form of radio airplay, interviews with performers, introduction of new performers, concert promotions, and publicity that promotes the sale of music, concert tickets, ring tones, music videos, and associated merchandise;

Whereas committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives have previously reported that “the sale of many sound recordings and the careers of many performers have benefitted considerably from airplay and other promotional activities provided by both noncommercial and advertiser-supported, free over-the-air broadcasting”;

Whereas local radio broadcasters provide tens of thousands of hours of essential local news and weather information during times of national emergencies and natural disasters, as well as public affairs programming, sports, and hundreds of millions of dollars worth of time for public service announcements and local fund raising efforts for worthy charitable causes, all of which are jeopardized if local radio stations are forced to divert revenues to pay for a new performance fee;

Whereas there are many thousands of local radio stations that will suffer severe economic hardship if any new performance fee is imposed, as will many other small businesses that play music, including bars, restaurants, retail establishments, sports and other entertainment venues, shopping centers, and transportation facilities; and

Whereas the hardship that would result from a new performance fee would hurt businesses in the United States and ultimately the consumers in the United States who rely on local radio for news, weather, and entertainment, and such a performance fee is not justified when the current system has produced the most prolific and innovative broadcasting, music, and sound recording industries in the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress should not impose any new performance fee, tax, royalty, or other charge—

(1) relating to the public performance of sound recordings on a local radio station for broadcasting sound recordings over the air; or

(2) on any business for the public performance of sound recordings on a local radio station broadcast over the air.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 190. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RISCH)) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 1, calling for credible, transparent, and safe elections in Nigeria, and for other purposes.

SA 191. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RISCH)) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 1, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 190. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RISCH)) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 1, calling for credible, transparent, and safe elections in Nigeria, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: “That Congress—

(1) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to supporting peace and democracy in Nigeria;

(2) calls on the Government of Nigeria and all Nigerian political parties and actors to—

(A) take actions to facilitate credible, transparent, and peaceful elections that reflect the will of the people and advance the consolidation of democracy and the stability of the broader region;

(B) condemn in the strongest terms the use of speech that incites violence, and refrain from efforts to demonize or delegitimize opponents, sow division among Nigerians, or otherwise inflame tensions;

(C) seek to resolve any disputes over results peacefully, including through judicial processes as necessary;

(D) respect the impartiality of the Independent National Electoral Commission; and

(E) take measures to combat vote buying;

(3) calls on the Government of Nigeria to—

(A) refrain from deploying security forces in a partisan manner;

(B) ensure that security services maintain the highest level of professionalism and impartiality in facilitating the electoral process, enable accredited observers and journalists to perform their work, and protect the right of citizens to exercise their votes freely; and

(C) enforce laws against election malfeasance, including vote buying, and ensure equal and robust application of such laws through appropriate mechanisms, including through the establishment of an Electoral Offenses Commission and Tribunal;

(4) urges all Nigerians to fully and peacefully engage in the electoral process, insist on full enfranchisement, reject inflammatory or divisive rhetoric or actions, and seek to resolve any disputes over results through the legal system;

(5) calls upon the Independent National Electoral Commission to sustain confidence and trust in its management of the electoral process by taking effective measures to—

(A) combat vote buying through voter education campaigns;

(B) institute a nationwide ban on cell phones in the voting cubicle;

(C) ensure the participation in the election of internally displaced persons (IDPs); and

(D) clean the voter rolls and ensure timely production and distribution of the Permanent Voter Card to new voters;

(6) encourages political parties in Nigeria to adhere to and enforce existing codes of conduct that commit parties to democratic electoral standards regarding campaign use of resources, engagement of voters, peaceful resolution of disputes, and acceptance of verified and credible results;

(7) condemns any efforts on the part of any politicians or political parties in Nigeria to politicize the security and law enforcement agencies;

(8) encourages civil society organizations in Nigeria to—

(A) promote the peaceful participation of citizens in the electoral process and draw on existing inter-religious and peacebuilding bodies to enhance their efforts;

(B) disseminate information about citizen-based observation findings and analysis to increase public knowledge and understanding about the conduct of the elections; and

(C) continue leading important early warning and response activities to mitigate election-related violence, including monitoring efforts to incite violence or further inflame tensions;

(9) supports efforts by the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to assist elections preparations in Nigeria, including through programs focused on conflict mitigation; and

(10) calls on the United States Government and other international partners, especially

election-focused nongovernmental organizations, to—

(A) continue to support efforts by the Government of Nigeria to address the remaining electoral preparation challenges and identify gaps in which additional resources or diplomatic engagement could make important contributions to the conduct of credible, transparent elections; and

(B) support civil society organizations and media organizations working to enhance transparency and accountability in the use of state resources around the election period.

SA 191. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RISCH)) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 1, calling for credible, transparent, and safe elections in Nigeria, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas it is in the national interest of the United States to maintain a strong bilateral relationship with a politically stable, democratic, and economically sound Nigeria that can play a leadership role in the region and the continent more broadly;

Whereas Nigeria has presidential and National Assembly elections scheduled for February 16, 2019, and gubernatorial and state-level elections scheduled for March 2, 2019;

Whereas credible, transparent, and peaceful elections could further consolidate democratic gains achieved in Nigeria since the transition from military to civilian democratic rule;

Whereas a 2017 survey conducted by Afrobarometer found that the overwhelming majority of Nigerians agreed that democratic elections are the best means of choosing their country's leaders, thus indicating that the country's citizens are deeply committed to democracy;

Whereas collaboration between civil society actors and the international community was a key factor that contributed to successful elections in 2015;

Whereas successive elections in Nigeria have featured varying degrees of violence;

Whereas both the ruling coalition and opposition parties have incited ethnic violence in an apparent effort to gain electoral advantage, intimidate electoral rivals, and suppress voter turnout;

Whereas, during the Ekiti and Osun gubernatorial elections in July 2018 and September 2018, respectively, there were concerning incidents in which some elements of Nigeria's security agencies displayed partisanship and a lack of objectivity, which risks escalating tensions within the country;

Whereas Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has taken important steps to improve electoral processes, notably through the introduction of continuous voter registration, the adoption of simultaneous accreditation and voting, improvements to the secrecy of the ballot, and the advancement of smart card reader technology;

Whereas remaining challenges to the conduct of credible, transparent, and peaceful elections in Nigeria include the failure to enact additional, critical reforms to the legal framework for elections, instances of vote buying, reported security threats in the Middle Belt and North East, incitement, and disinformation; and

Whereas ensuring transparency in electoral preparations and building public confidence in the electoral process is vital to the success of the upcoming elections in Nigeria: Now, therefore, be it

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I have 4 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 Thursday, February 14, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 14, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Bimal Patel, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Todd M. Harper, of Virginia, and Rodney Hood, of North Carolina, both to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board, and Mark Anthony Calabria, of Virginia, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 14, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 14, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the senior Senator from Nebraska and the senior Senator from Arkansas be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions on February 15.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 75, S. Res. 76, and S. Res. 77.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measures en bloc?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the

motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CALLING FOR CREDIBLE, TRANSPARENT, AND SAFE ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 1, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 1) calling for credible, transparent, and safe elections in Nigeria, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the Menendez-Risch substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the Menendez-Risch amendment to the preamble, at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 190) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To provide a complete substitute)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: "That Congress—

(1) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to supporting peace and democracy in Nigeria;

(2) calls on the Government of Nigeria and all Nigerian political parties and actors to—

(A) take actions to facilitate credible, transparent, and peaceful elections that reflect the will of the people and advance the consolidation of democracy and the stability of the broader region;

(B) condemn in the strongest terms the use of speech that incites violence, and refrain from efforts to demonize or delegitimize opponents, sow division among Nigerians, or otherwise inflame tensions;

(C) seek to resolve any disputes over results peacefully, including through judicial processes as necessary;

(D) respect the impartiality of the Independent National Electoral Commission; and

(E) take measures to combat vote buying;

(3) calls on the Government of Nigeria to—

(A) refrain from deploying security forces in a partisan manner;

(B) ensure that security services maintain the highest level of professionalism and impartiality in facilitating the electoral process, enable accredited observers and journal-

ists to perform their work, and protect the right of citizens to exercise their votes freely; and

(C) enforce laws against election malfeasance, including vote buying, and ensure equal and robust application of such laws through appropriate mechanisms, including through the establishment of an Electoral Offenses Commission and Tribunal;

(4) urges all Nigerians to fully and peacefully engage in the electoral process, insist on full enfranchisement, reject inflammatory or divisive rhetoric or actions, and seek to resolve any disputes over results through the legal system;

(5) calls upon the Independent National Electoral Commission to sustain confidence and trust in its management of the electoral process by taking effective measures to—

(A) combat vote buying through voter education campaigns;

(B) institute a nationwide ban on cell phones in the voting cubicle;

(C) ensure the participation in the election of internally displaced persons (IDPs); and

(D) clean the voter rolls and ensure timely production and distribution of the Permanent Voter Card to new voters;

(6) encourages political parties in Nigeria to adhere to and enforce existing codes of conduct that commit parties to democratic electoral standards regarding campaign use of resources, engagement of voters, peaceful resolution of disputes, and acceptance of verified and credible results;

(7) condemns any efforts on the part of any politicians or political parties in Nigeria to politicize the security and law enforcement agencies;

(8) encourages civil society organizations in Nigeria to—

(A) promote the peaceful participation of citizens in the electoral process and draw on existing inter-religious and peacebuilding bodies to enhance their efforts;

(B) disseminate information about citizen-based observation findings and analysis to increase public knowledge and understanding about the conduct of the elections; and

(C) continue leading important early warning and response activities to mitigate election-related violence, including monitoring efforts to incite violence or further inflame tensions;

(9) supports efforts by the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to assist elections preparations in Nigeria, including through programs focused on conflict mitigation; and

(10) calls on the United States Government and other international partners, especially election-focused nongovernmental organizations, to—

(A) continue to support efforts by the Government of Nigeria to address the remaining electoral preparation challenges and identify gaps in which additional resources or diplomatic engagement could make important contributions to the conduct of credible, transparent elections; and

(B) support civil society organizations and media organizations working to enhance transparency and accountability in the use of state resources around the election period.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 191) in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas it is in the national interest of the United States to maintain a strong bilat-

eral relationship with a politically stable, democratic, and economically sound Nigeria that can play a leadership role in the region and the continent more broadly;

Whereas Nigeria has presidential and National Assembly elections scheduled for February 16, 2019, and gubernatorial and state-level elections scheduled for March 2, 2019;

Whereas credible, transparent, and peaceful elections could further consolidate democratic gains achieved in Nigeria since the transition from military to civilian democratic rule;

Whereas a 2017 survey conducted by Afrobarometer found that the overwhelming majority of Nigerians agreed that democratic elections are the best means of choosing their country's leaders, thus indicating that the country's citizens are deeply committed to democracy;

Whereas collaboration between civil society actors and the international community was a key factor that contributed to successful elections in 2015;

Whereas successive elections in Nigeria have featured varying degrees of violence;

Whereas both the ruling coalition and opposition parties have incited ethnic violence in an apparent effort to gain electoral advantage, intimidate electoral rivals, and suppress voter turnout;

Whereas, during the Ekiti and Osun gubernatorial elections in July 2018 and September 2018, respectively, there were concerning incidents in which some elements of Nigeria's security agencies displayed partisanship and a lack of objectivity, which risks escalating tensions within the country;

Whereas Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has taken important steps to improve electoral processes, notably through the introduction of continuous voter registration, the adoption of simultaneous accreditation and voting, improvements to the secrecy of the ballot, and the advancement of smart card reader technology;

Whereas remaining challenges to the conduct of credible, transparent, and peaceful elections in Nigeria include the failure to enact additional, critical reforms to the legal framework for elections, instances of vote buying, reported security threats in the Middle Belt and North East, incitement, and disinformation; and

Whereas ensuring transparency in electoral preparations and building public confidence in the electoral process is vital to the success of the upcoming elections in Nigeria: Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 1

Whereas it is in the national interest of the United States to maintain a strong bilateral relationship with a politically stable, democratic, and economically sound Nigeria that can play a leadership role in the region and the continent more broadly;

Whereas Nigeria has presidential and National Assembly elections scheduled for February 16, 2019, and gubernatorial and state-level elections scheduled for March 2, 2019;

Whereas credible, transparent, and peaceful elections could further consolidate democratic gains achieved in Nigeria since the transition from military to civilian democratic rule;

Whereas a 2017 survey conducted by Afrobarometer found that the overwhelming majority of Nigerians agreed that democratic elections are the best means of choosing their country's leaders, thus indicating

that the country's citizens are deeply committed to democracy;

Whereas collaboration between civil society actors and the international community was a key factor that contributed to successful elections in 2015;

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Whereas remaining challenges to the conduct of credible, transparent, and peaceful elections in Nigeria include the failure to enact additional, critical reforms to the legal framework for elections, instances of vote buying, reported security threats in the Middle Belt and North East, incitement, and disinformation; and

Whereas ensuring transparency in electoral preparations and building public confidence in the electoral process is vital to the success of the upcoming elections in Nigeria: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to supporting peace and democracy in Nigeria;

(2) calls on the Government of Nigeria and all Nigerian political parties and actors to—

(A) take actions to facilitate credible, transparent, and peaceful elections that reflect the will of the people and advance the consolidation of democracy and the stability of the broader region;

(B) condemn in the strongest terms the use of speech that incites violence, and refrain from efforts to demonize or delegitimize opponents, sow division among Nigerians, or otherwise inflame tensions;

(C) seek to resolve any disputes over results peacefully, including through judicial processes as necessary;

(D) respect the impartiality of the Independent National Electoral Commission; and

(E) take measures to combat vote buying;

(3) calls on the Government of Nigeria to—

(A) refrain from deploying security forces in a partisan manner;

(B) ensure that security services maintain the highest level of professionalism and impartiality in facilitating the electoral process, enable accredited observers and journalists to perform their work, and protect the right of citizens to exercise their votes freely; and

(C) enforce laws against election malfeasance, including vote buying, and ensure equal and robust application of such laws through appropriate mechanisms, including through the establishment of an Electoral Offenses Commission and Tribunal;

(4) urges all Nigerians to fully and peacefully engage in the electoral process, insist on full enfranchisement, reject inflammatory or divisive rhetoric or actions, and seek to resolve any disputes over results through the legal system;

(5) calls upon the Independent National Electoral Commission to sustain confidence and trust in its management of the electoral process by taking effective measures to—

(A) combat vote buying through voter education campaigns;

(B) institute a nationwide ban on cell phones in the voting cubicle;

(C) ensure the participation in the election of internally displaced persons (IDPs); and

(D) clean the voter rolls and ensure timely production and distribution of the Permanent Voter Card to new voters;

(6) encourages political parties in Nigeria to adhere to and enforce existing codes of conduct that commit parties to democratic electoral standards regarding campaign use of resources, engagement of voters, peaceful resolution of disputes, and acceptance of verified and credible results;

(7) condemns any efforts on the part of any politicians or political parties in Nigeria to politicize the security and law enforcement agencies;

(8) encourages civil society organizations in Nigeria to—

(A) promote the peaceful participation of citizens in the electoral process and draw on existing inter-religious and peacebuilding bodies to enhance their efforts;

(B) disseminate information about citizen-based observation findings and analysis to increase public knowledge and understanding about the conduct of the elections; and

(C) continue leading important early warning and response activities to mitigate election-related violence, including monitoring efforts to incite violence or further inflame tensions;

(9) supports efforts by the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to assist elections preparations in Nigeria, including through programs focused on conflict mitigation; and

(10) calls on the United States Government and other international partners, especially election-focused nongovernmental organizations, to—

(A) continue to support efforts by the Government of Nigeria to address the remaining electoral preparation challenges and identify gaps in which additional resources or diplomatic engagement could make important contributions to the conduct of credible, transparent elections; and

(B) support civil society organizations and media organizations working to enhance transparency and accountability in the use of state resources around the election period.

ENACTING INTO LAW A BILL BY REFERENCE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 26, S. 483.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 483) to enact into law a bill by reference.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 483) passed, as follows:

S. 483

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

SEC. _____. (a) H.R. 1029 of the 115th Congress, as passed by the Senate on June 28, 2018, is enacted into law.

(b) In publishing this Act in slip form and in the United States Statutes at Large pursuant to section 112 of title 1, United States Code, the Archivist of the United States shall include after the date of approval at the end an appendix setting forth the text of the bill referred to in subsection (a).

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019, THROUGH MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, February 15, at 7 a.m.; Tuesday, February 19, at 10 a.m.; and Thursday, February 21, at 10 a.m.

I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, February 21, it next convene at 3 p.m., Monday, February 25; and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following the closing of morning business, Senator FISCHER be recognized to deliver Washington's Farewell Address; further, that following the address, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 311; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m., Monday, February 25.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator CARPER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Delaware.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I just want to start off with this. This is Valentine's Day, and there are different days of the year that are more special to us than others—other than Thanksgiving and Christmas. I even like Halloween. But I think Valentine's Day is very special.

For our loved ones, our spouses or significant others, and our children, we love them, and I hope they know that. But to the people who work here day in and day out, the folks who are here when it is a weekend, when other folks are maybe heading out for the holidays to visit their families across the country, we don't say thanks enough. So to all of them, from my heart and from my staff, and, I think, from all of us—Democrats and Republicans in the Senate—we want to say thank you and happy Valentine's Day.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I want to talk a little bit about John Dingell this evening, but before I do that, I just want to comment on the fact that we passed spending bills to fund our government for the balance of this fiscal year. That is a good thing—a good, good thing. I wish we had done it last year. In fact, we did—months ago. Democrats and Republicans joined together here almost unanimously to pass a spending plan for the balance of the fiscal year—all 13 appropriations bills, and they looked a whole lot like what we passed here today. Yet we went through a shutdown which created a lot of havoc and turmoil, not just for Federal employees but for the people whom they serve and we serve.

I have apologized for that, and I know other colleagues have as well. Hopefully, in the months ahead, we can make it up to the people who were inconvenienced. In many cases they were not just disadvantaged but treated very badly.

The President apparently is going to sign the spending bills we passed with broad bipartisan support, and I understand he is going to declare a state of emergency to be able to do additional things down at the border with Mexico.

Tomorrow morning at 6 a.m., I will lead a bipartisan delegation, with House and Senate Members, and we will not be going to the border. I have been there any number of times as chairman of the Homeland Security Committee. We are not going to go to the border this time.

The President was down there a couple of weeks ago, and standing at the border he said: There is a human catastrophe or tragedy going on at the border.

I thought to myself: Well, what is going on at the border is very unfortunate, but the real human tragedy is what is going on in three countries: Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. The illegal immigration, to my sur-

prise a couple of years ago, is not just coming from Mexico. In fact, today there are more Mexicans going back into Mexico from the United States than there are going the other way. I was surprised to learn that, but that is the case today.

Illegal immigration in our country is down about 80 percent from the year 2000, and the folks coming across the border illegally are coming from three countries—Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Each year in the last decade or so, they have vied for the title "Murder Capital of the World."

Their lives are made miserable because of our addiction to drugs. So having been complicit in their misery, the thought occurred to a number of us, including the last administration's President and Vice President and some of us in the House and the Senate, that maybe we should see why all of those people are coming out of Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador and trying to come into the United States.

I will tell a true story. Some of them come to Delaware. We have three counties in my State. The southernmost county, Sussex County, is a big county that raises a lot of corn, soybeans, and raise a lot of chickens. We process a lot of chickens. Over the years, a lot of folks come up from Guatemala to work in the agriculture and poultry industry.

About 2 or 3 years ago, we had an increase—a blip in migration—especially from Guatemala. I was in Sussex County, in Georgetown, the county seat, right in the middle of all of this poultry business. There are three chickens for every person in Delaware, to give you some idea of the extent of it.

I met with the folks at La Esperanza. That is Spanish for hope. It is a nonprofit. Their job is to try to help people who do make it across the border into our country and who have families, and they try to do some reconnection with their families.

But, anyway, I heard this story. There was a young man in Guatemala, a teenager, who was recruited by a gang there. He said he had to talk to his parents. He went to talk to his parents, and they said: We don't want you to join any gangs.

He went back, and the gang found him and approached him a couple of days later and said: Well, what do you think? Do you want to join our gang? He said: I talked to my parents, and they don't think it is the right thing for me to do now.

They said: Well, think about it some more.

A week or so later, they found him again and said: Well, what do you think? Are you ready to join our gang?

He said: No, I don't think I am going to do that now.

They said: If you don't join our gang, somebody in your family is going to die. Somebody in your family is going to die.

He went home, and he told his parents. They talked it over, and he joined the gang.

One of the things they do in these gangs—they have to go through an initiation. Part of his initiation was a requirement that he rape his 13-year-old sister. The son was like 15 years old, and one of the rites of passage is he had to rape his 13-year-old sister. He went home and told his parents what was expected of him. Within a week or two, the sister and the brother were on their way out of their country to try to be reunited with other relatives in the United States, and they ended up in Delaware. That is a human tragedy. I think if they had stayed there, it would have been probably an even greater human tragedy.

I am a big believer in root causes. Don't just address the symptoms of the problem. The symptom of the problem is people trying to get into our country and cross our borders illegally. That is a problem. That is a challenge. We need secure borders, but the root cause is what is going on in the countries that they are fleeing from—lack of rule of law, impunity, police who don't police, prosecutors who don't prosecute, judges who don't really administer the law, prisons that don't—correctional institutions that don't really correct behavior. Instead of turning out better people, they turn out better criminals. That has been a problem, and it has been a problem for some time.

Whenever we face a situation like this where an issue is really hard to deal with, what I like to say is, let's find out what works.

I am an old Governor. I used to be chairman of the National Governors Association. My last year as Governor, I chaired something in the NGA. In addition to being the Governor of Delaware, I chaired something called the Center for Best Practices. The idea was, how do we share solutions among Governors and among States for all the problems we face—some of the problems we face?

In trying to figure out how we help Guatemala and El Salvador sort of become less violent places, places with hope and opportunity—how can we help in that? So we looked around the world. We don't have to look too far, but if we look south of Central America, we find Colombia.

Colombia is a place where about 20 years ago, there were leftist guerillas trying to bring down the government, and there were drug lords trying to bring down the government. One day 20 years or so ago, a bunch of thugs rounded up the supreme court of the country—rounded them up, took them into a room, shot them all to death, killed them all.

Colombia was teetering, and it was not clear whether it was going to really make it as a nation. Some very brave people stood up and some of the leaders of Columbia stood up and said: We are not going to let these guys—whether it is the FARC, the leftist guerillas, or the drug lords—take over our country and take it down. We are going to fight back.

The United States, led by then-President Bill Clinton and by a guy who was serving as the chairman, I think, of the Foreign Relations Committee, Joe Biden, sort of made common calls with the President of Colombia, who was a very brave person, and said to the Colombians: You can do this. Stabilize your country. Make it a more livable, decent place to live. We can help because we are complicit in their misery, too, given our addiction to drugs.

Well, guess what. They started something called Plan Colombia, and for 20 years it has worked slowly. Slowly. An example of what we did is we provided Apache helicopters. Why did we do that? So that the Colombian police and the Colombian military would have the mobility they need to go across the country and go after the bad guys and take them on. That was just one of the many things that was happening in Plan Colombia.

But again, it is like Home Depot. You have Home Depot, Madam President, in your State, and we have them in mine. What is their saying? "You can do it, and we can help." So we said: Colombia, you can do it, and we can help. We are complicit in your misery, and we can help. And we have.

About a year or so ago, the President of Colombia won a Nobel Peace Prize. The leftist guerillas are—it is not perfect, but they are part of the government. Are drugs still a problem there? Yes, they are, but not like before. It is a country with a relatively bright future and one that we can be proud to call our friend and ally.

When we looked for a way to help in Central America—the Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador—we went to Colombia, and we said: Maybe it is possible to have a Central American version of Plan Colombia. And now we have that.

What we have done over the last 3, maybe 4 years, we funded those three countries in efforts to address some of the deficiencies that I just described—police who don't police, prosecutors who don't prosecute, judges who don't administer justice, and correctional institutions that don't really correct behavior. We have been doing this now for about 3 years, and our congressional delegation is going to go down there tomorrow and do a little bit of oversight and find out what is working in those three countries and what is not, whether they are meeting their responsibilities, and whether we are meeting our responsibilities.

You know, we can build a wall from sea to shining sea and from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico. It can be 30 feet tall. But unless somehow the root causes of that migration—and it ain't coming from Mexico—some but not much. Again, more Mexicans are going back into Mexico than are coming the other way.

We really want to help the people of the Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador address those root causes. You know, they are going to keep coming

up here, and if we lived there, we would want to come too.

You know, for what it is worth, we have had about 80 Presidential declarations of emergencies, I guess, in maybe the last century, and they were for Pearl Harbor, Katrina, 9/11, other disasters, some of them natural disasters, others. Since 2000, there has been an 80 percent reduction in illegal migration at the borders. Most of it is coming from these three countries, not Mexico. So we will see what happens with the declaration of emergency that the President is going to declare.

I think you have to be careful. To my Republican friends, I say this lovingly to you on Valentine's Day: The idea of a President invoking his powers, using his powers in this way, I am frankly not convinced that—while there certainly are challenges at the border, I have explained where I think the real challenges are, the real causes.

Someday, we will have a Democratic President, and he or she will be considering a range of options of what to do, and somebody is going to suggest: Well, in the earlier administration, the Trump administration, they declared it. So they will say: Well, I will just declare a national emergency and do what I want to do. That is a slippery slope, and I think that is one we need to be very careful about going on.

REMEMBERING JOHN DINGELL

Mr. CARPER. The last thing I would like to do, if I could, is I want to talk a little bit about John Dingell. I don't know if our Presiding Officer ever had a chance to meet him or know him. She says no—nods no.

I had the pleasure of knowing him I guess since 1982, 1983, when I was elected to the House. I was a Representative, and he was already there. I was the new guy, and I had been a treasurer of Delaware and a naval flight officer before that, and I finally retired from the Navy as a captain a few years ago.

He was so nice to me. He was a big guy, a giant of a man and kind of gruff. He was kind of gruff, and I can't imagine how the pages would have reacted to him if he yelled at them or frowned at them or growled at them. But for reasons that aren't all clear, he was really kind to me. I think in his heart that is what he was.

I like to work out. I like to run. I like to work out in gyms. They have a gym over at the House in the basement of the Rayburn Building. It is a pretty nice gym. We have one here. It is small by comparison. It is modest. I usually go home at night, but occasionally I would spend the night in DC when I was in the House, and the next morning I would go to the gym, and I would either go run out on the Mall, or I would lift weights or ride the bike or something in the gym. When I finished up, before I took a shower and got dressed, I would go in the steam room—the gym had a steam room in it—and a lot of times, John Dingell was in there.

I remember sitting there with him repeatedly over the years—not hundreds of times but many times. Sometimes there were several people there. We talked. Sometimes it was just the two of us. He gave me really good advice. He was like a mentor.

The day I was sworn in as a Congressman from Delaware, I was the dean of our delegation because we only had one, so I didn't really have like a big brother or a big sister in my delegation to look up to in the House. There was nobody else but me. I was brand new. John Dingell was nice, along with a bunch of other folks too. They kind of stepped up and gave me some of the guidance that I needed.

He was an interesting fellow because he chaired the Energy and Commerce Committee the whole time I was in the House and a long time after that, and he always looked out for his bread and butter. In Michigan, that is automobiles. This was a big deal. It was then, and it still is. So he always wanted to make sure that they had the predictability that they wanted and needed and that they could be successful. If I were the Senator or Representative from Michigan, I would want that too. But he also was really good on clean air issues, clean water issues, natural resource issues, open space issues, and agricultural issues.

I remember once on one of those mornings, we were talking about whether it is possible to be a good steward of the environment, mindful of air, water, open space, public health—is it possible to do all those things and also look out for job creation and job preservation, whether it is in Michigan or some other place?

My staff has heard me say this, I am tempted to say, a million times. Folks on the Environment and Public Works Committee, where I am a senior Democrat now, have heard me say this more often than they want to. I have always said it is possible to have clean air, clean water, better public health, do good things for our planet, and create jobs. They go hand-in-glove.

One of the first people who reminded me of that a long time ago was John Dingell. He supported the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. He supported the Clean Air Amendments in 1990, on which he was nice enough to let me offer a provision that was incorporated into the law. He did a lot to help preserve the auto industry not just in his State but in this country. He was an amazing guy.

Either the day he passed away or before he passed away, with his wife Debbie by his side—she is now a Congresswoman in his old seat—he shared with her some thoughts that he wanted to leave as part of his legacy at 92, and those words—I am not going to read them here today. I think they probably have already been read on the floor or introduced into the RECORD.

I ask unanimous consent that those words be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 8, 2019]

JOHN DINGELL: MY LAST WORDS FOR AMERICA

(By John D. Dingell)

John D. Dingell, a Michigan Democrat who served in the U.S. House from 1955 to 2015, was the longest-serving member of Congress in American history. He dictated these reflections to his wife, Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), at their home in Dearborn, on Feb. 7, the day he died.

One of the advantages to knowing that your demise is imminent, and that reports of it will not be greatly exaggerated, is that you have a few moments to compose some parting thoughts.

In our modern political age, the presidential bully pulpit seems dedicated to sowing division and denigrating, often in the most irrelevant and infantile personal terms, the political opposition.

And much as I have found Twitter to be a useful means of expression, some occasions merit more than 280 characters.

My personal and political character was formed in a different era that was kinder, if not necessarily gentler. We observed modicum of respect even as we fought, often bitterly and savagely, over issues that were literally life and death to a degree that—fortunately—we see much less of today.

Think about it:

Impoverishment of the elderly because of medical expenses was a common and often accepted occurrence. Opponents of the Medicare program that saved the elderly from that cruel fate called it “socialized medicine.” Remember that slander if there’s a sustained revival of silly red-baiting today.

Not five decades ago, much of the largest group of freshwater lakes on Earth—our own Great Lakes—were closed to swimming and fishing and other recreational pursuits because of chemical and bacteriological contamination from untreated industrial and wastewater disposal. Today, the Great Lakes are so hospitable to marine life that one of our biggest challenges is controlling the invasive species that have made them their new home.

We regularly used and consumed foods, drugs, chemicals and other things (cigarettes) that were legal, promoted and actively harmful. Hazardous wastes were dumped on empty plots in the dead of night. There were few if any restrictions on industrial emissions. We had only the barest scientific knowledge of the long-term consequences of any of this.

And there was a great stain on America, in the form of our legacy of racial discrimination. There were good people of all colors who banded together, risking and even losing their lives to erase the legal and other barriers that held Americans down. In their time, they were often demonized and tar-

geted, much like other vulnerable men and women today.

Please note: All of these challenges were addressed by Congress. Maybe not as fast as we wanted, or as perfectly as hoped. The work is certainly not finished. But we’ve made progress—and in every case, from the passage of Medicare through the passage of civil rights, we did it with the support of Democrats and Republicans who considered themselves first and foremost to be Americans.

I’m immensely proud, and eternally grateful, for having had the opportunity to play a part in all of these efforts during my service in Congress. And it’s simply not possible for me to adequately repay the love that my friends, neighbors and family have given me and shown me during my public service and retirement.

But I would be remiss in not acknowledging the forgiveness and sweetness of the woman who has essentially supported me for almost 40 years: my wife, Deborah. And it is a source of great satisfaction to know that she is among the largest group of women to have ever served in the Congress (as she busily recruits more).

In my life and career, I have often heard it said that so-and-so has real power—as in, “the powerful Wile E. Coyote, chairman of the Capture the Road Runner Committee.”

It’s an expression that has always grated on me. In democratic government, elected officials do not have power. They hold power—in trust for the people who elected them. If they misuse or abuse that public trust, it is quite properly revoked (the quicker the better).

I never forgot the people who gave me the privilege of representing them. It was a lesson learned at home from my father and mother, and one I have tried to impart to the people I’ve served with and employed over the years.

As I prepare to leave this all behind, I now leave you in control of the greatest nation of mankind and pray God gives you the wisdom to understand the responsibility you hold in your hands.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

Mr. CARPER. I will close with this. I went to the funeral. I couldn’t stay the whole time. It was here in DC. I missed STENY HOYER, the Democratic majority leader, and his comments. I was told he was terrific, as were others, as well. But I did get to hear just about everything Bill Clinton said. I was inspired and amused by that. He was funny. He really caught the character of John and his foibles, his strengths, and brilliance.

Before I went to the funeral, I went to a breakfast. A friend at the breakfast was kind enough to share his words with the rest of us. He actually

worked for John Dingell at one time. In an off-the-cuff riff about John Dingell, he shared some of the things he worked on. Later on, I said: Would you share that with me? He was kind enough to do that.

I wish I could say these are my words, but that would be plagiarism. I give him the credit, at least in a left-handed sort of way. This is what my friend gave to me. I just want to close with these words from my friend about John Dingell:

This morning as I was reading the obituaries detailing Congressman DINGELL’s life and accomplishments, I started thinking of all the aspects of daily life that he had a direct and meaningful impact on for almost 60 years.

He went on to say what some of them were.

The air we breathe, the water we drink. The health of rivers and lakes. The wildlife that exists and depends upon those spaces. The food we eat. The pills we take. The products we use. The electricity that powers our economy. The efficiency of almost every product that uses electricity. The phones we use. The health insurance we count on in a medical crisis. The regulation and cleanup of hazardous waste. The cars we drive, of course! And a host of other things.

On this Valentine’s Day—when we give thanks for our loved ones, our families, and those who are special in our lives—I also give thanks for John and the many blessings that he has left us and this country.

With that, I will say I appreciate the opportunity to share these words.

God bless.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 7 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 7 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:29 p.m., adjourned until Friday, February 15, 2019, at 7 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate February 14, 2019:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WILLIAM PELHAM BARR, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF ROBERT CROSSK

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness but with fond memories that I take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Mr. Robert Crossk, former Hobart City and Lake County Councilman. Bob's service to the people of Northwest Indiana is worthy of our deepest admiration. Mr. Crossk passed away at the age of 86 on Sunday, January 27, 2019, but the impact he has had on his community will live on for generations to come.

Robert Crossk epitomized what it means to be a civil servant, working tirelessly and without self-interest for all the residents of Lake County, Indiana. Mr. Crossk served on the Hobart City Council from 1979 to 1983 before his election to the Lake County Council. Councilman Crossk went on to represent the sixth district of Lake County from 1983 to 1998. Bob was a remarkable civic leader who was known for his hard work, dedication, and integrity. A union man by trade, Bob was a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 for much of his life. Mr. Crossk also devoted much of his energy to charitable organizations such as the Knights of Columbus and Veterans of Foreign Wars. For his passionate dedication to helping others throughout his lifetime, Bob Crossk is truly worthy of the highest praise.

Robert Crossk leaves to cherish his memory a loving family. He is survived by his wonderful wife, Gladys, and their four beloved daughters, two sons, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, not to mention many other dear friends and family members whose lives have been enriched by having known him. Bob will also be forever remembered by a grateful community of Lake County residents who he selflessly served with distinction for so many years.

I especially want to note that I have known Bob for my entire life. For every one of those days, I have only known Mr. Crossk to be a gentleman, possessed an expansive and warm personality, and an unflagging generosity of spirit. My life has been enriched because Robert Crossk assisted me along the path of life.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Robert Crossk for his outstanding devotion to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond. Bob's life of service is to be commended, and his unwavering commitment to making the region a better place will serve as an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING JOHN W. ROGERS,
JR. FOR EXCEPTIONAL CON-
TRIBUTIONS TO CIVIC LIFE

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize John W. Rogers, Jr. for his lifetime of service to the people of the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and to our nation. As a business leader, philanthropist, and tireless advocate for opening new opportunities for people of color, John has a history of exceptional contributions to our civic life that continue to the present day.

Born and raised in the City of Chicago, John Rogers, Jr. is the product of parents notable for their own achievements: his father was a judge and former Tuskegee Airman, and his mother was the first African-American woman to graduate from the University of Chicago Law School and to argue a case before the United States Supreme Court. After completing his secondary education at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, John attended Princeton University where he earned a degree in Economics and co-captained the school's Ivy League championship varsity basketball team. His interest in finance can be traced to a gift of stock for his 12th birthday, a present that ignited a lifelong fascination with investment and the complexities of financial valuation.

After two years working as a stockbroker at a Chicago investment banking firm, John launched an investment fund informed by his understanding that the highest returns are generated by patience and a research-driven approach to uncovering hidden value. That methodology has built Ariel Investments, LLC into a highly respected firm employing more than 100 analysts and staff and managing more than \$11 billion in assets. John's financial acumen is valued by the boards of directors of some of our nation's largest and most consequential enterprises, including the New York Times Company, Exelon and Nike.

The achievements of John Rogers, Jr. are not limited to the world of finance—his civic engagement extends to cultural institutions (he is a life trustee of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra), and he has been a bold champion committed to strengthening underserved communities and addressing inequities experienced by people of color. He is the first African-American recipient of Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson award, recognizing his service to the Princeton University alumni community and to organizations including the Chicago Urban League (where he is a life director), the Rainbow PUSH Coalition Wall Street Project, and Project Vote (an organization dedicated to enfranchising underserved communities and empowering individuals to exercise their constitutional right to vote). He has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the University of Chicago Laboratory

Schools, is a trustee of the University of Chicago, and, either personally or through Ariel Investments, generously endowed scholarships for under-resourced students at the Laboratory Schools, provided seed money to underwrite an investment fund that introduces financial management to students at Ariel Community Academy (a K–8 school in the Chicago Public School system), and funded a finance internship program for University of Chicago students of color interested in careers in financial services. John also serves on the Board of Directors for the Obama Foundation, where he works to help build the next generation of civic leaders.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the grateful citizens of Illinois, I want to thank John W. Rogers, Jr. for all that he has done and all that he continues to do to improve our nation and to open opportunities historically inaccessible to communities of color.

RECOGNIZING JACK STENSWICK
OF MALTA

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jack Stenswick of Malta who serves as his town's goodwill ambassador.

A lifelong Malta resident, Jack is one of the town's most known and loved figures. He warmly greets and talks with everyone he sees, whether he's walking around town or riding his three-wheel cycle, a gift from the people of Malta.

"Jack definitely embodies the spirit of Montana," says Dina Sainato-Meneely, Executive Director at Malta Opportunities, Inc. (MOI). "He's so well-known, and well-liked that it might take him all afternoon to go to the store and back. He is undoubtedly our town's goodwill ambassador, and certainly a good ambassador for people with developmental disabilities."

Though developmental disabilities may present challenges, Jack Stenswick overcomes them and has never allowed them to limit his natural ability to make others feel welcome and loved.

A member of the Knights of Columbus, Jack volunteers for local service projects through the organization and his local church. Supporting almost every civic event, celebration, or activity in town, he greets everyone by name and shares the joy of their friendship.

"Anybody who has been to Malta will know Jack, and you can't help but like him," says Dave Rummel, who helps supervise Jack as a groundskeeper for the cemetery, one of the many places Jack has worked in Malta through MOI.

"He's Malta's unofficial town greeter," Rummel said. "Everyone likes to spend time with him. Even folks from miles away remember Jack and are always glad to see him."

● 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.

Madam Speaker, for overcoming the challenges he has faced to serve as a beloved pillar of Malta and the town's goodwill ambassador, I recognize Jack Stenswick for his spirit of Montana.

CELEBRATING THE 101ST ANNIVERSARY OF LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 101st anniversary of Lithuanian independence. It is an honor to recognize a nation with such rich and vibrant history and whose immigrants and descendants have enriched the cultural landscape of our nation.

Chicagoland is fortunate to be home to the largest Lithuanian diaspora population in the world. With Little Lithuania on the Southwest Side of Chicago and a significant part of the community in Lemont and Cicero, I am proud to represent a part of this heritage. The celebration of Lithuania's 101st anniversary pays due respect to the signing of Lithuania's Act of Independence on February 16, 1918, an act that sought to restore an independent state. Although true independence was not achieved until after World War I and the fall of the German Empire, this single rebellious act paved the way for what has become a free and democratically governed state. Lithuanian-Americans have reason to celebrate their heritage proudly.

One such place where Chicagoan Lithuanians have found a home is in Marquette Park at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, founded by Lithuanian immigrants in 1927. A beautiful new church was constructed in 1957 incorporating influences from the Lithuanian folk baroque style and Lithuanian folk art. This includes a gold-plated reproduction of the Virgin Mary from a shrine in Siluva, Lithuania. Now led by Pastor Juanius Kelpšas and Father Gediminas Keršys, this beautiful church continues to receive numerous parishioners and visitors, each bearing witness to a rich component of Lithuanian-American history.

In 2015 I had the opportunity to visit Lithuania with a congressional delegation led by then-Speaker Boehner to celebrate and strengthen the bonds between our countries. I had a wonderful experience meeting Lithuanians and enjoying the beauty of the country in Vilnius and on the Baltic Coast. One of my most cherished memories was my visit to Our Lady of the Gate of Dawn.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Lithuanian Independence Day. At home, I have witnessed firsthand the positive contributions Lithuanian-Americans bring to our local community, and I trust that the bonds between our two nations will remain strong.

PAWEŁ ADAMOWICZ DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE PROGRAM

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the legacy of Mayor Paweł Adamowicz

of Gdansk, Poland, who was tragically murdered just a few weeks ago.

Mayor Adamowicz was a powerful voice for liberty in Poland, and always acted with the best interests of his people at heart.

A resurgent Russia seeks to undermine transatlantic solidarity and Western resolve. In the face of transatlantic challenges, we must strengthen U.S.-Polish relations.

That is why we must extend a hand of friendship to the next generation of democratic, transatlantic leaders. These shared democratic values go back to our nations' founding, and are critical to liberty in Europe today.

I am honored to introduce legislation to establish the "Paweł Adamowicz Democratic Leadership Exchange Act." This program would equip the next generation of leaders with the skills and networks needed to strengthen transatlantic relationships.

In honor of Mayor Adamowicz's legacy, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. I ask that it be brought to the floor for a vote without delay.

IN RECOGNITION OF TEXAS SENATOR JANE NELSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to my friend Texas State Senator Jane Nelson. On Tuesday, January 8, 2018, Senator Nelson gaveled in the first day of the Texas Senate, becoming the first woman to usher in the opening session.

Senator Nelson is a true trailblazer. First elected in 1993, she is the highest-ranking Republican in the Texas Senate. During her tenure, Senator Nelson has led efforts to promote fiscal responsibility, strengthen education, and care for Texas veterans. She made history in 2013 when she was appointed as the first woman to chair the Texas Senate Committee on Finance, and in this role continues to oversee the creation of the Texas budget.

Senator Nelson lives in Flower Mound and represents portions of Denton and Tarrant Counties. A former teacher and fellow University of North Texas alum, she previously served two terms on the State Board of Education. As a public servant and longtime North Texas fixture, Senator Nelson is deeply committed to our community. I am grateful for her many years of service, and I congratulate her on this groundbreaking achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I missed votes due to circumstances beyond my control. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 78; nay on Roll Call No. 79; and yea on Roll Call No. 80.

DEER TRAIL RODEO'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Town of Deer Trail, Colorado for commemorating its 150th year of rodeo competition.

The first rodeo in the world was held in Deer Trail, Colorado on July 4, 1869. Multiple organizations, including the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, History Channel, and Guinness Book of World Records have recognized this milestone. Deer Trail should be appropriately recognized for fostering and promoting rodeo, and thereby helping to preserve our Western culture.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my congratulations and best wishes to the Deer Trail Rodeo. We look forward to their continued success.

VETERAN OF THE MONTH—DR. CLARENCE G. OLIVER, JR.

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Clarence G. Oliver, Jr. of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Dr. Oliver has worn many hats. He's been a teacher, journalist, school administrator, Army officer, newspaper editor and publisher, community leader, university professor, author, and the Dean of Education at Oral Roberts University.

In all of these roles, Dr. Oliver has proven himself to be a service-minded leader and a role model for many.

An American hero, Dr. Oliver served our country as an Infantry master sergeant during the Korean War. He received a direct appointment as a second lieutenant, Infantry, in 1952 and served in command and staff assignments for two decades, plus another 10 years in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Dr. Oliver's career of service extends far beyond his military accomplishments.

He was superintendent of one of Oklahoma's fastest-growing schools and served as an administrator for 30 years. After serving as the Dean of Education at ORU, he continues to volunteer as an adjunct professor and guest lecturer and serves on doctoral degree dissertation committees.

Dr. Oliver was twice chosen as the Oklahoma Superintendent of the Year.

The Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce recognized him as the "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" in 1975 and again in 1992 and awarded with the Chamber's "Legacy" award in 2011. In 2015, the Chamber created the "Dr. Clarence G. Oliver, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award", further testament to the impact Dr. Oliver continues to have on his community.

I am honored to recognize Dr. Oliver today for his service both in our military and as a citizen and educator, and I am honored to call him my friend.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
MRS. TERESA GARCIA MEDINA

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mrs. Teresa Garcia Medina, a beloved community leader and public servant of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. In life, Mrs. Medina embodied a selfless dedication to her family, her innumerable friends, and the larger community of Kansas City, Missouri. Throughout her ninety-five years of life, Mrs. Medina served the people around her with a generous spirit and a warm heart.

Mrs. Medina was born to Cristobal Garcia and Carlota Hernandez in 1923. Throughout her life, Mrs. Medina always put her faith and her family first, both as a loving wife to Agustin "Chino" Medina and as a mother to their four children. She is survived by her children and their spouses; Enrique and Maria Chaurand, Cris and Mary Medina, Mike and Yolanda Casey, and Sandy Medina; as well as nine grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

Teresa Garcia Medina grew up in the Historic Westside of Kansas City, Missouri, a predominantly Latino community, and attended Our Lady of Guadalupe School. During this time, Teresa and her sister, Jessie Nieto, would make friends and community ties that would last a lifetime. Mrs. Medina and her sister would later use the skills they learned at Our Lady of Guadalupe to work as tailors at Jack Henry on the Plaza. Far from forgetting the community from which she came, Mrs. Medina continued to give back through her work as a member of La Union Cultural Mexicana Femenina and Las Guadalupanas. The legacy of her impact on the community continues through her children and grandchildren, as they remain active in the Latino community of the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Medina's personal faith was the central focus. She served steadfastly as a member of the Sacred Heart/Guadalupe Catholic Parish for many decades. In the 1990s she worked alongside other Mexican-American women of her congregation to preserve Las Guadalupanas when the Bishop and other leadership threatened to close their chapel. Traveling from door-to-door, gathering support and financial resources, these devout women successfully fought to keep the institution open as a pillar of the community. Actions like this demonstrate the fervent faith that Mrs. Medina carried with her and why she was cherished by all who knew her.

Those who knew her said they would always remember her warm smile and her gentle ways, her kindness to the neighborhood children, and her love for her community. Mrs. Medina personified the full and overflowing life of a Catholic and lived each day to the fullest. She was beloved by those who knew her and will be missed by all.

Please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in honoring Mrs. Teresa Garcia Medina for her commitment to social justice and her contributions to the Latino community in Kansas City. It is with great respect that I urge all my fellow citizens across

the city and the country to join me in showing our appreciation to Mrs. Medina, and send our deepest condolences to her family and the innumerable people touched by her life.

HIGHLIGHTING THE NEED TO REPLACE ENBRIDGE'S LINE 3 PIPELINE

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the critical need to replace Enbridge's Line 3, an aging pipeline dangerously corroding and operating at only 51 percent.

Line 3 pipeline replacement project is on its fourth year of review and has met or exceeded every single required environmental standard. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission unanimously voted to issue its Certificate of Need last year.

The project will create more than 4,000 construction jobs and enjoys the support of construction trade unions throughout the state. The project is supported by dozens of elected officials and thousands of Minnesotans. It will also generate an additional 19 million dollars in property tax revenue, providing a significant funding increase to rural schools.

With all this benefit, it was greatly disappointing to hear we would have further delays.

Unfortunately, certain state officials in Minnesota feel beholden to, in the words of our operating engineers, "environmental extremism." These environmental extremists are the same folks that vandalized the current pipeline just last week, ironically creating a dangerous situation for themselves and the environment they claim to protect.

The voters of northeastern Minnesota sent me to Congress to advocate for their jobs and safe use and protection of our natural resources. Therefore, I will continue to champion commonsense projects like the replacement of the Line 3 pipeline.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF ROBERT J. TUCCI

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert J. Tucci, who passed away peacefully on Monday, January 14, 2019 at the age of ninety-two years old.

Bob Tucci, of Fairlawn and formerly of Canton, was born to the late Paul and Rose (Marino) Tucci on August 31, 1926. Robert graduated from Canton McKinley High School where he was a three-sport letterman in football, basketball and baseball. Bob played on two McKinley Bulldog state championship football teams and served as captain his senior year. He played in the first North-South All-Star football game and was later inducted into the Canton McKinley Football Hall of Fame.

After high school, Bob went to the University of Cincinnati to play football, however, his ca-

reer there was cut short while he served our country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After the war, Robert became a Bricklayer for Local No. 6, from which he retired at the age of 59. He and his wife, Jo, enjoyed their retirement by traveling to all 50 states and numerous countries.

In addition to his parents; Robert was preceded in death by his loving wife of 65 years, Josephine on November 5, 2018; brother, August Tucci; sister, Antoinette Caster; and granddaughter, Andrea Rose Teodosio. He is survived by his children, Linda (Thomas) Teodosio of Munroe Falls, Paul (Laura) Tucci of Canal Fulton, and Robert, Jr. (Elizabeth) Tucci of Akron. He is also survived by grandchildren, Christopher (Katherine) Teodosio, and Bradford, Angela, Nicholas, and Alexander Tucci; and two great-grandchildren, Charlotte and Ava Teodosio.

The family extends their gratitude to the staff at the Village of St. Edward's, Cleveland Clinic Hospice and Senior Helpers for their loving care of Robert and Josephine over the last year.

I am very proud to be a friend of his daughter, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio, and his son-in-law, Judge Thomas Teodosio. I extend my deepest sympathies to all the family and friends whose lives were blessed by Robert Tucci.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE McMATH MIDDLE SCHOOL TIGER JAZZ BAND

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the notable achievements of Denton ISD's Carroll McMath Middle School Tiger Jazz Band.

This past year, the McMath Jazz Band was named the top middle school jazz ensemble in the state by the Texas Music Educators Association. Recently, they had the honor of playing at the University of North Texas's Kenton Hall, home of the Grammy-nominated One O'Clock Lab Band. The McMath Tigers are the first middle school jazz ensemble to perform in this famed music venue alongside UNT's acclaimed faculty.

In recognition of the students' music proficiency, the McMath Jazz Band will perform at the Texas Music Educators Association's annual convention in San Antonio on February 14, 2019.

The ensemble musicians include: Eli Adams, Tajalli Baugher, Aaron Borges, Vahid Baugher, Jaydan Chavez, Evan Chuah, Nicole Cygan, Isaac Dean, Ethan Desjardins, Rowan Eshbaugh-Soha, Alexander Evangelopoulos, Lily Fosmire, Caleb Harold, Travis Harris III, Nicholas Iaiia, Gerald Jones, Elliot Kensinger, Jake Meyering, Jesse Mumford, Kaien Oliver, Josiah Panter, Nicholas Salas, Amari Toney, Jonathan Weaver, Daniel Wen, Jeremiah Williams.

These young student musicians, under the leadership of Band Director Mr. Travis Harris and Assistant Band Director Mrs. Kelsey Gaskill, have worked as a team to reach their goals. I congratulate these North Texas students on their success, and wish each of them the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, on February 12, 2019, I was unavailable to vote in the House. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 76 and yea on Roll Call No. 77.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on February 11, 2019, I was not able to cast my votes during the vote series due to prior obligation in my District. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted: Yes on H.R. 1065—Social Media Use in Clearance Investigations Act of 2019 (Sponsored by Rep. STEPHEN LYNCH/Oversight and Reform Committee); and Yes on H.R. 1079—CASES Act (Sponsored by Rep. GARRET GRAVES/Oversight and Reform Committee).

USPS INTERPRETATION OF RSIA

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, it was my pleasure as Dean of the House of Representatives to swear you in at the beginning of this Congressional Session. I pledge to work with you on all matters affecting our Nation and my home State of Alaska.

I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues, and the United States Postal Service (USPS), which receives a certain level of federal funding for forgone revenue due to free and reduced rate mail under the Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Title of the appropriations package, an issue that is critical to safe and stable passenger air service in Alaska.

Alaska is unique in comparison to other States within our Union in that we have special mail service to provide roughly the equivalent of universal postal service, on par with the rest of the country, to remote Alaskan communities throughout my State which are not connected to the U.S. road system. By way of aviation, vital "bypass" mail service is provided via air carriers to towns and villages all over Alaska. This service is critical to the State of Alaska and to my constituents. USPS has jurisdiction over this program and, from time to time, has implemented its interpretations that diverge from Congressional intent of the Rural Services Improvement Act (RSIA)—a law that I helped develop with my former Senate colleague Ted Stevens, and which governs the USPS mail-delivery system for Alaska.

The intent of RSIA is very similar to the intent of the USPS funding included in the Financial Services appropriations bill—to ensure

that rural postal delivery is maintained at prior year levels and to prevent the closure of important rural post offices.

There is only one airline in Alaska that now delivers mail and passengers "from the first to the last mile" to the far reaches of the State—to Native communities, to communities on the Aleutian chain, and the northern-most towns and villages in the State. This airline, Ravn Air, has been disadvantaged by the USPS's interpretation of RSIA that does not grant the air carrier the status as an "existing mainline carrier" under the statute. This status will help further ensure that viable passenger service and mail delivery is maintained throughout the State.

From time to time, it is fair and appropriate for USPS to objectively reevaluate its interpretation of RSIA to provide an updated application of the law and to consider Ravn for this status.

I intend to follow up with USPS and its new Commissioners regarding this request. The entire Alaska Congressional Delegation has previously written USPS on this matter and I will continue to reach out to my Senate Colleagues for review of this with USPS in light of changes within USPS itself, and changes in the airline industry and marketplace in Alaska.

I thank my colleagues and with that I will vote for passage of the Financial Services bill as part of the final FY '19 Appropriations package.

IN HONOR OF THE OUTSTANDING CAREER OF GRAHAM T. "BUBBA" MOORE, JR.

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Graham T. "Bubba" Moore, Jr. on his nearly fifty years of outstanding service to our community as he retires from Barnhill Contracting Company, located in North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District.

Graham—or Bubba as he's known to his friends—started his career in 1973 and retires today as the Vice President of Barnhill Contracting Company after 46 years of service in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He graduated from North Carolina State University in 1973 with a degree in engineering, and in that same year he married his lovely wife, Betty Gail. Together they've raised two children, Landis and Gray, and one grandchild, Evelyn.

Over the years, Bubba has become a pillar of the community. While the list of his community involvements is quite extensive, Bubba has time and again stepped up to help our soldiers, veterans and their families—no small feat considering Fayetteville is home to Fort Bragg, the largest military installation in the world. Bubba has served as the Vice-Chair of the Ft Bragg Special Activities Committee, Chairman of the Military Affairs Council of the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce, and on the Board of Directors for the Sandhills Military Council.

On top of these public positions, Bubba has always been known as someone who wanted to help our troops behind the scenes. Bubba went to visit soldiers in Afghanistan at Bagram Air Field in Kandahar and delivered Christmas

gifts and Holiday Cheer to our deployed soldiers. He also helped organized family trips for Gold Star family members and was instrumental in supporting children of deployed soldiers attend exclusive productions of "Disney on Ice" at the Crown Center. These were things that may not have received public attention, but that didn't matter to Bubba; he just cared about giving back to the place he's called home for so long.

I wish Bubba a long and happy retirement, and I know I speak for countless people in the community when I say he will be missed at Barnhill Contracting Company.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Bubba for his incredible career and service to our community.

IN HONOR OF JOHNNIE MAE BROOKS-DALE THOMPSON

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in recognition of an inspiring member of our community and graduate of Texas' first African American Women's College, Johnnie Mae Brooks-Dale Thompson.

This Texas trailblazer was born in Houston on September 17, 1925, and graduated high school at the young age of 14. Johnnie Mae then enrolled in Mary Allen Jr. College—the first black women's college in the state of Texas. During her time at Mary Allen, Johnnie Mae was a strong academic student and her skills in mathematics allowed her to become a member of the prestigious Kappa Epsilon Honor Society. Outside of the classroom, Johnnie Mae was able to foster her love of music—which was developed early on in her childhood—by taking advantage of Mary Allen's music program and singing in the college choir. While working in the school library, Johnnie Mae discovered a deep passion for education that propelled her to earn her master's degree from Texas Southern University in 1951.

Johnnie Mae was able to combine her passions of education and music as a fifth-grade music teacher in Navasota, Texas—a job that gave her ample opportunity to spread her love of music to new generations.

It comes as no surprise to those who know her best that Johnnie Mae's professional career was defined by her commitment to living a service-oriented life. No matter what she was doing, be it teaching music to children, volunteering in her local church, or educating the future generations of Texans—Johnnie Mae did it with an infectious attitude of positivity and joy. Whether it's through her involvement in the church or her rigorous social schedule, Johnnie Mae continues to be a prominent figure in her community, even now at the age of 93.

Johnnie Mae Brooks-Dale Thompson has led a life of selfless service and spiritual devotion—always embodying her adage: "Before you do something that is nice or negative, think how you would feel if someone did this to you." Let us celebrate not only institutions like Mary Allen College, but also individuals like Johnnie Mae. I know I join her family, friends, and the entire Eighth District of Texas

in honoring all she has accomplished thus far in her extraordinary life.

HONORING CHARLES BALDINGER

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Charles Baldinger of Nashville, Tennessee.

While attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Charlie was diagnosed with anaplastic astrocytoma—a rare Stage 3 malignant brain tumor. He found the bad news after a near-fatal accident. As a cadet, Charlie fell 20 feet during a rope-free bouldering set. The fall resulted in a trip to the hospital where it was discovered that he had a brain tumor.

Nevertheless, Charlie graduated from West Point, was commissioned as an Infantry Officer, but then was forced to medically retire. Yet he kept learning and kept excelling. Charlie earned his master's degree from Lipscomb University. Charlie began treatments while at Lipscomb and allowed its College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences to use his body for research. He underwent test treatments that allowed data to be gathered for the purpose of better understanding how to treat cancer. Even during his illness, Charlie continued his service to others.

Charlie passed away peacefully on January 6, 2019. He was a brother, son, grandson, husband, and friend, who will always be remembered by his loved ones.

CONGRATULATING CAL OZAKI

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to call your attention to a notable retirement taking place at the nation's lead nuclear energy research and development laboratory.

For the last thirty-one years, Cal Ozaki has served in leadership roles at the Argonne-West/Idaho National Laboratory facilities in Eastern Idaho.

As director of INL's Campus Development office, Cal played a principal role in developing the laboratory's campus in Idaho Falls.

As laboratory liaison to the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy in Washington, D.C., Cal was a one-stop office for the agency to access INL facilities and capabilities.

As director of INL's Facility Operations and Maintenance office, Cal was responsible for 2 million square feet of laboratory space, support facilities and infrastructure.

Finally, in his current position, manager of Public Affairs & Strategic Initiatives, Cal has helped educate his fellow citizens about INL's important clean energy and national security work.

But today's recognition cannot just focus on Cal's professional accomplishments. I also would like to mention his decades of remarkable public service.

Cal currently serves as an inaugural trustee at the new College of Eastern Idaho. He is a

past chairman for the Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce and served on the board of directors for the United Way and Eastern Idaho Economic Development Council. And, for the last 25 years, Cal has participated in community delegation exchanges with the Idaho Falls-Tokai Mura, Japan, Sister City program. With a smile on his face and a hearty laugh in the air, Cal has made a significant contribution to the quality of life for all of us in Eastern Idaho. Cal and his wife Cindy are pillars in the Idaho Falls community and their legacy of service and giving back is greatly appreciated.

It is my great honor to congratulate Cal on a notable career, thank him for his public service, and wish him and his wife, Cindy, all the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS C. BALLARD AS THE OKALOOSA COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Thomas Ballard as the Educational Support Professional of the Year for Okaloosa County, Florida.

Mr. Ballard is a P.E. Classroom Assistant at Mary Esther Elementary School. For many years, Mr. Ballard has served the Okaloosa County School District with exceptional passion and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Prior to his service with the school district, he served as a full-time firefighter with the City of Mary Esther from 1981 to 2009. Mr. Ballard's exemplary contributions earned him numerous awards; such as the "City of Mary Esther Life Saving Medal" and the "Military Order of World Wars Award of Appreciation".

Sharing his invaluable experience gained as a firefighter, Mr. Ballard graciously assisted in the creation of his school's Crisis Plan.

He continually demonstrates his dedication to his school and community by participating in additional duties such as acting as a member of the school safety committee and serving as a volunteer firefighter at Florosa Fire Department.

Mr. Ballard displays incredible devotion to helping students and children in his community feel safe and happy. He generously donates his time to proactively address needs identified in the community as evidenced by his organization of the first official Volunteer Umpires for the Mary Esther Little League.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Thomas C. Ballard for his many contributions and for his profound impact in the Okaloosa County School District. I offer my gratitude for his service and wish him all the best for continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I mistakenly voted AYE, when I meant to vote NO on

Roll No. 81 (Buck of Colorado Amendment No. 2) to H.J. Res. 37—Directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BETA LAMBDA CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize a significant milestone in one of the pre-eminent organizations, not only in the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri, which I proudly represent, but throughout the region—the Beta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. As a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity myself, I am especially proud to recognize this great accomplishment. It is truly an honor to celebrate the Beta Lambda Chapter's Centennial observance on February 17, 2019 in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Beta Lambda Chapter was chartered in January 1919 with ten charter members who laid a strong foundation of fraternal fellowship in the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area. The effort to organize the Beta Lambda Chapter in Kansas City, Missouri began in April 1918, upon the request of graduate members of the fraternity who resided in Kansas City. An application for the Chapter was made during the 1918 convention held in Cleveland, Ohio by Brothers T.C. Brown, W.H. Bruce, L.H. Norwood, Thomas Taylor, J. Oliver Morrison and Guy Booker. Favorable action was taken by the convention and the Chapter was established in January 1919 making it the second oldest graduate chapter and first graduate chapter west of the Mississippi River. The charter members of the Beta Lambda Chapter were all outstanding members of the Kansas City community and of their respective professions. Faced with cultural realities of the early Twentieth Century, these charter members found in each other a source of mutual support, enlightenment and a retreat of friendship and fraternity. Each sensed a significant void created by the pervasive permanence of American institutional racism and exclusionary practices that were predominant during that era. Throughout its history, the Beta Lambda Chapter has proudly upheld the high standards of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated was founded in 1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Our founding Jewels are Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy.

Beta Lambda has been privileged to host the Thirteenth Annual Convention in 1920, Twenty-Eighth Annual Convention in 1940, Thirty-Sixth Annual Convention in 1950, Seventy-Fourth Annual Convention in 1988 and Eighty-Eighth Annual Convention in 2008. Beta Lambda won the "McGee Memorial Cup" as Outstanding National Chapter from 1945 to 1947. Additionally, the Beta Lambda Chapter won National Alumni Chapter of the Year in

1997 for its leadership and service in social justice, education and development for mankind.

Beta Lambda is led today by Hon. Ardie A. Bland, Damon E. Roath as Vice President, and William A. Griffin as Recording Secretary. Additional officers include: Johnathan Bernard, Terence M. Goree, Joseph C. Lewis, Rev. Kevin L. Nelson, Howard A. Berry, Eric J. Haliburton and Thomas A. Phillips.

One hundred years in the life of any person, organization or institution is a significant milestone and serves as a testament of fidelity to principles, seriousness of purpose and devotion to goals and objectives. Thus, the reason for intentional recognition to such an amazing local treasure.

Madam Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in expressing our collective congratulations to the Beta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and extending our heartfelt wishes for even greater success as it begins its second century.

HONORING FORMER SILVIS MAYOR
JOE TERRONEZ ON HIS 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joe Terronez on his 90th birthday. Mr. Terronez is the first Hispanic mayor in the state of Illinois and is the former mayor of Silvis, Illinois.

Joe Terronez began a long career of public service when he was first elected alderman in 1963 before later going on to serve the City of Silvis as its mayor. He was one of the first Hispanic city council members in the state and his dedication to his community is admirable. One of the best examples of Mayor Terronez's service to others, although there are many, was when he renamed 2nd Street in Silvis to "Hero Street." Although this street is only one and a half blocks long, over 100 of its residents were members of the military, including six who gave the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedoms. As a result, Mayor Terronez dedicated this street to honor their sacrifices. Actions such as this embody Mayor Terronez's spirit of giving back to others. As he celebrates this milestone, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for his many years of service to others.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as Mayor Terronez that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally honor Mr. Joe Terronez on his 90th birthday.

RECOGNIZING JAMES M. BOSWELL
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of a veteran, neighbor, father, dedicated man of faith,

and friend to many, Mr. James Boswell. Mr. Boswell is a lifelong resident of Wilson, North Carolina.

James Marshall Boswell was born on February 2, 1919 in Wilson, North Carolina. His parents taught him and his three brothers to work hard, although neither his mother nor father had more than a fifth grade education. His father supported the family as a factory worker. Mr. Boswell recalls him sharing two double beds with his three brothers in their rented home. He would later go to work with his father at the wagon factory where he would perform hard manual labor for 40 hours a week, earning \$12 per week. He worked at the factory until a friend offered him a job at a drive-in making \$15 a week. In 1938, James wed his beloved wife, Alma "Mozelle" Woodall Boswell. They were married for 76 years until her passing in 2014.

Mr. Boswell was working for the FBI in Washington, D.C. when Japan attacked the United States in 1941. Mr. Boswell felt it was his duty to serve his country, so he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps at the start of World War II. He qualified to fly the new B-17 Flying Fortress. He flew 51 combat missions throughout Italy, France, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Greece, Germany, and Austria during his three years of service. Mr. Boswell credits the Tuskegee Airmen for his crews' safe returns, and says he remained in contact with many of them for several years after returning home.

James Boswell's three brothers also served our country with honor. The youngest, Harvey, served as a Merchant Marine. George Boswell served with the 8th and 9th Air Forces in Europe during World War II. Delmar was a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne.

Having worked most of his life, James Boswell returned home to Wilson where he opened a grocery store, the Super Food Center, located on Herring Avenue.

In addition to his service to our country, Mr. Boswell has selflessly given of his time and efforts to work in his community, serving as a Mason and Shriner for nearly 65 years. He is also a faithful member of First Christian Church in Wilson, where he has held several positions in leadership including chairman, elder, and deacon. Today, James Boswell continues to drive himself to Faith Christian Church every Sunday.

The most important thing to James Boswell has always been his family. He has one daughter, Debby Boswell Keller of North Carolina, and one son, James Boswell, Jr. of Illinois. In describing her father, Debby stated, "he is the most caring and giving person I know."

James Boswell has lived an incredible life that, by the grace of God, has spanned an entire century. His selfless and lifelong dedication to his country and community are beyond remarkable, and he is truly an inspiration and role model for us all. His love for his family, friends, church, and community knows no bounds.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to such a dedicated and honorable veteran. I am immensely proud to have Mr. James Marshall Boswell as a constituent, and I wish him a very Happy 100th birthday. May God continue to bless him and his family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC
BUILDINGS RENEWAL ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Public Buildings Renewal Act (PBRA) of 2019. This bipartisan legislation will spur private investment in public building infrastructure throughout the United States by creating \$5 billion in Private Activity Bonds for the development of government-owned public buildings.

In every American community, there are serious concerns about the condition of our schools, public hospitals, justice facilities, universities, police and fire stations. With state and local budgets becoming increasingly strained, officials have chosen to save money by steadily reducing capital investment in public buildings. But years of underinvestment have led to facilities that are inadequately maintained, fail to comply with current codes or disability requirements, and do not have adequate security—endangering the general public. Throughout the country, the average public-school building is at least 40 years old, and the current backlog of maintenance and repair projects adds up to more than \$45 billion annually in unmet funding needs. The Public Buildings Renewal Act will reverse this trend by unlocking private sector capital for the public's benefit. It is past time that we upgrade our public buildings to provide a safe, modern, and efficient experience from coast to coast.

While this legislation is not a panacea to solve all of our infrastructure needs, it is an important aspect of our strategy to rebuild and renew America. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass it into law.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN
KODIAK, ALASKA

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, I am honored to express my deepest gratitude to all of the Coast Guard members stationed in Kodiak that do so much for Alaska and this country.

Our Coast Guard base in Kodiak is the largest in the nation and truly vital to protecting our shores and coastal waters. Home to Air Station Kodiak, the Kodiak Naval Operating Base, and three cutters, Kodiak is a linchpin of coastal security in the North Pacific.

I am sure I do not need to teach anyone about the vital role the Coast Guard serves in Alaska. The area of responsibility assigned to Coast Guard units within Alaskan waters is the largest in the nation, spanning a massive 3,853,500 square miles and more than 33,000 miles of coastline. This enormous geographic responsibility includes the patrol of the North Pacific Ocean to protect those traversing the often-rough waters and to stop large-scale high seas drift netting as well as other illegal fishing practices that rob Alaskans of our livelihood and one of our most valuable natural resources.

From a national perspective, the Coast Guard is responsible for protecting our coastal borders and keeping those in our waterways safe through port, waterway and coastal security, drug and migrant interdiction, maintaining maritime aids to navigation, search and rescue missions, living marine resources and marine safety, ensuring defense readiness, marine environmental protection, ice operations, and other law enforcement operations. Through these important missions, the Service saves thousands of American lives every year.

I was glad to speak with Coast Guard leadership recently about the great work performed already this year, even during the political divide in Washington, D.C. Every man and woman in the service is a testament to the spirit and drive that makes America so great and I want to assure all of our Coast Guard men and women that I am working to support and represent their interests in Congress just as I have done my whole career. I would like to thank everyone in the Coast Guard for the outstanding work they do, day in and day out to protect Alaska and our country. America is truly better off thanks to the Coast Guard.

RECOGNIZING THE VANDALIA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Vandalia Historical Society for being awarded the Historic Preservation Award. This is a rare and prestigious award made possible through the hard work and dedication of the members of the Vandalia Historical Society.

This society sponsors a variety of fundraisers to help maintain the historic Vandalia Old National Capitol, the second capitol for the state of Illinois. The major project underway is the raising of funds for the replacement of all windows in the building. All upgrades and construction are historically accurate. Due to the efforts of this group, the building has been maintained for the public to enjoy, for school and tour groups to learn the history of this grand old building and to learn its importance to our state and national history.

Madam Speaker, due to their efforts, the Old State Capitol will be standing open to welcome future generations. It is my pleasure and honor to recognize the Vandalia Historical Society upon receiving the prestigious Historic Preservation Recognition Award, and I wish the society the best in all of its future endeavors.

BAHRAIN MUST CHANGE
DIRECTION

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, today marks the 8th anniversary of the beginning of the Pearl Uprising in Bahrain.

On this day eight years ago, thousands of Bahrainis gathered in peaceful protests to de-

mand greater political freedom, and political and constitutional reform.

Their demands were not new—the roots went back to the 1970s.

They were not radical: Bahrainis wanted greater popular participation in governance, equal access to socio-economic opportunities and development, action against corruption and an end to the practice of political naturalization.

And they were not sectarian—even though Bahrain is a majority Shi'a country ruled by a minority Sunni monarchy.

But by the end of March 2011, what started as a moment of hope had been met with massive repression by the Bahraini government and security forces sent by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. As protests grew and spread, at least 35 people died, some 3,000 people were injured, thousands were detained or lost their jobs, and many were brutally tortured, including medical doctors.

King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa of Bahrain did take some steps to address the people's demands. His appointment of the 5-member Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) to examine the government's response to the protests was an important gesture. And the 26 recommendations contained in the BICI report, which the monarch promised to implement, did inspire some new hope that change was possible.

Many of us in Congress urged the government to fully implement the BICI recommendations and to cease the repression of human rights defenders and peaceful opposition leaders.

But in the years since, hope has been completely dashed. Some initial important reforms have been rolled back, opposition political societies are banned, peaceful human rights defenders and popular opposition leaders are spending their lives in jail, sectarian divisions have hardened, hundreds have been stripped of their citizenship, no independent press remains, the most recent elections were a sham—and to top it all off, the Bahraini government has supported the Saudis in the brutal war in Yemen and the senseless embargo of Qatar.

Madam Speaker, some observers turn a blind eye to Bahrain's increasingly authoritarian rule because they accept Bahrain's argument that Iran is to blame for encouraging the Shi'a population to rebel.

These days, any mention of Iran is often enough to silence legitimate criticism.

But what I see is a Bahraini government whose own policies deepen sectarian divisions and create the conditions for unrest.

In spite of their majority status, Bahraini Shites are less likely to hold jobs in the all-important public sector. They are almost entirely disqualified from serving in the police or military. They live in highly segregated neighborhoods with inferior public services compared to Sunni areas. They are systematically underrepresented in the lower house of parliament.

No one should be surprised that this stark political and economic inequality causes grievance. Add to that Bahrain's crushing of political expression and channels of participation, and you have a recipe for fostering extremism.

No government that does this can be considered a true United States ally in the war against terrorism. You cannot claim to be fighting extremism when your own policies foster it.

On this anniversary, I renew my call to the government of Bahrain to free Nabeel Rajab, Sheikh Ali Salman, Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, Abduljalil Al-Singace, Ahmed Humaidan, Naji Fateel and all other prisoners of conscience jailed for exercising their most fundamental human rights.

And I call on the government to end the prohibition on political societies, decriminalize all speech, allow national and international press to operate without state intervention, stop rendering its citizens stateless, strip the National Security Agency of its power to arrest, bring its anti-terrorism legislation into line with international human rights standards, integrate its security forces and end discrimination against the Shi'a population everywhere it exists.

Only if these steps are taken will the rights of all the Bahraini people, the country's long-term stability and America's national interests be assured.

HONORING VICTOR GONELLA

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representative JACKIE SPEIER and Representative MIKE THOMPSON, to honor Victor Gonella for his enduring commitment to the protection and restoration of California's salmon fisheries, and his exemplary service as the founder and president of the Golden Gate Salmon Association.

Born in San Francisco, Victor developed a childhood passion for fishing that has greatly informed his public service throughout his life. His focus on salmon began after his family moved to Mill Valley: he fished off the waters of Sausalito on his first boat when he was still in high school.

Following high school, Victor began to race motorcycles and started his own repair and custom engine fabrication facility. He rented a workspace from a local auto dealership, and eventually ran the dealership's parts and service center. Victor would go on to buy the dealership and move it to Petaluma, adding a second dealership soon thereafter.

As Victor built up his dealership and custom racing business, he never lost sight of his passion for salmon fishing. In 2008, when California experienced the first closure of ocean salmon fishing, Victor took action and founded the Golden Gate Salmon Association to restore California's largest salmon runs. In doing so, Victor would make California history by bringing together disparate stakeholders, including leaders from the commercial and sport fishing industries, conservation groups, and businesses connected to fishing, for a common cause. Over the next few years, Victor developed the financial and logistical backbone of the organization, coordinated fundraisers throughout Northern California, and assembled community leaders to support the organization's mission.

After establishing Golden Gate Salmon Association, Victor spearheaded its development of a plan to restore Central Valley salmon runs, utilizing available science and research funded by the organization. This process would be the beginning of a number of critical

restoration projects that the organization sponsored and successfully completed, with many still underway.

Madam Speaker, as ocean life continues to decline all over the world, organizations like Golden Gate Salmon Association are critical in protecting the natural habitat, wildlife, and fisheries that we all rely on and cherish. We therefore ask our colleagues to join us in thanking Victor Gonella for his tireless efforts to not only protect valuable natural resources but the communities that rely on them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, due to family illness on Wednesday, February 13th, I was not present to cast my vote on the Motion to Recommit on H.J. Res. 37 which contained a provision denouncing anti-Semitism in all its forms. I strongly agree with the motion's denunciation of anti-Semitism, and had I been present my vote would have been "YEA" on Roll Call No. 82. I also would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call No. 83.

HONORING PASTOR PIERCE'S SIXTH ANNIVERSARY AT MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH OF GREENSBORO

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bishop Bryan J. Pierce's sixth anniversary as the Senior Pastor and Chief Executive Officer of Mount Zion Baptist Church of Greensboro. Beginning to preach at the age of six and ordained by nineteen, Bishop Pierce is a man after God's own heart. It was in June of 2011 that Bishop Pierce became the Chief Administrative Officer at Mount Zion and worked diligently until his elevation to Senior Pastor on January 1, 2013. He strongly believes that he who serves the city, wins the city, which is expressed through a Church-wide campaign called No Greater Love, where members of Mount Zion come together to serve the Greensboro community. Also serving as 1st Assistant to 2nd Presiding Bishop, Bishop Pierce is a noted songwriter, arranger and producer. He successfully released his first solo debut album, which reached No. 3 on Billboard's Top Gospel Albums Chart by capturing an amazing sound that has facilitated openings for the Glory of God to be manifested in the lives of His people. With 20 years of Senior Pastoral Leadership, we honor another anniversary of service and the faithful future he is sure to bring our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAMELA C. ROBERTSON'S RETIREMENT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize Pamela C. Robertson as she retires after years of civil service.

A native of Anniston, Alabama, Robertson graduated high school in 1976 and attended Ayers State Technical College with a certificate of completion in Business and immediately entered the workforce at AOD Federal Credit Union in 1978.

She began her civilian government service at Fort McClellan, Alabama, in 1979 as GSO4 Secretary-Steno. She served as Administrative Assistant in the Foreign Student Allied Liaison Office, Budget Assistant and Budget Analyst in the U.S. Army Chemical School and Accounting Technician with the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Talladega, Alabama. From 1988 until 1999, she worked as a Budget Analyst at Fort McClellan. After Fort McClellan closed due to BRAC, she transferred to the Anniston Army Depot in the same capacity and become the Budget Officer in 2007. She will retire as Director of Resource Management, a position she's held since 2013.

Robertson has won several awards including: The Superior Civilian Service Award (Louis Dellamonica AMC outstanding person of the year), AMC Commander's coin, Army Achievement Medal, several special acts and performance awards.

She is involved in the Supervisory Committee of a local federal credit union and a volunteer in the pre-school department of her church. She's also an active member of the Chemical Corps Regimental Association, Order of the Dragon.

In August 2019, Pamela Robertson will retire with 40 years of primarily Army service.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Pamela on her retirement and thanking her for her service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO THEODORE JOSEPH "TED" STATON

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to celebrate the life and legacy of one of Upper Arlington, Ohio's most distinguished citizens, a man who devoted his life to the service of others, Mr. Theodore Joseph "Ted" Staton. His commitment to good, ethical governance cannot be understated, and he made a lasting impact on my city, Upper Arlington.

An incredibly passionate and hardworking man, Mr. Staton valiantly offered his skills to Ohio serving as a City Manager for the City of Upper Arlington since 2011. He displayed strength and tenacity throughout his leadership positions on the Executive Board of the League of Women in Government, the Upper Arlington Community Foundation Board of

Trustees, as the Chair of the Central Ohio Mayors and Managers Association, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Staton successfully led these organizations gracefully though both prosperous and challenging times. He continuously propelled Upper Arlington's community towards a bright and successful future.

To attempt to quantify the impact Mr. Staton made is impossible. He was a firm believer in the value of good, ethical governance. Due to his proven track record of these values, Mr. Staton was awarded the 2019 Outstanding Mentor Award from the International City/County Management Association; 2018 Upper Arlington Stewardship Award, and 2018 Ohio City Manager's Association Award for Career Achievement. His legacy will live on in the memories of those who knew him and loved him: his wife Carol; two sons, Paul and Benet; and his extended family and friends.

As a dedicated public servant, community leader, family man, friend, and mentor Mr. Staton consistently seized upon new opportunities to enrich the lives of others. He enhanced the teamwork and collaboration with every organization he joined. Upper Arlington, Ohio is undeniably a better place because of Mr. Staton and the tremendous life of public service he lived, and I am honored to celebrate his legacy.

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING INSECURITY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues in discussing the disparaging effects of homelessness and housing insecurity in our communities.

In 2018, communities across the country faced a continuing housing affordability crisis that left thousands of Americans homeless and without any stable place to live.

For the second year in a row, the number of people experiencing homelessness in the United States increased.

In 2018, 552,830 people lived in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or were not sheltered at all.

This is nearly 2,000 more people than in 2017.

This is an ongoing problem that demands our immediate attention.

The state of Texas claims just under 9 percent of the population of the United States.

Sadly, 23,548 people are homeless in Texas.

This is 4 percent of the country's entire homeless population.

More than 10,000 men and women can be found on the streets of Houston, homeless, on any given night.

Of these, 3,000 are considered chronically homeless.

Those who are categorized as chronically homeless are people who have been continuously homeless for a year or more or those who have been homeless four or more times in the past three years.

Many of the chronically homeless suffer from a mental illness and/or a substance abuse problem.

Percy Lyons is one of these people whose home does not come with an address.

Mr. Lyons has made his home under a bridge.

He has all the comforts of home: a military cot, tucked behind a cement barrier, for a bed; a propane stove, hidden in a drainpipe, for cooking and heat; and hollow cement blocks function as shelves to hold his few articles of clothing and an extra pair of shoes.

Mr. Lyons is just one of those 3,000 people who are surviving on the streets of Houston.

Thankfully, Houston Police Department (HPD) is trying to help meet the needs of the city's homeless population.

HPD has created the Homeless Outreach Team.

This team is staffed with four officers, who instead of responding to complaints or ordinance violations, work on building relationships with those who live on the streets.

These heroes work with Houston's homeless residents to navigate the social services available and have helped hundreds of people move off the streets and into permanent housing.

These officers can discuss success stories, like that of Randall.

Randall spent over 30 years living on the streets.

The Homeless Outreach Team was able to help Randall get into a treatment program.

Unfortunately, there are not more stories like Randall.

Instead, the majority of those who are chronically homeless slip through the cracks, unable to find their way through the complex system of social services.

Each night in the United States of America an estimated 553,000 men, women, and children spend the night on the streets.

This is a national emergency.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of William Pelham Barr, of Virginia, to be Attorney General.

Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.J. Res. 31, Further Continuing Appropriations.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1337–S1397

Measures Introduced: Fifty-one bills and nine resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 485–535, S. Res. 71–77, and S. Con. Res. 4–5. **Pages S1382–84**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2019”. (S. Rept. No. 116–1) **Page S1382**

Measures Passed:

Honoring the Memory of the Victims of the Senseless Attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School: Senate agreed to S. Res. 71, honoring the memory of the victims of the senseless attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School 1 year ago. **Pages S1338–41**

Justice for Victims of Lynching Act: Senate passed S. 488, to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights. **Pages S1345–47**

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 4, providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.J. Res. 31. **Page S1364**

Honoring the life, achievements, and distinguished public service of John David Dingell, Jr. Senate agreed to S. Res. 75, honoring the life, achievements, and distinguished public service of John David Dingell, Jr., and expressing condolences to his family on his passing. **Pages S1392–93**

National Speech and Debate Education Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 76, designating March 1, 2019, as “National Speech and Debate Education Day”. **Pages S1392–93**

National FFA Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 77, designating the week of February 16 through 23, 2019, as “National FFA Week,” recognizing the important role of the National FFA Organization in developing young leaders, and celebrating 50 years of female membership in the National FFA Organization. **Pages S1392–93**

Calling for credible, transparent, and safe elections in Nigeria: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 1, calling for credible, transparent, and safe elections in Nigeria, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S1393–94**

McConnell (for Menendez/Risch) Amendment No. 190, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S1393**

McConnell (for Menendez/Risch) Amendment No. 191, to amend the preamble. **Page S1393**

Enact into law a bill by reference: Senate passed S. 483, to enact into law a bill by reference. **Page S1394**

Measures Considered:

Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 311, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion. **Page S1364**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, February 14, 2019, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 25, 2019. **Page S1364**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that following the closing of morning business on Monday, February 25, 2019, Senator Fischer be recognized to deliver Washington's Farewell Address; that following the address, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during the session of Thursday, February 14, 2019 ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 25, 2019. **Page S1394**

Conference Reports:

Further Continuing Appropriations: By 83 yeas to 16 nays (Vote No. 26), Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.J. Res. 31, making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019. **Pages S1362–64**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 84 yeas to 15 nays (Vote No. 25), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the conference report to accompany the joint resolution. **Page S1364**

Department of Homeland Security Further Continuing Appropriations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.J. Res. 1, making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, occur at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader. **Page S1338**

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senators Fischer and Boozman be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions on Friday, February 15, 2019. **Page S1392**

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session:

Friday, February 15, 2019, at 7 a.m.; Tuesday, February 19, at 10 a.m.; Thursday, February 21, 2019, at 10 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, February 21, 2019, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, February 25, 2019. **Page S1394**

Miller Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Eric D. Miller, of

Washington, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Page S1365**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of S. 311, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion. **Page S1365**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1365**

Desmond Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Michael J. Desmond, of California, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury. **Page S1365**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Eric D. Miller, of Washington, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Page S1365**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1365**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1365**

Wheeler Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. **Page S1365**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Michael J. Desmond, of California, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury. **Page S1365**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1365**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1365**

Ryder Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of John L. Ryder, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority. **Page S1365**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. **Page S1365**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1365**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1365**

Lowry Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the nomination of John Lowry III, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, be referred jointly to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. **Page S1374**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 54 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 24), William Pelham Barr, of Virginia, to be Attorney General. **Pages S1338, S1353, S1397**

Messages from the House: **Page S1382**

Measures Referred: **Page S1382**

Measures Placed on the Calendar:
Pages S1337, S1382

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1384–85**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S1385–91

Additional Statements: **Pages S1379–81**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1391–92**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1392**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—26) **Pages S1353, S1364**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:29 p.m., until 7 a.m. on Friday, February 15, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1394.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States Special Operations Command and United States Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Owen O. West, Assistant Secretary, Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, General Raymond A. Thomas, III, USA, Commander, United States Special Operations Command, and General Paul M. Nakasone, USA, Commander, United States Cyber Command, Director, National Security Agency, and Chief, Central Security Service, all of the Department of Defense.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Bimal Patel, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Todd M. Harper, of Virginia, and Rodney Hood, of North Carolina, both to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board, and Mark Anthony Calabria, of Virginia, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

ENERGY INDUSTRY CYBERSECURITY EFFORTS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the status and outlook for cybersecurity efforts in the energy industry, after receiving testimony from Neil Chatterjee, Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Karen S. Evans, Assistant Secretary, Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, both of the Department of Energy; Major William J. Keber, West Virginia National Guard's Critical Infrastructure Protection Battalion, Kingwood; James B. Robb, North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Atlanta, Georgia; and David Edward Whitehead, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc., Pullman, Washington.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 116th Congress:

Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Senators Capito (Chair), Inhofe, Cramer, Braun, Rounds, Sullivan, Boozman, Wicker, Shelby, Cardin,

Sanders, Whitehouse, Merkley, Gillibrand, Booker, Markey, and Van Hollen.

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife: Senators Cramer (Chair), Capito, Braun, Sullivan, Boozman, Wicker, Shelby, Duckworth, Cardin, Sanders, Whitehouse, Merkley, and Van Hollen.

Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety: Senators Braun (Chair), Inhofe, Capito, Cramer, Rounds, Sullivan, Boozman, Wicker, Ernst, Whitehouse, Cardin, Sanders, Merkley, Gillibrand, Booker, Markey, and Duckworth.

Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight: Senators Rounds (Chair), Inhofe, Shelby, Ernst, Booker, Gillibrand, and Markey.

Senators Barrasso and Carper serve as ex-officio members of each subcommittee.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 77 public bills, H.R. 1219–1295; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 19 and H. Res. 132–136 were introduced.

Pages H2028–33

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H2035–36

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 131, providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 31) making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, and providing for proceedings during the period from February 15, 2019, through February 22, 2019 (H. Rept. 116–10).

Page H2028

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Peters to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H1997

Recess: The House recessed at 10:54 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H2003

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, Chaplain, United States Senate, Washington, DC.

Page H2003

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote.

Page H2003

Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: Representatives Matsui and Roybal-Allard.

Page H2007

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 Vela.

Page H2007

Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts: Representatives Kennedy and Beatty.

Page H2007

Joint Economic Committee—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee: Representatives Beyer, Heck, Trone, Beatty, and Frankel.

Page H2007

United States Holocaust Memorial Council—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council: Representatives Deutch, Schneider, and Lewis.

Page H2007

Recess: The House recessed at 12:35 p.m. and reconvened at 6:27 p.m.

Page H2007

Making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019: The House agreed to the conference report to accompany the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 31) making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, by a yea-and-nay vote of 300 yeas to 128 nays, Roll No. 87.

Pages H2016–25

H. Res. 131, the rule providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 31) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 230 yeas to 196 nays, Roll No. 86, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 229 yeas to 195 nays, Roll No. 85.

Pages H2008–16

Providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.J. Res. 31: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and agree to S. Con. Res. 4, providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.J. Res. 31. **Page H2024**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow, February 15th. **Page H2024**

Senate Referrals: S. Con. Res. 4 was held at the desk. S. 488 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. **Page H2026**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H2007–08.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2015, H2016, and H2023–24. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FOR THE PEOPLE: OUR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “For the People: Our American Democracy”. Testimony was heard from Kim Wyman, Secretary of State, Washington; and public witnesses.

CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on the Conference Report to accompany H.J. Res. 31, making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes. [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019]. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–4, a rule providing for consideration

of the Conference Report to accompany H.J. Res. 31, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. The rule provides that the previous question shall be considered as ordered without intervention of any motion except one hour of debate and one motion to recommit if applicable. Debate on the conference report is divided pursuant to clause 8(d) of rule XXII. Section 2 of the rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from February 15, 2019, through February 22, 2019: the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment. Section 3 of the rule provides that the Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2. Testimony was heard from Representatives Biggs, Cloud, Roy, and Davidson of Ohio.

Joint Meetings

DHS FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS

On Wednesday, February 13, 2019, *Conferees* agreed to file a conference report on the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.J. Res. 31, making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

7 a.m., Friday, February 15

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Friday, February 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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Congressional Record

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