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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 4, 2019.

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

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

LONG-OVERDUE FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR THE LUMBEE TRIBE

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, at 2 p.m. today, the Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States will hear the Lumbee Recognition Act, which would afford the Lumbee Tribe long-overdue Federal benefits. Although the Federal Government provided partial recognition to

the Tribe in 1956, the Lumbee remain excluded from Federal benefits and legal status.

This bill is no symbolic gesture. No other recognized Tribe is denied the right to self-government and sovereignty. Full recognition will finally allow the 55,000 Lumbee I represent to have fair access to the benefits and programs available to all other recognized Tribes.

As a State senator, I sponsored legislation to clarify the status of the Lumbee as a State-recognized Tribe to ensure access to appropriate grants and programs. Now, I am proud, as a United States Congressman, to continue to fight for the Lumbee Tribe on the Federal level. In fact, cosponsoring this crucial legislation was one of my first official acts in Congress.

I applaud my colleagues, Representatives BUTTERFIELD and HUDSON, for introducing this important legislation to right this fundamentally unfair wrong. I look forward to casting my vote on the House floor to give the Lumbee the recognition they so rightfully deserve.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MAYOR C. BRUCE ROSE

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend of more than 40 years, Mayor C. Bruce Rose.

Tomorrow, the city of Wilson, North Carolina, will pause to observe Bruce Rose Day and will rename the Headquarters Fire Station to the C. Bruce Rose Headquarters Station, recognizing 60 long years of continuous service to our city.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Rose graduated from Charles L. Coon High School and received an associate degree in applied science in fire science technology from Wilson Technical Community College.

He also proudly served our country in the United States Army for 2 years.

Mayor Rose served for 30 years with the Wilson Fire Department, 7 of which he served as fire chief. He attended fire schools throughout North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Maryland, including the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He is a graduate of the Executive Development Course of Chief Fire Officers in Emmitsburg.

Mayor Rose is a life member of the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs and served on its board of directors for 4 years. He is also a life member of the North Carolina Association of Retired Fire Chiefs and served, by appointment of Governor James B. Hunt, on the North Carolina Fire Commission. Mayor Rose received the 1999 Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

Mayor Rose continued to serve as a goodwill ambassador for the city of Wilson as he was elected mayor, beginning in 1992. He has been proud to celebrate the progress of the city through events such as ribbon cuttings and groundbreaking and presentations of proclamations. He speaks at community events, works to bring industries into the city, and has worked diligently to see the city community thrive.

He is especially proud of the Whirlygig project, which is bringing economic development to our city.

Under his leadership, an \$18 million surface transportation project is now in progress in the eastern section of our city, which is the African American community. The city invested \$2 million into this project; the North Carolina Department of Transportation invested \$6 million; and, with my assistance, the city received a TIGER grant, under Secretary Anthony Fox, of \$10 million for the project.

During his tenure, Mayor Rose has been involved in several projects and

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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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initiatives, such as creation of the Buckhorn Reservoir and Greenlight Community Broadband, which is a municipal broadband, and it is successful.

He has been Wilson's longest serving mayor, after serving 27, nearly 28, consecutive years and eight consecutive terms.

Mayor Rose is a lifetime member of Wilson First Pentecostal Holiness Church, where he served as deacon and Sunday school superintendent.

He is married to Rebecca Davis Rose. They continue to be active in our community and involved in church functions throughout the city. Mayor Rose, Mr. Speaker, is father to four children and one delightful grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating and honoring my friend, Mayor C. Bruce Rose, as he is recognized for 60—I will repeat that again, 60—consecutive years of unselfish service to the city of Wilson, North Carolina. The contributions of Mayor Rose to the city cannot be overstated.

SECOND AMENDMENT WEEK

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this week is Second Amendment Week in our office to celebrate our God-given right to keep and bear arms.

Each year at the start of the hunting season, I can't wait to get out in the field and enjoy one of my very favorite pastimes. Hunting is an American tradition shared across generations; and this Thanksgiving weekend I was able to sneak away with my oldest son to go duck hunting near our home in Great Bend.

Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you, I have never seen so many ducks. The folks at D.U., all the conservation groups are doing an incredible job.

Many Kansans use firearms for hunting, but also, in many of our most rural parts of the State, carrying a firearm can be the difference between life and death. In over 70 counties in Kansas, the closest law enforcement officer is often 30 minutes to an hour away; and, thus, you may need a firearm to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your property.

In both rural and urban areas, many Kansans responsibly open or conceal carry on a daily basis for self-defense. Many more Kansans keep a gun for home defense as well, maybe locked away in a master bedroom or in a safe down in the basement.

Whether it be a handgun, rifle, or shotgun, whatever a citizen's firearm of choice, the right to defend ourselves must not be infringed upon. As I represent Kansas in Congress, I remain staunchly opposed to any laws restricting what kind of firearms a law-abiding citizen can buy or keep in their possession.

Any politician trying to implement mandatory buyback programs, which I

really call gun confiscations, or unconstitutional red flag laws in Congress will be met with a groundswell of opposition because these types of laws violate our Second Amendment rights.

In Congress, we need to keep fighting for programs that address the underlying cause of gun violence, which is mental illness, to reach out to those who are struggling so they can get the proper care and attention early so they don't fall through the cracks and harm themselves or others.

We also need to make sure our existing background check system is working properly to continue to prevent tragedies, while not infringing on the rights of mentally stable, law-abiding citizens.

The solutions to preventing gun violence can be found at dinner tables, in our churches, and in our communities. Individually, we must practice and promote responsible gun ownership while collectively ensuring every law-abiding citizen's Second Amendment right is upheld with due process.

Gun ownership and hunting have been a tradition for my family and for this great land for many generations, each one passing on their knowledge and skills to the next. That is our way of life in Kansas. We must continue to uphold it and our constitutional right to keep and bear arms for the purpose of self-defense and individual freedom.

PASS USMCA NOW

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, today marks more than 1 year since President Trump signed the USMCA trade agreement, and it is still collecting dust on Speaker PELOSI's desk. That is an entire year that NANCY PELOSI and House Democrats have made Kansas businesses, farmers, ranchers, and workers wait.

There is no excuse for holding up this trade agreement, which is expected to create 176,000 jobs across America and deliver a \$70 billion boost to our United States economy. In Kansas, it would mean thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars. This agreement will make us stronger in our next trade negotiations with China as well.

With all due respect, Speaker PELOSI, there are no more excuses. It is time. Let's deliver a win for our economy and pass USMCA now.

IMPEACHMENT IS ALL ABOUT POLITICS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this week, House Republicans produced our report showing specific facts that dismantle the Democrats' claims on impeachment. This evidence shows:

Number one, President Trump has a deep-seated, genuine, and reasonable skepticism of Ukraine due to its history of pervasive corruption;

Number two, the evidence does not establish that President Trump pressured Ukraine to investigate Burisma Holdings, Vice President Joe Biden, Hunter Biden, or Ukrainian influence in the 2016 election for the purpose of benefiting him in the 2020 election; and

Number three, the evidence does not support that President Trump covered

up the substance of his telephone conversation with President Zelensky by restricting access to the call summary.

Speaker PELOSI previously said that the conditions for impeachment must be "overwhelming" and "bipartisan." Currently, there is only bipartisan support in opposition to impeachment.

I guess the facts really don't matter, and Democrats moving forward show that this is all about politics.

LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, with my mnemonic notes in hand.

Mr. Speaker, I rise because I love my country, but I also rise today with heartfelt regrets.

Mr. Speaker, it hurts my heart to see the Judiciary Committee hearing experts on the topic of impeachment, one of the seminal issues of this Congress, hearing experts, Mr. Speaker, and not one person of color among the experts.

What subliminal message are we sending to the world when we have experts, but not one person of color? Are we saying that there are no people of color who are experts on this topic of impeachment? What is the message that we are sending?

Mr. Speaker, if I am wrong, I will apologize; but if the committee is wrong, if the Congress is wrong, what will it do?

Mr. Speaker, people of color, for too long, have been ignored by one party and taken for granted by the other. Too often this happens. Not always, but too often it happens.

Mr. Speaker, I refuse to be ignored and taken for granted. I came here to represent the people who are ignored and taken for granted. Not one person of color among the constitutional scholars.

It seems that there is a desire among some to have the output of people of color without input from the people of color.

It seems to me that we have reached a point wherein we have got to have this debate about what these committees are going to do when we have our various persons appear before us as witnesses. We ought to have balance as it relates to all aspects of society, and that would include people of color.

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great regret. I rise today to say that this is not about Democrats; it is not about Republicans. It is about fairness.

It is about whether or not we have matured to the point in this country where we are going to treat all people equally.

It is about whether we have metamorphosed to a point where we will not allow committees to have persons appear without considering the diversity and the richness of that diversity within this country.

I support people of color. I do so not because I am a person of color. I do so

because I believe that, in this country, the words of the Pledge of Allegiance are important, that we should have liberty and justice for all.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING MIKE CLARK

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the well-earned retirement of Northampton Township Chief of Police Mike Clark. Chief Clark has served the people of Northampton Township for 47 years and as our chief of police since 2013.

For the first 26 years of his service, Chief Clark served on the patrol division, on SWAT, and the detective department, giving him a wide range of experiences within the police force.

Earlier this year, under the leadership of Chief Clark, the department earned an accreditation from the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, an achievement realized by just 10 percent of the State's 1,200 police departments.

Chief Clark works to make the department more active in the community, to increase his office's interaction with the people they work to protect. His Coffee with the Cops initiative created personal connections between the police officers and the public. And under his leadership, the department created a Facebook page to keep the public informed.

Mr. Speaker, we want to thank Chief Clark for his hard work and dedication to the people of Northampton Township. Because of the actions of Chief Clark and his officers, Northampton is safer and happier for everybody who resides there.

Chief Clark, we thank you for your service, and we hope you enjoy your well-earned retirement.

HONORING THOMAS HECKER

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Thomas Hecker of Langhorne, Pennsylvania. Mr. Hecker passed away surrounded by his family at the age of 72.

Tom was born in Philadelphia and raised in Langhorne. He graduated from Bishop Egan High School and received his undergraduate degree from La Salle University, both my alma maters. After receiving his law degree from Villanova University, he joined the law firm of Begley, Carlin & Mandio, where he faithfully worked as a partner until his passing.

Tom was a man of devout faith. Tom volunteered at his church as a lector and a Eucharistic minister visiting the homebound.

Tom had a zest for life, which was often expressed through the twinkle in his eyes that we all saw every time we saw him. Tom cherished his family and friends, and he loved to socialize and connect with them over a meal and a good bottle of wine.

Tom was notorious for his Eagles Sunday football parties and even created bleachers in his house for game days. Tom was also a golf enthusiast.

You could often find Tom in the summer at his beach house. He lived by the motto, "Smile, you are in Sea Isle City."

Mr. Speaker, our deepest condolences go out to his entire family and friends. Tom is now enjoying his eternal reward for a life he spent serving others.

HONORING BOB GODSHALL

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of former Pennsylvania State Representative Bob Godshall who passed away before the Thanksgiving holiday. Bob represented the 53rd District honorably for 36 years and retired in 2018.

Bob Godshall was born in Franconia, Pennsylvania, on the family farm where he lived until his passing. He was a proud graduate of Souderton High School and Juniata College in Huntingdon. As an adult, he helped run the family farm's poultry operation, served on the Souderton area school board, and was a former Montgomery County controller.

In the State House, Bob served as the chairman of the Consumer Affairs Committee, following his tenure as chairman of the Tourism and Recreational Development Committee. He frequently worked across the aisle to push legislation that protected consumers, boosted tourism across the State, and benefited the people of Montgomery County.

Mr. Speaker, no matter the politics, Bob put his community first. Bob worked tirelessly to bring better jobs, safety, and improved infrastructure to our community. Bob was great man and a dedicated public servant, and as long as good, honest individuals like him work to serve the people, we can look forward to the future.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF HARD- WORKING PORTUGUESE IMMIGRANTS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR COUNTRY'S HISTORY

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the passage of legislation this week called the AMIGOS Act. It is a bill that will spur Portuguese investment in our economy and help create jobs here in America.

As a proud Portuguese American and a co-chair of the Congressional Portuguese Caucus and a member of the Hispanic Caucus, I joined with Congressmembers CICILLINE, NUNES, and others, in being the original co-sponsors of the AMIGOS Act. I want to thank my colleagues this week for their support in the passage on a bipartisan basis.

Our friendship with Portugal and the contributions of hardworking Portuguese American immigrants are an

important part of our country's history and our heritage, as well as our economy.

The United States is Portugal's largest trading partner outside the European Union. In 2018 alone, trading between our two countries reached in excess of \$5 billion. This will only increase that economic activity, because this bill will make it easier for Portuguese investors, business people, to increase their operations in the United States, growing both our economies, drawing our nations even closer together, and creating more jobs.

More than 100 Portuguese companies today already have operations in the United States. What do those operations do? They create jobs. They create opportunities. And they build additional prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic.

We have done our part. Now it is time, we hope, that the United States Senate will do their part so that we can send this bill to the President that has, again, strong bipartisan support. It will obviously be good to get this measure passed, hopefully, before the end of the year.

Senators WHITEHOUSE and TOOMEY, again bipartisan, have already introduced their version of the legislation, the AMIGOS Act, in the United States Senate. We thank them for their strong efforts and their partnership.

Sharing prosperity in this instance can only benefit both the United States and Portugal, and it is this kind of commonsense trade policy that we need to be advocating for, along with continuing to build on our partnerships both within the European Union as well as within South America and with Asia, and, of course, with our closest neighbors, Canada and Mexico.

Trade obviously done properly can create good-paying jobs in America and benefit our relationships and our economic activity with those countries who we value the most.

MAKING COMMUNITIES RESILIENT AGAINST SCAMMERS IS CRITICAL

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, in 2018 an estimated 47 billion spam robocalls were placed in the United States. Americans lost \$1.5 billion to fraud last year. Weekly, sometimes daily, our phones are flooded with spam calls. Not only are these calls annoying, but these criminals trick people into giving away personal information such as their Social Security number or bank information.

Robocalls affect everyone from Janesville to Kenosha to Racine and everywhere in between.

Last month I held an identity theft fraud prevention workshop in south-east Wisconsin. More than 200 residents attended and received useful tips from Federal and State agencies on how to protect themselves from fraud. Making

communities resilient from scammers is critical.

Robocalls are becoming more sophisticated every day. It is becoming easier for Americans to fall victim to scamming. That is why Congress must act.

Today the House is voting on a bill I cosponsored, the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act, or the TRACED Act.

The TRACED Act strengthens penalties for criminals who conduct spam robocalls. This bill also requires telecommunications companies to develop new ways to certify all calls are from legitimate people. Working together with phone companies, consumer groups, and the Federal Government will protect our community—and go after the bad guys.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, non-partisan bill.

WE MUST RECOMMIT TO ENDING THE GLOBAL HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, this week we recommit ourselves to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic. We have made progress to prevent infections and enhance treatment, but more work must be done.

Supporting the Global Fund and fully funding its programs is an important piece of the puzzle. The Global Fund is a partnership organization that works with governments and private sectors to end the AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria epidemics. By developing low-cost, high-impact treatments and technologies, we can save lives.

Since the creation of the Global Fund in 2002, deaths caused by these diseases have been reduced by one-third each year in countries where the Global Fund invests. I was proud to cosponsor the bill and see the House support the Global Fund.

This is an important issue to many across southeast Wisconsin. Earlier this year, I met with Pastor Bob Griffith and Pastor Lawrence Kirby to discuss the United States' commitment to battling these health epidemics, whether that be at home in southeast Wisconsin or throughout the world.

Pastor Griffith's and Pastor Kirby's work in the Racine and Kenosha communities is admirable. They advocate for those in poverty and for our global community dealing with these diseases.

We thank Pastor Griffith and Pastor Kirby for their dedication to this cause, for bringing awareness to the fight.

We must continue working together and ensure education, treatment, and assistance is available to those who need it.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCHESTER ROCKETS FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time I have risen on this House floor to congratulate the Rochester Rockets football team on a State championship that they just won, just this past week, at Huskie Stadium in DeKalb, Illinois.

Rochester played the Chicago St. Rita Mustangs for the title, winning it by a score of 42 to 28. The Rockets came out strong with three touchdowns early, giving them a 21 to nothing lead at the end of the first quarter.

With four touchdown passes between quarterback Clay Bruno and receiver Hank Beatty, the Rockets proved that they meant business. The dynamic duo put on an offensive showcase with Bruno completing 18 of his 25 passes for 313 yards, and Beatty hauling in 12 catches for 212 yards. Rochester's offense was as dominant as ever, making it nearly impossible for St. Rita to create any sort of momentum.

In addition to a powerhouse offense, the Rockets' defensive line showed up to work. Senior, Logan Peters, had 11 tackles, and sophomore, Johnny Neal, had 7. Neal was playing JV halfway through the season and got a 14-yard sack on the quarterback and a fumble recovery.

This is the Rockets' eighth State championship in 10 years, and this is the first one that they achieved in the higher 5A classification. Leave it to Coach Derek Leonard and the entire Rochester Rockets team and the community to get bumped up, by maybe a student or two, into a higher class and just go ahead and win a State championship there, too.

Congratulations to Coach Leonard. Congratulations to all of Coach Leonard's assistant coaches and to the entire Rockets community on another well-deserved State championship.

CONGRATULATING COACH BRENT WEAKLY

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Brent Weakly and the Central A&M High School football team on their Class 1A State runner-up title. Last week they played a great game with the Lena-Winslow Panthers, but lost in the 1A State championship.

This year was the team's first year since 2001 that the Raiders have made an appearance at the IHSA State championship game, and while they didn't bring home a win, they held their heads high following last Friday's game.

A&M's quarterback, Connor Heaton, threw for 192 yards and two touchdowns. Connor has come a long way since I used to drop my kids off with him at the same babysitter in Taylorville a few short years ago.

□ 1030

Receiver Jacob Paradee had 11 receptions, a tie for most all-time in a Class 1A championship game. His 157 receiving yards broke a 1A record that was set back in 2006.

All said and done, A&M had its best season in 18 years. Coach Weakly said

it best of his team: "Hats off to our kids. They kept competing. . . . I'm really happy and proud of them."

I am happy and proud of them, too. We are proud of the coach, his entire coaching staff, and the entire Central A&M community.

Congrats on a great season.

MARKING ONE YEAR OF RECOVERY FOR TAYLORVILLE, ILLINOIS

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it has been 1 year since an EF-3 tornado ripped through my hometown of Taylorville, Illinois.

More than 700 structures were damaged and 33 were destroyed that night, but not a single life was lost.

I thank God for looking over Taylorville that night, and I am thankful for the critical decisions made by our former fire chief, Mike Crews, and our current mayor, Bruce Barry. Their actions likely saved countless lives.

It is a night I will never forget, not only because of the destruction I saw when arriving back into my community minutes after the tornado ravaged it, but it is also the damage I saw the next day in daylight.

I am also amazed by the generosity that we saw from so many people outside our community. Hundreds of volunteers came out to assist with the cleanup, and donations poured in from across the State and the Nation to help those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I especially want to thank Ed Legg and those others who make up Missions for Taylorville for coordinating getting these donations out to those families in need.

We gathered this past weekend at the Taylorville VFW Post as a community to remember that night, to thank our first responders and volunteers for their work, and also to remind everybody that many families are still in need of help.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year after this devastating tornado, I again thank all those who continue to help my hometown recover and to pray for the families still in need.

We are all Taylorville Strong.

SUPPORT RED CROSS' HOLIDAY MAIL FOR HEROES

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the American Red Cross' annual Holiday Mail for Heroes program.

Each year in early December, the Red Cross hosts this important event that strives to provide our men and women in uniform with the support and encouragement that is particularly important around the holiday season.

We all look forward to gathering with family, friends, and loved ones during this time of year. For our servicemembers, this is a luxury.

These men and women spend many months at a time away from their families. That is difficult no matter what

time of year it is, but around the holidays, their sacrifice is magnified.

Today, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Rayburn foyer, we can all play a small role in brightening the spirits of those in our military by signing a holiday card.

Mr. Speaker, it is an initiative that I look forward to participating in every year, and I encourage my colleagues and their staff to participate as well.

For more than a decade, the Holiday Mail for Heroes program has worked hard to remind our heroes just how much we appreciate their service and their sacrifice.

Last year around this time, I had the privilege of sponsoring a congressional delegation abroad where we met with our troops and had the pleasure of spending time with them during the week of Thanksgiving. My colleagues and I traveled to Kuwait to serve and to share a meal with soldiers stationed there. It was an honor to meet with so many individuals who have committed their lives to protecting our great Nation.

We can all do our part to support our dedicated servicemen and -women now and throughout the year. A gesture as small as sending a card can brighten the holiday season for those who are deployed.

This holiday season, I encourage each and every one of us to take a moment out of our days to let a soldier know how much we appreciate them.

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

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Prior to the great compromise, Benjamin Franklin addressed the Constitutional Convention: "We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom, since we have been running about in search of it. . . . In this situation of this assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us . . . have we now forgotten our powerful friend?"

Lord, You are the powerful friend referred to by Franklin, and we turn again to You to ask that Your wisdom might break through the political discussions of these days.

Bless the Members of the people's House and all of Congress with the insight and foresight to construct a future of security in our Nation's politics, economy, and society. May they, as You, be especially mindful of those who are poor and without power.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. KELLER 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.

U.S. AND BULGARIA FRIENDSHIP

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Donald Trump warmly welcomed Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov to the White House and reaffirmed the strong alliance between our two countries.

Based on this successful meeting, the United States and Bulgaria announced a new strategic partnership framework to deepen our historic bilateral relationship which spans over 100 years.

According to a joint statement to face a growing concern about the security situation in the Black Sea, Bulgaria offered to provide a maritime coordination function at Varna in support of NATO's Tailored Forward Presence Initiative. This is so important and will be a welcome step in the formation of an intelligence hub in the region to counter destructive activity. The two also agreed to work more closely on energy diversification to advance Bulgaria's energy sector, reduce prices for citizens, and allow for Bulgaria to become a true gas hub and key source of regional energy security.

These two measures underscore the important role that Bulgaria continues to play as an ally and a valuable NATO

member. I am grateful that President Trump is prioritizing a relationship with a beloved ally like Bulgaria.

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

RECOGNIZING NAACP ATLANTIC CITY BRANCH

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to express my gratitude for the efforts of the NAACP Atlantic City branch to make south Jersey a place of inclusion, acceptance, and equality.

In the past few years, this organization has worked to improve access to the polls for marginalized voters, to protect maternal and infant health with the Infant Mortality Task Force, and to provide scholarships for the education of our vulnerable youth.

The NAACP of Atlantic City has also focused on tackling hatred in our community by organizing vigils to call out hateful and unacceptable actions against minorities and by addressing the environmental injustice disproportionately suffered by these groups.

This group has worked tirelessly to support minority groups in south Jersey, and our region is safer, healthier, more inclusive, and happier because of it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Atlantic City NAACP for their commitment and service to our community. South Jersey and the State of New Jersey appreciates all the work that they do.

DEMOCRATS ARE TRYING TO TEAR THIS COUNTRY APART

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, after weeks of secret depositions, selective leaks, and public hearings, the Democrats trying to tear down this country with their impeachment sham have not proven any of their assertions against President Trump.

Unfortunately for those Americans who expect Members of Congress to work for their benefit, the majority in this Chamber is instead obsessed with overturning the will of the people expressed in the 2016 election. That obsession caused substantive legislation to come to a standstill.

While some Democrat Members of this House have pointed to the number of bills passed as evidence of success, I would like to point out that just because people are busy, it does not mean they are working. While bipartisan bills to address issues like lowering prescription drug prices, better trade deals, and funding our national defense are ready to be voted on, Speaker PELOSI has instead chosen to focus on

partisan messaging that she knows has zero chance of ever becoming law.

Speaker PELOSI's partisan legislating must come to an end, and we must get back to working together in the interest of the American people.

12 DAYS OF SALT

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the taxpayers of New Jersey. There are 12 days left in the legislative calendar, and I urge the House to close 2019 by lifting the cap on the State and local tax deduction cap, or SALT.

I will be here on the floor every day this holiday season highlighting the impact of SALT on my constituents and on Americans across the country for the 12 days of SALT.

And on this first day of SALT my constituents have said to me that SALT is the number one concern they have. I meet teachers, firefighters, homeowners, and small business owners who owed thousands more on their taxes this year as a result of the \$10,000 deduction cap.

Capping SALT deductions is an attack on New Jersey residents, businesses, homeowners, and unfairly imposes a marriage penalty on couples filing jointly. It is an attack on States that invest in their communities—investments in roads, libraries, schools, first responders, and teachers.

So I urge my colleagues to pass SALT legislation immediately and to stop double taxing hardworking Americans.

THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 5249, the Supporting Healthy Outcomes for Mothers and Infants Act. I am proud to cosponsor this bill alongside my colleague, Congressman DAVID TRONE.

The opioid epidemic is a public health crisis. It does not discriminate. Opioid abuse impacts all of our communities, and sadly, expectant mothers and children are particularly vulnerable.

This bill will help address the crisis by properly investing in opportunities for both education and prevention. Equally important, the bill works to destigmatize addiction and rightfully treat it as an illness.

Specifically, the Supporting Healthy Outcomes for Mothers and Infants Act instructs the Health and Human Services Secretary and the Agriculture Secretary to develop evidence-based nutrition education material for WIC-eligible

pregnant women and caregivers to infants impacted by neonatal abstinence syndrome.

It ensures WIC conducts outreach to those who may be eligible for the program or impacted by substance abuse disorder.

Lastly, the bill makes any nutrition education and training materials developed available to State agencies through an online clearinghouse.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support H.R. 5249.

RURAL COMMUNITIES FACE DANGERS FROM ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, "Right under your nose: A Mexican cartel turned this rural area into a hidden cocaine hub," reads the headline from over the weekend from our newspaper in southern Virginia.

This article goes on to explain how a drug cartel has smuggled super pure meth, cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, and other drugs throughout the southern Virginia countryside.

I have spoken on this floor about the dangers our rural communities face from illicit drug trafficking, and now in my district, Mexican cartels, famous for their extreme violence, are tearing local communities to shreds.

I have taken action. I voted to provide funding that will help CBP agents stop drugs at the border. Securing our border cuts the head off the snake of these violent cartels. I have aided local law enforcement and pushed for drug trafficking designations in my district, and I have worked to fund treatment programs that help those battling addiction.

We need to fight back against drug trafficking and take back the communities we call home.

RECOGNIZING MURRAY POOLE

(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 Mr. Murray Poole, who is retiring after 54 years of covering local sports in the news in towns across coastal Georgia.

The long-time sports editor of The Brunswick News, Mr. Poole was known throughout the Golden Isles as both fair and supportive of all the local players and the teams. Mr. Poole simply never wrote a bad word about anyone.

Mr. Poole interviewed nearly every major sports star who came through the Golden Isles, including Mickey Mantle, Davis Love III, and Adam Wainwright, and made it a point to ask them only feel-good questions.

But more importantly, Mr. Poole gave his undivided attention to local sporting events. Murray would highlight everyone from the high school region championship golf team to the second-string freshman football player.

Mr. Poole's journalism in the Golden Isles is simply irreplaceable.

Mr. Speaker, may Mr. Poole enjoy his retirement. We thank him for his service to our community.

HONORING DR. BARBARA JONES

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Barbara Jones on her retirement from South Arkansas Community College.

Dr. Jones has served as the President of South Arkansas Community College for more than 10 years and has always been dedicated to promoting higher education.

Dr. Jones brought an impressive resume to south Arkansas with a background in health science and educational leadership. She has served on the American Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors as well as several other professional educational organizations.

Prior to Barbara entering the collegiate sphere, she worked as a laboratory scientist for 22 years in both hospitals and medical facilities. Young people in Arkansas are becoming leaders in their schools and communities, and Dr. Jones played a huge role in many of their lives.

Working in higher education can often be a thankless job, but Dr. Jones was a tireless force for over a decade. By encouraging students in both STEM fields and others, Barbara demonstrated commitment to learning skills for a lifelong career.

Dr. Jones will be greatly missed by the students and alumni of South Arkansas Community College.

We wish her and her family all the best as she retires. It is with great pride that I honor Dr. Jones.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2534, INSIDER TRADING PROHIBITION ACT, AND RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 77, DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 5(C) OF THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION TO REMOVE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 739 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 739

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant

to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2534) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit certain securities trading and related communications by those who possess material, nonpublic information. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-39 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. (a) At any time on the legislative day of Wednesday, December 11, 2019, it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House a motion to discharge the Committee on Foreign Affairs from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 77) directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic that have not been authorized by Congress, if offered by Representative Gabbard of Hawaii. The motion shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion except 20 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by Representative Gabbard of Hawaii and an opponent. The question of adoption of the motion may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

(b) The provisions of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546) shall not apply during the remainder of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress to House Concurrent Resolution 77.

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gen-

tleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of the resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

□ 1215

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee met last night and reported House Resolution 739, providing for consideration of H.R. 2534, the Insider Trading Prohibition Act, under a structured rule, which makes in order two amendments.

The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services and provides for one motion to recommit. Lastly, the rule makes the motion to discharge H. Con. Res. 77, if offered by Representative GABBARD from Hawaii, in order on December 11 and that the resolution be debatable for 20 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased we are here today to provide for consideration of H.R. 2534, the Insider Trading Prohibition Act, which will establish a statutory prohibition on insider trading.

For millions of hardworking Americans, investing in the stock market is an important tool to save for retirement, send their kids to college, or save for a downpayment on a home. The foundation of an efficient market is rooted in fairness and transparency, that all investors have access to the same information so they can make reasonable and prudent investment decisions.

Insider trading erodes the foundation of fairness and transparency. When company insiders, or market participants with insider knowledge, use nonpublic information to trade stocks, bonds, or other types of securities, not only do they unfairly gain a financial advantage over families saving for their futures, but the insiders also erode trust in our Nation's financial system. We cannot allow insiders to take advantage of the folks who play by the rules.

Current law on insider trading has been largely developed by the courts based on the antifraud statute in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, yet there is no specific law prohibiting insider trading. This lack of clarity in the law, combined with recent court decisions limiting the ability of the SEC to prosecute insider trading, has opened the door for bad actors to profit at the expense of average investors.

Insider trading is wrong and undermines our economy. It is time for Congress to act and provide a clear legal standard for insider trading.

This bill passed the Financial Services Committee on a voice vote in May, showcasing the importance of finally codifying a prohibition on insider trading. Since the markup, the sponsor of the legislation, Representative JIM HIMES from Connecticut, has negotiated with Ranking Member MCHENRY to address any outstanding issues and incorporate feedback from the SEC.

The text of the bill we are considering today incorporates many of the suggestions from Mr. MCHENRY and other Republicans. Discussions between Mr. HIMES and Mr. MCHENRY, which concluded late yesterday, have resulted in the McHenry amendment, which enjoys the full support of Mr. HIMES and Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS.

I understand adoption of this amendment, which makes further clarifying changes, will bring the support of Ranking Member MCHENRY and many more of my Republican colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. HIMES on his efforts over the years in coming to this bipartisan compromise. This bill will be a big step forward in reinstating trust in our financial system and providing transparency for our markets.

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

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER), my friend, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

We had to hustle over here today, Mr. Speaker. You were already here, and I appreciate your timely beginning of the House, but this is a different kind of day. Ordinarily, we have more 1 minutes, more folks celebrating high school teachers, local newspaper folks, and local philanthropic efforts, but as you might imagine, there are other things going on on the Hill today.

That is unfortunate because I come down here today not with a heavy heart that I often come with, from a Rules Committee perspective. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee is in charge of deciding whether or not to allow amendments, what to schedule for the floor. As a member of the minority, there are four of us up there on the Rules Committee with nine members in the majority, so we lose a lot. The time for bipartisan partnership happens before a bill gets to the Rules Committee.

Yesterday, what we saw transpire in the Rules Committee, Mr. Speaker, was not at all unprecedented. It is just not as common as I wish it were. That is that the committees of jurisdiction were working all the way up until the eleventh hour to come together on a bipartisan solution so that we wouldn't have to jam something through the Rules Committee.

I see my friend from Connecticut has come down to the floor. Mr. HIMES, representing the majority on the Financial Services Committee, and Mr.

HUIZENGA, representing the minority, talked about the partnership that came together, not to create the perfect bill, not to create the bill that I would have written, and, candidly, not to create the bill that my friend from Colorado would have written, but to have crafted a bill with give-and-take so that instead of spending time on this floor making statements, we are going to spend time on this floor making legislation.

We are going to have an actual opportunity, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to upset anybody's appletart here because so often we do spend more time trying to make a point than make a difference. This is a bill about making a difference today.

Not at all common, there were no Democratic amendments made in order to this bill. The two Republican amendments that were made in order are the perfecting amendments to seal that bipartisan compromise. I think we are going to end up with a big bipartisan vote on the board.

The only thing that gives me a heavy heart today, Mr. Speaker, is that I offered an amendment last night to add suspension authority for the Speaker of the House, Speaker PELOSI, to bring up a bill dealing with the widows and widowers of American servicemen and -women killed in action and the benefits that they are not receiving today. This is also a bipartisan bill. I offered an amendment to make that suspension authority in order. It was rejected on a party-line vote, so I am going to be opposing the rule today because I would like to be able to include those things.

But we did get a motion to recommit that will be made in order today, so I will have an opportunity, if we defeat the previous question, to bring up the NDAA bill, the National Defense Authorization Act, which does contain the widow's tax repeal and gives us an opportunity to do even more things together.

I see my friend from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) on the floor today. He serves on the Financial Services Committee with my friend Mr. LOUDERMILK from Georgia. We have two Georgians who serve on the committee of jurisdiction for this bill.

I always enjoy the Financial Services Committee because, historically, in my 9 years here, it has not been led by shrinking violets on either side of the aisle. There are those milquetoast committees on Capitol Hill, Mr. Speaker, that never make the news. Nobody ever gets a one-liner. Not so with the committee that my friend from Colorado and my friend from Georgia serve on.

But I like watching the vote tally because so often my friend Mr. SCOTT from Georgia and my friend Mr. LOUDERMILK from Georgia end up on the same side of the issue because, sadly, the only Financial Services Committee bills that make the headlines are those that highlight our stri-

dent differences here. But time and time again, the Financial Services Committee has had a record of producing bills that can go to the President's desk. They could go to President Obama's desk for his signature, and they can go to President Trump's desk for his signature.

I hope this turns out to be one of those exercises today, again, not an exercise in making a point but an exercise in making a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my friend from Colorado that his expertise on the Financial Services Committee is valued by all of us on the minority side of the aisle.

It is a special kind of pain being in the minority on the Rules Committee, Mr. Speaker, because minority members have wonderful ideas, and friends on the other side of the aisle are constrained from how many of those ideas they can support, but we always get a word of encouragement from our friend from Colorado.

I know if he were sitting on the minority side, I would be feeling his pain, and he feels ours. He is always a voice for encouragement on that committee. We see that come back from the witnesses who have a chance to serve with the gentleman from Colorado, talking about how much they enjoy that partnership.

That is why I am particularly pleased I was assigned this rule today, because it exemplifies the kind of work that we want out of all of our committees, that we have gotten out of the Financial Services Committee this day and that my friend from Colorado works each and every day to bring forward, sometimes with more success than others, but nonetheless, it is appreciated.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I always enjoy doing these rules with my friend from Georgia. He is very kind in his compliments, and he makes points that are well taken.

One, though, that I would take some issue with that he raised was with respect to the widow's tax, the bill that he brought up in committee last night. I would just say that particular bill was incorporated in the National Defense Authorization Act, which this House passed months ago, which, like so many other things, was caught up in a logjam over in the Senate where at least 275 bills, bipartisan bills, are sitting on Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL's desk and have not seen any action being taken.

□ 1230

But we are here today to talk about the Insider Trading Prohibition Act, which really has come a long way. Mr. HIMES from Connecticut has been working on this piece of legislation for some time. And, as Mr. WOODALL said, there has been a lot of collaboration

which has resulted, and, upon the passage of Mr. MCHENRY's amendment, will result in a pretty good bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) to speak on this rule and his bill.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding me a little bit of time. I also thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for acknowledging the bipartisan quality of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in the hope that this body will support the rule. The rule, in particular, obviously, made at least one, possibly two, Republican amendments in order.

I just want to reflect for one moment on what my intention was in the underlying bill.

First of all, this is a fix to a problem that we have had in American financial services law for a very long time, which is that there is no specific statute prohibiting insider trading.

Yes, we have prosecuted insider trading for a very long time using fraud provisions and other provisions of the securities law. As a result of there being no explicit prohibition on insider trading, much of the law that has grown up around this is court-made law.

I know I speak for everyone in this Chamber when I say we are here to make the laws of the land and, hopefully, guard that job jealously.

This is a good fix, but, to me, it was important how it was done. The Senate is controlled by the Republican Party. The House is controlled by the Democratic Party.

It was very important to me to get Republican support for this bill, number one, because I believe that that is the way that we get good, resilient legislation done and, number two, because it afforded me the opportunity to work very closely with people like Ranking Member MCHENRY and my Republican colleagues on the Financial Services Committee in a larger effort to build the trust and to build the relationships that, hopefully, will open the aperture for us doing more of these bipartisan things.

We do two big things around here: We stand by the values that our parties represent, but, at the end of the day, we try to come together to get something done. Honestly, in the years I have been here, we have done way too much of the former and not enough of the latter.

I really am very pleased with the way this bill has turned out. I think it has a shot of becoming law if we can get the Senate to move on it. I am delighted by the bipartisan support it has received.

Mr. Speaker, I would just close by again thanking my Republican colleagues, Mr. PERLMUTTER from Colorado, and hope that this body will support this rule.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with my friend from Connecticut. It has been true that we have spent too much time making policy statements and not enough time making policy. That has been true under leadership of both parties here. Though, the truth is, Mr. Speaker—and because I take great pride in this institution, I want to say it—we do spend more time making policy than we get credit for.

You can't see behind you, Mr. Speaker, but I am looking at the press gallery today, all the folks who are covering us reclaiming our Article I responsibilities today. We are not going to let the courts legislate in this area; we are going to legislate in this area. There is approximately one outlet there covering this today; others are elsewhere.

Again, we worked until the eleventh hour to put something together, a bipartisan compromise between the chairman and ranking member on the Financial Services Committee. The collective national presence to highlight that partnership is, again, one.

I don't know what we can do here to try to let success beget success. So often, these kinds of successes go right underneath the radar screen, and, thus, it makes it harder to accomplish these things. If I could make it clear to America that the tag team of WATERS and MCHENRY can come together to get good things done, that certainly sends a message that there is hope for all of us in this space.

I want to go back to what my friend from Colorado said, though. He is absolutely right about the widow's tax. We did incorporate that bill in the NDAA. It has been sitting in the Senate doing nothing.

I wish we would have passed it as a stand-alone bill. That is a different conversation for a different day.

But it is sitting in the Senate, and there is nothing I can do, Mr. Speaker, to move the Senate along any faster. I can't get their conferees to work any harder.

But what I can do is I can get the House to take up the Senate-passed NDAA, and we can take back the authority in this institution to move the NDAA forward. It is important for the widow's tax, but, Mr. Speaker, it is important for so many other things absolutely essential to the defense of this country.

It has been one of those bills that we have come together in a bipartisan way to be successful on decade after decade after decade, and it is a stain on the success of the House and the Senate this cycle that we have not been able to move that forward in a bipartisan way.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, in the same way that I can't speak to insider trading in that legislation any better than the gentleman from Connecticut does as a member of jurisdiction, I also cannot speak to the NDAA in any better words than my friend from Wyoming (Ms. CHENEY), a former member of the Rules Committee, the Conference chairman for the House Republicans here, and an unabashed defender of providing the very best for our men and women in uniform.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. CHENEY).

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. WOODALL, for yielding. I miss our time together on the Rules Committee. I look forward to a Rules Committee under majority leadership in the near future, and we would like to have Mr. WOODALL back. I thank him for all of his great service to our Nation and to this institution.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, we will amend the rule and begin immediate consideration of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. I urge the House to move forward on this measure and give our men and women in uniform the resources they deserve and tools they need to defend all of us.

As matters stand, Mr. Speaker, we are facing a grave situation. Combining the already delayed NDAA with the most recent continuing resolution is bad enough. But further delay on this defense bill, combined with the potential of yet one more continuing resolution, that, Mr. Speaker, is a national security nightmare.

Timely, stable, adequate funding is a prerequisite for a strong military. It is the first step toward ensuring the security of each and every American. That is why, Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we, as a body, fulfill this, our most important constitutional duty, which is to provide for the common defense. If we fail to do so, nothing else we do in this body will matter.

If this Chamber fails to do so, Mr. Speaker, make no mistake, the Democrats will be held to account. The partisan tactics and the baseless impeachment exercises we have seen will be to blame. Speaker PELOSI's leadership has cast a cloud over the defense authorization and appropriations processes in this body.

In July, Mr. Speaker, the House voted on a hyperpartisan defense bill on an unprecedented party-line basis. This legislation was loaded with poison pills, but it did not have to be this way. The Senate passed its bill on a bipartisan basis, carrying on a decades-long tradition.

Then, as if this partisanship on the defense bill wasn't enough, Democrats decided to begin a closed-door impeachment inquiry, an inquiry which has served only to distract and delay the NDAA process further.

Not only that, Mr. Speaker, but the Democrats have hijacked the Intelligence Committee, one of the single most important committees in this body responsible for the security of this Nation. They have hijacked it with an impeachment process that we have now seen as an absolute and clear waste of valuable time, with huge costs to the American people.

Think for a moment about the sacrifices our men and women in uniform are making right now, as I speak. Our troops are hunting down ISIS and al-Qaida terrorists; they are deterring rogue regimes; and they are working with vital allies around the world. They are securing the freedom of millions of Americans.

Ensuring their ability to do so is not a matter for partisan tactics or delay. Protecting our men and women on the front lines should be Congress' first priority. Unfortunately, our men and women in uniform are, once again, being held hostage in order for the Democrats to chase an impeachment fantasy.

The fact is that our adversaries are not pressing pause. China and Russia are developing hypersonic strike weapons, modernizing their nuclear forces, advancing their air and missile defenses, and increasingly making advances in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

These threats will not go away. In fact, the longer our national security is subject to partisan distractions, the harder it will become for America to match and overpower these threats.

When Democrats choose partisanship over providing for our Nation's security, as they have since this Congress was sworn in, they are helping the Chinese, the Russians, rogue regimes, and terrorist groups. The American people will hold the Democrats accountable for their gross neglect of our constitutional obligations.

Mr. Speaker, we must act now to pass a bipartisan NDAA to support our troops and to strengthen our security.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would remind the body that we are here to talk about insider trading prohibition and not specifically the National Defense Authorization Act. But let's talk about some of the differences between the House and the Senate that my colleague from Wyoming would, apparently, just give up.

She doesn't, apparently, care or is recommending that we forget about the widow's tax, which the gentleman from Georgia has really eloquently discussed the need for it. But, obviously, that is something that is in the House-passed bill and not in the Senate bill.

Secondly, in the House-passed bill, there is parental leave for members of our military. That certainly is not part of the Senate bill.

There is a whole section on upgrading and improving military housing for

those who serve our Nation and protect us; and I know there is a specific provision in there to assist nuclear weapons workers who have become sick or ill due to all the toxicity and radiation that they suffered during, particularly, the Cold War period and, since then, in dealing with our nuclear weapons arsenal.

I would suggest to the gentlewoman from Wyoming that she is just wrong on wanting to give up, recede, and let the Senate control all of this. Those priorities are serious priorities for the men and women of our military, for our nuclear weapons workers, and for widows. I appreciate her comments.

We certainly want to see the National Defense Authorization Act passed as quickly as possible, but it, like so many other things, has gotten stuck in the Republican majority Senate: 275 bills, minimum, bipartisan in nature, sitting on Senate Majority MITCH MCCONNELL's desk, no action having been taken.

I would say that there is a lot of bipartisan legislation that certainly can be passed today if the Senate majority leader would actually take some action instead of just sitting there doing nothing.

But coming back to this particular piece of legislation, this is a good bill; it is done in collaboration between Democrats and Republicans; and it needs to be passed. I would urge that we need to proceed with this process, move forward, get this rule passed, so we can get on with this particular piece of legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I was walking down the hall one day between the Capitol and the Budget Committee room, and I was walking with the now-chairman of the Budget Committee, Mr. YARMUTH from Kentucky. We were arguing because he is a committed budgeteer and I am a committed budgeteer. We were arguing about process and how it was that we were going to deliver the results that our constituents are demanding and that the Nation expects.

We were about halfway down that tunnel, past all that brilliant artwork that high schoolers send in, when we realized that we were saying exactly the same thing. I was just saying it in Republican terms; he was saying it in Democrat terms. We had been arguing then for about 5 minutes on what should have been bringing us together.

We end up in that space a lot here. Because my friend from Colorado does work so hard to reach out and be collaborative, I want to make sure that he didn't misunderstand my friend from Wyoming.

□ 1245

I could hear the frustration in her voice. My friend did not have the pleasure of serving with her on the Rules Committee, but when national security

issues came up, she has been living this commitment as a member of the committee. When we do a continuing resolution, for my friend and me it is about an extra 2 weeks to solve disagreements. For her it is 2 weeks of lost ability to plan for national security.

When we get things done by December 31 and a deadline, we think of this as a great success. For her, it is an entire quarter that we couldn't plan for new threats and new challenges that are confronting the U.S. intelligence and defense establishment.

It is not just personal, it is truly life and death in a national security way.

If we defeat the previous question, what the gentlewoman from Wyoming was proposing is that we take up the Senate bill and amend it with all of those ideas that our conferees have already gotten together on.

Now, my friend is correct. The Senate has some challenges. I would argue it is a challenge that nobody has 60 votes over there, and so whether Republicans are leading the Senate or Democrats are leading the Senate, there is still no ability to move things past the filibuster threshold. But we can take up that bill, because I would say it is Democrats in the Senate holding it up. My friend from Colorado might say it is Republicans in the Senate holding it up. But we all agree that it is critically important that we get it done. So I don't want to slow down the insider trading bill, Mr. Speaker, and that is not what I am suggesting.

What I am suggesting is: If we defeat the previous question, we have already got section 1 and section 2 of the rule that covers the insider trading bill. Let's add a section 3 to the rule. In the same way the insider trading bill reclaims Article I responsibility from Article III courts, section 3 is going to reclaim from the Senate the House prerogative to move forward on legislation. We will bring up the Senate bill, we will add in all of the amendments that the Democratic chairman of the Armed Services Committee and the Republican ranking member want to include, and then we will move that bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, the insider trading bill is important, and we are going to get that done together. National security is even more important.

Again, while it is not the subject of national news coverage, this is something we have gotten done in a bipartisan collaborative way no matter who runs the U.S. House, no matter who runs the U.S. Senate, and no matter who sits in the White House for almost 60 years. Every single year bills fail, bills succeed, Presidents come, and Presidents go. We have gotten this done because it is important to 330 million Americans.

Keep section 1 of the rule and keep section 2 of the rule. Let's move forward on the bipartisan product of the Financial Services Committee. Let's add section 3. Let's defeat the previous question, let's reclaim from the Senate

the NDAA papers, let's move forward with a House amendment, and let's send the Senate a bill that they can pass tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I don't see any other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any other speakers as well, so I will close. I assume that was my friend's closing.

Mr. WOODALL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I have got my Mars 2033 bumper sticker here if we are prepared to talk about other collaborative things moving forward, but I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, along with Mr. WOODALL, I want to thank my colleagues for joining me here today to speak on the rule and the Insider Trading Prohibition Act.

The Insider Trading Prohibition Act has been a long time coming. Since passage of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the SEC has relied on its anti-fraud statute and mounting case law without an explicit statute prohibiting insider trading. This legislation provides the clarity our regulators need in order to do their job and ensure the fundamental foundation of fairness and transparency in our financial system. We owe it to our constituents to ensure that their savings in the stock market are on an equal footing with all investors.

My friend from Georgia and I have spent a lot of time talking about bipartisanship today and how we can work together across party lines to tackle the tough issues facing our constituents. That is what the House has been doing this year under the Democratic majority. We have passed over 275 bipartisan bills that are sitting on the Senate majority leader's desk awaiting action in the Senate. These 275 bills represent progress that the Democratic majority is delivering for the people to strengthen the health, economic security, and well-being of every family in every community in America.

The House has passed bipartisan and commonsense gun violence prevention bills, we have strengthened background checks, we have passed reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, and we have passed dozens of bipartisan bills to care for our Nation's veterans. We want to see those particular pieces of legislation move from the Senate to the White House and be passed into law for all Americans.

I hope the Insider Trading Prohibition Act doesn't get caught up in this graveyard over in the Senate and is instead taken up quickly by the Senate along with all these other important bipartisan bills our colleagues have worked together to pass this year.

I appreciate the bipartisan nature of Mr. HIMES and Mr. MCHENRY in coming

together with this particular piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage a “yes” vote on the rule and the previous question.

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

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 739

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. The House being in possession of the official papers, the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on S. 1790 shall be, and they are hereby, discharged. It shall then be in order without intervention of any point of order for the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee, after consultation with the ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services, to move that the House recede from its amendment and agree to an amendment to the Senate bill (S. 1790). The motion shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except for one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

PALLONE-THUNE TELEPHONE ROBOCALL ABUSE CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT AND DETERRENCE ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 151) to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 151

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 “Pallone-Thune Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act” or the “Pallone-Thune TRACED Act”.

SEC. 2. COMMISSION DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

SEC. 3. FORFEITURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following:

“(4) CIVIL FORFEITURE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person that is determined by the Commission, in accordance with paragraph (3) or (4) of section 503(b), to have violated this subsection shall be liable to the United States for a forfeiture penalty pursuant to section 503(b)(1). Paragraph (5) of section 503(b) shall not apply in the case of a violation of this subsection. A forfeiture penalty under this subparagraph shall be in addition to any other penalty provided for by this Act. The amount of the forfeiture penalty determined under this subparagraph shall be determined in accordance with subparagraphs (A) through (F) of section 503(b)(2).

“(B) VIOLATION WITH INTENT.—Any person that is determined by the Commission, in accordance with paragraph (3) or (4) of section 503(b), to have violated this subsection with the intent to cause such violation shall be liable to the United States for a forfeiture penalty pursuant to section 503(b)(1). Paragraph (5) of section 503(b) shall not apply in the case of a violation of this subsection. A forfeiture penalty under this subparagraph shall be in addition to any other penalty provided for by this Act. The amount of the forfeiture penalty determined under this subparagraph shall be equal to an amount determined in accordance with subparagraphs (A) through (F) of section 503(b)(2) plus an additional penalty not to exceed \$10,000.

“(C) RECOVERY.—Any forfeiture penalty determined under subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be recoverable under section 504(a).

“(D) PROCEDURE.—No forfeiture liability shall be determined under subparagraph (A) or (B) against any person unless such person receives the notice required by section 503(b)(3) or section 503(b)(4).

“(E) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (6) of section 503(b), no forfeiture penalty shall be determined or imposed against any person—

“(i) under subparagraph (A) if the violation charged occurred more than 1 year prior to the date of issuance of the required notice or notice of apparent liability; or

“(ii) under subparagraph (B) if the violation charged occurred more than 4 years prior to the date of issuance of the required notice or notice of apparent liability.

“(F) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the Commission may not determine or impose a forfeiture penalty on a person under both subparagraphs (A) and (B) based on the same conduct.”;

(2) in subsection (e)(5)(A)—

(A) in clause (ii), by adding at the end the following: “Paragraph (5) of section 503(b) shall not apply in the case of a violation of this subsection.”; and

(B) in clause (iv)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “2-YEAR” and inserting “4-YEAR”; and

(ii) by striking “2 years” and inserting “4 years”; and

(3) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following:

“(h) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON ROBOCALLS AND TRANSMISSION OF MISLEADING

OR INACCURATE CALLER IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION.—

“(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Commission, after consultation with the Federal Trade Commission, shall submit to Congress a report regarding enforcement by the Commission of subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) during the preceding calendar year.

“(2) MATTERS FOR INCLUSION.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) The number of complaints received by the Commission during each of the preceding 5 calendar years, for each of the following categories:

“(i) Complaints alleging that a consumer received a call in violation of subsection (b) or (c).

“(ii) Complaints alleging that a consumer received a call in violation of the standards prescribed under subsection (d).

“(iii) Complaints alleging that a consumer received a call in connection with which misleading or inaccurate caller identification information was transmitted in violation of subsection (e).

“(B) The number of citations issued by the Commission pursuant to section 503(b) during the preceding calendar year to enforce subsection (d), and details of each such citation.

“(C) The number of notices of apparent liability issued by the Commission pursuant to section 503(b) during the preceding calendar year to enforce subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e), and details of each such notice including any proposed forfeiture amount.

“(D) The number of final orders imposing forfeiture penalties issued pursuant to section 503(b) during the preceding calendar year to enforce such subsections, and details of each such order including the forfeiture imposed.

“(E) The amount of forfeiture penalties or criminal fines collected, during the preceding calendar year, by the Commission or the Attorney General for violations of such subsections, and details of each case in which such a forfeiture penalty or criminal fine was collected.

“(F) Proposals for reducing the number of calls made in violation of such subsections.

“(G) An analysis of the contribution by providers of interconnected VoIP service and non-interconnected VoIP service that discount high-volume, unlawful, short-duration calls to the total number of calls made in violation of such subsections, and recommendations on how to address such contribution in order to decrease the total number of calls made in violation of such subsections.

“(3) NO ADDITIONAL REPORTING REQUIRED.—The Commission shall prepare the report required by paragraph (1) without requiring the provision of additional information from providers of telecommunications service or voice service (as defined in section 4(a) of the Pallone-Thune TRACED Act).”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall not affect any action or proceeding commenced before and pending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.—The Commission shall prescribe regulations to implement the amendments made by this section not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. CALL AUTHENTICATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) STIR/SHAKEN AUTHENTICATION FRAMEWORK.—The term “STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework” means the secure telephone identity revisited and signature-based

handling of asserted information using to-kens standards proposed by the information and communications technology industry.

(2) VOICE SERVICE.—The term “voice service”—

(A) means any service that is interconnected with the public switched telephone network and that furnishes voice communications to an end user using resources from the North American Numbering Plan or any successor to the North American Numbering Plan adopted by the Commission under section 251(e)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)(1)); and

(B) includes—

(i) transmissions from a telephone facsimile machine, computer, or other device to a telephone facsimile machine; and

(ii) without limitation, any service that enables real-time, two-way voice communications, including any service that requires internet protocol-compatible customer premises equipment (commonly known as “CPE”) and permits out-bound calling, whether or not the service is one-way or two-way voice over internet protocol.

(b) AUTHENTICATION FRAMEWORKS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), and in accordance with paragraph (6), not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall—

(A) require a provider of voice service to implement the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework in the internet protocol networks of the provider of voice service; and

(B) require a provider of voice service to take reasonable measures to implement an effective call authentication framework in the non-internet protocol networks of the provider of voice service.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Commission shall not take the action described in paragraph (1) with respect to a provider of voice service if the Commission determines, not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, that such provider of voice service—

(A) in internet protocol networks—

(i) has adopted the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework for calls on the internet protocol networks of the provider of voice service;

(ii) has agreed voluntarily to participate with other providers of voice service in the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework;

(iii) has begun to implement the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework; and

(iv) will be capable of fully implementing the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) in non-internet protocol networks—

(i) has taken reasonable measures to implement an effective call authentication framework; and

(ii) will be capable of fully implementing an effective call authentication framework not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the determination required under paragraph (2), which shall include—

(A) an analysis of the extent to which providers of voice service have implemented the call authentication frameworks described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1), including whether the availability of necessary equipment and equipment upgrades has impacted such implementation; and

(B) an assessment of the efficacy of the call authentication frameworks described in sub-

paragraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) in addressing all aspects of call authentication.

(4) REVIEW AND REVISION OR REPLACEMENT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 3 years thereafter, the Commission, after public notice and an opportunity for comment, shall—

(A) assess the efficacy of the technologies used for call authentication frameworks implemented under this section;

(B) based on the assessment under subparagraph (A), revise or replace the call authentication frameworks under this section if the Commission determines it is in the public interest to do so; and

(C) submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the findings of the assessment under subparagraph (A) and on any actions to revise or replace the call authentication frameworks under subparagraph (B).

(5) EXTENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—

(A) BURDENS AND BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and as appropriate thereafter, the Commission—

(i) shall assess any burdens or barriers to the implementation required by paragraph (1), including—

(I) for providers of voice service to the extent the networks of such providers use time-division multiplexing;

(II) for small providers of voice service and those in rural areas; and

(III) the inability to purchase or upgrade equipment to support the call authentication frameworks under this section, or lack of availability of such equipment; and

(ii) in connection with an assessment under clause (i), may, upon a public finding of undue hardship, delay required compliance with the 18-month time period described in paragraph (1), for a reasonable period of time, for a provider or class of providers of voice service, or type of voice calls, as necessary for that provider or class of providers or type of calls to participate in the implementation in order to address the identified burdens and barriers.

(B) DELAY OF COMPLIANCE REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN NON-INTERNET PROTOCOL NETWORKS.—Subject to subparagraphs (C) through (F), for any provider or class of providers of voice service, or type of voice calls, only to the extent that such a provider or class of providers of voice service, or type of voice calls, materially relies on a non-internet protocol network for the provision of such service or calls, the Commission shall grant a delay of required compliance under subparagraph (A)(ii) until a call authentication protocol has been developed for calls delivered over non-internet protocol networks and is reasonably available.

(C) ROBOCALL MITIGATION PROGRAM.—

(i) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—During the time of a delay of compliance granted under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Commission shall require, pursuant to the authority of the Commission, that any provider subject to such delay shall implement an appropriate robocall mitigation program to prevent unlawful robocalls from originating on the network of the provider.

(ii) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—If the consortium registered under section 13(d) identifies a provider of voice service that is subject to a delay of compliance granted under subparagraph (A)(ii) as repeatedly originating large-scale unlawful robocall campaigns, the Commission shall require such provider to take action to ensure that such provider does not continue to originate such calls.

(iii) MINIMIZATION OF BURDEN.—The Commission shall make reasonable efforts to minimize the burden of any robocall mitigation required pursuant to clause (ii), which may include prescribing certain specific robocall mitigation practices for providers of voice service that have repeatedly originated large-scale unlawful robocall campaigns.

(D) FULL PARTICIPATION.—The Commission shall take reasonable measures to address any issues in an assessment under subparagraph (A)(i) and enable as promptly as reasonable full participation of all classes of providers of voice service and types of voice calls to receive the highest level of trust. Such measures shall include, without limitation, as appropriate, limiting or terminating a delay of compliance granted to a provider under subparagraph (B) if the Commission determines in such assessment that the provider is not making reasonable efforts to develop the call authentication protocol described in such subparagraph.

(E) ALTERNATIVE METHODOLOGIES.—The Commission shall identify, in consultation with small providers of voice service and those in rural areas, alternative effective methodologies to protect customers from unauthenticated calls during any delay of compliance granted under subparagraph (A)(ii).

(F) REVISION OF DELAY OF COMPLIANCE.—Not less frequently than annually after the first delay of compliance is granted under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Commission—

(i) shall consider revising or extending any delay of compliance granted under subparagraph (A)(ii);

(ii) may revise such delay of compliance; and

(iii) shall issue a public notice with regard to whether such delay of compliance remains necessary, including—

(I) why such delay of compliance remains necessary; and

(II) when the Commission expects to achieve the goal of full participation as described in subparagraph (D).

(6) NO ADDITIONAL COST TO CONSUMERS OR SMALL BUSINESS CUSTOMERS.—The Commission shall prohibit providers of voice service from adding any additional line item charges to consumer or small business customer subscribers for the effective call authentication technology required under paragraph (1).

(7) ACCURATE IDENTIFICATION.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue best practices that providers of voice service may use as part of the implementation of effective call authentication frameworks under paragraph (1) to take steps to ensure the calling party is accurately identified.

(c) SAFE HARBOR AND OTHER REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with the regulations prescribed under subsection (j) of section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227), as added by section 10, the Commission shall, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, promulgate rules—

(A) establishing when a provider of voice service may block a voice call based, in whole or in part, on information provided by the call authentication frameworks under subsection (b), with no additional line item charge;

(B) establishing a safe harbor for a provider of voice service from liability for unintended or inadvertent blocking of calls or for the unintended or inadvertent misidentification of the level of trust for individual calls based, in whole or in part, on information provided by the call authentication frameworks under subsection (b);

(C) establishing a process to permit a calling party adversely affected by the information provided by the call authentication frameworks under subsection (b) to verify the authenticity of the calling party's calls; and

(D) ensuring that calls originating from a provider of voice service in an area where the provider is subject to a delay of compliance with the time period described in subsection (b)(1) are not unreasonably blocked because the calls are not able to be authenticated.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In establishing the safe harbor under paragraph (1), consistent with the regulations prescribed under subsection (j) of section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227), as added by section 10, the Commission shall consider limiting the liability of a provider of voice service based on the extent to which the provider of voice service—

(A) blocks or identifies calls based, in whole or in part, on the information provided by the call authentication frameworks under subsection (b);

(B) implemented procedures based, in whole or in part, on the information provided by the call authentication frameworks under subsection (b); and

(C) used reasonable care, including making all reasonable efforts to avoid blocking emergency public safety calls.

(d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall preclude the Commission from initiating a rulemaking pursuant to its existing statutory authority.

SEC. 5. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission, shall convene an interagency working group to study Government prosecution of violations of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)).

(b) **DUTIES.**—In carrying out the study under subsection (a), the interagency working group shall—

(1) determine whether, and if so how, any Federal laws, including regulations, policies, and practices, or budgetary or jurisdictional constraints inhibit the prosecution of such violations;

(2) identify existing and potential Federal policies and programs that encourage and improve coordination among Federal departments and agencies and States, and between States, in the prevention and prosecution of such violations;

(3) identify existing and potential international policies and programs that encourage and improve coordination between countries in the prevention and prosecution of such violations; and

(4) consider—

(A) the benefit and potential sources of additional resources for the Federal prevention and prosecution of criminal violations of that section;

(B) whether to establish memoranda of understanding regarding the prevention and prosecution of such violations between—

(i) the States;

(ii) the States and the Federal Government; and

(iii) the Federal Government and a foreign government;

(C) whether to establish a process to allow States to request Federal subpoenas from the Commission;

(D) whether extending civil enforcement authority to the States would assist in the successful prevention and prosecution of such violations;

(E) whether increased forfeiture and imprisonment penalties are appropriate, such as extending imprisonment for such a violation to a term longer than 2 years;

(F) whether regulation of any entity that enters into a business arrangement with a

common carrier regulated under title II of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) for the specific purpose of carrying, routing, or transmitting a call that constitutes such a violation would assist in the successful prevention and prosecution of such violations; and

(G) the extent to which, if any, Department of Justice policies to pursue the prosecution of violations causing economic harm, physical danger, or erosion of an inhabitant's peace of mind and sense of security inhibit the prevention or prosecution of such violations.

(c) **MEMBERS.**—The interagency working group shall be composed of such representatives of Federal departments and agencies as the Attorney General considers appropriate, such as—

(1) the Department of Commerce;

(2) the Department of State;

(3) the Department of Homeland Security;

(4) the Commission;

(5) the Federal Trade Commission; and

(6) the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

(d) **NON-FEDERAL STAKEHOLDERS.**—In carrying out the study under subsection (a), the interagency working group shall consult with such non-Federal stakeholders as the Attorney General determines have the relevant expertise, including the National Association of Attorneys General.

(e) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the interagency working group shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the findings of the study under subsection (a), including—

(1) any recommendations regarding the prevention and prosecution of such violations; and

(2) a description of what progress, if any, relevant Federal departments and agencies have made in implementing the recommendations under paragraph (1).

SEC. 6. ACCESS TO NUMBER RESOURCES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **EXAMINATION OF FCC POLICIES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall commence a proceeding to determine how Commission policies regarding access to number resources, including number resources for toll-free and non-toll-free telephone numbers, could be modified, including by establishing registration and compliance obligations, and requirements that providers of voice service given access to number resources take sufficient steps to know the identity of the customers of such providers, to help reduce access to numbers by potential perpetrators of violations of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)).

(2) **REGULATIONS.**—If the Commission determines under paragraph (1) that modifying the policies described in that paragraph could help achieve the goal described in that paragraph, the Commission shall prescribe regulations to implement those policy modifications.

(b) **AUTHORITY.**—Any person who knowingly, through an employee, agent, officer, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, by or through any means or device whatsoever, is a party to obtaining number resources, including number resources for toll-free and non-toll-free telephone numbers, from a common carrier regulated under title II of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), in violation of a regulation prescribed under subsection (a), shall, notwithstanding section 503(b)(5) of the Communica-

tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 503(b)(5)), be subject to a forfeiture penalty under section 503(b) of that Act (47 U.S.C. 503(b)). A forfeiture penalty under this subsection shall be in addition to any other penalty provided for by law.

SEC. 7. PROTECTIONS FROM SPOOFED CALLS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and consistent with the call authentication frameworks under section 4, the Commission shall initiate a rulemaking to help protect a subscriber from receiving unwanted calls or text messages from a caller using an unauthenticated number.

(b) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In promulgating rules under subsection (a), the Commission shall consider—

(1) the Government Accountability Office report on combating the fraudulent provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information required by section 503(c) of division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141);

(2) the best means of ensuring that a subscriber or provider has the ability to block calls from a caller using an unauthenticated North American Numbering Plan number;

(3) the impact on the privacy of a subscriber from unauthenticated calls;

(4) the effectiveness in verifying the accuracy of caller identification information; and

(5) the availability and cost of providing protection from the unwanted calls or text messages described in subsection (a).

SEC. 8. CONSUMER PROTECTIONS FOR EXEMPTIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 227(b)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G)(ii), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (H), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(I) shall ensure that any exemption under subparagraph (B) or (C) contains requirements for calls made in reliance on the exemption with respect to—

“(i) the classes of parties that may make such calls;

“(ii) the classes of parties that may be called; and

“(iii) the number of such calls that a calling party may make to a particular called party.”.

(b) **DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.**—In the case of any exemption issued under subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 227(b)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)(2)) before the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall, not later than 1 year after such date of enactment, prescribe such regulations, or amend such existing regulations, as necessary to ensure that such exemption contains each requirement described in subparagraph (I) of such section, as added by subsection (a). To the extent such an exemption contains such a requirement before such date of enactment, nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to require the Commission to prescribe or amend regulations relating to such requirement.

SEC. 9. REPORT ON REASSIGNED NUMBER DATABASE.

(a) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available on the website of the Commission, a report on the status of the efforts of the Commission pursuant to the Second Report and Order in the matter of Advanced Methods to Target and Eliminate Unlawful Robocalls (CG Docket No. 17-59; FCC 18-177; adopted on December 12, 2018).

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall describe the efforts of the Commission, as described in such Second Report and Order, to ensure—

(1) the establishment of a database of telephone numbers that have been disconnected, in order to provide a person making calls subject to section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)) with comprehensive and timely information to enable such person to avoid making calls without the prior express consent of the called party because the number called has been reasigned;

(2) that a person who wishes to use any safe harbor provided pursuant to such Second Report and Order with respect to making calls must demonstrate that, before making the call, the person appropriately checked the most recent update of the database and the database reported that the number had not been disconnected; and

(3) that if the person makes the demonstration described in paragraph (2), the person will be shielded from liability under section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)) should the database return an inaccurate result.

SEC. 10. STOP ROBOCALLS.

(a) INFORMATION SHARING REGARDING ROBOCALL AND SPOOFING VIOLATIONS.—Section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) INFORMATION SHARING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall prescribe regulations to establish a process that streamlines the ways in which a private entity may voluntarily share with the Commission information relating to—

“(A) a call made or a text message sent in violation of subsection (b); or

“(B) a call or text message for which misleading or inaccurate caller identification information was caused to be transmitted in violation of subsection (e).

“(2) TEXT MESSAGE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘text message’ has the meaning given such term in subsection (e)(8).”

(b) ROBOCALL BLOCKING SERVICE.—Section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) ROBOCALL BLOCKING SERVICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall take a final agency action to ensure the robocall blocking services provided on an opt-out or opt-in basis pursuant to the Declaratory Ruling of the Commission in the matter of Advanced Methods to Target and Eliminate Unlawful Robocalls (CG Docket No. 17–59; FCC 19–51; adopted on June 6, 2019)—

“(A) are provided with transparency and effective redress options for both—

“(i) consumers; and

“(ii) callers; and

“(B) are provided with no additional line item charge to consumers and no additional charge to callers for resolving complaints related to erroneously blocked calls; and

“(C) make all reasonable efforts to avoid blocking emergency public safety calls.

“(2) TEXT MESSAGE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘text message’ has the meaning given such term in subsection (e)(8).”

(c) STUDY ON INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN VOIP SERVICE PROVIDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall conduct a study regarding whether to require a provider of covered VoIP service to—

(A) provide to the Commission contact information for such provider and keep such information current; and

(B) retain records relating to each call transmitted over the covered VoIP service of such provider that are sufficient to trace such call back to the source of such call.

(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

(3) COVERED VOIP SERVICE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “covered VoIP service” means a service that—

(A) is an interconnected VoIP service (as defined in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153)); or

(B) would be an interconnected VoIP service (as so defined) except that the service permits users to terminate calls to the public switched telephone network but does not permit users to receive calls that originate on the public switched telephone network.

(d) TRANSITIONAL RULE REGARDING DEFINITION OF TEXT MESSAGE.—Paragraph (2) of subsection (i) of section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227), as added by subsection (a) of this section, and paragraph (2) of subsection (j) of such section 227, as added by subsection (b) of this section, shall apply before the effective date of the amendment made to subsection (e)(8) of such section 227 by subparagraph (C) of section 503(a)(2) of division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) as if such amendment was already in effect.

SEC. 11. PROVISION OF EVIDENCE OF CERTAIN ROBOCALL VIOLATIONS TO ATTORNEY GENERAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Chief of the Enforcement Bureau of the Commission obtains evidence that suggests a willful, knowing, and repeated robocall violation with an intent to defraud, cause harm, or wrongfully obtain anything of value, the Chief of the Enforcement Bureau shall provide such evidence to the Attorney General.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Commission shall publish on its website and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that—

(1) states the number of instances during the preceding year in which the Chief of the Enforcement Bureau provided the evidence described in subsection (a) to the Attorney General; and

(2) contains a general summary of the types of robocall violations to which such evidence relates.

(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the ability of the Commission or the Chief of the Enforcement Bureau under other law—

(1) to refer a matter to the Attorney General; or

(2) to pursue or continue pursuit of an enforcement action in a matter with respect to which the Chief of the Enforcement Bureau provided the evidence described in subsection (a) to the Attorney General.

(d) ROBOCALL VIOLATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “robocall violation” means a violation of subsection (b) or (e) of section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227).

SEC. 12. PROTECTION FROM ONE-RING SCAMS.

(a) INITIATION OF PROCEEDING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall initiate a proceeding to protect called parties from one-ring scams.

(b) MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED.—As part of the proceeding required by subsection (a),

the Commission shall consider how the Commission can—

(1) work with Federal and State law enforcement agencies to address one-ring scams;

(2) work with the governments of foreign countries to address one-ring scams;

(3) in consultation with the Federal Trade Commission, better educate consumers about how to avoid one-ring scams;

(4) incentivize voice service providers to stop calls made to perpetrate one-ring scams from being received by called parties, including consideration of adding identified one-ring scam type numbers to the Commission’s existing list of permissible categories for carrier-initiated blocking;

(5) work with entities that provide call-blocking services to address one-ring scams; and

(6) establish obligations on international gateway providers that are the first point of entry for these calls into the United States, including potential requirements that such providers verify with the foreign originator the nature or purpose of calls before initiating service.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall publish on its website and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the status of the proceeding required by subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ONE-RING SCAM.—The term “one-ring scam” means a scam in which a caller makes a call and allows the call to ring the called party for a short duration, in order to prompt the called party to return the call, thereby subjecting the called party to charges.

(2) STATE.—The term “State” has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

(3) VOICE SERVICE.—The term “voice service” has the meaning given such term in section 227(e)(8) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(8)). This paragraph shall apply before the effective date of the amendment made to such section by subparagraph (C) of section 503(a)(2) of division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) as if such amendment was already in effect.

SEC. 13. ANNUAL ROBOCALL REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Commission shall make publicly available on the website of the Commission, and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a report on the status of private-led efforts to trace back the origin of suspected unlawful robocalls by the registered consortium and the participation of voice service providers in such efforts.

(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include, at minimum, the following:

(1) A description of private-led efforts to trace back the origin of suspected unlawful robocalls by the registered consortium and the actions taken by the registered consortium to coordinate with the Commission.

(2) A list of voice service providers identified by the registered consortium that participated in private-led efforts to trace back the origin of suspected unlawful robocalls through the registered consortium.

(3) A list of each voice service provider that received a request from the registered consortium to participate in private-led efforts to trace back the origin of suspected

unlawful robocalls and refused to participate, as identified by the registered consortium.

(4) The reason, if any, each voice service provider identified by the registered consortium provided for not participating in private-led efforts to trace back the origin of suspected unlawful robocalls.

(5) A description of how the Commission may use the information provided to the Commission by voice service providers or the registered consortium that have participated in private-led efforts to trace back the origin of suspected unlawful robocalls in the enforcement efforts by the Commission.

(c) **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**—Not later than 210 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Commission shall issue a notice to the public seeking additional information from voice service providers and the registered consortium of private-led efforts to trace back the origin of suspected unlawful robocalls necessary for the report by the Commission required under subsection (a).

(d) **REGISTRATION OF CONSORTIUM OF PRIVATE-LED EFFORTS TO TRACE BACK THE ORIGIN OF SUSPECTED UNLAWFUL ROBOCALLS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue rules to establish a registration process for the registration of a single consortium that conducts private-led efforts to trace back the origin of suspected unlawful robocalls. The consortium shall meet the following requirements:

(A) Be a neutral third party competent to manage the private-led effort to trace back the origin of suspected unlawful robocalls in the judgement of the Commission.

(B) Maintain a set of written best practices about the management of such efforts and regarding providers of voice services' participation in private-led efforts to trace back the origin of suspected unlawful robocalls.

(C) Consistent with section 222(d)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 222(d)(2)), any private-led efforts to trace back the origin of suspected unlawful robocalls conducted by the third party focus on "fraudulent, abusive, or unlawful" traffic.

(D) File a notice with the Commission that the consortium intends to conduct private-led efforts to trace back in advance of such registration.

(2) **ANNUAL NOTICE BY THE COMMISSION SEEKING REGISTRATIONS.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Commission shall issue a notice to the public seeking the registration described in paragraph (1).

(e) **LIST OF VOICE SERVICE PROVIDERS.**—The Commission may publish a list of voice service providers and take appropriate enforcement action based on information obtained from the consortium about voice service providers that refuse to participate in private-led efforts to trace back the origin of suspected unlawful robocalls, and other information the Commission may collect about voice service providers that are found to originate or transmit substantial amounts of unlawful robocalls.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **PRIVATE-LED EFFORT TO TRACE BACK.**—The term "private-led effort to trace back" means an effort made by the registered consortium of voice service providers to establish a methodology for determining the origin of a suspected unlawful robocall.

(2) **REGISTERED CONSORTIUM.**—The term "registered consortium" means the consortium registered under subsection (d).

(3) **SUSPECTED UNLAWFUL ROBOCALL.**—The term "suspected unlawful robocall" means a call that the Commission or a voice service provider reasonably believes was made in violation of subsection (b) or (e) of section

227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227).

(4) **VOICE SERVICE.**—The term "voice service"—

(A) means any service that is interconnected with the public switched telephone network and that furnishes voice communications to an end user using resources from the North American Numbering Plan or any successor to the North American Numbering Plan adopted by the Commission under section 251(e)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)(1)); and

(B) includes—

(i) transmissions from a telephone facsimile machine, computer, or other device to a telephone facsimile machine; and

(ii) without limitation, any service that enables real-time, two-way voice communications, including any service that requires internet protocol-compatible customer premises equipment (commonly known as "CPE") and permits out-bound calling, whether or not the service is one-way or two-way voice over internet protocol.

SEC. 14. HOSPITAL ROBOCALL PROTECTION GROUP.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall establish an advisory committee to be known as the "Hospital Robocall Protection Group".

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Group shall be composed only of the following members:

(1) An equal number of representatives from each of the following:

(A) Voice service providers that serve hospitals.

(B) Companies that focus on mitigating unlawful robocalls.

(C) Consumer advocacy organizations.

(D) Providers of one-way voice over internet protocol services described in subsection (e)(3)(B)(ii).

(E) Hospitals.

(F) State government officials focused on combating unlawful robocalls.

(2) One representative of the Commission.

(3) One representative of the Federal Trade Commission.

(c) **ISSUANCE OF BEST PRACTICES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Group is established under subsection (a), the Group shall issue best practices regarding the following:

(1) How voice service providers can better combat unlawful robocalls made to hospitals.

(2) How hospitals can better protect themselves from such calls, including by using unlawful robocall mitigation techniques.

(3) How the Federal Government and State governments can help combat such calls.

(d) **PROCEEDING BY FCC.**—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the best practices are issued by the Group under subsection (c), the Commission shall conclude a proceeding to assess the extent to which the voluntary adoption of such best practices can be facilitated to protect hospitals and other institutions.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **GROUP.**—The term "Group" means the Hospital Robocall Protection Group established under subsection (a).

(2) **STATE.**—The term "State" has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

(3) **VOICE SERVICE.**—The term "voice service"—

(A) means any service that is interconnected with the public switched telephone network and that furnishes voice communications to an end user using resources from the North American Numbering Plan or any successor to the North American Numbering Plan adopted by the Commission

under section 251(e)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)(1)); and

(B) includes—

(i) transmissions from a telephone facsimile machine, computer, or other device to a telephone facsimile machine; and

(ii) without limitation, any service that enables real-time, two-way voice communications, including any service that requires internet protocol-compatible customer premises equipment (commonly known as "CPE") and permits out-bound calling, whether or not the service is one-way or two-way voice over internet protocol.

SEC. 15. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.

If any provision of this Act, the amendments made by this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this Act, the amendments made by this Act, and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. **PALLONE**) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. **WALDEN**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **PALLONE**. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 151.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

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

Today the House will take strong, bipartisan action to protect consumers from illegal robocalls. Talk to anyone, Mr. Speaker, and you will hear just how annoyed people are by those calls; and no wonder—according to Robokiller, a whopping 5.6 billion robocalls were made to Americans in November alone. According to YouMail, more than 200 million calls have been made to the 732 area code in my congressional district this year. That is pretty outrageous.

Today the House is giving Americans back control of their phones.

This legislation is important because unlawful robocalls are not only a nuisance, they are also undermining our entire phone system and consumers' safety as a result. Too often Americans simply will not pick up their phones out of fear that a robocall is on the other end of the line.

These calls are not just annoying, in a lot of instances they are scams targeted at consumers. Unfortunately, these scams are becoming more sophisticated every day. At a hearing earlier this year, we learned that the Moffitt Cancer Center received 6,600 scam calls in just 1 month, specifically designed to appear as calls coming from within the hospital. That is dangerous for patient safety and confidentiality.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard similar stories of scammers disguised as the IRS looking to collect a debt or scammers disguised as local governments or police departments, and

scammers disguised as loved ones in trouble looking for help. These are just a few of the examples.

All of these scams are different, and there won't be a single silver bullet to fix them all, but the Pallone-Thune TRACED Act attacks the problem from multiple angles.

First, we are targeting fraudsters and scammers who are violating the law. This will be done by using innovative technologies to cut these calls off. Our bill requires carriers to implement a nationwide caller authentication system and to make call blocking software accessible to consumers for free. This is critical.

A nationwide caller authentication system that will help ensure consumers can trust the caller-ID on their phone again is obviously important. Call blocking is another thing that we do in the bill. Call blocking will stop the phone from ringing when scammers are dialing our phones. These are two critical steps—the authentication and blocking—that will give consumers control of their phones again.

When it comes to blocking, the TRACED Act also ensures that there is transparency and consistency so that the calls people want are getting through.

Second, Mr. Speaker, this bill will ensure that law enforcement and the Federal Communications Commission have the tools, information, and incentives to go after robocallers who break the law. We need to make sure criminal penalties are brought by the Department of Justice to deter future robocallers from getting into the business.

Third, this will help us go after the dodgy carriers who allow these unlawful calls to enter our networks in the first place.

These are some of the main provisions of this bipartisan bill, but there are others that will be discussed by my colleagues during our 20 minutes on my side today.

Finally, I want to thank our ranking member, Mr. WALDEN, Communications and Technology Subcommittee Chairman DOYLE, and subcommittee Ranking Member LATTA for their leadership and for their determination in getting this final bill to the House floor today.

I also want to thank our partners in the Senate, Senators THUNE and MARKEY, for their commitment to this issue and for working with us on this final bipartisan, bicameral product.

The TRACED Act takes critical steps to give consumers control of their phones again. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation today, and I hope that it will be signed into law before the end of the year.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 151, the Pallone-Thune TRACED Act. As you heard, it is a great step forward this Congress will take to help curb illegal robocalls.

I want to thank Chairman PALLONE, Chairman DOYLE, and my colleague, Mr. LATTA, for their great bipartisan work on this; and, of course, our colleagues in the Senate again.

Last year RAY BAUM'S Act passed unanimously out of this Chamber with bipartisan support, and that included provisions that targeted fraudulent robocalls and spoofing from overseas. Those provisions are in law and are being used today.

Today the TRACED Act builds on that bipartisan success by better enabling consumers, carriers, law enforcement, and the Federal Communications Commission to target these scammers. While this Chamber has not made a lot of progress this year on legislating, I am pleased to see bipartisan legislation before us today that addresses a challenge that affects nearly every American, and that is illegal robocalls.

Last month alone, Mr. Speaker, in my district in the area code of 541 we got 14.1 million robocalls, just last month; and that is just in one part of Oregon. We know last year it was something in the order of over 50 billion illegal robocalls that came into America. I got one today already, and I imagine speaking here I will get five more. I will get targeted or something. It is time to put consumers back in charge of their phones, and that is exactly what this legislation does.

□ 1300

It allows carriers and consumers to use new, innovative call-blocking and call-authentication tools. We can strike the right balance between allowing important calls to get through while making sure illegal robocalls are blocked, all at no additional cost to the consumer.

This means when you receive a call from an unfamiliar number with a familiar area code, you should be confident that there is a legitimate reason for that call. That means your pharmacist can still automatically call you to say prescriptions are ready for pick-up if you signed up for those notifications. That means vulnerable populations can be better protected from scammers trying to steal their hard-earned savings. We have all read those stories.

When these illegal robocallers get caught, we need to ensure they are prosecuted. This legislation takes steps to improve our traceback efforts and provides the Department of Justice additional tools they need to go after bad actors.

We all get these calls. I got one about a year or so ago, Mr. Speaker, and it was out of Greece. I don't know anybody in Greece. It was a 02 something or other area code. I let it go to voicemail, and by golly, they left a message. A day later, I listened to it. It was the Vice President of the United States aboard Air Force Two trying to reach me. Sometimes you should answer those calls.

With this legislation, hopefully, we will know with certainty you can an-

swer a call like that, and it will be somebody that is trying to reach you for real.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE), the chairman of our Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, who worked very hard on this legislation.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today, the House will vote on the Pallone-Thune TRACED Act. This legislation resulted from diligent bicameral negotiations over many months, and I am glad that we have come to this agreement.

This bill addresses a problem that we all have firsthand experience with: persistent, annoying, nonstop robocalls. Americans received nearly 48 billion robocalls last year, a 60 percent increase from the year before. That number is expected to increase to 60 billion this year.

My hometown of Pittsburgh has already received 387 million robocalls this year. That is up from 189 million in 2017. On average, everyone in America received 15 robocalls in the month of November alone.

This legislation before the House is bipartisan and bicameral, and I believe it will help seriously reduce the onslaught of illegal robocalls Americans face. The bill before the House today is the result of bipartisan negotiations, which included industry and public interest stakeholders.

The original House bill was reported unanimously out of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, which I chair, as well as out of our full Committee on Energy and Commerce. It was approved by the full House with overwhelming support.

I am also pleased that the language from the STOP Robocalls Act, which Ranking Member LATTA and I introduced, was included in this bill. These provisions allow phone carriers to enable robocall blocking services by default on phone lines automatically. While these technologies have been available on an opt-in basis, too many seniors and, frankly, too many people in general just don't know about these services or how to sign up for them.

Allowing these services to be enabled by default allows all consumers to benefit from these technologies without having to go through an onerous signup process, especially seniors and those most vulnerable to scam calls. These provisions also include requirements that new opt-out robocall blocking services do not result in new consumer fees.

Finally, this bill requires all carriers to adopt call authentication technology that would enable people to be certain that the number they see on their caller ID is really the number that it is coming from. All too often, folks get calls that look like they are coming from down the street when they are really coming from scammers half a world away.

The legislation came about through the hard work of the majority staff and the minority staff of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. In particular, I thank Jerry Leverich, Phil Murphy, Dan Miller, AJ Brown, Parul Desai, and Alex Hoehn-Saric on the majority staff, and Kate O'Connor, Evan Viau, and Rachel Rathore on the minority staff for their hard work and diligence to get this bill to the floor.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. This is another example of the House passing bipartisan legislation, sending over 200 such bills this session to the Senate. Hopefully, our colleagues in the Senate will act on this bill and give the relief that our constituents deserve from these unwanted robocalls.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), the top Republican on the Communications and Technology Subcommittee and a real leader in this effort.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), the Republican leader of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bipartisan legislation to combat illegal robocalls. With an estimated 48 billion robocalls each year, it is time for Congress to take swift action against illegal robocalls and give Americans the security of knowing their incoming calls are legitimate.

That is why we introduced the bipartisan STOP Robocalls Act, which is included in the legislation before us today. Our bill would give phone companies and the Federal Communications Commission the tools they need to fight back against illegal robocalls. Private companies will be able to block fraudulent calls before they get to your phones, all with consumer control and no additional line-item charges.

Our provision also provides and improves information-sharing to enhance the FCC's ability to track and stop illegal robocall spoofing operations. As technology continues to evolve, so do the tactics that bad actors use to spoof numbers illegally to make fraudulent robocalls. We must allow these companies and the FCC to keep pace.

While we are all tired of annoying and illegal robocall scams, there are also legitimate users of autodialing technologies that must be preserved. The bill before us today rightly recognizes those important proconsumer messages. From school closures to bank fraud alerts, there are voice and text messages that consumers want, and those should not be blocked.

This is strong bipartisan legislation, and I am pleased to have worked with Chairman PALLONE, Republican leader WALDEN, and subcommittee Chairman DOYLE on this bill to improve consumer trust in our phone system.

I urge all of our colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman PALLONE for his leadership in preventing the continued spread of illegal robocalls.

Mr. Speaker, these unlawful operations are deceiving and defrauding unsuspecting citizens, with little recourse. Congress must do its part to bring these perpetrators to justice, and the bill before us today does just that.

I am pleased that my bill, H.R. 3434, is included in the bill we have today. I thank Chairman PALLONE for fighting to keep the language in my bill in the underlying legislation during negotiations.

My bill recognizes industry efforts to address illegal calls by directing the FCC to publish an annual report on best practices in tracing back illegal calls to their origins. It promotes provider accountability by allowing carriers to block calls from providers who do not fully participate in private-led efforts to trace suspected illegal callers.

Every day, Mr. Speaker, consumers fall victim to scams initiated by fraudulent calls. I believe that the TRACED Act is a practical and comprehensive solution that will aid us in ending these illegal calls for good.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE), the top Republican on the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 151, the Pallone-Thune TRACED Act.

So far this year, Kentuckians have received 500 million robocalls. That is over 100 calls per person this year. Robocalls are the number one issue I hear about when I am home.

Scammers have found creative ways to trick people into thinking their calls are legitimate. These calls have wreaked havoc for private citizens, hospitals, small businesses, and everyone in between.

One Kentucky woman told me she gets three to four calls a day. She always answers for fear that there might be a family emergency, only to be greeted by a spam call, disrupting her work at a factory.

I was proud to cosponsor the original House bill, the Stopping Bad Robocalls Act, and I am proud to support the Pallone-Thune TRACED Act, which would put an end to these frustrating calls. I commend my fellow colleagues on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and in the Senate for developing this bipartisan, bicameral solution to stop bad robocalls.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here, and I recommend all of my colleagues support this.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the TRACED Act.

This is a long-overdue effort by Congress to crack down on out-of-control abuse of robocall marketers. These are annoying and inconvenient calls, but they also have real-life impacts.

Kathryn Ottinger is an 84-year-old Vermonter from Shelburne. She and her husband receive at least three or four robocalls a day, at all hours of the day. Kathryn's husband is hard of hearing, so he doesn't hear the phone ring, which requires her to race to answer the calls constantly, even though it is really difficult for her to get up. She always answers the calls because they could be important. It might be a son or a daughter.

Unfortunately, it is usually a marketer or a scam call. Kathryn sums it up perfectly when she says: "I am very upset about these calls. I want the calls to stop."

She speaks for all of our constituents. She is not alone.

In 2018, there were 47 billion robocalls made in the United States. Vermonters receive nearly 4 million robocalls a month. In 2016, scams involving robocalls cost 22 million Americans a total of \$9.5 billion.

I am hopeful this bill today will stop these harassing phone calls. The bill will give the FCC the authority and tools it needs. It will allow consumers to revoke consent they had previously given. It will require calls to have verified caller ID information associated with the call before the call can be put through.

These are important steps that will reduce and, hopefully, stop these robocallers, and I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON).

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I want to paint a picture of why I support this bill. Last Sunday night, many retired NFL football fans were watching my Houston Texans throttle the Patriots from New England.

Let's say the phone rings at halftime. A fan walks up to answer his phone. The caller ID says it is from the Social Security agency, the Social Security office, the Social Security Administration.

He picks up the phone, and there is a slight pause. A voice comes on and tells him that his benefits have been canceled. To restore them, he has to give these people he doesn't know his number. And, "Oh, by the way, we can fix this right now with your credit card."

For years, people in Texas and all across the country have dealt with criminal phone calls. I am pleased to say that today is the day we pass a bill to help these Texans and Americans fight back.

It is great to see a bipartisan piece of legislation that I worked on with Representative MCEACHIN, the Locking Up

Illegal Robocallers Act, included in this package. It empowers the Justice Department to go after criminals who prey upon senior citizens, veterans, and all Americans.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Let's ring in a new era in the Congress, dial back robocalls, hang up on criminals, and give them one call a week from jail.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE), who is the vice chair of our committee.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Pallone-Thune TRACED Act and to address the intrusive reality of robocalls.

The jig is up for con artists who have time and time again deceived the American people into answering fraudulent calls that put our constituents on the hook for outrageous charges on their phone bills.

I am so proud to have my bill, H.R. 3264, the Ending One-Ring Scams Act of 2019, included in the underlying bill to ensure that the American people are protected from this harmful scam culture.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman PALLONE and Senator THUNE for their work on the TRACED Act and for holding these bad actors accountable for their deceptive tactics.

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Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON), who brings an incredible amount of background and technology to the committee.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation that will benefit all Americans by addressing the nuisance of robocalls.

Unwanted and annoying robocalls are increasing at an alarming rate. Some estimate that U.S. consumers received nearly 4 billion robocalls per month in 2018. This needs to end.

This legislation would require service providers to adopt call authentication technologies and would establish additional protections for consumers receiving unwarranted and sometimes fraudulent robocalls. It would also require the FCC to work with other Federal agencies on improving deterrence and criminal prosecution of robocall scams.

I am also pleased that the legislation includes legislation that I sponsored with my colleague, Representative BUTTERFIELD, which requires the FCC to publish an annual report on the private-led efforts to trace the origin of unlawful robocalls, an important step in stopping these bad actors from reaching consumers.

It is time for Congress to act and prevent these illegal and unwanted robocalls, and I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN), a member of our committee.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman PALLONE and Ranking Member WALDEN for bringing us together on this bipartisan bill.

I rise today to speak in support of the TRACED Act. There is nothing more frustrating than receiving robocall after robocall to our landlines and cell phones. I receive countless robocalls every week, often from a phone number that seems to be just down the road.

Even worse, many of these calls are scams designed to prey on our seniors and vulnerable populations that may be more susceptible to this kind of fraud.

This year I have held 26 town halls across Arizona's First District. Time and time again, I have heard from citizens about scam and spoof calls they have encountered, putting their private information and their hard-earned dollars at risk.

I cosponsored the TRACED Act to crack down on scammers and bad robocalls by creating real penalties for violators and requiring voice service providers to develop call authentication techniques.

This is an issue on which we can all agree. I urge my colleagues to come together to pass this commonsense legislation that will benefit so many.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES), another great Texan who needs to speak on this matter.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be here with the honorable Speaker pro tempore from Texas as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for S. 151, the TRACED Act. This legislation is a culmination of strong bipartisan work by the Energy and Commerce Committee in the House and our Senate counterparts.

We all hear complaints from constituents about the scourge of robocalls, and I am glad we are answering the American people with decisive action.

This bipartisan bill gives consumers tools to prevent robocalls at no additional cost. It also provides law enforcement and the FCC with authority to go after bad actors.

I am also pleased that S. 151 includes language from an amendment that I offered in committee that raises fines to \$10,000 per violation, which will further deter illegal operators from entering into this abusive behavior.

Alongside advances from last year's RAY BAUM'S Act and efforts at the FCC, we are in a better position to restore confidence in our communication services once again. This is the type of work that the House of Representatives ought to be engaged in for the American people.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRIST), the former Governor.

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, the American people are fed up with spam robocalls.

Today, we are bringing to bear the full weight of the Federal Government

to go after those calls. We have an obligation to do what is right for the people.

The TRACED Act utilizes all known weapons in the arsenal, from cooperation, to investigation, including enforcement.

I am especially proud that the TRACED Act includes my bill, the Spam Calls Tax Force Act, which will bring together agencies, the private sector, and consumer advocates to shut down spam robocalls. All hands on deck is necessary here.

I thank Chairman PALLONE and Ranking Member WALDEN for their leadership, and I also thank my partners on the Spam Calls Task Force: the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT), and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO).

I am filled with optimism that the work of the people goes on: Members of both parties coming together, setting differences aside to work on commonsense solutions to real problems.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the TRACED Act.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of S. 151, the TRACED Act.

In 2018 alone, phone numbers with 517 and 734 area codes in my district received over 223 million robocalls. I know. I received a bunch of them.

Not only are these calls bothersome and unwelcome, but they often lead to scams that prey on the most vulnerable. One such scam is the one-ring scam, which attempts to trick consumers into paying huge fees for return phone calls.

S. 151 includes important legislation that I worked to have included which will end the harmful practice of one-ring scams.

Mr. Speaker, robocalls are not only a nuisance; they pose a threat to individuals' privacy and security. S. 151, the TRACED Act, will help put a stop to these harmful practices by empowering phone carriers to implement call authentication technologies so consumers can trust their caller ID with no additional cost.

It will also expand and streamline the FCC's enforcement authority to take strong and quick action when it tracks down robocallers and levy fines against those bad actors.

In the end, Mr. Speaker, this legislation will put a stop to these predatory actors behind harmful robocalls and put consumers back in charge of their phones.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA).

Mr. ROUDA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak in strong support of the TRACED Act.

The bipartisan provision I co-led with Representatives CLARKE, VAN DREW,

BILIRAKIS, FOXX, and WALBERG to address one-ring scams will make the finances of vulnerable Americans—especially seniors—more secure and the lives of all people in Orange County and across the country a little more peaceful.

We can all agree that it is time to provide Americans with a greater sense of security when it comes to our phones. We shouldn't have to worry about unsolicited robocalls, and the vast array of tactics bad actors are using to target our pocketbooks and our privacy.

This bicameral and bipartisan bill is a big step forward in combating robocalls, and I am thankful for the bipartisan group of legislators who reached across the aisle to protect Americans' bank accounts and their sanity. I urge strong support of this bill.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the great State of Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), the top Republican on the Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate our leader on the Energy and Commerce Committee yielding, and I stand in strong support of the TRACED Act to crack down on robocalls.

I have heard from hundreds of people in eastern Washington about this. For example, an office manager in Colfax logged more than 318 robocalls at her small business, and she told me, "That is 318 times I have picked up the phone to hear a robot talking to me. I dropped what I was doing to run to the phone for one of these obnoxious calls, or I put a real client on hold to answer an empty call. Anything Congress can do to stop this shameful practice would be a relief."

So, Mr. Speaker, I agree. People need relief, and they have asked Congress to take action. So I look forward to supporting this bill and sending it to President Trump's desk with strong bipartisan support.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KIM), my colleague, whose legislation has been included in this bill.

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

I rise today in strong support of the TRACED Act, a bipartisan effort to crack down on the scourge of predatory robocalls.

Over the past year, I have heard from my neighbors in Burlington and Ocean Counties about their frustrations from constant robocalls. In fact, more than 400 neighbors from Beachwood to Bordentown and Toms River to Tabernacle contacted our office to complain.

That is exactly why I dug into the issue and teamed up with four Republicans and two Democrats to offer H.R. 3325, the Locking Up Robocallers Act of 2019, which would strengthen enforce-

ment of current laws aimed at ending the scourge of predatory robocalls.

I am glad our bill was incorporated into this legislation, because these calls aren't just annoyances; they are used by scam artists to target people in our community.

According to the FCC, they receive over 200,000 complaints a year from residents receiving predatory robocalls. An estimated 26.3 billion robocalls were made to mobile phones, and more than 47 billion were made in total to phones in the U.S. in 2018.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and taking a real step to end predatory robocalls.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), the only pharmacist in the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 151, the Pallone-Thune TRACED Act. The Energy and Commerce Committee has prioritized combating the scourge of robocalls for quite some time now.

In May, the Senate passed their robocalls legislation, and in July, the House nearly unanimously passed the Stopping Bad Robocalls Act.

Last year, Americans saw nearly 50 billion robocalls. Those robocalls come morning, night, and noon, often interrupting important life events. This year, we are on track to see a high number of robocalls again. Unfortunately, nearly everyone in the United States has been on the receiving end of dozens and dozens of robocalls.

It is time we finally take action to empower telecom providers to help put a stop to this and to hold those responsible accountable for these actions. That is why this bill, which builds upon the bipartisan work of the Energy and Commerce Committee, is so important.

I want to thank my colleagues in the Energy and Commerce Committee for working with our friends in the Senate to get this completed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to support this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW), another colleague whose legislation is also included in the TRACED Act.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman PALLONE for yielding time and for all of his work.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for the TRACED Act, a good anti-robocall bill that is badly needed given the robocall epidemic facing our United States of America.

Robocall scams are at an all-time high, and they are getting worse. Data shows that New Jersey residents reported the most robocall complaints of any State in the Nation last year.

Robocalls not only impede our quality of life as family dinners and impor-

tant work meetings get interrupted, but they also effectuate scams, scams that take advantage of vulnerable populations such as our senior citizens, who need to be protected.

This bipartisan legislation is a critical step toward ending the scourge of robocalls. I am pleased to see portions of my own robocall bill, the Stopping Bad Robocalls Act, incorporated in the TRACED Act. While there is more to be done, without a doubt, I am proud to be a part of this important effort to help protect consumers, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 4½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Oregon has 9 minutes remaining.

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

□ 1330

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE).

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oregon for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill. Robocalls are not only a nuisance, they are a threat to honest, hardworking Montanans. Illegal robocalls seek to exploit them and steal their personal, private information and their money.

Montanans hate robocalls. It is time to put an end to the stories I hear too often from Montanans about illegal robocalls.

Today, we are taking a huge step forward, providing relief from robocalls with the Pallone-Thune TRACED Act. It gives consumers tools to block illegal robocalls at no cost. It also holds illegal robocallers accountable for their scams, including higher fines and more prison time. This bill includes language from my bipartisan bill that helps identify and prosecute illegal robocall companies.

I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this bill and providing the American people with needed relief from robocalls.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF).

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Oregon. I want to thank Chairman PALLONE and Ranking Member WALDEN for their hard work on this important bipartisan issue.

Robocall scams leave anyone with a cell phone vulnerable to fraud. Today it is time for Congress to act. The TRACED Act expands the authority for the Federal Government to punish these folks and will help verify legitimate calls.

I want to thank everyone who worked to bring this bill to the floor

for a vote, and I urge all my colleagues to show their support.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, for too long, unwanted callers have circumvented the law in order to deliberately mislead Americans through robocalls and spoofing. In fact, this is the number one issue at every townhall that I hold in my district.

Unfortunately, the number of robocall scams are ever increasing. Robocalls should not be a part of our everyday lives, and we must take action to stop it.

This malicious practice has led to fraud and theft, exploiting vulnerable consumers, including our Nation's seniors. That is why I was a proud cosponsor of H.R. 3375, the Stopping Bad Robocalls Act, which passed the House in July.

The House and Senate took parts of this bill and were able to come together and agree on the TRACED Act. This bill allows the Federal Communications Commission to seek financial penalties against those making calls with misleading caller identification information. Most importantly, this legislation allows robocalls to be blocked transparently at no extra cost to Americans.

We must stop this practice once and for all by identifying and taking action against these violators. I urge my colleagues to overwhelmingly support this bill.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER).

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

Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of this legislation, I rise in strong support and encourage its swift passage.

By some estimates, nearly 48 billion robocalls were made in the U.S. in 2018, which is a 57 percent increase over 2017.

This antirobocall bill provides the FCC new authorities to impose substantial fines on violators—up to \$20,000 per violation, and possibly higher in some cases. It requires phone companies to verify callers and help block robocalls at no extra charge.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake: This legislation is a big step forward. But given the rapidly changing technology, combined with the fact that many of these calls come from overseas, we can't let up, and more will need to be done.

Thankfully, this bill requires a number of reports to Congress over the coming months that will allow us to start to crack down on these perpetrators even harder.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the work we have done, bicameral and bipartisan. I thank those involved.

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

Again, I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working together to get this done. Our constituents deserve this. We deserve this.

Over 50 billion illegal robocalls—we are not talking about the kinds you sign up for to give you notices when your prescriptions are ready for something else; we are talking about illegal scammers, often state-backed enterprises overseas, coming into our wallets, coming into our bank accounts, coming into our homes, coming into our offices, and coming into our cell phones.

Now, let's be clear: While this legislation will make a difference, the scammers are going to try and do an end around whatever technology the carriers use to try and block these calls, authenticate these calls, stop these calls; so we have, in this legislation, additional requirements for reporting back to Congress on other steps that need to be taken, especially when it comes to our healthcare system and our hospitals. That will be something the committee needs to continue to look at.

But I think building a better bridge between the Department of Justice and the Federal Communications Commission so they can go after the bad actors and really nail them is a good thing in this bill, and extending out to 4 years the statute of limitations is a good thing so bad actors don't get to run the clock and get away with their crimes.

This is good legislation; it will make a difference; and we will continue to fight this fight.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I, too, want to thank our terrific staff, some of whom, by the way, have worked on this long enough they have gone on to other pursuits, including Robin Colwell and Tim Kurth, who is still with us but in a different role than when he started on this, Kristine Hackman, Kate O'Connor, Evan Viau, Rachel Rathore.

And on the majority side, Alex and Jerry and AJ and Dan and Parul and Phil, a thank-you for their great work on this, as well. We really appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage our colleagues to vote for this bill. Let's get it to President Trump's desk. He will sign it, and we are going to help our consumers.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are receiving more unwanted and illegal robocalls than ever before. The rising tide of illegal robocalls has quickly turned from a nuisance to a real threat on the way we all view and use our telephones.

Consumers need more control and transparency over who is calling them. The laws that prohibit unwanted calls and the Do Not Call Registry no longer effectively protect consumers from unwanted or illegal calls because it is

easier than ever to become a robocaller. These calls all undermine the public's trust in our phone system.

If we don't fix this problem, it will only get worse. The TRACED Act is the best way Congress can address the deluge of spam and spam robocalls.

Consumer groups and industry widely support the legislation, including Consumer Reports, AARP, the National Consumer Law Center, US Telecom, and more.

Basically, what we have in this bill are commonsense, meaningful solutions that will put consumers back in control of their phones and will help restore trust in our phone system.

Now, in closing, I just want to thank all of the Members and staff who were able to work together to produce this great legislation, and there are a lot: obviously, our ranking member, Mr. WALDEN, the subcommittee ranking member, Mr. LATTA, as well as Mr. DOYLE.

But I also want to thank our staff and other Members who contributed their legislation to the TRACED Act. So, Members such as Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. OLSON, Mr. KIM, Mrs. BROOKS, Mr. BRINDISI, and Mr. KUSTOFF introduced the Locking Up Robocallers Act, which was added to this legislation in section 11.

Ms. CLARKE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. WALBERG introduced the Ending One-Ring Scams Act, which was added to this legislation in section 12.

Mr. CRIST introduced his Spam Calls Task Force Act, which was added to the bill in section 5.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. GIANFORTE introduced the Tracing Back and Catching Unlawful Robocallers Act, which was added to this bill in section 13.

And Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. BURGESS introduced their Protecting Patients and Doctors from Unlawful Robocalls Act, which was added to the bill in section 14.

Mr. FLORES and Mr. MCNERNEY offered their amendment to increase the financial penalties for illegal robocallers, which was added to section 3.

And, of course, Mr. DOYLE and Mr. LATTA introduced their STOP Robocalls Act in section 10.

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff on both sides of the aisle who worked on this bill, in particular, Jerry Leverich over here, Alex Hoehn-Saric behind me, Dan Miller behind me, AJ Brown, and Parul Desai on the majority staff; Tim Kurth, Kate O'Connor, Evan Viau, Robin Colwell on the minority staff; as well as Phil Murphy on Subcommittee Chairman DOYLE's staff and Rachel Rathore on Subcommittee Ranking Member LATTA's staff.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 151, the Pallone-Thune TRACED Act.

Robocalls are an epidemic and anyone with a phone knows this. I hear from my constituents daily about robocalls, and I know all of

my colleagues do as well. Just last month Americans received a near record of 5.5 billion robocalls. I'm subjected to this harassment and so are my colleagues.

These calls are highly annoying, but they are also used to scam and swindle people. Last year, an estimated 43 million Americans were scammed out of \$10.5 billion.

The American people are demanding that Congress take action to combat this national nuisance and today the House will deliver a victory for them. I'm proud that this bipartisan, bicameral agreement will put a real dent in our robocall problem.

We know that no one bill can completely solve such a complex problem, and it's why the FCC and Congress must remain vigilant to ensure statutory and regulatory protections are sufficient to protect consumers.

This legislation will bring relief to millions of Americans, so let's pass it and get it signed into law pronto.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 151, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 739;

Adoption of House Resolution 739, if ordered; and

Adoption of the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 151.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2534, INSIDER TRADING PROHIBITION ACT, AND RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 77, DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 5(C) OF THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION TO REMOVE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 739) providing for consider-

ation of the bill (H.R. 2534) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit certain securities trading and related communications by those who possess material, nonpublic information, and relating to consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 77) directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic that have not been authorized by Congress, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 193, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 645]

YEAS—226

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

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

Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky

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

NAYS—193

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

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

Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
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 (NJ)
Smucker
Spano
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Watkins
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—11

Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Cunningham
Dingell

Gabbard
McGovern
Newhouse
Ratcliffe

Serrano
Smith (NE)
Young

□ 1406

Messrs. AMASH, CALVERT, and BILIRAKIS changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

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

Stated against:

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 645.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 225, nays 196, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 646]

YEAS—225

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Adams | Gonzalez (TX) | Pallone |
| Aguilar | Gottheimer | Panetta |
| Allred | Green, Al (TX) | Pappas |
| Axne | Grijalva | Pascarell |
| Barragán | Haaland | Payne |
| Bass | Harder (CA) | Perlmutter |
| Beatty | Hastings | Peters |
| Bera | Hayes | Peterson |
| Beyer | Heck | Phillips |
| Bishop (GA) | Higgins (NY) | Pingree |
| Blumenauer | Himes | Pocan |
| Blunt Rochester | Horn, Kendra S. | Porter |
| Bonamici | Horsford | Pressley |
| Boyle, Brendan F. | Houlihan | Price (NC) |
| Brindisi | Hoyer | Quigley |
| Brown (MD) | Huffman | Raskin |
| Brownley (CA) | Jackson Lee | Rice (NY) |
| Bustos | Jayapal | Richmond |
| Butterfield | Jeffries | Rose (NY) |
| Carbajal | Johnson (GA) | Rouda |
| Cárdenas | Johnson (TX) | Roybal-Allard |
| Carson (IN) | Kaptur | Ruiz |
| Case | Keating | Ruppersberger |
| Casten (IL) | Kelly (IL) | Rush |
| Castor (FL) | Kennedy | Ryan |
| Castro (TX) | Khanna | Sánchez |
| Chu, Judy | Kildee | Fitzpatrick |
| Cicilline | Kilmer | Fleischmann |
| Cisneros | Kim | Flores |
| Clark (MA) | Kind | Fortenberry |
| Clarke (NY) | Kirkpatrick | Schiff |
| Clay | Krishnamoorthi | Schneider |
| Cleaver | Kuster (NH) | Schrader |
| Clyburn | Lamb | Schrier |
| Cohen | Langevin | Scott (VA) |
| Connolly | Larsen (WA) | Scott, David |
| Cooper | Larson (CT) | Sewell (AL) |
| Correa | Lawrence | Shalala |
| Costa | Lee (CA) | Sherman |
| Courtney | Lee (NV) | Sherrill |
| Cox (CA) | Levin (CA) | Sires |
| Craig | Levin (MI) | Slotkin |
| Crist | Lieu, Ted | Smith (WA) |
| Crow | Lipinski | Soto |
| Cuellar | Loeb sack | Spanberger |
| Davids (KS) | Loftgren | Speier |
| Davis (CA) | Lowenthal | Stanton |
| Dean | Lowey | Stevens |
| DeFazio | Lujan | Suozzi |
| DeGette | Luria | Swaiwell (CA) |
| DeLauro | Lynch | Takano |
| DelBene | Malinowski | Thompson (CA) |
| Delgado | Maloney, | Thompson (MS) |
| Demings | Carolyn B. | Titus |
| DeSaulnier | Maloney, Sean | Tlaib |
| Deutch | Matsui | Tonko |
| Doggett | McAdams | Torres (CA) |
| Doyle, Michael F. | McBath | Torres Small (NM) |
| Engel | McCollum | Trahan |
| Escobar | McEachin | Trone |
| Eshoo | Meeks | Underwood |
| Espallat | Meng | Van Drew |
| Evans | Moore | Vargas |
| Finkenauer | Morelle | Veasey |
| Fletcher | Moulton | Vela |
| Foster | Mucarsel-Powell | Velázquez |
| Frankel | Murphy (FL) | Vislosky |
| Fudge | Nadler | Wasserman |
| Gallo | Napolitano | Schultz |
| Garamendi | Neal | Waters |
| Garcia (IL) | Neguse | Watson Coleman |
| Garcia (TX) | Norcross | Welch |
| Golden | O'Halleran | Wexton |
| Gomez | Ocasio-Cortez | Wild |
| | Omar | Wilson (FL) |
| | | Yarmuth |

NAYS—196

| | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Abraham | Amash | Arrington |
| Aderholt | Amodei | Babin |
| Allen | Armstrong | Bacon |

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

NOT VOTING—9

| | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|
| Carter (TX) | Dingell | McNerney |
| Cartwright | Gabbard | Serrano |
| Cunningham | McGovern | Waltz |

□ 1414

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 646.

**PALLONE-THUNE TELEPHONE
ROBOCALL ABUSE CRIMINAL EN-
FORCEMENT AND DETERRENCE
ACT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 151) to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes, as

amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 417, nays 3, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 647]

YEAS—417

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Abraham | Crenshaw | Hice (GA) |
| Adams | Crist | Higgins (LA) |
| Aderholt | Crow | Higgins (NY) |
| Aguilar | Cuellar | Hill (AR) |
| Allen | Curtis | Himes |
| Allred | Davids (KS) | Holding |
| Amodei | Davidson (OH) | Hollingsworth |
| Armstrong | Davis (CA) | Horn, Kendra S. |
| Arrington | Davis, Danny K. | Horsford |
| Axne | Davis, Rodney | Houlihan |
| Babin | Dean | Hoyer |
| Bacon | DeFazio | Hudson |
| Baird | DeLauro | Huffman |
| Balderson | DelBene | Huizenga |
| Banks | Delgado | Hunter |
| Barr | Demings | Hurd (TX) |
| Barragán | DeSaulnier | Jackson Lee |
| Bass | DesJarlais | Jayapal |
| Beatty | Deutch | Jeffries |
| Bergman | Diaz-Balart | Johnson (GA) |
| Beyer | Doggett | Johnson (LA) |
| Bilirakis | Doyle, Michael F. | Johnson (OH) |
| Bishop (GA) | Duncan | Johnson (SD) |
| Bishop (NC) | Dunn | Johnson (TX) |
| Bishop (UT) | Emmer | Jordan |
| Blumenauer | Engel | Joyce (OH) |
| Blunt Rochester | Escobar | Joyce (PA) |
| Bonamici | Eshoo | Kaptur |
| Bost | Espallat | Katko |
| Boyle, Brendan F. | F. | Keating |
| Brady | Evans | Keller |
| Brindisi | Ferguson | Kelly (IL) |
| Brooks (AL) | Finkenauer | Kelly (MS) |
| Brooks (IN) | Fitzpatrick | Kelly (PA) |
| Brown (MD) | Fleischmann | Kennedy |
| Brownley (CA) | Fletcher | Khanna |
| Buchanan | Fortenberry | Kildee |
| Buck | Foster | Kilmer |
| Bucshon | Foxx (NC) | Kim |
| Budd | Frankel | Kind |
| Burchett | Fudge | King (IA) |
| Burgess | Fulcher | King (NY) |
| Bustos | Gaetz | Kinzinger |
| Butterfield | Gallagher | Kirkpatrick |
| Byrne | Gallo | Krishnamoorthi |
| Calvert | Garamendi | Kuster (NH) |
| Carbajal | Garcia (IL) | Kustoff (TN) |
| Cárdenas | Garcia (TX) | LaHood |
| Carson (IN) | Gianforte | LaMalfa |
| Carter (GA) | Gibbs | Lamb |
| Case | Gohmert | Lamborn |
| Casten (IL) | Golden | Langevin |
| Castor (FL) | Gomez | Larsen (WA) |
| Castro (TX) | Gonzalez (OH) | Larson (CT) |
| Chabot | Gonzalez (TX) | Latta |
| Cheney | Gooden | Lawrence |
| Chu, Judy | Gosar | Lawson (FL) |
| Cicilline | Gottheimer | Lee (CA) |
| Cisneros | Granger | Lee (NV) |
| Clark (MA) | Graves (GA) | Lesko |
| Clarke (NY) | Graves (LA) | Levin (CA) |
| Clay | Graves (MO) | Levin (MI) |
| Cleaver | Green (TN) | Lewis |
| Cline | Green, Al (TX) | Lieu, Ted |
| Cloud | Griffith | Lipinski |
| Clyburn | Grijalva | Loeb sack |
| Cohen | Grothman | Loftgren |
| Cole | Guest | Long |
| Collins (GA) | Guthrie | Loudermilk |
| Comer | Haaland | Lowenthal |
| Conaway | Hagedorn | Lowey |
| Connolly | Harder (CA) | Lucas |
| Cooper | Harris | Luetkemeyer |
| Correa | Hartzler | Lujan |
| Costa | Hastings | Luria |
| Courtney | Hayes | Lynch |
| Cox (CA) | Heck | Malinowski |
| Craig | Hern, Kevin | Maloney, |
| Crawford | Herrera Beutler | Carolyn B. |
| | | Maloney, Sean |
| | | Marchant |

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Marshall | Raskin | Steube |
| Mast | Ratcliffe | Stevens |
| Matsui | Reed | Stewart |
| McAdams | Reschenthaler | Stivers |
| McBath | Rice (NY) | Suozi |
| McCarthy | Rice (SC) | Swalwell (CA) |
| McCaul | Richmond | Takano |
| McClintock | Riggleman | Taylor |
| McCollum | Roby | Thompson (CA) |
| McEachin | Rodgers (WA) | Thompson (MS) |
| McHenry | Roe, David P. | Thompson (PA) |
| McKinley | Rogers (AL) | Thornberry |
| McNerney | Rogers (KY) | Timmons |
| Meadows | Rooney (FL) | Tipton |
| Meeks | Rose (NY) | Titus |
| Meng | Rose, John W. | Tlaib |
| Meuser | Rouda | Tonko |
| Miller | Rouzer | Torres (CA) |
| Mitchell | Roy | Torres Small |
| Moolenaar | Roybal-Allard | (NM) |
| Mooney (WV) | Ruiz | Trahan |
| Moore | Ruppersberger | Trone |
| Morelle | Rush | Turner |
| Moulton | Rutherford | Underwood |
| Mucarsel-Powell | Ryan | Upton |
| Mullin | Sánchez | Van Drew |
| Murphy (FL) | Sarbanes | Vargas |
| Murphy (NC) | Scalise | Veasey |
| Nadler | Scanlon | Vela |
| Napolitano | Schakowsky | Velázquez |
| Neal | Schiff | Visclosky |
| Neguse | Schneider | Wagner |
| Newhouse | Schrader | Walberg |
| Norcross | Schrier | Walden |
| Norman | Schweikert | Walker |
| Nunes | Scott (VA) | Walorski |
| O'Halleran | Scott, Austin | Wasserman |
| Ocasio-Cortez | Scott, David | Schultz |
| Olson | Sensenbrenner | Waters |
| Omar | Sewell (AL) | Watkins |
| Palazzo | Shalala | Watson Coleman |
| Pallone | Sherman | Weber (TX) |
| Palmer | Sherrill | Webster (FL) |
| Panetta | Shimkus | Welch |
| Pappas | Simpson | Wenstrup |
| Pascarell | Sires | Westerman |
| Payne | Slotkin | Wexton |
| Pence | Smith (MO) | Wild |
| Perlmutter | Smith (NE) | Williams |
| Perry | Smith (NJ) | Wilson (FL) |
| Peters | Smith (WA) | Wilson (SC) |
| Peterson | Smucker | Wittman |
| Phillips | Soto | Womack |
| Pingree | Spanberger | Woodall |
| Pocan | Spano | Wright |
| Porter | Speier | Yarmuth |
| Posey | Stanton | Yoho |
| Pressley | Stauber | Young |
| Price (NC) | Stefanik | Zeldin |
| Quigley | Steil | |

NAYS—3

| | | |
|-------|-------|--------|
| Amash | Biggs | Massie |
|-------|-------|--------|

NOT VOTING—10

| | | |
|-------------|----------|---------|
| Bera | DeGette | Serrano |
| Carter (TX) | Dingell | Waltz |
| Cartwright | Gabbard | |
| Cunningham | McGovern | |

□ 1422

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 647.

HONORING DEACON JAMES ANDREW WYNN, SR.

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of a dear family friend, Deacon James Andrew Wynn, Sr. Born on August 6, 1922,

James Wynn lived a long, loving, and productive life. This past Saturday, he transitioned from labor to reward.

Deacon Wynn, a lifelong resident of Gold Point, North Carolina, loved his family, loved his community, and loved his God. In 1943, he met the love of his life, Naomi Lynch, commencing a marriage that lasted for 59 long years.

James was a skilled farmer and carpenter and was well-known throughout the community.

James and Naomi were parents to eight wonderful children. They took great pride in their children's education and accomplishments, and they have accomplished much.

The children are: Angela; Joan; Judge James Wynn, who is a long-serving judge on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals; Reginald Wynn; Dr. Anita Wynn; and Dr. Arnie Wynn. From that lineage are 17 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

May Deacon James Andrew Wynn, Sr. rest in peace.

YAKIMA ROTARY 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, "Service Above Self," that is the motto of the more than 33,000 Rotary clubs and 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide who provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace.

Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor 100 years of the Yakima Rotary Club. From the early days in 1919, when the Yakima Rotary Club helped to install street signs within the city limits of Yakima to help guide the way for residents and visitors alike, to the \$22 million YMCA and Yakima Rotary Aquatic Center that just opened last month, Yakima Rotarians "always say yes."

Be it from supporting children's health, literacy, and hunger to promoting our parks and public spaces and awarding thousands of dollars of academic scholarships every year, their volunteerism, fellowship, and deep love for our community has made a deep and lasting impact on the greater Yakima Valley.

Congratulations on 100 years of "Service Above Self," Yakima Rotarians, and enjoy what I have no doubt will be the greatest party ever.

VOTING RIGHTS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the passage of the Voting Rights Advancement Act, H.R. 4.

This crucial legislation would give more power to the historic Voting

Rights Act of 1965. That law protected the right to vote for all Americans, particularly Americans of color. It gave a strong voice to the voiceless. And when those Americans spoke, they created a more diverse Congress. Clearly, we are all better for it.

But, slowly, certain State governments have tried to hinder the voting rights of minorities. They call it something else, but that is what they want to do. That is why we need this bill to become law.

We need the government to provide oversight if States are guilty of too many voting rights violations. We need to protect the right to vote for all Americans because, for too many of us, the power of the vote is the only power we have.

□ 1430

MISUSE OF POSITIONS OF TRUST

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight H.R. 3816, the No Pensions for Pedophiles Act, which I introduced in July.

This bill would require the forfeiture of Federal pensions for individuals convicted of Federal crimes related to the sexual abuse of children.

I was deeply disturbed to read news reports earlier this year surrounding the conviction of Stanley Patrick Weber, a doctor at Indian Health Service hospitals, who misused his position of trust and responsibility to prey on vulnerable children. Inexplicably, he is set to continue receiving his Federal pension during his 18-year prison sentence, which could be as high as \$1.8 million. He is also awaiting trial in a second similar case.

I do not believe that taxpayers should be forced to fund the pensions of Federal employees who have been convicted of crimes related to the sexual abuse of innocent children, and the No Pensions for Pedophiles Act would ensure that this practice ends.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CLAY EVANS

(Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Dr. Clay Evans who passed a few days ago and is known worldwide as a religious leader and gospel singer.

There is nobody in the Chicagoland area who has not experienced Reverend Clay Evans. He was actively involved in the political and social life of the city. He was noted for many things, and one of those that he is noted for is having been the person who ordained the Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson.

Madam Speaker, he will be sorely missed, and we express condolences to his family.

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC
CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TRAHAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, as the whip of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I am pleased to lead this monthly Special Order hour. This afternoon's topic comes at a critical time for our Nation and for the communities we represent who are all concerned with the state of healthcare and harmful actions of the Trump administration.

There is no more personal an issue than one's health, and as such, this should be top on the minds of Members of Congress.

It was the late Martin Luther King, Jr. who said in 1966 that of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is perhaps the most shocking and inhumane.

Healthcare is a priority of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and we want to use today's opportunity to discuss the state of Latino health in the United States of America. The Affordable Care Act was landmark legislation that extended healthcare coverage to more than 20 million Americans either through Medicaid expansion or tax credits to purchase quality and comprehensive healthcare insurance products.

In the Latino community, at least 4 million Latino adults and 600,000 Latino children have gained health insurance coverage thanks to the ACA. And we cannot forget that the ACA extended health insurance coverage for children through age 26. Especially for children and young adolescents, the uninsured rate for Latino children has decreased considerably, from 11.5 percent to around 7.5 percent.

The gains in health insurance coverage for these children and preventive healthcare and reduction in the severity of chronic conditions is a testament to the good and constructive health policy that Democrats are committed to. However, the Trump administration has sought to undermine the ACA and the benefits it brings to the Latino community.

Earlier this year in a bipartisan vote, the U.S. House of Representatives felt compelled to rebuke the Trump administration for its promotion of the skinny junk plans that offer no guarantee of essential health benefits. That is no

guarantee for mental health treatment; no guarantee for preventive healthcare, which lowers the overall cost of healthcare; and no guarantee for prescription drug coverage.

According to the data collected from the Kaiser Family Foundation, from 2013 to 2017, people of color had higher uninsured rates than non-Hispanic Whites prior to 2014. And it was only after the Affordable Care Act came into effect that Latinos had larger gains in health insurance coverage from 2013 to 2016 than non-Hispanic Whites. But our work is not done. It is truly not done.

Every day we are working to curb the destructive actions of this administration to harm the gains that we have made in the healthcare arena and well-being of the Latino community overall, and we continue working to close the health equity gaps that the ACA did not address.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Latino Americans are twice as likely to have type 2 diabetes than White Americans. In the United States, adults over their lifetime have a 40 percent chance of developing type 2 diabetes, but the Latino adult has a rate of 50 percent higher. Given that, coverage of and the overall cost of insulin—a necessary treatment for managing diabetes—is a priority for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Since the start of this 116th Congress, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus has invited the CEOs of insulin manufacturers and pharmacy benefit managers to meet with us and explain how and why insulin remains unaffordable for so many Americans. We met with the largest pharmacy benefit managers in this country who collectively comprise 78 percent of the market and cover 180 million individuals with health insurance: CVS Health, Express Scripts, and OptumRx of UnitedHealth Group. In our discussions we were, quite frankly, met with much resistance by all parties in the prescription drug supply chain and pharmacy benefits business.

It is infuriating for patients at the local pharmacy counter; and trust me, it is infuriating to me and my colleagues in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

In addition to benefits managers, the CHC met with the CEOs of the top three insulin manufacturers who produce 90 percent of the global insulin supply and 100 percent of the supply for diabetic patients in the United States of America. They are Sanofi, Novo Nordisk, and Eli Lilly and Company.

It may seem impossible, but Dr. Frederick Banting who discovered and cultivated insulin as a treatment for diabetes, sold the patent for his remarkable drug for only \$1 to the University of Toronto.

Madam Speaker, he sold this important patent that has saved the lives of millions of people just for \$1 to the University of Toronto, yet the price of insulin both with insurance and without it has risen astronomically to the

point where diabetic patients must make the decision between purchasing lifesaving insulin versus paying their rent, finding childcare for their families, or getting an education.

We asked them why this is, and, in short, they simply did not have a good answer.

So we are concerned, Madam Speaker, that the patent for insulin which was sold by Dr. Frederick Banting to the University of Toronto for \$1 has now been placed in a position that is inaccessible to patients across America who will subsequently die without having that treatment.

But we are committed to shedding a light on this obscured process and making sure that patients receive the therapies they need at the price they can afford. This is our promise. This is our commitment.

We, as the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and greater Democratic Caucus, are committed to fighting for healthcare that lies in stark contrast to this White House administration. That is why we have passed legislation to strengthen the ACA, not to weaken it, not to obliterate it, but to strengthen it, and it is why we will consider landmark legislation later this month to help lower the cost of prescription drugs.

Now, before I conclude, Madam Speaker, I want to lay out some important events taking place as we speak, because they will have an unimaginably detrimental impact on the state of health in the Latino community.

The Trump Department of Justice and Attorney General William Barr abandoned their obligation to defend our current healthcare system and the Affordable Care Act. The State of Texas is seeking to invalidate the ACA and unravel the law that has benefited constituents across America represented in this, the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, and this Department of Justice is willing to let this happen undeterred.

This administration told the Texas district court that it was opting to not defend existing regulations such as protections for preexisting conditions. Imagine that, Madam Speaker, not protecting preexisting conditions, meaning that those who suffer from diabetes and those who suffer from hypertension and cardiovascular problems who have preexisting conditions will not be protected and will be out in the cold.

This administration is turning its back on over 130 million Americans, including 17 million children and adolescents with preexisting conditions. With no plan or idea of what to do going forward, they are willing to harm the lives of millions of Americans. This is purely irresponsible, and it is reprehensible.

Neither the Congressional Hispanic Caucus nor Democrats will allow this to happen unchecked. We will continue to work hard to make sure healthcare continues to be made more affordable and more equally accessible for all

Americans, especially people whom we represent.

Madam Speaker, I am so grateful for this opportunity. I will now conclude, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank my colleagues who could not be here today or are here today.

And I would like to reiterate that we will defend the Affordable Care Act and make sure that Latinos across America are not further harmed by this administration or partisan politics.

We are committed to lowering the cost of prescription drugs and making sure that insulin remains available and affordable to all communities across America and particularly communities of color that are disproportionately affected by diabetes. And we will raise hell every time that we find another instance of capricious price inflation or market consolidation or an obvious attempt to shift the blame.

With that, Madam Speaker, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus will not cease in our advocacy for the healthcare and the well-being of our communities that we represent here in the Congress and across our country.

This is a crucial time in America where the Affordable Care Act, as presented by the past administration, not only provided access to healthcare for people with preexisting conditions and not only did it allow our children up to the age of 26 to be part of our health plan, but it also provided funding for Medicaid and Medicare. It also provided funding for mental health services, an arena that has, for far too long, been left aside with not having the appropriate funding that it needs, and for people suffering from opioid addiction.

□ 1445

These are the services that were provided by the ACA. This administration has moved forward to dismantle it and to put people's lives in jeopardy.

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

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRED HAMPTON AND MARK CLARK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join with Representative BOBBY RUSH, who reserved the time to talk about an event that occurred 50 years ago when I guess BOBBY was pretty much still a teenager and I was a young adult.

The event took place in our city, the city of the big shoulders, the city of Chicago, the city that sits on a lake founded by an African American, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable. An event took place where the Chicago police, led by an assistant State's attorney, invaded the province of a group of young leaders known to be members of the Black Panther Party. They raided the group

while they were inside asleep. They shot up the building and killed two of the leaders.

One was a young gentleman, 21 years old, Fred Hampton, articulate, graduated from high school with honors, head of the youth NAACP, but a member of the Black Panther Party. Another young fellow was an outstanding American, the son of ministers and churchgoing people. The apartment was raided, and these two individuals were killed, assassinated.

It is my understanding that one of the reasons that Congressman BOBBY RUSH is alive today—he was supposed to have been there but had gone home to his apartment rather than spending the night where the Panthers were. As a result, he was spared.

Obviously, there was a hue and cry, and there were years of activity and litigation.

Madam Speaker, it is good to see that BOBBY has arrived. I just said that fate is such that he is here today, as opposed to being where Fred Hampton and Mark Clark are, wherever that is, because as fate would have it, he went someplace else.

Of course, as fate would also have it, I can't help but note that I spoke with one of Father George Clements' sons the other day, who I understand helped to kind of conceal and hide him out while the police were looking for him. Fortunately, fate intervened.

The activity caused a big hue and cry from the community. As a result of that, people began to look differently at what was known as law enforcement misconduct, police brutality. Sometimes law enforcement individuals take matters into their own hands, not worrying about what judges might do or judges might say, or courts of law, but would sometimes become executioners.

As a result of that, the African American community, of Chicago especially, changed its approach to politics. While there was a big Democratic voting bloc, they decided—we decided, because I was voting age. BOBBY may not have been, but I was voting age. We elected a Republican, Bernard Carey, to be the State's attorney for Cook County.

That also led to, ultimately, the changes that elected Harold Washington, the first Black mayor of Chicago, which evolved, ultimately, into the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States of America, because that is where his beginning was. That was the base.

I just happen to have represented the Hampton family in the congressional district that I represent. Until recently, not a year went by that I didn't spend some time with the Hampton family, that is, with Fred's mother, his father, and his brother, Bill, who carried on the work. As a result of that, that work is still going on.

I know that, on Sunday, in the community where I live, there is going to be a demonstration or an acknowledg-

ment. I wouldn't call it a demonstration. A group of people is going to go to the location where Fred and Mark were killed, and they are simply going to pay tribute.

I pay tribute now, and I pay tribute to my colleague U.S. Representative BOBBY RUSH because it was BOBBY who initiated this Special Order. Madam Speaker, because of the Congressman, I am here.

It has been a pleasure to know that our paths have been crossing one way or another for more than 50 years because I sat in the funeral home that night after Fred and Mark had been assassinated. My brother happened to be a friend of Trey Rayner, and we sat kind of keeping vigil.

My other good friend Frank Lipscomb and I, we were both young schoolteachers. We went over to the house that afternoon after we left school and peered and peeked and walked through. We were, quite frankly, afraid but wanted to see with our own eyes, and so we did see.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) and thank him for initiating this Special Order.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, it goes without saying that the love and respect that I have for my colleague from the Seventh Congressional District of Illinois, my good friend Congressman DANNY K. DAVIS, a man who is such an inspiration to us all, a man who is steadfast in all that is good as it relates to what an elected official and public servant should look like, should be like, should walk like, and, hopefully, if they are giving it, should talk like, speak like. If we all could have the voice of Congressman DAVIS, we would be much better off. But if we can't have his voice, maybe we can aspire to the heart that Congressman DAVIS possesses.

Madam Speaker, I am here this afternoon, as I have been many years now, speaking from the well of this Congress in this institution that is the envy of all governments throughout the world.

I am here for one purpose today and one purpose only, and that is to commemorate the life of a young man who was killed on this very day, December 4, in 1969. His murder was not an accident. His murder was planned by the highest levels of law enforcement in our Nation.

Madam Speaker, the Federal Bureau of Investigation collaborated on, conspired on, and coordinated the assassination of Frank Hampton and Mark Clark. Fred's and Mark's assassinations, if not the only, were two of a few instances of proven political assassination by police forces or law enforcement agencies of this country.

I say that because toxicologists' reports concluded after the autopsy on the body of Fred Hampton that he had the barbiturate Seconal in his body. He had been drugged with Seconal. They said he had enough Seconal in his body to immobilize an elephant.

They came into that apartment, Madam Speaker, on a cold December morning at 4:30 a.m. Nobody was moving on the streets. They came into the West Side community camouflaged in Commonwealth Edison trucks.

□ 1500

They came into that community with machine guns, with a definite purpose of killing Fred Hampton and anybody else who was in that apartment.

They came using public utility trucks, not marked police cars, but trucks that would not look out of place at that hour in the morning.

They knocked on the door when they got to that apartment. Half the police officers went to the front door. Half went to the rear door.

They knocked on the door, and Mark Clark, who was in the apartment, asked, "Who is it?" at 4:30 in the morning. He got a response from one of the police officers, who answered by saying, "Tommy." When he said, "Tommy," he came in shooting.

When they heard the first round of gunfire at the front door, the other half of the raiding team, the assassination team, came in through the rear door, shooting also.

There were 12 people in that apartment, including the pregnant wife of Fred Hampton, who was asleep in the bed with him. He had been drugged. She didn't know that he was drugged.

He came home late that evening, had a meal. Fred loved Kool-Aid. His Kool-Aid was laced with the aforementioned Seconal.

They came in shooting from the front of that apartment and the back, the rear of that apartment.

Someone, a Panther on the inside by the name of Louis Truelock, shouted out: Stop shooting. Stop shooting. There is a pregnant woman in here.

The shooting stopped. A patrolman by the name of Daniel Groth went into that apartment where Fred had been shot, blood all over the mattress. They heard two other shots of gunfire from a handgun. Groth came out and said: "He is good and dead now."

This was a political hit by the FBI, by the Chicago Police Department, by the Cook County State's attorney.

Why did they kill Fred? Why was this 21-year-old young man such a threat that the law enforcement agencies of this entire Nation would conspire to murder him and drug him? Because Fred Hampton was a young man who had remarkable, extraordinary gifts.

He was a charismatic individual. He could speak and was considered a great orator for his time and for his age. He could move masses through his charisma and through the strength of his conviction and ideas and through his courage.

Fred Hampton, at age 21, was a leader of men and women. Adults followed him. But more than anything else, Fred Hampton was a man who everybody knew said what he meant and meant what he said.

There was a conspiracy, an assassination, a political assassination because the FBI, Edward Hanrahan, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and the Chicago Police Department knew that Fred had been convicted of armed robbery. They said he had held up a Good Humor ice cream truck and took \$71 of ice cream on a hot August day and had given the ice cream sandwiches, ice cream bars, and Dreamsicles away to the children in the community because it was so hot.

That is what he was convicted of. He was sentenced to 5 years in prison for stealing, according to them, \$71 worth of ice cream.

He had been out on appeal, and his appeal had been denied. The FBI, State's attorneys, Edward Hanrahan, and the Chicago Police Department knew that on December 13, some 9 days later, Fred was going to report back to the Illinois Department of Corrections to finish off his sentence. They knew that Fred would not be on the streets.

Why did they kill him? Because of his courage, his charisma, his commitment. Fred was committed, not just to Black people, and he was committed to Black people, but to all poor people.

Fred used to say that you cannot kill racism with racism. You kill racism with racial solidarity.

Madam Speaker, on this day, the 50th anniversary of the murder of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, I remember so well so many things that Fred said, and one thing that he said really stands out to me on this very day. He used to say: "You can kill a revolutionary, but you can't kill a revolution."

Madam Speaker, that ought to mean something to this body because no matter where we are today, this body, this United States of America, was founded on the premise of a revolution.

Fred was right. Revolution continues even to this day. Fred's blood still is producing fruit. Congressman DAVIS mentioned it. Look at the people who were inspired by Fred and his ultimate sacrifice:

Harold Washington, elected the first African American mayor of the city of Chicago, in direct response to the murder of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark and the wounding of seven other Panthers;

Carol Moseley Braun, the first female African American U.S. Senator in the history of this Nation;

And the mayors from Baltimore to Seattle to New York and other places inspired by Harold Washington's election, which was inspired and which was founded on the blood of Fred Hampton.

All these things would not have existed had Fred not given his life for the cause of freedom, justice, and equality.

Yes, Madam Speaker, even the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, Fred Hampton's life was given so that Barack Obama could come from Chicago, from the State of Illinois, and become a U.S. Senator and then the President of the United States.

Even now, young protest groups, Black Lives Matter and others, were founded on the premise of and came into existence because of the blood of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark.

Madam Speaker, I am here today because he was my friend. He was my colleague. I remember December the 4th, 1969. I couldn't sleep last night because my mind kept going back to 1969, the calls that I got, waiting in the basement of an apartment, listening to news radio, trying to figure out what really was going on, what was happening.

I identified Fred's body in the morgue that very morning, later that morning. I remember going to the morgue and identifying Fred's body. I identified his body.

They came to my apartment the very next morning. I was supposed to have been in the same apartment with Fred on December 4. The very next morning, at 5 a.m., they came to my apartment looking for me. I had gone underground.

If I hadn't been in that apartment with my wife and my children, if we hadn't been in that apartment, I wouldn't be here today, speaking in the well of this Congress.

"You can kill a revolutionary, but you can't kill a revolution."

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative RUSH so much.

Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have left.

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, first, I would like to thank Congressman BOBBY RUSH for leading this effort in the memory of the late beloved Fred Hampton.

Madam Speaker, fifty years ago, the people of Illinois and the world lost a devoted public servant with the untimely brutal murder of Fred Hampton. A man whose reputation followed him. I knew of Fred Hampton during my time as a community worker with the Black Panther Party in Oakland, California. Fred's fight for freedom and justice were known throughout the country including in my district. Fred took the Black Panther's Party motto to heart—he fought to end widespread poverty, increase economic and educational opportunities, and ensure peace and justice for all.

Promoting the idea of "All Power to the People", and unwilling to wait for the political leaders of the time to address the needs of the African American community, the Panthers—and Fred—took action themselves to force change and bring about liberation from all forms of human exploitation and oppression.

Above all, Fred was deeply dedicated to the Black Panther Party's Free Breakfast Program, which gave thousands of children the necessary nutrition to focus and excel before their school day. He understood the importance of meeting the needs in the community while fighting for a fair chance to overcome structural and oppressive barriers.

Years ago, I was lucky enough to also work on the Party's Free Breakfast Program in Oakland, California. And as many of my colleagues know, it was the success of the program that pressed the Federal government to

increase funding for free breakfast for public school children.

Madam Speaker, above all—Fred was a leader and worked to form a, a more peaceful world. His unparalleled leadership as former Chair of the Illinois Black Panther Party and as a warrior for peace and justice will always be his legacy.

The legacy of Fred Hampton shall never die, and may he continue to rest in peace.

□ 1515

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FRED HAMPTON

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

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I want to first thank Congressmen RUSH and DAVIS for allowing us to be here to honor the legacy of Fred Hampton.

Fifty years ago today, a 21-year-old American revolutionary was murdered in his own home by 14 Chicago police officers who were found to be colluding with the FBI as part of the COINTELPRO initiative.

Scholars now widely believe that the Hampton death was under the FBI's initiative. This initiative was a series of covert and often illegal projects aimed at surveilling, infiltrating, and disrupting civil rights organizations, feminist organizations, peace activists, the environmentalist movement, and native groups.

Common tactics used by COINTELPRO were perjury, witness intimidation, and withholding evidence to falsely imprison and assassinate leaders of the Panther Party. Among those on the list was the young Fred Hampton.

Fred actively fought against the corruption and injustice Black and Brown people were being subjected to on a daily basis. He sought to build a multicultural movement, the Rainbow Coalition, seeking to end the violence among street gangs.

Let us teach our children and the new generation of his legacy and fight against racial inequalities, police violence, and mass incarceration.

Yes, the same problems Black and Brown men and women face today still continue as they did back then. Today, our criminal justice system and the failed war on drugs continue to disproportionately impact communities of color, and it is time we join together to fight continuously for a more just society.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

CHINA'S 100-YEAR PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) for 30 minutes.

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to address the House on a very important topic. I am doing part three in a series of Special Orders on China. This includes the Chinese Communist Party complex, which is comprised of Xi Jinping, their emperor or ruler; the PLA, the People's Liberation Army; and the Chinese Communist Party and members of its politburo, their ruling class.

China has an amazing history that spans thousands of years. Its culture has stayed, for the most part, intact until the 19th century. There have been multiple rulers and emperors recorded in the history books, and, at one point, China and most of Eurasia were under the control of Genghis Khan and the Mongolian Empire.

China went from a major economic power in the 18th century to a nation addicted to opium and entered their century of shame.

China is entering another century of shame, and it is too sad because China should be applauded for the success they have had, to go from where they were in the 1960s to where they are today; yet it was done at the expense of coercion, corruption, a squashing of human rights, and just not being nice neighbors in the world.

The purpose of this Special Order is to bring awareness to Members of Congress and the American people and other Western-style democracies around the world to the true intent of China and what China is doing.

Today, China has become the second largest economy in the world, and they will soon eclipse the United States of America. In order to understand where China is going, one needs to know where modern-day China started.

Mao Zedong, in 1949, was a Communist Army fighter, and he became the chairman of the Chinese Communist Party and set out a 100-year plan. He had a vision for China. Unfortunately, their vision was to be the ruler of the modern world.

That 100 years is 2049. They are 70 years into that plan, and they have worked it very astutely; and, like I said, they should be applauded. Yet it was done at the expense of other countries.

As we know today, in the 21st century, with an over \$300 billion trade deficit with the United States of America, that China has gained a lot of their gains in technology, in science, and in economics by the theft of intellectual property.

Just the other day, my son was trying to download a movie. It was a brand-new movie. It had all Chinese captions in it, and it was a pirated movie that is brand new. And China has already—people from China have already black-marketed it.

What they have done is they have become so astute at the black market and stealing intellectual property that it has cost this country, alone, over \$600 billion, annually.

We have had workshops up here, through the Department of Homeland Security, where they show bearings from different companies that are American companies that have gone to China, where China has copied the product identically. It is not the same quality, but it looks identical. They copied the product name, the logo, the packaging, and they are selling it cheaper than the manufacturers can produce it here.

So what they are doing is they are ruining an American manufacturer. They are selling their cheap products here that break down, and it ruins the reputation of that company, and they eventually go out.

I can't tell you how many times I have had people come into our office, and I had the privilege of being the chairman of the Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation Subcommittee last Congress. We had businesses come from all over the world. A lot of them have gone to China, and they tell us: Our game plan in China is to go there and to plan on making our profits in 5 years and get out because, by then, the Chinese businesspeople and the Chinese Government have copied our products and we are competing against our own product.

This is something that we have created an initiative in our office, and we hope it becomes a foreign policy, and it is Manufacture the ABC model. That is, Manufacture Anywhere But China. Because, again, China—when you hear what I have to say here, China is taking that money to take over the world as far as militarily and economically.

We are going through a major tectonic shift in world power we haven't seen since World War II. This is something that we have heard from our generals, we have heard from our business people, and it is happening right in front of us.

And yet every time we buy something from China, it is benefiting the Chinese Communist Government.

There is a real clear distinction that I want to make, or definition: There is not a separation between a Chinese business and the Communist Party; it is all one and the same. Members of the Chinese Communist Party have to be—by mandate, have to be—on their board of directors.

When we have an American company that goes over there, they have to have members of the Chinese Communist Party embedded on their board. When we have an American company that goes over there, we have to give up—our companies give up about 51 percent of our companies so that the Chinese Government has the controlling interest.

In addition, they have to give up intellectual property to have the right. It boggles my mind that an American

company will give up intellectual property.

I ask them: Why are you willing to do this?

They say: Well, they have got such a huge market. They have got 1.3 billion people.

I just want to shake them by the shoulders and say: Don't you understand that they are taking your information, they are taking your intellectual property, and they are competing with it and using it against you? But, more importantly, don't focus on the 1.3 billion people in China. Look at the rest of the world, because there are 6.4 billion people outside of China. That is where your market is, and that is where I would encourage you to manufacture, anywhere but China, so that we are not empowering that nation.

They have a philosophy that states there cannot be two suns in the sky at the same time, implying one must be removed. This has been repeated over and over again in the last 100 years. They are 70 years into their 100-year plan.

Xi Jinping, their leader, has an initiative called Made in China 2025, where all things produced and consumed around the globe come from China, and they have done a great job.

I wish we could applaud their success, but not when it comes at the expense of us or other countries around the world.

To kind of lay out, again, where China is going, Xi Jinping stated in 2017 that the era of China has arrived. No longer will China be made to swallow its interests around the world. It is time for China to take the world's center stage.

Again, it is a reference that there cannot be two major competing powers in the world at the same time. One has to be removed. And Xi Jinping says this very succinctly in 2017.

So let's look at the facts. Let's look at what China has done to Tibet.

You know, Tibet was a very peaceful culture. It still is for the people who are still around. But the Chinese Government, under Deng Xiaoping, infiltrated the Tibetan region with Han Chinese, which are the predominant Chinese sect or personality or sector of China, and they have overruled the Tibetan area and driven the Tibetans out.

Not only that, they have addicted a lot of the Tibetan monks to heroin, and so they are repeating what happened in the heroin wars of China.

In the South China Sea, China has encroached on sovereign nations around the area. They have got these fictitious nine-dash lines that they adhere to that are their historical sailing routes from ancient times. They claim all that area; since they sailed it in the past, it is theirs.

It is a ridiculous notion. In fact, the Philippines sued them at the Court of Arbitration in The Hague. China lost the lawsuit, but they ignored the ruling, and so they took over islands.

They have made islands. They have damaged the coral reefs in that area

where they have made islands—or land masses, because I refuse to call them islands since that gives credibility—and then they have militarized them.

When Xi Jinping was here in 2015 with President Obama, he lied to our President and the people around the world and said that he had no intention of militarizing those land masses that they dredged from the bottom of the ocean. Yet, today, they are militarized, and they have done this over and over again.

Again, they are making deepwater ports in areas that are encroaching and getting closer to the United States mainland. And they are doing this, again, to reinforce their goal of being the sole superpower in the world. Why else would they be investing all this money in the five brand-new aircraft carriers that are going to be the state of the art?

This is something we see over and over again.

And they have encroached on the sovereignty of nations, of the ASEAN nations—the Philippines is part of that, Vietnam, Brunei—to the point where they are encroaching on their exclusive economic zones and forcing these countries to yield up their natural resources so that China can benefit from them.

China has developed what we call the Belt Road Initiative, or the One Belt, One Road we hear a lot about. I have heard it referred to as the One Belt, One Road, and it goes one way; and it goes to enhance China, not the countries where they do economic development.

We have seen so many examples around the world where China has taken development money to build infrastructure projects, where they give out bad loans.

It kind of reminds me of the robber barons of the 1800s in this country, where they go in and give out these high-interest loans with bad terms. The country can't pay it back. They are a poorer country. And then China winds up taking over strategic land masses.

Probably the best poster child example of that is what happened in Sri Lanka, where they went in there. They lent them money. Sri Lanka couldn't pay it back. China foreclosed on that loan, took over their deepwater seaports.

And again, this is their strategy, to take over deepwater seaports so that they can control the shipping lanes.

And then they took over 15,000 acres of land in addition to that for 99 years, to the point where the Sri Lankans have got to go back and renegotiate this deal.

□ 1530

We are seeing them do this in South America. We are seeing them do this in Africa, in Central America, and it is going all over the world. And, again, you have to go back to what the original intent is: To be the sole superpower in the world.

China has pushed very strategically to corner the markets on rare Earth metals. Virtually today, the United States of America and other countries—I know for the United States of America, we get 90 percent of our rare Earth metals directly from China. The other 10 percent come from countries that get it from China.

And we have seen China use the rare Earth metals market demand that they have to coerce nations like Japan to allow them to go into Japanese territorial waters to fish, and Japan had no other choice. They have threatened to do that to the United States of America. This is something that is not acceptable for our national security.

I sit on the agricultural committee, too, and what I found out is that China controls 100 percent of the vitamins and minerals that go into our livestock feed. This, again, is a national security interest.

China today controls 85 to 90 percent of what we call the APIs, that is the active pharmaceutical ingredients that go into all of our medicines around the world. And the bad thing about that is that they have the controlling interest of the pharmaceutical ingredients, the active portion of that, which is bad enough, but what they do is they have changed the formulation of the original drugmaker and manufacturer by using different reagents and solvents, so it changes the active ingredients.

So what we have found out is that the product is tainted, it is not as effective. And we found cases where there is a high risk of cancer from using these products. And, unfortunately, some of these products are anti-cancer drugs that are, in turn, causing cancer to the rate of one in 6,000.

Again, this is something that we need to understand: Every time we buy a product and it comes from China, we are reinforcing this, and we are growing their economy stronger and their military stronger.

We can look at their other economic threats that they have done. Back in 2013 and 2014 South Korea was changing presidents. South Korea was being taunted by North Korea, and they continually have been, about being attacked. And so they took one of our THAAD systems, which is a terminal high altitude area defense mechanism, and China retaliated, not against North Korea that was making all the threatening gestures, but they retaliated against South Korea. And the reason they do this is because South Korea is a western-style democracy, which would threaten China.

So the way they retaliated against South Korea is they went after their largest department chain called Lotte Department Stores. They virtually shut them down in mainland China. They went after Hyundai. Hyundai sales dropped precipitously. They revoked tourism visas going to South Korea. So, instead of going after North Korea for these provocative gestures,

they go after South Korea for their own defense. And then the agreement we had after the Korean conflict was that we would provide them defensive mechanisms.

And so, we see the same thing going on in Hong Kong today. The thing I have learned, and the thing that is very evident is, China cannot exist around a western-style democracy where freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of thought is expressed, because in China the highest power in the Chinese Communist Party is the party. And it is their doctrine. So you can't have people that are free thinking, and it is very self-evident when you see what is going on in Hong Kong today.

We are approaching 7 months of protests in Hong Kong, where you have over 25 percent of the population protesting because what China did is through their chief executive officer, Carrie Lam—who is a puppet of Beijing—she introduced an extradition bill.

And when Hong Kong was turned over from Great Britain back to China in 1997, there was a 50-year period of time where Hong Kong was supposed to be a self-ruled autonomous region with an independent judiciary system.

Twenty-two years into it, Xi Jinping, the emperor of China, has said that as far as he is concerned that deal is null and void. And so they went ahead and put in this extradition bill, which breaks their judicial system, and it caused the protests.

And we have seen this over and over again, the way China did this with the Tibetans. They did it in Tiananmen Square, where they had a mass massacre of people that were standing up for democracy and freedom back in the 1980s. And here we are, we are seeing it happen again, and China is not backing off on the suppression of human rights.

We got visited by the students of Hong Kong that were in the protests. They came to our office. These are true freedom fighters in the modern 21st century. These students were standing up, and these were the ones that were burning the Chinese flag, and they were the ones waving the American flag because of what that represents around the world.

And our American flag is bigger than a Presidency, it is bigger than a Republican party or a Democratic party. It is an ideal that people around the world look at as a model of what they want to accomplish. And it is great to know that this body passed the Hong Kong Democracy Act this week, and it is a strong signal to put sanctions on the people of China who have said to the people of Hong Kong that no form of punishment can be too strict or strong for the protestors, that they must be brought into line.

And then we can look at the Xinjiang province where it is mostly a Chinese Muslim province. There is approximately 10 million Uighurs that live in that area. The Uighurs are Chinese

Muslims. They come from different areas, Kyrgyzstan and all that region of western China. And they practice their Muslim faith. But China, again, can't be threatened by anything that is outside the Chinese Communist Party doctrine.

And so what they have done is they have built modern day concentration camps where over a million, the estimates are one to two million, Uighurs are placed into these reeducation camps. And I have met with the students and the children of people that have been interned in these camps, and they were CPAs, their parents, they were doctors, they were pharmacists, they were lawyers, and they were professional people. But the Chinese Government says these people needed to be retrained so that they could have adequate jobs to provide for their families.

I remember the words of Dwight Eisenhower when he went into Nazi Germany and he saw the concentration camps, and he said, "Never again." And if we, as a civil society of free-thinking people around the world, are allowing this to happen, shame on us. And we are allowing this to happen, again, every time we buy a product that is made in China. The Uighurs that go to these reeducation camps, they are using them as slave labor. It is well documented.

The other thing I found interesting in our Foreign Affairs Committee is we had a hearing on this, and they were telling us about the crematoriums they have. Now, crematoriums are obviously there to cremate people after they are dead.

But my question is: Why is it in their advertisement, they are asking for armed people that are well at fighting to guard these crematoriums? If you are going to cremate dead people, why do you need armed guards at the crematoriums? Unless they are not dead?

And, again, we have seen this happen in history. And this is going on today. And it is something that the American people need to wake up to. I know Members of this body are waking up to it. But it is people around the world that need to wake up to this and shun China until China changes their behavior. We can't make them do it, but we can change our habits and buy elsewhere and have people produce products everywhere else.

We were proud to pass in the last Congress the BUILD Act, which develops the United States International Development Finance Corporation. This is something that we can offer to countries as a way to do development finance in other countries. We can partner up with countries that have a development finance corporation like Japan, the U.K., Australia, Great Britain, and we can do major infrastructure projects.

The difference between us doing that and China is we are going to do it for the development and the betterment of that country, understanding that if we

help them build an economic base through infrastructure, they will develop an economy, and through that economy we will develop more trade and so then that country benefits, not China.

We have seen China go into Cambodia, bring in Chinese workers, Chinese material, build casinos. They build Chinese restaurants, Chinese hotels that are run, controlled, and worked by Chinese nationals, not the people of Cambodia. So there again, it is an example of how China comes in and does these projects for the benefit of China, not for the benefit of the local economy.

I was down in South America, and I was talking to one of the Members of Congress down there whose brother happened to be a mayor of one of the small towns. The Chinese embassy had given that mayor two fire trucks. Now, the Congressman was going to have a meeting with the country of Taiwan, and the Chinese embassy found out about it. And they didn't call the Congressman in Chile, they called the mayor, his brother, and said, If your brother takes that meeting with Taiwan, you will not get any more favors from us. And this is just one of their ways of underhandedness and coercion that they do to force people to do what they want.

In China today they have the largest collection of CCTV cameras, which are the closed-circuit television cameras that monitor their citizens. So today in China they have what they call the good citizen score. They monitor people, and if you don't do something properly, like you jaywalk or you went through a red light or you threw something on the ground, it is scored. You don't know what your score is, but you will find out if you want to go to a restaurant, they may prevent you from going in there. If you want to travel, they will prevent you from traveling. But you won't find out until you show up. And this is a way to control their people because, again, the thing they fear most is free thought.

In China what we do know is Xi Jinping came from a family that was an elite family. His father was one of the leaders of the Communist Party. But he wanted Xi Jinping to understand the rural life, so in his teenage years they sent him out to a rural area where he had to live in a cage and dwell in a cage in a village. He did that, so today he can relate to people that are out in the rural areas.

When he became powerful and moved up in the political process, and this is around 2012, 2013, what he did is he started to eliminate anybody that was a potential threat to him. So they either did forced retirement, and in the five biggest cities in China today the people that were ruling, those mayors either had forced retirement or they disappeared, or they are in prison. He has replaced them with pretty much henchmen of his that will follow his orders. They are doing this in their own

country. They are doing this in Hong Kong. They are doing it in Tibet. And they are going to do it in other parts of the world. We have seen them doing this with the Uighurs in the Xinjiang province.

My hope today is that people will hear this. And this message will get out to where when people buy a product, they have a choice. It might be a little bit cheaper, but every time you buy that product, you are buying a product that is feeding an economic engine and a military whose sole purpose is to be the dominant power in the world and to make us secondary or worse.

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

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 3 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2030

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER) at 8 o'clock and 30 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 December 4, 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 December 4, 2019, at 4:06 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 760.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4, VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2019, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. 326, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT THROUGH A NEGOTIATED TWO-STATE SOLUTION

Mr. HASTINGS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-322) on the resolution (H.

Res. 741) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 326) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 5, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3158. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Dried Prunes Produced in California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-19-0056; SC19-993-1 FR] received December 2, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3159. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Almonds Grown in California; Revisions to the Accepted User Program Requirements and New Information Collection [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-18-0099; SC19-981-1 FR] received December 2, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3160. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — DFAS Privacy Act Program [Docket ID: DOD-2019-OS-0054] (RIN: 0790-AK70) received November 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3161. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Regulatory Service, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Title I-Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged; Education of Migratory Children [ED-2018-OESE-0079] (RIN: 1810-AB49) received November 26, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

3162. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's interim final regulations — Total and Permanent Disability Discharge of Loans Under Title IV of the Higher Education Act [Docket ID: ED-2019-FSA-0115] (RIN: 1840-AD48) received November 26, 2019, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

3163. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final priority — Final Priority for Discretionary Grant Programs [Docket ID: ED-2019-OPEPD-0019] (RIN: 1875-AA12) received November 26, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

3164. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2019 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3165. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Administration's Fiscal Year 2017 annual report to Congress for the Office of Combination Products, pursuant to the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3166. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Iowa; Revisions to Regional Haze Plan and Visibility Requirements in Infrastructure State Implementation Plans for the 2006 PM2.5, 2012 PM2.5, 2010 NO2, 2010 SO2, 2008 Ozone, and 2015 Ozone NAAQS [EPA-R07-OAR-2019-0468; FRL-10001-89-Region 7] received November 26, 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.

3167. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to California State Implementation Plan; Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District; Nonattainment New Source Review Requirements for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard [EPA-R09-OAR-2018-0713; FRL-10001-66-Region 9] received November 26, 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.

3168. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Accidental Release Prevention Requirements: Risk Management Programs under the Clean Air Act [EPA-HQ-OEM-2015-0725; FRL-10002-69-OLEM] (RIN: 2050-AG95) received November 26, 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.

3169. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption that was declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3170. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-0P, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3171. A letter from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury,

transmitting the Department's final rule — Venezuela Sanctions Regulations received November 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3172. A letter from the Secretary of Labor, and Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's FY 2019 Annual Report, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 1308; Public Law 93-406, Sec. 4008 (as amended by Public Law 109-280, Sec. 412); (120 Stat. 936); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3173. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 23-174, "Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act of 2019", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3174. A letter from the Acting Architect of the Capitol, Architect of the Capitol, transmitting the Architect of the Capitol Office of Inspector General semiannual report to Congress for the period April 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3175. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's FY 2019 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3176. A letter from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Agency Financial Report for FY 2019, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3516 note; Public Law 112-217, Sec. 2(c); (126 Stat. 1591) and 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3177. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress, covering the period ending September 30, 2019, pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3178. A letter from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2019 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3179. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's summary presentation of a final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2020-02; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR-2019-0001, Sequence No.: 7] received November 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3180. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3181. A letter from the Director, Selective Service System, transmitting the System's FY 2019 Performance and Accountability Report, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 3809(g); June 24, 1948, ch. 625, title I, Sec. 10 (as amended by (Public Law 102-190, Sec. 1091); (105 Stat. 1486); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3182. A letter from the Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting the Agency's FY 2019 Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress covering the period April 1, 2019 through, September 30, 2019, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3183. A letter from the Acting Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2019 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3184. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's Office of the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress, covering the period April 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019, pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3185. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report titled "Fiscal Year 2018 Report to Congress on Contract Funding of Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Awards", pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 450j-1(c); Public Law 93-638, Sec. 106(c) (as added by Public Law 106-260, Sec. 9(2)); (114 Stat. 733); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3186. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Per diem allowances (Rev. Proc. 2019-48) received December 2, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RASKIN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 741. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 326) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution (Rept. 116-322). Referred to the House Calendar.

CONSENSUS CALENDAR

Under clause 7 of rule XV, the following motion was filed with the Clerk: Motion No. 10, December 4, 2019 by Mr. DEFAZIO on H.R. 2382

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 5294. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish a postsecondary education loan borrower bill of rights and to require certain creditors to obtain private loan certifications from institutions of high-

er education, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to require the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to issue rules to establish standards for reporting information related to student loans to consumer reporting agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, 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 Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 5295. A bill to consolidate activities of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality into the National Institutes of Health as the National Institute for Research on Safety and Quality, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ALLRED (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. STEL):

H.R. 5296. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an election to advance future child tax credits in the year of birth or adoption; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 5297. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a full annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. GRIMALVA, Mr. EVANS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 5298. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to States and localities to provide the right to counsel in civil actions related to eviction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DELGADO (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. ZELDIN):

H.R. 5299. A bill to provide for the issuance of a Lyme Disease Research Semipostal Stamp; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 5300. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to preserve the independent funding of the Office of Financial Research, to establish minimum staffing levels for the Financial Stability Oversight Council, to establish minimum funding levels for such staff, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma (for himself and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 5301. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to permit certain individuals complying with State law to possess firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H.R. 5302. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize certain recycled water projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KHANNA,

Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. CORREA, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 5303. A bill to establish a moratorium on oil and gas leasing on public land on the Central Coast of California; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHRADER (for himself and Mr. GIANFORTE):

H.R. 5304. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to require health plan oversight of pharmacy benefit manager services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 5294.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 5295.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 states “The Congress shall have Power To ... make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers . . . in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof”

By Mr. ALLRED:

H.R. 5296.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power given to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 5297.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5298.

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. DELGADO:

H.R. 5299 .

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 5300.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma:

H.R. 5301.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18—Necessary Clause

18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execu-

tion 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. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 5302.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 5303.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.R. 5304 .

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Mr. STEIL.

H.R. 41: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 117: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 141: Mr. CARTER of Texas and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 286: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 307: Mr. WOODALL.

H.R. 409: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.

H.R. 534: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 587: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BACON, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 616: Mr. KELLER.

H.R. 656: Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 784: Mr. STEIL.

H.R. 895: Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico.

H.R. 912: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 927: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 945: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1002: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 1042: Mr. POSEY, Mr. KIND, and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 1043: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 1055: Mr. CASTRO of Texas and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 1125: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.

H.R. 1128: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1139: Mrs. MCBATH.

H.R. 1155: Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 1161: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1329: Ms. SLOTKIN and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 1346: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 1364: Mr. LEWIS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1407: Mr. COSTA and Mr. CARTER of Texas.

H.R. 1434: Mr. KELLER.

H.R. 1537: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1591: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 1629: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1688: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 1700: Mr. HICE of Georgia.

H.R. 1785: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 1786: Ms. PLASKETT and Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 1807: Mr. COX of California.

H.R. 1824: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1840: Mr. HOLDING and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1854: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 1872: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 1873: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 1903: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 1975: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 1992: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 2013: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 2062: Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 2073: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2086: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2117: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2179: Mr. KELLER.

H.R. 2204: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 2213: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 2218: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 2256: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 2321: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 2349: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 2399: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 2404: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 2415: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 2435: Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 2471: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 2478: Ms. PLASKETT, Mrs. AXNE, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 2482: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 2501: Mr. TRONE and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 2603: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 2734: Mrs. HAYES and Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 2748: Mr. QUIGLEY and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 2767: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 2771: Mr. COOK.

H.R. 2775: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2785: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 2788: Mr. O'HALLERAN.

H.R. 2812: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 2867: Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. COX of California, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 2985: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. SHERILL, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 3038: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 3043: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 3073: Mr. PAPPAS and Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 3077: Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, and Mr. COMER.

H.R. 3138: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 3182: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 3328: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 3331: Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 3332: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER and Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 3350: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 3378: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

H.R. 3414: Ms. DEAN and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3463: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 3495: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. HURD of Texas, and Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 3584: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3598: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 3637: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 3654: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 3663: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 3749: Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 3760: Mr. RICHMOND and Ms. DEAN.

H.R. 3771: Mr. O'HALLERAN.

H.R. 3783: Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 3794: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 3879: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 3906: Ms. NORTON and Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 3925: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 3937: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 3961: Mr. KILMER and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 3964: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 3971: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.

H.R. 3975: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 4056: Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. NEGUSE, and Ms. DEAN.

H.R. 4092: Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 4132: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 4138: Mr. FULCHER, Mr. ARMSTRONG, and Mr. HECK.

H.R. 4148: Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. DELBENE.

- H.R. 4194: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan and Mr. FLORES.
- H.R. 4227: Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. WALDEN.
- H.R. 4229: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. COX of California.
- H.R. 4232: Mr. FOSTER.
- H.R. 4265: Ms. DEGETTE.
- H.R. 4268: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
- H.R. 4304: Mr. CALVERT.
- H.R. 4326: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
- H.R. 4371: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
- H.R. 4404: Ms. WILD.
- H.R. 4426: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. HIMES, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
- H.R. 4482: Mr. HUIZENGA and Mr. GARAMENDI.
- H.R. 4508: Mr. ALLRED.
- H.R. 4512: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
- H.R. 4542: Mr. HASTINGS.
- H.R. 4681: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. COMER.
- H.R. 4736: Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee.
- H.R. 4764: Mr. ROUDA.
- H.R. 4817: Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, and Mr. MEADOWS.
- H.R. 4818: Mr. ALLEN.
- H.R. 4820: Mr. POCAN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. STIVERS.
- H.R. 4838: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
- H.R. 4857: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
- H.R. 4864: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. DEUTCH.
- H.R. 4881: Mr. VELA.
- H.R. 4890: Ms. SLOTKIN.
- H.R. 4892: Mr. YOHO.
- H.R. 4899: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
- H.R. 4900: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
- H.R. 4914: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
- H.R. 4919: Mr. BRINDISI and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
- H.R. 4932: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.
- H.R. 4941: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. GOLDEN.
- H.R. 4945: Mr. BRINDISI and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
- H.R. 4957: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
- H.R. 4980: Mr. CALVERT.
- H.R. 4982: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 4990: Mr. VAN DREW and Mr. CASE.
- H.R. 5018: Mr. GOSAR.
- H.R. 5046: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. COSTA, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
- H.R. 5048: Mr. ESPAILLAT.
- H.R. 5052: Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico.
- H.R. 5056: Mr. CISNEROS.
- H.R. 5091: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
- H.R. 5096: Ms. ESHOO.
- H.R. 5097: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
- H.R. 5127: Ms. MENG.
- H.R. 5136: Mr. MCADAMS.
- H.R. 5142: Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 5149: Ms. SLOTKIN.
- H.R. 5169: Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. YOUNG.
- H.R. 5175: Mr. WESTERMAN.
- H.R. 5189: Ms. PRESSLEY and Mr. KENNEDY.
- H.R. 5195: Mr. POCAN.
- H.R. 5200: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
- H.R. 5243: Mrs. DINGELL and Mrs. TRAHAN.
- H.R. 5253: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
- H.R. 5260: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
- H.R. 5267: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. PETERS.
- H.R. 5269: Mrs. WALORSKI.
- H.R. 5271: Ms. PINGREE.
- H.R. 5289: Mr. HUDSON.
- H. Con. Res. 43: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
- H. Res. 69: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
- H. Res. 219: Ms. STEFANIK.
- H. Res. 374: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. PAYNE.
- H. Res. 446: Mr. HUIZENGA.
- H. Res. 452: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.
- H. Res. 493: Mr. ALLEN.
- H. Res. 527: Mr. MEEKS.
- H. Res. 531: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
- H. Res. 640: Mr. ALLEN.
- H. Res. 641: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. SCHA-KOWSKY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
- H. Res. 675: Mrs. HARTZLER.
- H. Res. 714: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
- H. Res. 732: Ms. NORTON and Mr. MEEKS.
- H. Res. 734: Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. ARM-STRONG, and Mr. STIVERS.
- H. Res. 738: Mr. LANGEVIN.



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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KEVIN CRAMER, a Senator from the State of North Dakota.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Holy God, You make the clouds Your chariot and walk upon the wind. We see Your works in the rising of the Sun and in its setting. For the beauty of the Earth and the glory of the skies, we give you praise.

Today make our lawmakers heirs of peace, demonstrating that they are Your children as they strive to find common ground. May they take pleasure in doing Your will, knowing that by so doing, they are fulfilling Your purposes in our world. Lord, you are never far from us, but often we are far from You, so show us Your ways and teach us Your paths.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 4, 2019.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable KEVIN CRAMER, a Senator from the State of North Dakota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CRAMER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard Ernest Myers II, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

HONG KONG

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on Sunday, as we Americans savored the holiday weekend and gave thanks for our liberty, the people of Hong Kong took to the streets to demand their own. Many waved American flags.

Hongkongers are continuing to speak up for the freedoms and the autonomy that Beijing has slowly tried to erode. As long as Beijing does not relent, it looks like the people of Hong Kong are

not going to relent either. In local elections last week that were largely symbolic, pro-democracy candidates literally blew away the candidates the Chinese Communist Party would have preferred in a literal landslide. Not even Beijing's propagandists can credibly blame this massive display of popular revulsion at their authoritarianism on the "black hand" of the West. In spite of China's propaganda, the West should not stay silent as Beijing sneaks to snuff out dissent in Hong Kong.

Just a few days prior, the Congress and President Trump had sent our clearest signal yet that, yes, the United States of America stands with Hong Kong. The Senate unanimously passed the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, and the President signed it into law. It delivered important updates to the original U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act, which I authored back in 1992. Preserving freedom and promoting democracy has required constant vigilance with Hongkongers since Communist China assumed control of the region.

I have been proud to stand with that effort. With my original legislation, we paved the way for cooperation between Hong Kong and the United States, codifying and strengthening economic ties and facilitating the robust exchange of ideas and support of greater democracy in the autonomous region. We have laid the foundation for a U.S.-Hong Kong relationship that has strengthened both their society and ours and created leverage to hold Beijing accountable.

Back in 1992, I observed that democracy was "finally gaining a tenuous foothold in Hong Kong." Recent months certainly have reminded us just how tenuous that foothold can be when an authoritarian country flexes its muscles. They reminded us just how intent Beijing remains on exporting its oppressive surveillance state not just within mainland China but also into Hong Kong and, frankly, all around the world.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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The unanimous Senate vote for expanded oversight and firm responses to Beijing was welcomed news on the streets of Hong Kong, not because the U.S. Senate or international nonprofits or anybody else is ginning up these protests, as Beijing wants people to believe, but because those speaking out for freedom recognize a friend of freedom when they see one.

It has been funny to see how invested Beijing is in these conspiracy theories that this organic protest movement is actually the work of shadowy puppeteers. Just a few days ago, the Chinese Communist Party's Foreign Ministry took the panicked and laughable step of "sanctioning" several American nonprofits and NGOs, such as the International Republican Institute, the National Democratic Institute, and the National Endowment for Democracy. Like I said, it is laughable. I admire the heck out of these organizations, but they aren't exactly in the business of commanding millions of people from Hong Kong to Beirut, to Baghdad, to Tehran to take to the streets. They are not that good.

Here is the business they are in: speaking up for the timeless and universal principles of basic human freedom. They help keep the torch lit. It is the brave souls around the world who want better lives for themselves and their children who pick up the ball and run with it for themselves.

The junior varsity tantrum that Beijing is throwing against these U.S.-based organizations is literally comical. It puts the Communist Party's hypersensitivity on full display. It is the same flailing that we see from other regimes from Moscow to Tehran, driven by the same aggressive, authoritarian instincts that push social media propaganda, street corner surveillance, police violence, and the modern-day gulags where China is imprisoning and brutalizing the Uighur people. These are the forces history never judges kindly. I am proud of the people of Hong Kong. I am proud of the Senate's latest action to support them, and I am proud to continue standing alongside them in their journey to true self-determination.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. President, nearly every day I have come to the floor to talk about the key pieces of legislation that we will only be able to complete with bipartisan cooperation—essential things like funding for the entirety of our Federal Government, something we have to do, including funding for our men and women in uniform; the money for the tools and the training and the weapons that our volunteer servicemembers need to complete their missions; things like the National Defense Authorization Act, which Congress has passed every single year, always on a bipartisan basis, for the last 58 years. This is literally the bill that reauthorizes the U.S. military. It could not be more basic or fundamental.

So it is dismaying that my Democratic colleagues have seen fit to hold

these basic duties hostage for the sake of picking fights with the White House, for advancing a partisan domestic agenda. It is disappointing that Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leader have abandoned their own written promises that they would not make our bipartisan appropriations processes conditioned on poison pills, policy riders, or changes to Presidential transfer authorities. All those commitments were made in the summer. Even though they put that in writing, they have chosen to shoehorn partisan demands right back into the process. So we are stalled. We are stalled because the agreement we all reached in the summer has not been honored by the other side.

Today I want to keep this really simple. The Senate's dispensation on that Hong Kong legislation proves that we can still work together when our core principles and our national interest are at stake. Of course, those things are exactly what is at stake with defense funding and the NDAA. So it is way past time—we are in December—to get serious.

Chairman SHELBY and Chairwoman LOWEY have agreed on subcommittee allocations. Chairman INHOFE and Senator REED have made strides on our bipartisan NDAA. I would implore my Democratic friends: Please stop gambling our national security on the roulette wheel of domestic politics. Please stop that. Stop putting political theater ahead of our troops.

We all know this is a heated political moment, but domestic politics do not excuse our men and women in uniform from doing their duties. So they cannot excuse our Democratic colleagues from doing theirs. Our servicemembers need Congress to have their backs. We can only fund the government if it is bipartisan. We can only pass an NDAA if it is bipartisan.

The roadmaps are in hand. We have the same traditions that have yielded 58 bipartisan NDAAs in a row, and we have the bipartisan agreement that everyone signed just a few months ago when Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leader promised in writing they wouldn't throw partisan wrenches into appropriations.

Our country can't afford for the Democrats to obsess over impeachment and obstruct everything else. Look, let's use these roadmaps. Let's get these things accomplished for the American people.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

5G TECHNOLOGY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, 4G technology is pretty amazing. When I talk

about 4G technology, that stands for fourth generation. On your smartphone, it might say LTE, but it is the fourth generation of technology that we have available to us on our wireless devices. We can FaceTime with family members across the country, order dinner or groceries without leaving our couches, watch a football game on the go with our phones, adjust the heat in our houses before we actually get home, carry around an entire library on a tablet the size of one small book, deposit a check without actually visiting the bank, and the list goes on.

As amazing as 4G technology is, it can't hold a candle to 5G, or fifth generation technology. 5G mobile broadband technology will deliver speeds that will be up to 100 times faster than what today's technology can deliver. Think about that—downloads that will be 100 times faster than what we have today. It will be vastly more responsive than 4G technology. It will be able to connect 100 times the number of devices that can be connected with 4G. That is pretty hard to imagine, really. Our phones and computers today seem pretty fast and responsive, but 5G will be much, much faster.

While that will make it even easier to do the things we do today, like check our email or stream our favorite shows, the biggest benefits of 5G will lie in the other technologies it will enable. For example, 5G will have the potential to pave the way for the widespread adoption of precision agriculture, which uses tools like robotics and remote monitoring to help farmers manage their fields and boost their crop yields. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that precision agriculture will reduce farmers' operational costs by up to \$25 per acre and increase farmers' yields by up to 70 percent by the year 2050.

5G will pave the way for automated vehicles, which will have the potential to dramatically reduce traffic injuries and fatalities. There are 37,000 people lost every year on America's highways due to traffic accidents. Over 90 percent of those are as a result of human error—driving while under the influence, driving while distracted. 5G technology and the enablement of automated vehicles will go a long way toward saving lives on America's highways.

It will facilitate surgical innovations and new ways to treat chronic illnesses or heal injuries and so much more.

The technology for 5G is already here. Several cities around the United States, including my hometown of Sioux Falls, have already unveiled limited 5G networks, but there is more work to do before we all can start to see the benefits of 5G on our phones.

The widespread deployment of 5G will require two things: adequate spectrum and adequate infrastructure. While 4G relies on traditional cell phone towers, 5G technology will also require small antennas called small

cells that can often be attached to existing infrastructure like utility poles or buildings.

Earlier this year, I introduced legislation called the STREAMLINE Act to make it easier for companies to deploy these small cells so that we can get the infrastructure in place for 5G technology. I have also spent a lot of time focusing on securing adequate spectrum for 5G.

Last year, the President signed into law my bipartisan bill called the MOBILE NOW Act. It was legislation that I introduced to help secure adequate spectrum and to facilitate next-generation infrastructure. Tomorrow, in my role as chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet, I will be chairing a hearing looking at the progress that has been made in implementing the MOBILE NOW Act. We have a great slate of witnesses testifying tomorrow, including Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken, who has driven the implementation of advanced mobile broadband technology in Sioux Falls, SD.

The MOBILE NOW Act has helped us make progress toward the deployment of 5G, particularly in identifying licensed spectrum that can be used to support 5G deployment in more rural areas of the country.

MOBILE NOW also recognized the critical role that unlicensed spectrum plays in the development of 5G and in the larger communications landscape. Wi-fi operating on unlicensed spectrum will have an increasing role as we continue to connect more devices in the 5G era.

There is more work to be done, though. While we have made good progress on securing low- and high-band spectrum, China and South Korea are ahead of us in opening up mid-band spectrum for 5G. We don't want to lose out to China and South Korea on 5G, so we need to substantially increase the amount of mid-band spectrum available to U.S. companies.

Senator WICKER and I recently introduced legislation to facilitate the rapid acquisition of mid-band spectrum. Our 5G Spectrum Act would bring a substantial amount of mid-band spectrum to market for U.S. companies ready to deploy robust 5G networks.

In addition to fostering tremendous technological breakthroughs in everything from agriculture to energy, 5G has the potential to add \$500 billion to the economy and to create literally millions of new jobs. But in order to achieve those economic benefits, we need to stay at the head of the 5G revolution.

The United States lagged behind other countries in deploying 2G and 3G technology, which had real economic consequences. Europe, for example, took the lead in 2G and cornered most of the market in sales of networking equipment and telecom hardware.

As 4G emerged, however, the U.S. wireless industry stepped forward, in-

vesting billions in 4G deployment. The government also took steps to support the wireless industry, freeing up spectrum and making it easier to deploy the necessary infrastructure. That is what we have to do again today. If we want to stay at the head of the race to 5G, the government needs to make sure that wireless companies have access to the necessary spectrum and the ability to efficiently deploy small cell infrastructure.

We are right on the edge of the 5G revolution, and I am confident that the United States can lead the world in 5G, just like we did with 4G. We just need to take the last few steps to enable widespread 5G deployment.

I look forward to talking with individuals on the frontlines of 5G deployment at the hearing tomorrow. I will continue to work with my colleagues to ensure that both the spectrum and the infrastructure are in place for 5G technology.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday afternoon, the majority on the House Intelligence Committee released a report on the evidence it has examined thus far in the impeachment inquiry into President Trump. The report asserted that the inquiry has "uncovered a months-long effort by President Trump to use the powers of his office to solicit foreign interference on his behalf in the 2020 election," going on to say that the "President placed his own personal and political interests above the national interests of the United States."

Those are extremely serious charges, and the conduct they describe is undoubtedly worthy of congressional investigation, which is precisely what the House impeachment inquiry is designed to do.

Whatever your party affiliation, it is up to us in Congress—and particularly in the Senate—to examine the evidence, remain impartial, and treat this matter with the seriousness it deserves. But at the moment, too many Members of the President's party are stretching the bounds of truth in an attempt to defend the President's behavior. Certain Members on the other side have parroted the fiction invented by Vladimir Putin's intelligence services that Ukraine, not just Putin, interfered in the 2016 elections. One Member repeated this falsehood, recanted on

live television, and then went back to making similar comments a few days later.

Yesterday, Leader MCCONNELL, when asked to set the record straight, said that it was a matter for the intelligence committees to look into.

Well, Leader MCCONNELL, the intelligence committees have looked at it. In fact, according to reports, the Republican-led Senate Intelligence Committee investigated the allegations that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 election and found no evidence to support the claims. The Republican-led Intelligence Committee found no evidence, and Leader MCCONNELL and so many of our Republican friends, in febrile obeisance to Donald Trump and his falsehoods and lies, have refused to even rebut that.

It is a dark day for America when a foreign leader who is our enemy can spread a false truth and is either defended or there is a lack of rebuttal from our Republican colleagues. What the heck is going on here in this America?

David Hale, the No. 3 official at President Trump's State Department, was asked by Senator MENENDEZ yesterday whether he was aware of any evidence of Ukrainian interference in 2016. He said: I am not. He was not aware. Fiona Hill, another Trump appointee and a former NSC official, testified under oath that it was "a fictional narrative."

There is no doubt that the idea of Ukrainian interference in 2016 is a hoax perpetrated by Putin's intelligence services, echoed by FOX News and acolytes of President Trump's, who similarly have shown no regard for truth—none.

The fact that Republican Senators are repeating and amplifying this fiction or playing coy about it, as Leader MCCONNELL is, is just wrong for America, wrong for the future of our country—a turning point, a dark point, in our history. And in my view, it shows the extreme depths—the febrile depths—to which certain Members on the other side will stoop to provide cover to a President accused of serious wrongdoing—a President who almost no American believes is credible any longer.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. President, on another matter where we could use some bipartisanship, in 16 days, funding for the government will expire. We have several important pieces in place to avoid a shutdown, including the recent agreement on allocations known as 302(b)s. Several sticking points remain, but overall, this is good news because I believe, left to our own devices, Congress could work through the final issues and make sure the government stays open.

However, a report came out yesterday suggesting President Trump may refuse to sign any funding agreement without securing funding for his border wall first. If all of this seems a little familiar, it is because it is. Nearly a

year ago exactly, the President torpedoed bipartisan negotiations by demanding the very same thing—funding for his border wall—and the result was the longest government shutdown in history.

Funding for a border wall was a non-starter for Democrats then, and it remains a nonstarter for Democrats now. The votes did not exist even within the President's own party then, and they have not materialized now.

We had hoped the President had learned his lesson, but it appears that exactly a year after losing this same battle, the President is considering a repeat of history and another Trump shutdown.

I hope cooler heads will prevail—I believe they will—but I would warn President Trump and my Republican colleagues, the last Trump shutdown was terrible for the American people and terrible for Republicans. It is in all of our interests to keep the President away from the appropriations process and avoid another Trump shutdown before Christmas.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. President, finally, on SNAP, today the Trump administration announced it had completed a new rule that would potentially throw hundreds of thousands of needy Americans off food assistance.

Let me repeat. Hundreds of thousands of people who need food and have struggled to find employment would be kicked off Federal food assistance under a new Trump administration rule.

Right now, there are about 37 million Americans who receive benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The vast majority of them work, but they don't earn enough to feed their families, and those who don't qualify for assistance for 3 months out of every 3 years.

Under the new rule, the Trump administration would trample on States' abilities to request waivers to these strict time limits in areas of great unemployment. Nearly every State in the Union has requested a waiver at one point or another.

The Trump administration is driving the vulnerable into hunger just as the Christmas season approaches. It is heartless, it is cruel, and it exposes a deep and shameful cruelty and hypocrisy in this administration.

One of the Trump administration's justifications for these cuts is that they will save the government money. Well, 2 years ago this very month, the Trump administration blew a more than trillion-dollar hole in our deficit with a gargantuan tax cut for corporations and the ultra-rich. The Trump administration argued it was money well spent. Now, the same administration says we have to pinch pennies when it comes to helping the hungry, particularly around Christmastime? This makes the Grinch look charitable. The same Trump administration that

has steered millions of dollars to wealthy agribusinesses and foreign-owned entities is now saying they need to save money by cutting off food aid to poor families who need it. This is jarring hypocrisy, and it shows clear as day where this administration's priorities clearly lie—with the rich and powerful, not the most vulnerable members of our society.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oklahoma.

NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, we have a debt issue in America. For some reason, we are losing track of that. The economy is so good right now. Unemployment is at historic numbers. The inflation numbers have stayed down. More Americans are bringing home more take-home pay, which means they can buy more stuff. More job opportunities are out there. In fact, we literally have 1.5 million more job openings in America than we have people looking for work in America.

With the economy going so well right now, everyone is losing track of the debt and deficit, which are not going well right now. Last year, the Federal Treasury received more tax revenues than it has ever received in the history of the United States, which is surprising to some folks I have talked to who said that there was a big tax cut in 2017, so that would mean tax revenue would go down. It didn't. It went up.

When that tax cut occurred, more people were able to bring home more money and to spend more, which created more jobs. There was more investment, and the economy charged up. So we actually have more revenue coming in now than we used to have, but we still have a trillion-dollar deficit. That is the amount of overspending in a single year. We have the highest amount of revenue we have ever had. Yet we have epic levels of deficit spending, adding to \$23 trillion in total debt as a nation—\$23 trillion. It is a number none of us can even fathom.

We are approaching a time when it would take the income of every single American for the entire year to be collected as taxes to pay off our debt. We are at 95 percent total debt to GDP. These kinds of numbers can't be sustained, and everyone quietly knows it in the back of their mind, but dealing with debt and deficit seem to be something we will deal with in the future—someday, someday, someday.

I am here to encourage this body to say that we should be taking on the issues of debt and deficit now. The two things that have to occur in order to get on top of our debt and deficit are to get a growing economy with growing revenues—we have that now—and then we have to deal with Federal spending.

What would it take to manage Federal spending? We are so far out of balance. A trillion dollars—literally we could shut down the entire Department of Defense, the Department of Education, the State Department—we

could close down every single one of those, and we still wouldn't balance in a year. And no one would propose doing that. There is no 1-year fix to trying to get on top of our deficit; this will be a multiyear process.

Just to state how bad it has become, if we chipped away at our deficit for the next 10 years—for 10 years, chipped away at our deficit to get us back to just balance—and then we had a \$100 billion surplus the next year, which would be an enormous surplus, with a \$100 billion surplus—it would take us 230 years in a row of having a \$100 billion surplus in our Treasury just to deal with our debt. It would take 230 years in a row of \$100 billion surpluses.

Again, we are not just out of balance; we are way out of balance. There is no one secret thing we can do to get us back on track, but we do need to get started. That is why our team puts out something we call "Federal Fumbles." The "Federal Fumbles" guide is something we put out every single year. It is just a group of ideas. It is no magic bullet. It is just something our office puts out that looks at areas of inefficiency across the Federal Government and ask: Why is this happening the way it is happening, and what would happen if we continue doing the same things we are doing? Are there areas where we can save money and that we would be OK with as a group?

We are not trying to put out partisan ideas; we are just putting out ideas. Quite frankly, the "Federal Fumbles" guide is not a confrontation for this body; it is the opening salvo in a conversation. We are bringing our ideas. You may have different ideas. Great. Bring yours. Let's try to figure out how to solve this together because this last year, we paid \$371 billion just in interest payments on our debt. This fiscal year, we paid \$423 billion just in interest. That is \$423 billion that is not going to healthcare, transportation, the basic structure of our government, or the national defense. It is \$423 billion spent on interest payments, and it just goes away.

We are asking questions as we put out this Federal Fumbles guide. How do we solve this? What are some ideas?

We have simple questions such as, why did the Social Security office pay \$11.6 million to deceased beneficiaries in Puerto Rico?

We ask questions such as, why did the government pay almost half a billion dollars last year on temporary tents—not buying them, renting temporary tents—along our southern border? Was there a better way that could have been done other than half a billion dollars in cost?

We have some questions about the 21 government shutdowns that have occurred in the last 40 years, including the one earlier this year. That shutdown cost the Federal taxpayer over \$4 billion.

We ask straightforward questions about things like tax credits. If you like the Tesla that you pull up next to

at a stoplight and you gaze at its beauty and think that is a beautiful car, well, great, I am glad you like it because you helped pay for it. All of those Teslas that are on the road—\$7,500 of the cost of that Tesla was paid by you, the Federal taxpayer. So what you should do at a stoplight is roll down your window and say to the person driving the Tesla: It is my turn. I helped pay for the car. Why don't you let me drive it for the rest of the day?

We ask questions about grants for such things as sea lions in Russia because the U.S. taxpayer gave almost \$2 million to study sea lions in Russia last year. We spent \$600,000 doing a documentary on Joseph Stalin. We spent a big chunk of money actually studying the Russian flu in 1889. Why did we do that?

Some of these things are small, and some of them are large.

We laid out a proposal dealing with prescription drugs because the way the tiering is done on prescription drugs now costs the Federal taxpayer \$22 billion. That is because generic drugs were placed on a higher cost branded tier, so the Federal taxpayer and the consumer end up paying not the generic price but the more expensive branded price when they could have paid the lower price. That is a cost of \$22 billion for just that one piece.

We laid out a whole set of ideas and said: Let's just look at them together.

This Congress passed \$380 million that was sent out to the States to help with election security. After the Russians were clearly trying to interfere with our elections in 2016, we decided to do something about it to help our States. So \$380 million was sent out to the States to do the work that was needed to be done to upgrade election security equipment and to be prepared for 2020.

As of this last July, of the \$380 million sent to the States, the States have only spent a little over \$100 million. They have literally banked the other \$250 million and just saved it and said: We will use it sometime. The 2020 elections are coming. The money was allocated, but it has not actually been spent and used for election security.

We want to highlight issues and find ways to solve them. We didn't try to bring partisan ideas; we just brought ideas.

This is our fifth volume. We have had other editions that dealt with other issues that need to be resolved. In the back of the book, we actually put out what we call the "Touchdowns" and the forward progress. These are some of the things we listed in previous versions that we actually looked at and can say we have made some progress on these things in trying to actually solve them. That is because at times we complain about what is happening in government, but we don't identify the good things, and there are a lot of good things that are actually happening.

This Senate passed the GREAT Act. The GREAT Act dramatically in-

creases the way we handle data on grants. About \$600 billion a year in the Federal Government is spent just on grants. We think there needs to be greater oversight on that, and this Senate has agreed. This Senate has sent the GREAT Act over to the House and has said: Let's try to resolve how we can be more effective in how we do grants and be more transparent in the process and streamline the data itself to make it easier on those requesting a grant, as well as allowing for more transparency in where the Federal dollars are going. We don't want to just complain about the way grants are done; we want to try to actually fix it.

We highlight multiple other areas where we have made real progress in the past year tackling some of the things we have listed in previous versions of "Federal Fumbles."

But I do want to remind this body that while we talk about some of these hard issues, we often break into Republican-Democratic fights over hard issues. America is more than an economy, and while the economy is extremely important, we are Americans. We are Americans together. While we struggle to deal with hard issues, such as debt and deficit and what is going to be done to resolve this, we just can't conveniently go into our corners and make speeches and say that we have tried; we have to sit down and do hard things and do hard things together.

That is why we are opening this conversation. That is why we keep this conversation going, because I do believe that while the economy is important, who we are and how we value each other is just as important because we have the responsibility to solve this. Again, other offices may have other ideas on how to resolve it. Great. Let's bring all those ideas together. Let's get 100 books like this, and everyone bring their ideas. Then let's actually do the work to solve this in the future.

We are Americans. We do hard things. This one is going to be hard, and it is going to take a long time, but it doesn't get easier if we don't start, and it doesn't get done until we begin. So I am challenging us today to begin. Let's deal with the ways we have fumbled the ball in the past, and let's solve our debt and deficit together over the years into the future.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am on the floor today to urge the U.S.

Congress to do the right thing, and that is to allow a vote on this new agreement between Mexico and Canada and the United States.

Unbelievably, this agreement was negotiated a year ago—they signed it at the end of November last year—and yet for a year now, Congress has refused to take it up. It has got to go to the House of Representatives first, and Speaker PELOSI and the House Democrats who control that body have not been willing to at least take it to the floor for a vote.

The agreement is such a big improvement over the status quo. The status quo is the NAFTA agreement, which is 25 years old. The new agreement, which was negotiated a year ago, gives something that Canada wants, Mexico wants, and the United States wants. We want it because it is really important to us.

It is particularly important to my home State of Ohio. I will tell you our No. 1 trading partner by far is Canada. We send about 40 percent of our exports to one country: Canada. So to have a better agreement with our biggest trading partner—and our second biggest trading partner, which is Mexico—is really important. Alongside Mexico, our trade with Canada accounts for about \$28 billion a year.

I am hearing a lot about it. I am hearing from Ohio farmers. They have had a tough time. A combination of bad weather, a combination of shrinking markets for them in China, and a combination of low commodity prices going in to the bad weather period last year has made it really tough for farmers. A lot of them are having a very difficult time making ends meet this year.

They see the USMCA for what it is, an expansion of their market. They can sell more stuff to Canada and to Mexico, and that will help them improve their prices and help them to be able to get through this tough period, so for them, it is a light at the end of the tunnel. If we can get this new trade agreement passed, it means expanded markets for dairy products, for pork, for corn and soybeans, and other commodities. Get those prices up, and give our farmers a chance to compete on a level playing field. This is a good thing. That is why they are all for it.

Businesses really want the USMCA passed. By the way, I hear mostly from small businesses about this because they increasingly have looked to markets overseas—particularly Canada and Mexico in the State of Ohio—and they are concerned that if we do not put this agreement forward, we are going to have a lot of uncertainty out there, and they are going to sell less stuff, rather than more stuff, to these countries.

So a lot of small manufacturers in particular sell a lot from Ohio to Canada and to Mexico, and they tell me they want this agreement passed—and passed now—because it will really help them. My colleagues here in the Senate

have to be hearing the same thing. When they go home, they have to be hearing from these same people because all around the country, when people look at this agreement, they say: Of course, this is better than the status quo for my business. Workers, farmers, service providers will all benefit.

Taken together, our neighbors in Canada and Mexico now make up the biggest foreign market for U.S. goods anywhere, so these two countries together combined are the biggest market anywhere in the world. One-third of all American exports in 2019 have gone to Canada or Mexico, way ahead of all foreign markets. It is about 12 million jobs, so 12 million jobs nationally depend on trade with Canada and Mexico.

I am a former trade lawyer myself—a recovering trade lawyer—and I do not practice it today, but I did at one time. I am also a former member of the trade committee in the House of Representatives, called the Ways and Means Committee, and today, I am a member of the Senate Finance Committee, which is the trade committee over here. In the interim, I was U.S. Trade Representative for President George W. Bush. I will tell you, from all the experiences that I have had in trade, I have learned one lesson, which is, yes, it is complicated, trade has a lot of nuances, it is politically difficult, but it is really important to our economy.

Why? Because we have got about 5 percent of the world's population and about 25 percent of the economy here, so it is in our interest to access that other 95 percent of consumers outside of America in order to keep America as a prosperous country.

That is what these trade agreements tend to do. The problem with the NAFTA agreement, the current one, is that it is 25 years old, and it needs to be updated. You know, it is one of the oldest trade agreements we have, and it is one that is fraught with problems right now, some of which are fixed in this USMCA.

The USMCA, the successor to it, is a lot better. It creates a more balanced and more healthy trade relationship with Mexico and Canada for us. Again, for the workers and farmers and service providers that I represent and other people that this body represents, the level playing field is important because, while trade works if it is done properly and fairly, it does not work well when you have big trade deficits, when other countries cheat, when they do not play by the rules. Everything in this agreement helps to level that playing field.

As an example, right now, our trade agreement with Canada and Mexico does not have a lot of things you would expect in a modern agreement, like provisions relating to the digital economy. So much of our economy now operates on the Internet, yet there is nothing in the NAFTA agreement that protects data from tariffs, for example.

Another one would be labor and environmental standards which are weak and unenforceable under the current NAFTA. All of our new trade agreements have labor and environmental agreements, and they are enforceable. Well, guess what, USMCA does too. It includes a lot of the modern provisions that we have in our more recent trade agreements. I have got a handy chart here to talk about some of the specific changes between USMCA and NAFTA. First, the USMCA means more jobs. The independent International Trade Commission said it will add 176,000 new jobs. New jobs? USMCA, yes; NAFTA, no.

By the way, from my home State of Ohio, which is a big auto State, thousands of those jobs are going to be created in the auto industry, which is a great opportunity for us in America to help to bolster our manufacturing—176,000 new jobs is significant, 20,000 in the auto industry.

In fact, it is going to grow our economy by double the gross domestic product of that which was projected in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. That was the agreement that was done with countries in the Pacific region, Asia, and Latin America. It is an agreement that many Democrats have praised and a few years back criticized the administration for not going into the Trans-Pacific Partnership. But as much as they thought that the Trans-Pacific Partnership was going to be good for our economy, this is even better for our economy. Again, it more than doubles the GDP growth, the economic growth, as compared to the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Second, the agreement does level the playing field we were talking about. It has enforceable labor and environmental standards—USMCA, yes; NAFTA, no—so another big difference. By the way, these standards are one reason why we have lost so many jobs to Mexico over the years.

Third, the USMCA, like I said, it has new rules for the Internet economy. Those new rules of the road are really important, particularly to small businesses in Ohio and around the country that rely on Internet sales for their businesses.

Unlike all our modern trade agreements, right now, there is no chapter in NAFTA—none at all—as it relates to the digital economy. Fortunately for Ohio online businesses, the USMCA has these protections. As an example, small businesses that rely on access to Canada and Mexico are going to have an easing of their customs burden for small values of their products, so both countries have agreed to raise their cap. I frankly wish they had agreed to raise it even more. But this is important both for small businesses that are in the Internet economy to save some money from customs and tariffs, but also it simplifies their business, which is fair because the United States has a higher cap.

The USMCA also prohibits requirements that data be localized in Mexico

and Canada. This is a big concern around the world. The country says: Okay, you can do it, but you have to localize your data here. In other words, you have to have your servers and your data here in our country. That is not required now. Under USMCA, that can be huge for our small businesses, and USMCA helps.

If I may, it does prohibit tariffs on data, which NAFTA does not do. So these are key provisions to keep the modern economy moving. And voting against USMCA—or not allowing it to come up, which is what is happening right now—really means that you believe these burdens and uncertainties should continue for our small businesses.

Fourth, USMCA goes further than any agreement we have toward leveling the playing field on steel. Steel production in this country is an incredibly important manufacturing sector. In Ohio, we are big steel producers. We are proud of that. It is one of the core industries we need to keep in this country. USMCA requires that 70 percent of the steel in vehicles that are produced under NAFTA in North America has to be steel from North America—so USMCA, 70 percent requirement; NAFTA, nothing, nothing.

Fifth, there is also an unprecedented requirement in the USMCA that is not in any other agreement in the world and that helps to level the playing field considerably by saying that between 40 and 45 percent of vehicles have to be made in NAFTA countries by workers earning at least \$16 an hour. We have heard a lot about, well, it is not fair in our dealings with Mexico in particular because they have lower wage rates. Well, this is being addressed very directly in a way that it has never been addressed in any previous agreement.

Democrats have been talking about this for years. They should hail this as a great breakthrough and allow the NAFTA agreement to end and the USMCA to take its place because this is better.

Voting for USMCA will also help to level the playing field on labor costs between the United States and Mexico because this new agreement requires that USMCA-compliant autos and auto parts have a higher percentage of U.S. and American content.

Under the NAFTA agreement, that requirement for content is 62.5 percent. So if you want a car within the NAFTA agreement that gets the advantages of NAFTA and that gets to come into the United States at a lower tariff from Canada or Mexico, 62.5 percent of it has to be from NAFTA countries. Under USMCA, we raised that 62.5 percent up to 75 percent. This means more autos and more auto parts are going to be made here in the United States and you have fewer imports and fewer jobs in other countries, like China or Japan or Germany. So this is good for us.

By the way, that 75 percent is the highest content requirement of any trade agreement we have. That is in USMCA.

All of these things are going to ensure that we have more manufacturing jobs in Ohio and across the country.

Frankly, the Trump administration, and particularly U.S. Trade Representative Bob Lighthizer, has listened to Democrats' concerns—listened very carefully—and then incorporated these concerns into this agreement.

Some of the concerns have also been raised by Republicans over the years, but, frankly, when I was U.S. Trade Representative, it was Democrats who mostly raised these concerns about the labor standards being enforceable and ensuring that you had something like the minimum wage that is now in this agreement.

These are provisions that Democrats have demanded for years. Yet now we can't get a vote. They will not even let it be voted on. How does that make sense? How do you explain it? I don't believe any Democrat thinks the status quo, NAFTA, is better than the USMCA. If they do, I would challenge them to explain to the American people why they think the status quo, NAFTA, is better than USMCA.

Blocking this trade agreement hurts so many sectors of our economy, as I have talked about. It hurts our auto industry and the hard-working men and women who are on the assembly lines. It hurts our farmers. They aren't going to be able to gain new access to markets in Canada and Mexico. That is why nearly 1,000 farm groups from our country have now come out strongly to support USMCA. Blocking USMCA means blocking our farmers out of these markets.

With all of these new requirements and all of these new improvements, it should be clear to everyone that this is not an effort to rebrand NAFTA. This is new. It is different. It is not your father's Oldsmobile. They are big and meaningful changes that will benefit all of us.

In short, USMCA is good for jobs. It is good for small businesses. It is good for our farmers. It is good for workers, and it is good for the economy.

This is a rare opportunity, my colleagues, to do something that is good for America and to do it in a bipartisan way. It can have such a positive impact at a time when our country needs to have us come together and do something that is good for everybody.

To Speaker PELOSI and the House Democrats: The ball is in your court. We realize that. Under the rules up here in Congress as to how you deal with trade agreements, this has to start in the House of Representatives. If it were to come to the floor here in the Senate, I believe it would pass and pass with a good bipartisan margin because it just makes so much sense. But it has to go through the House first.

If that agreement did come to the House floor, I believe logic would prevail, and it would pass there, as well, because I believe Members would say: Here is my choice, and it is a binary choice: Do I go with the status quo,

NAFTA, that I have been complaining about for years, or do I go with the new and improved USMCA? I think that is a pretty easy vote for a lot of Members who look at this objectively and with the interests of their constituents in mind.

A vote for USMCA, quite simply, is a vote for improved market access, more U.S. manufacturing, and a more level playing field for American workers, farmers, and service providers.

A vote against USMCA and blocking it from coming to the floor is a vote to keep NAFTA. It is as simple as that. A vote against USMCA is a vote for the status quo, which is NAFTA.

Supporting NAFTA today means supporting unenforceable labor and environmental standards, nonexistent digital economy provisions, and outdated rules of origin provisions that allow more automobiles and auto parts to be manufactured overseas rather than in America. We have a chance to fix all of this by passing USMCA.

I am confident that this new agreement will pass if we can get it up for a vote because the American people will demand it. There is plenty of time for politics between now and the 2020 election. Right now, let's focus on what is best for the American people. Let's work together and put them first, and, by doing so, let's pass USMCA.

I yield back my time.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The Senator from Utah.

NOMINATION OF DAVID B. BARLOW

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss my friend, my former colleague, and soon-to-be confirmed Federal District Judge David Barlow.

Last night, the Senate voted to invoke cloture as to Mr. Barlow's nomination. We will be voting later today to confirm him. Based on the support we have, I expect the vote to be overwhelming, and with really good reason.

David Barlow is someone I have known for a long time. He is someone I have known, in fact, for more than 30 years.

David Barlow and I first met when we were both in high school. Oddly enough, we met in Washington, DC, while we were both participating in an event known as American Legion Boys Nation. We had both attended Boys State in our respective States—I in Utah and he in Idaho—and we were both selected to go to Boys Nation to represent our respective Boys States.

Shortly after we convened as Boys Nation senators, David Barlow was elected to be the President pro temp of the Boys Nation senate. As a result, when we visited the White House a few days later, it was David Barlow who got to stand right next to Ronald Reagan as he greeted us in the Rose Garden and addressed Boys Nation.

David Barlow was someone who seemed to have been born for public service, and he was born for public service for all of the right reasons, in all of the right ways. He had a certain

enthusiasm about the workings of government—not in a partisan way, not in a self-interested way but in a way that was infectious and made all around him want to build a better country, want to find common ground, and want to come to know more about our country's rich histories and tradition.

Mr. Barlow and I became reacquainted about a year after we first met, when we first enrolled as freshmen students at Brigham Young University in the fall of 1989. David Barlow was there on a full academic scholarship and did not disappoint with his academic performance. As I recall, he graduated with a 4.0 grade point average from Brigham Young University with highest honors. Here again, David was smart but in a way that didn't make other people feel less smart. He made other people feel smart and eager to learn more, eager to be more enthusiastic about the academic process. He isn't someone who would have ever talked to other people about his outstanding grades or about his wonderful accomplishments.

A few years later, we both graduated from BYU. He graduated in 1995 from Brigham Young University and enrolled at Yale Law School, where he received his jurist doctorate degree in 1998.

After he graduated, David Barlow started his legal career as an associate at the law firm then known as Lord, Bissell & Brook in the firm's Chicago office. Just a couple of years later, David joined Sidley and Austin LLP as an associate in the firm's Chicago office. He later became a partner starting, I believe, in 2006, and he remained a partner at Sidley up until 2010.

During much of that time, I was an associate at Sidley and Austin in the firm's Washington, DC, office. I got to know David again through this process, this time as a lawyer, as a professional. Although we worked in different offices, as part of the same firm, we knew the same people.

The network of lawyers with whom I worked quickly identified David Barlow as one of the lawyers in the firm who could be trusted with everything, one of the lawyers in the firm who, even as a young associate, could be given any task, and any lawyer giving him that responsibility could do so with the full assurance that the client would be well served, that no ball would be dropped, and that every stone would be turned over in an effort to properly handle the case.

Mr. Barlow worked on a wide variety of litigation matters, including complex civil litigation, class actions, and products liability cases. He also handled a number of domestic violence cases on a pro bono basis.

Among many of his clients, David Barlow became known as Dr. Barlow. It was a name assigned to him by some of his clients when he was working on some liability cases involving the medical field. He became so immersed in the subject matter of the litigation

that over time he acquired more knowledge in some cases than some of the doctors who were consulting with the client on that same matter. To this day, I occasionally refer to him as Dr. Barlow just for fun.

In 2011, shortly after I had been elected to the U.S. Senate, David Barlow joined my team as my chief counsel and chief staffer on the Judiciary Committee. He is someone who had never worked in the U.S. Senate prior to that time but, literally, within a matter of weeks, had learned the ropes of this body to a degree sufficient that no one would have been able to discern the difference between Mr. Barlow and somebody who had worked in the Senate for many, many years.

He quickly became a favorite within my office. David Barlow was someone who we could always turn to in a moment if someone had a question. In a moment of crisis, he would figure out how to solve it. In a moment where we needed an answer to a legal question, he either knew the answer or, if he didn't know the answer, he could find it in a short period of time, and we could proceed with the correct understanding that, when he gave us an answer, it was right and we could rely on it.

The fact that he was so beloved within my office extended far beyond his legal acumen or his professional abilities. He is also just a delight to be around. He is really funny, and he is equally conversive in a wide variety of material, from Shakespeare to Chaucer, from the Old Testament to old episodes of "30 Rock" and Saturday Night Live." He had a sophisticated sense of humor that managed to be outrageously funny, while never inappropriate. That is a skill that we in Utah particularly strive to attain and very few are able to achieve.

Later in 2011, President Obama chose David Barlow to serve as the U.S. attorney for the District of Utah. This was a bittersweet moment for me and my staff, having learned to rely on his skill, but we were very happy for David and especially happy for the people of Utah, who were the beneficiaries of his outstanding service as the U.S. attorney. Having previously worked in that U.S. Attorney's Office myself as an assistant U.S. attorney, I stayed in contact with many of my former colleagues, all of whom came to absolutely love this outstanding public servant.

David served as U.S. attorney through 2014, at which point he returned to his partnership at Sidley Austin and worked in the firm's Washington, DC, office. In 2017, he joined Walmart as vice president over compliance for the company's health and wellness business. I still remember the moment when someone reviewing him for that position, prior to the time he had been offered the job, called to ask me what I thought about his qualifications for that job. I explained at the outset to this reviewer that my com-

ments regarding David Barlow would be so overwhelmingly positive that she would think I was joking. I was, in fact, not.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to deliver my remarks to an extent not to exceed 4 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, needless to say, he got the job. He flourished there as he has everywhere else.

Then, in 2018, David Barlow, to the great happiness of many of us in Utah who know and love him, decided to return to Utah, and he joined Dorsey & Whitney, LLP, as a partner in the firm's Salt Lake City office. For the past several years, David Barlow has had a practice that has focused on handling government enforcement actions and internal investigations, which have typically been large multijurisdictional matters. He is someone who knows how to handle complex litigation.

I would also like to note that since I first met David Barlow, I have also gotten to know David Barlow's family. They are extraordinary people—David's wife Crystal and their children. David's parents, Bruce and Emily Barlow, in fact, used to live just a couple of doors down from me in Utah. They are as kind and decent a people as you could ever hope to meet. While one's parents certainly can't independently qualify one for service in a lifetime article III judicial appointment, if ever one could qualify through that route, that would probably qualify him here simply because Bruce and Emily Barlow are perhaps the most kind and decent people I have ever met and the warmest and loveliest neighbors anyone could ever hope to have.

For all these reasons, and based on Mr. Barlow's mastery of the law, his professionalism, his kindness, his demeanor, his collegiality, which I have never heard questioned or in any way called into question, David Barlow is qualified to be a U.S. district judge, and I am grateful that he will be serving once he is confirmed as judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah.

I urge my colleagues to support his confirmation and look forward to voting for him later today.

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 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 Richard Ernest Myers II, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, Chuck

Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rand Paul, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

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 nomination of Richard Ernest Myers II, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 72, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 375 Ex.]

YEAS—72

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Alexander | Feinstein | Paul |
| Barrasso | Fischer | Perdue |
| Blackburn | Gardner | Peters |
| Blunt | Graham | Portman |
| Boozman | Grassley | Reed |
| Braun | Hassan | Risch |
| Burr | Hawley | Roberts |
| Capito | Hoeben | Romney |
| Cardin | Hyde-Smith | Rosen |
| Carper | Inhofe | Rubio |
| Casey | Isakson | Sasse |
| Cassidy | Johnson | Scott (FL) |
| Collins | Jones | Scott (SC) |
| Coons | Kaine | Shaheen |
| Cornyn | Kennedy | Shelby |
| Cotton | King | Sinema |
| Cramer | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Crapo | Leahy | Tester |
| Cruz | Lee | Thune |
| Daines | Manchin | Tillis |
| Duckworth | McConnell | Toomey |
| Durbin | McSally | Warner |
| Enzi | Moran | Wicker |
| Ernst | Murphy | Young |

NAYS—22

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Baldwin | Hirono | Smith |
| Bennet | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Blumenthal | Markey | Udall |
| Brown | Menendez | Van Hollen |
| Cantwell | Merkley | Whitehouse |
| Cortez Masto | Murray | Wyden |
| Gillibrand | Schatz | |
| Heinrich | Schumer | |

NOT VOTING—6

| | | |
|--------|-----------|---------|
| Booker | Murkowski | Sanders |
| Harris | Rounds | Warren |

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 72, the nays are 22.

The motion is agreed to.

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 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 Sherri A. Lydon, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Steve Daines, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rick Scott, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, 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 nomination of Sherri A. Lydon, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 79, nays 14, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 376 Ex.]

YEAS—79

| | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Alexander | Fischer | Portman |
| Baldwin | Gardner | Reed |
| Barrasso | Graham | Risch |
| Blackburn | Grassley | Roberts |
| Blunt | Hassan | Romney |
| Boozman | Hawley | Rosen |
| Braun | Heinrich | Rubio |
| Burr | Hoeven | Sasse |
| Capito | Hyde-Smith | Scott (FL) |
| Cardin | Inhofe | Scott (SC) |
| Carper | Johnson | Shaheen |
| Casey | Jones | Shelby |
| Cassidy | Kaine | Sinema |
| Collins | Kennedy | Stabenow |
| Coons | King | Sullivan |
| Cornyn | Lankford | Tester |
| Cortez Masto | Leahy | Thune |
| Cotton | Lee | Tillis |
| Cramer | Manchin | Toomey |
| Crapo | McConnell | Udall |
| Cruz | McSally | Warner |
| Daines | Menendez | Moran |
| Duckworth | Moran | Whitehouse |
| Durbin | Murphy | Wicker |
| Enzi | Paul | Wyden |
| Ernst | Perdue | Young |
| Feinstein | Peters | |

NAYS—14

| | | |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| Bennet | Hirono | Schatz |
| Blumenthal | Klobuchar | Schumer |
| Brown | Markey | Smith |
| Cantwell | Merkley | Van Hollen |
| Gillibrand | Murray | |

NOT VOTING—7

| | | |
|---------|-----------|--------|
| Booker | Murkowski | Warren |
| Harris | Rounds | |
| Isakson | Sanders | |

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 79, the nays are 14.

The motion is agreed to.

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 senior legislative clerk read the motion, as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2025. (Reappointment)

Kevin Cramer, David Perdue, Ben Sasse, Rob Portman, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Pat Roberts, Richard Burr, Rick Scott, James E. Risch, Shelley Moore Capito.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense the Senate that debate on the nomination of Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2025, (Reappointment), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 91, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 377 Ex.]

YEAS—91

| | | |
|------------|--------------|------------|
| Alexander | Cornyn | Heinrich |
| Baldwin | Cortez Masto | Hoeven |
| Barrasso | Cotton | Hyde-Smith |
| Bennet | Cramer | Inhofe |
| Blackburn | Crapo | Johnson |
| Blumenthal | Cruz | Jones |
| Blunt | Daines | Kaine |
| Boozman | Duckworth | Kennedy |
| Braun | Durbin | King |
| Brown | Enzi | Lankford |
| Burr | Ernst | Leahy |
| Cantwell | Feinstein | Lee |
| Capito | Fischer | Manchin |
| Cardin | Gardner | Markey |
| Carper | Gillibrand | McConnell |
| Casey | Graham | McSally |
| Cassidy | Grassley | Menendez |
| Collins | Hassan | Merkley |
| Coons | Hawley | Moran |

| | | |
|---------|------------|------------|
| Murphy | Sasse | Thune |
| Murray | Schatz | Tillis |
| Paul | Schumer | Toomey |
| Perdue | Scott (FL) | Udall |
| Peters | Scott (SC) | Van Hollen |
| Portman | Shaheen | Warner |
| Reed | Shelby | Whitehouse |
| Risch | Sinema | Wicker |
| Roberts | Smith | Wyden |
| Romney | Stabenow | Young |
| Rosen | Sullivan | |
| Rubio | Tester | |

NAYS—1

Hirono

NOT VOTING—8

| | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| Booker | Klobuchar | Sanders |
| Harris | Murkowski | Warren |
| Isakson | Rounds | |

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 91, the nays are 1.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2025. (Reappointment)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

SUPPORT FOR VETERANS IN EFFECTIVE APPRENTICESHIPS ACT OF 2019

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, when I travel across Michigan, one issue comes up regularly in my conversations with business owners, workers, and families, and that issue is the need to close the skills gap.

There are good-paying jobs available all across my State but not enough workers who have the specific skills needed to fill them. That is why one of my top priorities in the Senate is to expand access to quality skills training programs, like registered apprenticeships, that are connected to today's in-demand jobs.

Effective apprenticeships are good for business. They are good for workers in both urban and rural areas in Michigan, as well as all across our country.

I have also heard from veterans, like Rick Donovan in Oakland County, about how there is a lack of apprenticeships available for veterans who qualify for them to use their GI benefits.

The GI bill offers veterans an approved apprenticeship, additional financial support for housing, and other training materials as they progress through the program. Unfortunately, only a small portion of apprenticeship programs registered by the Department of Labor are also approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In Michigan, for example, there are over 1,000 registered apprenticeship programs but only a couple hundred in which veterans can use their VA educational assistance in connection with that program. This is simply unacceptable. Veterans should have access to as

many opportunities as there are available.

That is why Senator CAPITO and I introduced a bipartisan bill to ensure veterans' interests are not falling through the cracks between Federal agencies as they pursue apprenticeships to launch their career. Our Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act takes three commonsense steps to expand opportunities for veterans to use their financial assistance for quality training programs that lead to good-paying jobs.

First, the bill will ensure that every program applying to become a registered apprenticeship is proactively thinking about ways to support veterans. Programs would need to provide written assurance to the Department of Labor that they are aware of GI bill assistance and are committed to taking the steps necessary to enable benefits to use these benefits as apprentices.

Second, the bill will clarify that skills and training that veterans gain during their military service would be a factor into how they are placed in the program. Many veterans may qualify for advanced placement with higher apprenticeship wages due to their unique experiences while bravely serving our country, and our bill will recognize those skill sets.

Third, the bill will improve coordination between Federal agencies. It would direct the Department of Labor to notify the VA of newly registered apprenticeship programs. It is a simple, straightforward action to actively update new apprenticeship opportunities.

Our Nation's returning heroes deserve every opportunity to pursue their professional dreams after their service. By expanding qualified apprenticeships, this bill will make a real difference in the lives of our veterans.

Rick, a veteran advocate from Michigan, said he would never have known that he could use his GI bill benefits for on-the-job training had he not crossed paths with a more senior veteran who told him about it. It was a conversation that literally changed his life. With the support of the GI bill, Rick was now able to pursue an apprenticeship following his military service. He then used that training toward a college degree and has built a successful career as a union sheet metal worker in Michigan.

We need to listen to and partner with veterans like Rick who are tirelessly advocating to open doors to help fellow veterans, Michiganders, and Americans so they can achieve economic success in the 21st century.

As in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 760 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 760) to enable registered apprenticeship programs to better serve veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Peters amendment at the desk be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1254), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. IMPROVED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM COORDINATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The term "registered apprenticeship program" means an apprenticeship program registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (50 Stat. 664; commonly referred to as the "National Apprenticeship Act").

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Labor.

(b) ADDITIONAL REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for any program applying to become a registered apprenticeship program on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) acquire from the program sponsor a written assurance that the sponsor—

(A) is aware of the availability of educational assistance for a veteran or other individual eligible under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, United States Code, for use in connection with a registered apprenticeship program;

(B) will make a good faith effort to obtain approval for educational assistance described in subparagraph (A) for, at a minimum, each program location that employs or recruits a veteran or other individual eligible for educational assistance under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, United States Code; and

(C) will not deny the application of a qualified candidate who is a veteran or other individual eligible for educational assistance described in subparagraph (A) for the purpose of avoiding making a good faith effort to obtain approval as described in subparagraph (B);

(2) in accordance with paragraphs (5) and (12) of section 29.5(b) of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), require the program sponsor, to the extent practicable, to provide standards that contain provisions to grant advanced standing or credit, and provide increased wages commensurate to such standing or credit, for any veteran or other individual eligible for educational assistance under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, United States Code, who—

(A) is enrolled in the registered apprenticeship program; and

(B)(i) has a demonstrated competence applicable to the apprenticeship occupation; or (ii) has acquired experience, training, or skills through military service that is applicable to the apprenticeship occupation; and

(3) when the Secretary approves the registered apprenticeship program, provide a copy of the program's certificate of registration to the State approving agency designated under chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, in the State where the program is located.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. PETERS. I know of no further debate on this bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 760), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 760

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 "Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. IMPROVED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM COORDINATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

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(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Labor.

(b) ADDITIONAL REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for any program applying to become a registered apprenticeship program on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) acquire from the program sponsor a written assurance that the sponsor—

(A) is aware of the availability of educational assistance for a veteran or other individual eligible under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, United States Code, for use in connection with a registered apprenticeship program;

(B) will make a good faith effort to obtain approval for educational assistance described in subparagraph (A) for, at a minimum, each program location that employs or recruits a veteran or other individual eligible for educational assistance under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, United States Code; and

(C) will not deny the application of a qualified candidate who is a veteran or other individual eligible for educational assistance described in subparagraph (A) for the purpose of avoiding making a good faith effort to obtain approval as described in subparagraph (B);

(2) in accordance with paragraphs (5) and (12) of section 29.5(b) of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), require the program sponsor, to the extent practicable, to provide standards that contain provisions to grant advanced standing or credit, and provide increased wages commensurate to such standing or credit, for any veteran or other individual eligible for educational assistance under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, United States Code, who—

(A) is enrolled in the registered apprenticeship program; and

(B)(i) has a demonstrated competence applicable to the apprenticeship occupation; or

(ii) has acquired experience, training, or skills through military service that is applicable to the apprenticeship occupation; and

(3) when the Secretary approves the registered apprenticeship program, provide a copy of the program's certificate of registration to the State approving agency designated under chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, in the State where the program is located.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, 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.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE
AGREEMENT

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, there is something we can do in Congress today, right now, right this very minute, that would lift a burden and provide peace of mind for millions of people across this great country.

As we all busy ourselves making holiday plans, Iowa's farmers and manufacturers are struggling to confidently look to the future. Many of the tools they need to feel confident and secure in the months ahead are laid out in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. The USMCA trade agreement was signed by President Trump 369 days ago—369 days ago. That is over 1 year ago.

Speaker PELOSI and her House colleagues have had more than enough time to pass this important agreement. Yet they have failed to do so. Instead, House Democrats are fixated on impeaching the President. Let's not forget, though, when the House Democrats decided to go down this impeachment path, the American people were guaranteed that the House Democrats would be able to walk and chew gum at the same time. They promised that they could process this impeachment inquiry while continuing to do the work of the people. Well, folks, there is not much walking and chewing gum going on. Instead, that gum seems to be stuck under some park bench somewhere. That is where we are today, while millions of Americans whose livelihoods are tied to trade wait for the Democrats to get serious.

It is really unthinkable that USMCA is not already ratified by the United States. Folks, the USMCA is written. It is signed. It is agreed to by our partners. All we have to do is vote to pass it. It really is that simple. As I mentioned, it has been over 1 year since the trade agreement was signed. That means Iowa farmers have now gone through an entire cycle of planting, harvesting, and selling their crops without a finalized trade agreement with our two biggest trade partners. Yes, they are our two biggest trade partners—Mexico and Canada.

I spent all year crisscrossing Iowa to visit all of my 99 counties. I do that every year, just as Senator GRASSLEY

does, and not once did I hear someone say: Hey, Senator ERNST, let's wait on the USMCA.

It was quite the opposite. Whether I was at one of my 35 townhalls that I held just last year or during a farmer roundtable or a visit to a small manufacturer, I heard consistently and across the board that Iowans want USMCA right now. They want it now. These hard-working folks know the impact the USMCA will have on our Iowa economy and the U.S. economy as a whole. There is no reason Iowans should have to wait any longer. There is no reason the American workers shouldn't have the certainty that they need.

My House colleagues have not been able to offer any reasonable explanation for their inaction. I beg to say, though, folks, that it is because of who sits in the White House, and it would be a sad reality that, once again, Democrats would choose to put their own politics ahead of what is best for the American people. The USMCA is not partisan. It is not about President Trump. It is about what is best for hard-working Iowans. It is what is best for the American people.

The work has been done for Congress. The trade agreement has been written. All we have to do is say yes for the American people. That is it. It is so simple. Let's get serious. Let's do the simple task that folks back home are asking us to do, and that is to pass the USMCA.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today alongside my Republican colleagues to once again voice my strong support for the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement. This agreement has been on the minds of Nebraskans for well over a year now.

Nebraska and rural America as a whole were dealt a tough hand in 2019. However, every time that I meet with Nebraska's farm families, ranchers, ag producers, and manufacturers, they reassure me that they can endure these challenges. They will sacrifice short-term anxiety for long-term certainty and predictability, but they need to know that there is going to be a light at the end of this tunnel. One important thing Congress can do to meet their needs is simple—pass the USMCA. This agreement is a victory for Nebraska and for America.

I will give you a glimpse into what this means for my State. Currently, Canada and Mexico receive 44 percent of Nebraska's total exports. In 2017 alone, our State sent nearly \$900 million of ag products to Mexico and nearly \$450 million of ag products to Canada. These exports include our world-class corn, soybeans, ethanol, and beef. As I have said before, America's heart beats in the same rhythm as agriculture. When our ag producers succeed, entire communities reap the benefits.

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture reports that our State's \$6.4 billion in agricultural exports in 2017 led to nearly \$8.2 billion in additional economic activity in our State. That is why it is so important that Nebraska's top two markets, Mexico and Canada, are protected. We all know that the USMCA is the product of bipartisan good-faith work. Both sides agree that this deal not only updates but strengthens our environmental responsibilities, and it places enforceable labor obligations at the core of the agreement.

All former Secretaries of Agriculture since the Reagan administration, both Republicans and Democrats, have voiced their strong support. Even the Washington Post editorial board conceded that the deal is "a real improvement over the status quo."

Last July, a group of 14 House Democrats sent a letter to Speaker PELOSI urging her to move forward with USMCA immediately. The President of Mexico made his own plea to the Speaker in a letter last week. Canada is still waiting for us to act. The senior Senator from Iowa noted that a deal between House Democrats and the Trump administration must be struck this week if ratification of the USMCA is to take effect this year. Time is running out. Meanwhile, House Democrats are distracted by impeachment proceedings when they should be focused on passing this very meaningful agreement.

In the final weeks of 2019, we will see if the needs of hard-working men and women in the heartland take priority over political theater. I urge my colleagues to follow through on our Nation's priorities and end the months of needless stalling. We must act now. The passage of USMCA would be an incredible win for Nebraska, and it would be an undeniable victory for America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I come to the Chamber today to rise with my colleagues to talk about the USMCA, or the United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement.

But before I talk about the vote that I hope is in this Chamber on fairly short order, I would like to go back to December of 1993. In December of 1993, President Clinton signed NAFTA. A month later, it was ratified, and, to be honest with you, it started a period of time in North Carolina where we suffered. We had a challenge to actually determine how we were going to react to a very different North Carolina, where there are textiles and a number of other industries that suffered initially under the NAFTA implementation. But today, North Carolina is one of the greatest benefactors of NAFTA. As a matter of fact, we are one of the top States in the country for job creation and commerce, and Canada and Mexico are our two most important export markets.

The problem is, NAFTA was implemented in 1994. I think that was back when the Backstreet Boys were topping the charts and MC Hammer was popular. It was a long, long time ago. It is time to modernize it. It was before the internet was even invented.

We have so many opportunities to modernize our trade relationship with our two most important trade partners, and the USMCA is the opportunity to do that. While it only took about a month to ratify the NAFTA agreement—knowing that there was a lot of work to be done before we completely benefited from it—we waited a year to ratify an agreement that will be immediately beneficial to the American economy. It will create more than 170,000 new jobs and \$70 billion a year in additional economic activity, putting us on a level playing field.

Our automotive industry, which has grown over the last 20 years, with several automotive manufacturing facilities in the South, and many businesses in my State support it.

It will open up the markets for our farmers. North Carolina is the ninth largest agriculture economy in the United States, with nearly \$90 billion a year in agriculture products. We want those markets open in Canada and Mexico so that we can grow our farm economy in North Carolina.

We also want to recognize that the USMCA agreement is a very, very important step in getting China to come to terms with fair trade with the United States. When we settle an agreement with two of our most important trade partners, then, China will take notice and they will follow the President's lead and understand that we no longer are going to allow them to compete unfairly.

There are provisions in the USMCA that I hear Speaker PELOSI talking about that, frankly, give me some concern. The House is entitled to make changes to the baseline agreement that both the Mexican Government and the Canadian Government have ratified, as proposed and as signed by the President. They give me concern, and we hope that Speaker PELOSI will keep to the baseline agreement.

But now we have to get to work to get this agreement ratified so these kinds of things continue to be positive stories that come out of North Carolina and positive stories that come out of Nebraska and Iowa and across this Nation. There is no downside to this agreement. As a matter of fact, one of the reasons I know there is no downside is that there are dozens of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in the House who are prepared to vote for it in the form in which the President will sign.

This is a very, very important agreement. I do have to agree with my colleagues in that the only reason I can imagine we didn't have this agreement ratified last year was due to the focus on all things impeachment. This is a good deal. I have no doubt that if

President Clinton had signed this agreement in 1993, it would have been ratified a month later. Yet we have waited a year for this agreement to get any airtime in the House Chamber.

We need the USMCA signed today. We need the USMCA put into place so that we can realize the immediate economic advantage for hard-working farmers, for small businesses, and for the 170,000 new jobs that will be created so that we continue this economic recovery that started with tax reform and regulatory reform.

This is another step in the right direction, and no reasonable Member of Congress should be holding off on what is a great decision on the President's part. It is a great decision, and it is a great policy for the American people. It is going to help my farmers in North Carolina, and it is going to help my small businesses. It is going to continue to make the U.S. economy the envy of the world.

I ask Speaker PELOSI and my colleagues in the House to get to work. You can walk and chew gum. Go ahead and focus on impeachment if you want to, but from time to time, why don't you take some Chamber time and some of your resources to do right by the American people. That is what the USMCA does, and that is what we need the House to do. I guarantee you, when it comes to the Senate, we will quickly send it to the President's desk.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, once again, I rise to voice support for the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

The time to pass the USMCA is now. This agreement will increase exports, expand consumer choice, raise wages, and boost innovation throughout North America and especially here in the United States.

It is clear that the USMCA is good for the country and good for our economy. The U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that the USMCA will raise the GDP by nearly \$63 billion and create more than 175,000 jobs in the United States.

No one knows agriculture better than American farmers and ranchers, and technology has made them more efficient than ever. They have maintained an ag trade surplus for the last 50 years by exporting the best products around the world. American agriculture needs access to foreign markets to reach its full potential.

The same is true for my State of North Dakota, which is a powerhouse in terms of ag product. We shipped \$4.5 billion worth of ag products around the globe in 2017, which made us the country's ninth largest exporter of ag goods. Our farmers and ranchers depend on free and fair trade in order to sell the highest quality, lowest cost food supply to the world.

We lead the Nation in the production of a variety of crops, including that of

hard red spring wheat. Every summer, about 7.5 million acres—one-fifth of North Dakota's farmable acres—are carpeted with rows of wheat.

Currently, Canada automatically downgrades imports of U.S. wheat to the lowest designation—for animals only—regardless of the quality of the wheat. We grow the highest quality wheat in the world, and this unfair trade practice puts growers at a disadvantage when sending wheat to Canada.

Having access to Canadian markets is a big win for growers, for a quarter of our State's wheat is grown within 50 miles of a Canadian grain handling facility. By eliminating the automatic downgrade of U.S. wheat, growers have access to an additional market where they will receive a premium price for their high-quality products. The USMCA ensures that North Dakota wheat growers will be compensated fairly when selling their products in Canada.

These are the types of provisions that are provided for in the agreement—making it very clear that we need to get it passed.

In addition to wheat, U.S. dairy products will see increased access in the Canadian market, which is estimated to be worth more than a quarter of a billion dollars. The agreement also provides for increased access to the Canadian market for other ag products, like poultry exports—chicken, eggs, and turkey—as well as others.

These examples are just some of the many benefits for American agriculture in the USMCA. By maintaining all zero-tariff provisions on ag products, the USMCA will secure critical market access for U.S. farmers and ranchers. Canada and Mexico are critical markets for U.S. agriculture, and passing the USMCA will give our producers certainty that these markets will remain open for business.

Our farmers and ranchers are facing real challenges right now. Severe weather has destroyed crops or has made it impossible to harvest, and unjustified retaliatory tariffs have disrupted markets and driven prices lower. That is why Congress needs to approve the USMCA.

Now more than ever, farmers and ranchers depend on stability in our trading relationships with Canada and Mexico—our Nation's two largest trading partners. The failure to ratify this agreement would be detrimental to agriculture producers across the country, including in the Presiding Officer's home State.

I believe the USMCA has strong, bipartisan support in the Senate, but the implementing legislation must originate in the House. That is why I urge my colleagues in the House to do what is best for the American people: take up and pass the USMCA as soon as possible. That means agreeing to the provisions in the USMCA and putting it on the floor for a vote in the House to get this process started. We need the leadership in the House to agree to take

the implementing legislation and put it to a vote on the floor of the House. I think it would pass with a large bipartisan majority. Then and only then can we take up that legislation here in the Senate, which, I believe, would pass with a large bipartisan majority. We are ready to go.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, farmers and ranchers are in a tough spot. There are a lot of families who are on the edge of bankruptcy in my State and in ag country more broadly. As we get closer to Christmas and to the new year without having a trade deal with Canada and Mexico, the situation is getting bleaker.

Let's be blunt about this. By needlessly stonewalling the USMCA trade agreement, Speaker NANCY PELOSI and the House Democrats are taking Nebraska's agriculture hostage. This is petty, stupid politics at its worst.

The USMCA trade deal is a free-trade win for our farmers and ranchers, and they desperately need this win right now. With hard work and grit, Nebraskans have cultivated one of the most powerful agricultural economies in the history of the world. We literally feed the world, and we do it with free trade because we grow so much more food than we could ever consume. We need export markets, and lots of people around the world want to be consuming our ag products.

It is pretty simple: Trade with Canada and Mexico is a win-win-win. In 2018, Mexico and Canada bought more than \$40 billion worth of American agricultural products. The U.S. International Trade Commission expects the USMCA to increase that trade by more than \$33 billion. The USMCA trade deal is designed to reinforce those partnerships in ways that make sense for an economy that has changed a lot since NAFTA was passed in the 1990s.

In the 1990s, "Seinfeld" was still on TV; we still watched movies on VHS tape; and we took our pictures with these things of which the pages probably don't know—cameras that had film. I will be honest. At my house, we still watch "Seinfeld," but we have happily moved on from VHS tapes. My teenage daughters set us up on Hulu streaming, but I can't make the remote work.

Over the last 20 years, we have seen a massive digital revolutionary change in nearly every sector of our economy. Farmers are using new tech to increase our productivity and to get more out of the most fertile land on God's green Earth than people have ever assumed possible. The USMCA trade deal makes that kind of basic improvement in our trading relationships with our neighbors, and we need that in this rapidly changing, evolving, and developing economy. For example, it scraps the old rules about importing cars that still have cassette tape players. CHUCK GRASSLEY, apparently, still has a car

that has a cassette tape player, but he is proud of it, so we won't make fun of him here.

Passing the USMCA would secure long-term stability in our trade agreements with our partners across North America, and it would also send a signal to other potential partners around the world that the United States is open for business. We need to bring Japan, the European Union, and others to the negotiating table, and passing the USMCA would strengthen our position significantly in setting up those trade agreements. Time is running out.

If we don't pass the USMCA this year, we are going to send a very different signal to our potential partners. If Speaker PELOSI and the House Democrats can't get their act together on the USMCA, they will be telling the whole world that we may or may not be open for business—it all depends on short-term political posturing. That is the message they are sending now, and that is the message that might be cemented if this calendar year ends without our passing the USMCA. Try running a convenience store like that, and you will be out of business in a month.

A lot of folks in San Francisco and New York City may not think much about beans and corn prices, but every farmer and rancher in Nebraska is beyond baffled that this no-brainer trade deal hasn't been passed yet. It is simply in the best long-term interests of everyone involved in this conversation. This is not something that should be slipping beyond this year; this is something that should pass now. We should call the vote on Christmas morning if that is what it takes. The Congress should not be leaving DC without passing the USMCA.

Time is running out, and we don't want to let our farmers and ranchers face 2020 with the uncertainty and the confusion they now feel. These Nebraskans want to do business; they want to trade; and we want to win.

Congress is the place where Americans deliberate about the long-term challenges we need to face for the future of our country, but instead of deliberation, right now what they see when they turn on their TVs or pick up their newspapers is just vicious partisanship and short-term posturing. The American people deserve better than this.

The clown show in the House of Representatives shouldn't bring everything to a grinding halt. It shouldn't stop us from doing right for farmers and ranchers. The USMCA trade agreement would pass by large majorities if introduced on the House floor, and I speculate that it would get between 85 and 90 votes on this floor. Obviously, we can't take it up until the House votes. The House would pass it with a big majority. That means only NANCY PELOSI stands in the way of USMCA's certainty for the world's greatest producers. Everyone knows this, and Speaker PELOSI should be scheduling the vote.

We have only 28 days left in 2019, but that is plenty of time to vote on the USMCA. That is plenty of time to get a win for our farmers and ranchers.

Speaker PELOSI, please schedule the vote.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John L. Sinatra, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Sinatra nomination?

Mr. GARDNER. 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Arkansas (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 75, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 378 Ex.]

YEAS—75

| | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Alexander | Feinstein | Peters |
| Baldwin | Fischer | Portman |
| Barrasso | Gardner | Reed |
| Bennet | Graham | Risch |
| Blackburn | Grassley | Roberts |
| Blunt | Hassan | Romney |
| Boozman | Hawley | Rosen |
| Braun | Hoeben | Rubio |
| Burr | Hyde-Smith | Sasse |
| Capito | Inhofe | Schumer |
| Cardin | Johnson | Scott (FL) |
| Carper | Jones | Scott (SC) |
| Casey | Kaine | Shaheen |
| Cassidy | Kennedy | Shelby |
| Collins | King | Sinema |
| Coons | Lankford | Stabenow |
| Cornyn | Leahy | Sullivan |
| Cortez Masto | Lee | Tester |
| Cotton | Manchin | Thune |
| Cramer | McConnell | Tillis |
| Crapo | McSally | Toomey |
| Cruz | Moran | Warner |
| Daines | Murphy | Whitehouse |
| Enzi | Paul | Wicker |
| Ernst | Perdue | Young |

NAYS—18

| | | |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| Blumenthal | Heinrich | Murray |
| Brown | Hirono | Schatz |
| Cantwell | Klobuchar | Smith |
| Duckworth | Markey | Udall |
| Durbin | Menendez | Van Hollen |
| Gillibrand | Merkley | Wyden |

NOT VOTING—7

| | | |
|---------|-----------|--------|
| Booker | Murkowski | Warren |
| Harris | Rounds | |
| Isakson | Sanders | |

The nomination was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sarah E. Pitlyk, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I oppose the nomination of Sarah Pitlyk to be a Federal district court judge in the Eastern District of Missouri.

I believe that people who are nominated to serve as Federal trial judges ought to know their way around a courtroom. There are basic levels of experience and qualifications that a person needs in order to be an effective trial judge. I have no doubt that there are plenty of experienced, qualified Republican attorneys and State court judges in the Eastern District of Missouri, but Ms. Pitlyk is not one of them.

She has never tried a case. She has never taken a deposition. She has never argued a motion in court. She has never picked a jury. She has never participated at any stage in a criminal matter. The American Bar Association's peer review process rated her "unanimously not qualified." The ABA said that "Ms. Pitlyk's experience to date has a very substantial gap, namely the absence of any trial or even real litigation experience."

The Senate is not doing our justice system any favors by confirming trial judges who lack courtroom experience. My Republican colleagues should stop rubber-stamping judicial nominees who lack basic qualifications and experience.

Ms. Pitlyk also has made many statements in her career that indicate that she has prejudged certain issues. For example, she wrote an article describing the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act as "an unprincipled decision." She also gave a speech earlier this year in which she described the Supreme Court's jurisprudence on abortion as "thoroughly activist," and "politically biased," and as containing "gross defects."

She has spent much of her legal career advocating against reproductive rights, including a 2017 article in which she wrote that "surrogacy is harmful to mothers and children, so it's a practice society should not be enforcing." She also said in a 2017 press release that "surrogacy diminishes respect for motherhood and the unique mother-child bond, encourages exploitation of women, and it commodifies pregnancy and children. Surrogacy also weakens society's natural abhorrence of eugenic abortion."

My colleague Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH wrote a powerful letter in response to Ms. Pitlyk's attacks on surrogacy. Senator DUCKWORTH's letter talked about her two beautiful daughters and her use of assisted reproductive technology to start a family. She wrote: "No American should be denigrated and insulted for starting a family with the help of assisted reproductive technology or opting to use surrogacy, which is often a last resort." She went on to write: "As a mother who struggled with infertility for years and required IVF to start my family, I would be one of the many Americans who could never enter Ms. Pitlyk's courtroom with any reasonable expectation that my case would be adjudicated in a fair and impartial manner. . . . Not after Ms. Pitlyk accused families who opt for surrogacy of contributing to 'grave effects on society' including disrespecting motherhood."

I want to commend Senator DUCKWORTH for this powerful and personal letter. I hope my colleagues pay attention to it.

I appreciate that at least one Republican Senator, Ms. COLLINS of Maine, has said she will vote no on the Pitlyk nomination because of Ms. Pitlyk's lack of qualifications and extreme views. I hope more Republicans will join her.

I will vote no on the Pitlyk nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes in this series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Pitlyk nomination?

Mr. LEE. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted "no."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 379 Ex.]

YEAS—49

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Alexander | Fischer | Portman |
| Barrasso | Gardner | Risch |
| Blackburn | Graham | Roberts |
| Blunt | Grassley | Romney |
| Boozman | Hawley | Rubio |
| Braun | Hoeben | Sasse |
| Burr | Hyde-Smith | Scott (FL) |
| Capito | Inhofe | Scott (SC) |
| Cassidy | Johnson | Shelby |
| Cornyn | Kennedy | Sullivan |
| Cotton | Lankford | Thune |
| Cramer | Lee | Tillis |
| Crapo | McConnell | Toomey |
| Cruz | McSally | Wicker |
| Daines | Moran | Young |
| Enzi | Paul | |
| Ernst | Perdue | |

NAYS—44

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Baldwin | Hassan | Reed |
| Bennet | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Blumenthal | Hirono | Schatz |
| Brown | Jones | Schumer |
| Cantwell | Kaine | Shaheen |
| Cardin | King | Sinema |
| Carper | Klobuchar | Smith |
| Casey | Leahy | Stabenow |
| Collins | Manchin | Tester |
| Coons | Markey | Udall |
| Cortez Masto | Menendez | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth | Merkley | Warner |
| Durbin | Murphy | Whitehouse |
| Feinstein | Murray | Wyden |
| Gillibrand | Peters | |

NOT VOTING—7

| | | |
|---------|-----------|--------|
| Booker | Murkowski | Warren |
| Harris | Rounds | |
| Isakson | Sanders | |

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Douglas Russell Cole, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cole nomination?

Mr. THUNE. 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 64, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 380 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Alexander Ernst Paul
Barrasso Fischer Perdue
Blackburn Gardner Portman
Blunt Graham Reed
Boozman Grassley Risch
Braun Hassan Roberts
Brown Hawley Romney
Burr Hoeven Rubio
Capito Hyde-Smith Sasse
Carper Inhofe Scott (FL)
Casey Isakson Scott (SC)
Cassidy Jones Shelby
Collins Kennedy Sinema
Coons King Sullivan
Cornyn Lankford Thune
Cotton Leahy Tillis
Cramer Lee Toomey
Crapo Manchin Whitehouse
Cruz McConnell Wicker
Daines McSally Young
Durbin Moran
Enzi Murphy

NAYS—29

Baldwin Hirono Schumer
Bennet Kaine Shaheen
Blumenthal Klobuchar Smith
Cantwell Markey Stabenow
Cardin Menendez Tester
Cortez Masto Merkley Udall
Duckworth Murray Van Hollen
Feinstein Peters Warner
Gillibrand Rosen Wyden
Heinrich Schatz

NOT VOTING—7

Booker Murkowski Warren
Harris Rounds
Johnson Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Huffaker nomination?

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 89, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 381 Ex.]

YEAS—89

Alexander Feinstein Portman
Baldwin Fischer Reed
Barrasso Gardner Risch
Bennet Graham Roberts
Blackburn Grassley Romney
Blumenthal Hassan Rosen
Blunt Hawley Rubio
Boozman Heinrich Sasse
Braun Hirono Schatz
Brown Hoeven Schumer
Burr Hyde-Smith Scott (FL)
Cantwell Inhofe Scott (SC)
Capito Isakson Shaheen
Cardin Jones Shelby
Carper Kaine Sinema
Casey Kennedy Smith
Cassidy King Stabenow
Collins Lankford Sullivan
Coons Leahy Tester
Cornyn Lee Thune
Cortez Masto Manchin Tillis
Cotton McConnell Toomey
Cramer McSally Udall
Crapo Menendez Van Hollen
Cruz Moran Warner
Daines Murphy Whitehouse
Durbin Murray Wicker
Enzi Paul Wicker
Perdue Wyden
Peters Young

NAYS—4

Gillibrand Markey
Klobuchar Merkley

NOT VOTING—7

Booker Murkowski Warren
Harris Rounds
Johnson Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David B. Barlow, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Barlow nomination?

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 382 Ex.]

YEAS—88

Alexander Feinstein Portman
Baldwin Fischer Reed
Barrasso Gardner Risch
Bennet Graham Roberts
Blackburn Grassley Romney
Blumenthal Hassan Rosen
Blunt Hawley Rubio
Boozman Heinrich Sasse
Braun Hirono Schatz
Brown Hoeven Schumer
Burr Hyde-Smith Scott (FL)
Cantwell Inhofe Scott (SC)
Capito Isakson Shaheen
Cardin Jones Shelby
Carper Kaine Sinema
Casey Kennedy Smith
Cassidy King Stabenow
Collins Lankford Sullivan
Coons Leahy Tester
Cornyn Lee Thune
Cortez Masto Manchin Tillis
Cotton McConnell Toomey
Cramer McSally Udall
Crapo Menendez Van Hollen
Cruz Moran Warner
Daines Murphy Whitehouse
Duckworth Murray Wicker
Durbin Paul Wicker
Enzi Perdue Wyden
Ernst Peters Young

NAYS—4

Gillibrand Markey
Klobuchar Merkley

NOT VOTING—8

Booker Murkowski Tillis
Harris Rounds Warren
Johnson Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BARRASSO. 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.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today having just spent Thanksgiving Day with our troops serving in Afghanistan. It was an incredible honor to join President Trump in a surprise visit to the soldiers stationed at Bagram Air Force Base. We served Thanksgiving dinner to our dedicated servicemembers. Those are the individuals who serve us every day. Our troops were absolutely thrilled to receive the thanks of our grateful Nation directly delivered from the Commander in Chief. They know President Trump has their back.

The photo shows a number of members of the Wyoming National Guard, the 2-300th, the Cowboy Calvary. My

father-in-law, Bob Brown from Thermopolis, WY, was a member of this group when he served in Korea.

It was such a privilege to introduce the President to some of my home State's Wyoming National Guard members. He actually had two of them up on the stage with him. They are doing a tremendous job on behalf of Wyoming's largest deployment overseas right now in about a decade. We told all of our servicemembers how grateful the Nation is for their service and their sacrifice and their dedication.

Meanwhile, here in Washington, the Democrats continue to block the bills that we need to have passed to keep our Nation secure. Incredibly, they are blocking both the Defense authorization and the Defense funding bills. The whole funding of our national defense expires in 2 weeks, but still the Democrats continue to waste time—precious legislative time—on their partisan, obsessive approach to impeachment.

Their holiday season impeachment is hurting the American people, and especially, it is hurting our military. The defense funding measure includes a well-earned and well-deserved pay raise for the troops. The President told the troops about that on Thanksgiving evening after serving dinner and after eating with them. It makes you wonder why on Earth Democrats would block the pay raise right before Christmas. It is amazing. They seem to be blocking all of the things that need to be done for our country to move ahead. The truth is, they are so focused on giftwrapping an impeachment process for the far left that they have left the rest of us in this country out in the cold.

Besides that, they are slow-walking so many of the pro-worker and pro-farmer USMCA trade deals that are so critical for our Nation. It certainly means a lot for the breadbasket of America. It means so much for us in the Rocky Mountain West. They are preventing us from lowering drug costs.

Above all, people expect us to support our troops. One thing after another after another, the Democrats continue to obstruct. The Republicans are fighting to fully fund the military.

Democrats are in the process of waging war against the Commander in Chief. Remember, both parties came to the table, and they completed a bipartisan budget deal this past summer. The Democrats went back on their word. In doing so, they broke faith with the troops and with all Americans. Democrats—they filibuster, they impeach, and they neglect the troops.

Really, they are hurting the American people, not the President. The President is busy doing his job. This week, he attended NATO's 70th anniversary summit and is also meeting with the U.N. Security Council members. U.S. forces, meanwhile, are facing heightened threats with last year's funding levels.

While necessary, the stopgap spending resolution we have right now is

taking a toll on the military, and here is why. The short-term funding means that a \$22 billion cut has occurred from the summer's bipartisan budget deal. It is harming military readiness. It is harming the training of our troops. It has delayed and suspended weapons systems and programs. Now, that hasn't stopped the House Democrats and the Senate Democrats from blocking the full-year defense measures. They continue to obstruct.

Republicans need Democratic support to pass these bills. These need to be bipartisan bills. The National Defense Authorization Act has a long history of strong bipartisan support. Yet House Democrats continue to delay final passage.

Let's not forget, our troops in harm's way are far away from home this holiday season. They are on the frontlines. They are defending our freedoms. They sacrifice 365 days a year. They do it to protect our Nation. U.S. servicemembers never complain and never quit, and Republicans won't quit supporting them.

Democrats remain too obsessed with impeachment to finish important business. The question is, Why are Democrats fast-tracking impeachment and filibustering defense legislation? Their partisan impeachment production is choreographed down to the final curtain call. It is simply a costly, chaotic waste of time. I believe most Americans know it. That is certainly what I hear in Wyoming.

Democrats turn out to be the party of no—no positive ideas, no positive vision, no positive agenda for America. All they want to do is focus on impeachment. Some ran on it, and others didn't. Whether or not they ran on it, that is what they are doing, and they are neglecting the American people and the wishes and desires of American families for jobs; for a strong and healthy economy, a growing economy; for infrastructure, roads and bridges; for all of the things that are important; for lowering the cost of medical care and lowering the cost of drugs. They are ignoring it all, and certainly they are ignoring national security.

It is time for the Democrats to stop stonewalling. It is time to pass the Defense bills. It is time to give our troops the raise they have earned and deserve. Let's send the right message to our troops as well as to our adversaries. It is time to pass these Defense bills now.

U.N. CLIMATE CONFERENCE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I also come to the floor today to talk about another issue, and that is that there is a climate conference meeting right now in Europe, the United Nations climate conference. Earlier this week, House Speaker PELOSI and 14 other Democrats traveled to Europe for the conference. To me, they went there to undermine the President and to push their radical Green New Deal.

They told the international group that the United States is committed to

the Paris climate deal. That is just not true. Secretary of State Pompeo said that the Paris climate deal imposed an unfair economic burden on American workers, on American businesses, and on American taxpayers. President Trump began formally withdrawing from the Paris climate deal last month.

It may appeal to Democrats' liberal elite to talk about climate in Europe. Republicans, however, are going to stay focused on the work ahead of us at home. We have a packed year-end agenda here in Congress. Americans expect us to continue the progress we have made on jobs and on the economy—incredible success. This means passing better trade deals, funding the government, improving our roads—the things we were elected to do. The Speaker is nowhere to be found—certainly not on this continent. Rather than pass American priorities, the Speaker is sidelined in Spain.

Republican pro-growth policies have led to a worker boom. Wages are up, and unemployment is down. Wages are up to a 50-year high. Unemployment is down to a 50-year low. I mean, think about that. As a result of Republican tax cuts and regulatory relief and unleashing the American energy, right now, today, we have the lowest African-American unemployment in history. People have more take-home pay, more money in their pockets, and costs are lower because of the regulatory relief. And we have seen this with shopping over the Thanksgiving weekend in terms of people feeling that confidence in the economy and in their futures.

Democrats' message is more regulation and higher costs, which lead to fewer jobs. It is not going to work at home, and it is certainly not going to work in Wyoming. Maybe they think it will work in Europe.

But just to clear up any confusion, President Trump has gotten us out of the Paris Agreement. Republicans' pro-growth agenda has us producing and exporting more energy at home, and we are seeing millions of new jobs.

Republicans are going to stay clear-eyed and focused on the economy. We are going to continue to deliver real results, tangible results, results that people can understand and see and hold on to. We need to do that for the people who elected us, and we will continue to do it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

CHINA

Mr. KING. Madam President, there is a wonderful guy who lives in Maine named David Mallett. He has a keen ear and an eye for the rural parts of our country, and one of his most famous songs starts out like this: "Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow. All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground."

The problem is, what we have now is rakes, hoes, a piece of fertile ground,

and we have seeds and crops, but we have an administration that ties the hands of our farmers at every turn, particularly the blueberry farmers in Maine.

Blueberries have been exported from Maine since the 1840s, and the people who are in this farming business are tough and resilient. They don't want bailouts; they want to be able to sell their product on the market.

It is a wonderful product, by the way. If you ever have an opportunity to choose between blueberries and wild blueberries, choose wild blueberries. They are better for you, and they taste better.

In recent years, the market for blueberries has been very difficult because of imports from Canada and additional cultivated blueberries from around the country, so our farmers, being entrepreneurial and doing what we have been telling them to do for years, have gone big time into the export market. Where is a great place to export to? China.

I used to say as Governor that if we could get the Chinese hooked on blueberry muffins—just one a day—all of our problems would be over, and the Maine wild blueberries were getting to that point. Two years ago, \$2.5 million a year of blueberries were going to China and half of the budget of the Wild Blueberry Export Commission was going to develop the Chinese market. Hours and hours, days, dollars—a lot of effort went to develop this Chinese market. Then all of a sudden came the Trump administration tariffs.

Not surprisingly—it seems surprising to the administration—but not surprising to anybody who has paid attention to 500 years of trade, the immediate response to those tariffs was retaliatory tariffs by the Chinese, and one of the first ones was an 80-percent tariff on wild blueberries. We were doing pretty well. From 2014 to 2017, exports to China quadrupled to \$2.5 million. This year they are \$61,000. We have the trade war. It is well known that we have tariffs that are applying to all kinds of agricultural products.

The response from the administration was a massive bailout—a bailout which has now reached something like three times the dollar value of the bailout of the automobile industry back at the beginning of the Obama administration when we almost lost that entire industry. We are now heading toward three times that amount. A lot of the bailout to the automobile industry was paid back. This is not a bailout that is going to be paid back. It has continued to just be paid out to various farmers across the country.

I am sure the farmers in the Midwest, just as the farmers in Maine, don't want bailouts. They want sales. They want to sell their product in the market, which they have been doing, but what has happened is we have this bailout, and I call it the farm bailout lottery. I don't have a spinner on here, but it is a lottery because we don't

know and we don't understand and nobody can tell us why certain crops are in and certain crops are out. Round and round she goes; where she stops, nobody knows—and that is the problem. What is in? Well, let's see. Cranberries are in. Blueberries are out—zip, zero, nothing. Soybeans are in. Wheat is in. Apples are out. Here is what else is in, and tell me if this makes any sense: dairy, hogs, almonds, cranberries, ginseng, grapes, cherries. All these are in. These are getting the bailout money. Some farms are getting over \$500,000: hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pistachios, and walnuts but not blueberries and, for some reason, not apples.

We have a double whammy here on this proud industry from Maine. First, there is the Chinese tariff war, of which we are collateral damage. By the way, the same problem is going on with lobsters. They were one of the first products to be retaliated against by the Chinese. We lost that export market, and now the same thing is happening in these agricultural products. It is a double whammy. No. 1, we got hit by the retaliatory tariffs, and No. 2, we are not in on the bailout. We are not in on the funds that are being distributed. Nobody can tell us what the formula is, what the rationale is. Is it who has the biggest, most powerful lobby in Washington? Is it if you are from a State that voted for the President in 2016? What is the rationale? We can't tell what that is.

The President just said yesterday this trade war with China may go on for another year. That means another crop. We have third- and fourth-generation blueberry farmers in Maine leaving the land. It is heartbreaking. These aren't big enterprises. These aren't big operations. These are people with 100-acre farms.

The administration knows about this because I and my colleagues from Maine wrote them in July and asked this question. Wild blueberry should be included in what is called the Market Facilitation Program. It didn't happen. We still don't really know what the criteria is. Just to put a fine point on it, if you are a wild blueberry harvester with a 100-acre farm, you get zip, zero, nada, zilch. If you are a cranberry farmer with a 100-acre bog, you get \$61,000. How is that fair? How is the distinction made? That is the question we are asking.

I have written again today to the Department of Agriculture asking them, A, why we aren't in and, B, how these distinctions are made. I don't think that is an unreasonable question when you are talking about people's livelihoods going back generations. These are tough people. These are resilient people. These are hard-working people. These are people who have given their lives to the land, and they deserve to be supported by their government—not undermined, not challenged, not undercut by their government.

"Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow. All it takes is

a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground" and a government that supports your right to make a living at your chosen profession.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I appreciate the Senator from Maine speaking about the virtues of wild Maine blueberries. They happen to be one of my favorite foods—obviously, the lobsters as well.

I agree with him that there appears to be an arbitrary distinction with these support payments that are supposed to compensate farmers for the trade war with China, which I think, unfortunately, is necessary to get China to conform to a rules-based system when it comes to international trade.

Certainly, in the interest of preserving the wild Maine blueberry, I am happy to offer any services I might be able to provide to support our colleagues from Maine.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, over the weekend, we marked 1 year since the leaders of the United States, Mexico, and Canada signed the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement. This modern trade agreement will replace the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, which has been the guiding force for North American trade for the past quarter of a century.

When NAFTA was created, its goal was to remove barriers that impede free and fair trade and provide economic benefits to all three countries. By any measure, NAFTA has been an overwhelming success, but a lot has changed in 25 years since NAFTA went into effect, and it is time to bring North American trade into the 21st century. That is precisely what the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement, USMCA, will do. It preserves the hallmark provisions of NAFTA, like duty-free access to Mexican and Canadian markets, and adds measures to modernize the agreement. The USMCA provides strong protections for intellectual property, which is critical to protecting the incredible innovation that Americans do right here at home. It also cuts redtape that is preventing countless small businesses from tapping into foreign markets, and it accounts for e-commerce and digital products, something unheard of 25 years ago, at a time when governments around the world are proposing all kinds of new taxes on e-commerce.

It is actually the first free-trade agreement with a digital trade chapter. That is why a lot of folks call this NAFTA 2.0. It is better. It is stronger. It modernizes the original NAFTA.

We have been told by the experts that the USMCA will lead to increased wealth and jobs here in the United States—about 176,000 new jobs. That is

on top of the 13 million jobs currently supported by trade between Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

It is expected to have a positive impact on every industry sector of the U.S. economy and a more than \$33 billion increase in our exports—things we grow, like wild Maine blueberries, and sell overseas, things we make and manufacture.

This isn't just a win for our farmers, manufacturers, and consumers; it is a win for our entire country. Coincidentally, it is also a big win for Texas. Our State has the 10th largest economy in the world, and it is the engine behind much of our country's trade. In 2018, we exported more than \$137 billion in goods and services to Canada and Mexico. With the passage of the USMCA, that number will go up.

I think the only question left is, When will we get a chance to vote on it? Mexico approved the deal in June. Canada is moving toward ratification soon, so the only remaining hurdle is the green light from Speaker PELOSI and the House of Representatives. We heard early on that House Democrats had some concerns with the agreement, but we were told by the administration—Ambassador Lighthizer, for example—that he thought the negotiations with the House were going well and were being done in good faith. Mexico has made commitments related to some of the labor provisions that were a concern to our Democratic colleagues. President Lopez Obrador even wrote a letter to the Speaker last week affirming that they will fulfill the promises they made. Speaker PELOSI has said repeatedly over the last year that progress was being made and that we are close to a deal and that she hopes we will vote soon. We have heard that over and over and over but still no vote.

Here we are. More than 365 days have gone by since this agreement was signed, and the House still hasn't had a vote. Rather than working to iron out the final details so we can get the USMCA moving before Christmas, the Speaker kicked off the week in Spain talking about the Paris accord and climate change. Unfortunately, our Democratic colleagues seem to want to talk about anything and everything other than the priorities we should have in the Congress. Whether they want to be absorbed by impeachment mania or they want to talk about climate change in London, in Paris, they want to talk about anything other than the work that is right here in front of us that we need to get done: things like the USMCA, things like lowering drug prices for consumers, things like an infrastructure bill and improving our highways and bridges, reducing traffic—which we all hate on a bipartisan basis—addressing some of the root causes of the mass violence incidents, including mental health challenges that many people face who are a danger to themselves and others, and things like how can we get people who

should be conducting background checks on firearm purchases—making sure that the laws on the books are being enforced. Those are all things we can and should be doing.

Apparently, that is not the priority for the Speaker. For an entire year now, House Democrats have kept American farmers, businesses, workers, and consumers waiting. With each day that goes by, while the USMCA waits in purgatory, the American people are missing out. We know that the longer this goes on, the closer this gets into the active election season of 2020, the less likely it is that we are actually going to have the bandwidth to get it done. I don't understand why our Democratic colleagues are putting new American jobs on hold. Are they saying we don't need this increased wealth that this trade agreement will bring? Is that really their argument? Are they telling the American businesses that they really don't care about leveling the playing field? Is that the message we are supposed to get from this lack of activity, this inaction?

With House Democrats working overtime in the futile effort to remove the President from office and undo an election, they are squandering what may be our biggest opportunity this Congress. Unfortunately, partisanship has broken out and obstructed bipartisan desire to get our work done, including the USMCA.

I mentioned some of the other things we could and should be doing. A few weeks ago, the minority leader, the Democratic leader, singlehandedly blocked a bipartisan bill that the Senator from Connecticut, Senator BLUMENTHAL, and I introduced that would bring down prescription drug prices. This bill passed—sailed through—the Senate Judiciary Committee on a bipartisan, unanimous vote. Yet, when we brought it to the floor, our Democratic colleague the minority leader, who called this a good bill and well-intentioned, objected to its passage.

Then there is the appropriations process that had been thrown into chaos. In August, we had an agreement on spending caps for the next 2 years. We thought we had overcome the biggest hurdle to getting our work done in order to make sure our military was funded and to make sure that we were meeting the other financial obligations that the Federal Government has to meet, but our Democratic colleagues walked back on the commitment they had made in August over a 0.3-percent disagreement on Federal spending. That is right—0.3-percent of what the Federal Government spends. That is what caused them to backtrack on their agreement. They have now kept our military waiting for the funding and the stability it needs to keep our Nation safe.

They have also defeated, at least temporarily, a bipartisan—nearly unanimous—prescription drug bill that would bring down prescription drug

costs, and it is hard for me to understand why.

I would like to be able to head home for the Christmas holidays with some good news—good news for the Texans who are eager to see the USMCA ratified. Generally speaking, I am a “glass half full” kind of guy, not a “glass half empty,” but I am losing confidence that we will see progress on the USMCA before Christmas. The longer this goes on, the less likely we will actually find the opportunity to get it done.

It seems to me that impeachment mania has consumed this Congress and rendered our colleagues on the other side incapable of focusing on anything other than removing President Trump from office. Time is running out, and I hope the USMCA doesn't become the latest casualty to land in Senator SCHUMER's legislative graveyard.

At some point, we have to put politics aside and do what we were sent here to do, which is to make progress that will benefit the American people. Let's hope we can do that during this holiday season before it is over.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I have just come on the floor and have to chuckle about my friend from Texas in his deciding that it is the minority in the Senate that is holding up legislation that needs to be brought up when we have been coming to the floor every day after Senator MCCONNELL has indicated he is probably the Grim Reaper and after we have indicated very clearly that he has turned this into a legislative graveyard. So I have to smile when I hear the words from my friend.

Let me set the record straight before I talk about what I came to the floor to talk about.

Amazingly, the House of Representatives, even with the challenge that it has in front of it—that it didn't ask for, that it didn't welcome, that was brought to it by the continued abuse of power and other actions of the President of the United States—is fulfilling its constitutional responsibilities. It has passed over 300 different pieces of legislation and has sent them over to the U.S. Senate. It is my understanding that 250 of those bills are bipartisan bills; yet we can't get any of them to be taken up on the floor of the Senate.

We come to the floor every week. I am involved in efforts every week to say: Let's pass the bill that will protect people's pensions. People who have worked their whole lives and are close to retirement or are already retired in my State who have put money in pensions are getting 50, 60, 70 percent cuts in their pensions because they got caught in the financial crisis. When Wall Street collapsed, the big banks were bailed out, but when it came time to bail out the pensions that were invested in those big banks—or the IRAs or 401(k)s—somehow, we couldn't get the Republican support to do that. I

would love to see that brought up. It could be brought up any day. It could be brought up today, and—bingo—we would pass it.

The other thing that we could be doing is passing legislation the House sent us months ago. There is legislation on preexisting conditions. Everybody says we don't want people to lose their preexisting conditions coverage on their healthcare. Great. Let's pass the legislation that came over from the House in order to protect that. Let's make sure that it happens.

There is the Violence Against Women Act, which has been waiting for over 200 days, and there are the efforts on gun safety—things we all agree to. There are issues on gun safety and background checks, and well over 90 percent of the American public agrees with it. This legislation came over from the House months ago, but we can't get any action on the Senate floor. There is legislation that deals with carbon pollution and the climate crisis. It goes on and on and on.

There are over 300 different pieces of legislation that have been passed by the House while it is also having to address what is clearly a constitutional challenge that is very serious for our country. We have not had that in front of us, so we could have easily been bringing bills forward every week that would make a difference in people's lives. We could have been lowering their healthcare costs, lowering their prescription drug costs, making sure people's pensions are protected, focusing on jobs and education and safety for their children while they are in school.

We welcome it. Let's do it today and tomorrow. Let's go. We have over 300 bills that the House has sent to the Senate on which there has been no action.

HEALTHCARE

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, let me speak more specifically about healthcare.

I come to the floor every week and say the same thing, which is that healthcare is personal, not political, for each one of us. That is really true in our own families. We want whatever it takes to make sure our children have what they need, that our moms and dads and grandpas and grandmas have what they need, and that we have what we need with healthcare. It is pretty basic. It is a common, human need that we all share. Unfortunately, this has become a political issue here in DC. Nowhere else is it a political issue. It is personal for people in Michigan and around the country.

If a senior can't afford the medication she needs for a chronic condition, that is personal. If parents don't have trusted doctors to call when their children wake up with coughs and high fevers and they don't know what is happening, that is personal. If a woman is charged more for healthcare coverage

than she needs to be just because she is a woman and has detected cancer or if she wants to have it detected early but doesn't have the healthcare with which to do that, that is very personal.

Healthcare for each one of us is something very personal. Unfortunately, the law that helps seniors afford their medications, that provides families health insurance, that covers lifesaving preventive care, and that protects people with preexisting conditions is under political attack over and over.

From the very beginning, the Trump administration has been undermining the healthcare of millions and millions of Americans. It is now open enrollment season, and, unfortunately, the administration is at it again—what it couldn't do here in this body when we voted no. We would not repeal the Affordable Care Act. We would not rip apart the healthcare system. This is what happened right here. It couldn't achieve this through Congress—the legislative body, the people's body—so it is now, through the backdoor, trying to find ways to unravel and rip apart the healthcare system and have costs go up so it can say: See? Look, costs are going up—because of what they are doing behind the scenes to unravel everything.

So here we are. It is open enrollment to sign up for an Affordable Care Act plan, and the administration is at it again. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is using taxpayer funding to promote third-party insurance brokers. I would encourage people to go to the website healthcare.gov. You have until December 15 to do it. There used to be a longer signup time. One of the things the administration has done is to cut back the signup time, but you have until December 15.

When you go there now, though, it is a little tricky, a little confusing. You have healthcare.gov, and then, depending on what button you click, it takes you outside of healthcare.gov, the government system, to private insurance brokers. The insurance brokers are allowed to enroll people in quality, comprehensive plans, which are what the Affordable Care Act provides, and you know what essential services are covered. If they do that, they get paid, but if they sign you up through an insurance company for what we call a junk plan, which doesn't cover anything, then they get paid up to four times more. So they get paid more if you get less coverage.

The problem is it is going to look good because it will probably cost less for many folks, and you will not know what it covers until you get sick. I don't know how many times it was before the Affordable Care Act was passed that someone would call me and say: I have paid into my insurance plan all my life, and I have never been sick. I got sick. What do you mean it only covers 1 day in the hospital? What do you mean it doesn't cover the ambulance? What do you mean I only get two treatments?

That is what we mean by a junk plan—a plan that does not cover what you would expect it to cover in terms of your care. So it is very important that you go to healthcare.gov if this is something that you are interested in, if you need insurance, or if you want to change your plan. It is important that you go into the system, in fact, in which you are going to be given quotes on comprehensive care and in which there is accountability for the coverage.

Late last month, I released a report that outlined the many ways the Trump administration has been undermining healthcare. It has nearly eliminated the funding for what is called healthcare navigators, who are people who can help you sign up for health insurance coverage. It doesn't matter what it is or if you have a lot of questions, as it is complicated; having somebody who can get on the phone to answer your questions and walk you through it is important. Yet the funding for the folks to do that—to help you, to answer your questions—has basically been eliminated.

The administration has slashed the budget for advertising so that people don't know it is open enrollment now. They don't know where they can go to sign up or how many days they have in which to do that and how to do it online.

As I mentioned before, the administration has cut the time in half that you have to sign up.

The worst thing is, any day now, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, which is backed by the Trump administration, could announce a ruling that overturns the entire Affordable Care Act. This would take away what we call Healthy Michigan, which is our Medicaid expansion. It would take away the ability for your children to stay on your insurance until they reach the age of 26. It would take away protections for people with preexisting conditions. It would put back into place or allow insurance companies to put back into place caps on the number of treatments you can receive. It would also put back into place all of the other restrictions that insurance companies had on care but that had been eliminated with the Affordable Care Act.

I have to say, recently, when we looked at how this would impact people with the possibility of eliminating the Affordable Care Act in this court decision, we also realized that not only would it take away healthcare for millions of Americans, but it would have the perverted result of actually providing a tax cut to the wealthiest individuals and to prescription drug companies and insurance companies that each chip in to help pay for the tax cuts that average citizens have used in order to get lower cost care.

It seems as though it doesn't matter what it is that our Republican colleagues or this President supports, for it always ends up as another tax cut for the wealthy. Unfortunately, with the

repeal of health insurance and all it would do to average families in taking away their capacity to get care and the confidence that they can get care for their families, it, too, would provide another tax giveaway to the wealthy.

The court case and all it would do in repealing the Affordable Care Act would have life-changing consequences for millions of people in Michigan, including someone I would like to tell you about.

Henry is an outgoing 9-year-old who lives in Grosse Pointe, MI. Henry loves people. He greets everyone he meets with a big hug. He also loves performing. His favorite activity is dance class, and he enjoys singing karaoke at home.

Henry, we have something in common. I like to sing too.

Henry is also living with a number of preexisting conditions, including Down syndrome, autism, and severe reflux.

Henry's mom explains why comprehensive health insurance is so important for her family. Henry was hospitalized at 8 months for an infection that nearly took his life. Saving his life cost over \$1 million. She added this: If we didn't have access to affordable healthcare coverage, we would have been bankrupt before Henry was 1 year old.

No family should go bankrupt because a child was born with a genetic condition or hospitalized with a serious illness. I want to remind my colleagues that this could happen to any of us at any time.

Almost 4 years ago, my nephew and his wonderful wife, Mac and Allie, had their firstborn girl, and she was born with only half a heart and spent most of the first year of her life in the children's hospital at the University of Michigan. She had incredible care. She is now almost 4 years old. Little Leighton is our miracle baby, but she came out with a whole laundry list of preexisting conditions, ongoing challenges, and a huge healthcare bill that I know, if we hadn't had healthcare coverage, if they weren't able to get coverage, they would have done anything—anything—including losing their home, in order to keep Leighton alive and thriving. That is what we do for our kids. That is what we do for our families. Too many people have been put in that position.

That is one of the reasons the Affordable Care Act was put in place, to give some options so that you wouldn't have to focus on losing everything in order to protect your child's life. So that is what is at stake right now.

Unfortunately, this administration is trying to turn the clock back to a time when filing for bankruptcy or not being able to get your child the lifesaving medical care they need was all too common. All people with preexisting conditions deserve to know that their health insurance will be there when they need it, just like Henry's was.

Half of the people in Michigan have preexisting conditions, and they want

to know that they are going to be OK, that their healthcare coverage is not going to be ripped away. I want that for them too. I want that for all of us.

Healthcare isn't political; it is personal. It is time to stop playing politics with people's health and work to protect Henry and his family and all of our families.

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.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONG KONG

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, over the past few months we have all watched as the pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong turned the tables on Beijing, and, indeed, we have passed legislation in this Chamber and the President has signed that, addressing the issue.

Hong Kong's recent elections really were a stunning rebuke to Beijing.

Seven in 10 eligible voters risked persecution to speak out at the ballot box, and the government's allies' political control over Hong Kong collapsed. Hong Kong wants their freedom. We are proud of those freedom fighters. We continue to support them. But we also must recognize that Beijing's crimes spread far beyond the world of cellphone cameras and fearless journalism.

In the far west Xinjiang region, Chinese officials are perpetrating a different and even more horrific human rights violation. Xinjiang is home to 11 million Uighurs, an indigenous Turkic Muslim ethnic minority that the Chinese Government has tormented for decades. Although the Uighurs built their lives and a booming economy in China, they feel more culturally and ethnically close to their neighbors living in Central Asian nations.

Much like Tibet, Xinjiang is an autonomous region that, after the Communists subjugated the area in 1949, the central government increased its control over the lives of Uighurs by oppressing commercial, religious, and cultural activity deemed inconsistent with state doctrine. Think about that; the Chinese Communists said these activities are inconsistent with state doctrine.

In the wake of 9/11, China seized on the actions of Uighur separatists to create a propaganda campaign comparing the separatists to Al Qaeda. They use these accusations to blame the Uighur population at large for unrest and crack down mercilessly on even peaceful protest. In 2016, the government further ramped up persecution of Uighurs under the guise of repressing antigovernment activity.

Their current playbook really looks familiar: arbitrary detention of over a million Uighurs and other ethnic minorities in concentration camps that they have labeled "political re-education centers;" torture for those who fail to tell the Communist Party what the Communist Party wants to hear; compulsory digital and physical surveillance and the merciless eradication of free expression, freedom of religion, and basic expectations of privacy.

The camps have garnered widespread international attention, in spite of Chinese officials' uncompromising repression of foreign journalists, but the government's pervasive digital surveillance programs are putting the Communist Party in a position to racially profile and persecute those who threaten China's plans for dominance.

Yesterday's New York Times featured a story detailing how Chinese Government officials are forcibly collecting blood samples from the Uighurs with the ultimate goal of using DNA to improve facial recognition capabilities. Although the government claims that these capabilities will place a new tool in law enforcement's tool box, human rights watchdogs rightfully fear that Beijing will use it to justify even more intense racial profiling and persecution.

These violations are all committed by a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council. These are going almost completely ignored by the international community. The EU and the European academic institutions have supported China's research and development of facial recognition technology, often without verifying that the necessary DNA samples were not forcibly obtained.

Unfortunately, American technology companies have supported and profited from China's increasingly sophisticated surveillance capabilities. Tourists and corporate partners will once again flock to Beijing for the 2022 Olympic Games, even though they are fully aware—fully aware—that the Chinese Government will track them, record them, surveil them, and analyze their every move.

The Trump administration's crackdown on tech exports to Huawei and other Chinese entities, that sent a strong message to Beijing. Just last month, I joined my colleagues in a letter to Secretaries Pompeo, Mnuchin, and Ross urging them to sanction individual Chinese officials responsible for ordering and coordinating mass internment and forced labor in Xinjiang.

But most leaders and executives even in the West fail to realize that China's bad behavior is an indication of their global ambitions. China thinks power and the almighty dollar—not freedom—rule the day. Everything China does, from their military activity in the South China Sea and the Horn of Africa, to the flood of Chinese-made products into the global market, is done with the goal of exporting their destructive, repressive ideology.

What they are doing to the Uighurs, to the Hong Kong people, and even to their own supposedly loyal comrades, they intend to do to you. The Chinese surveillance state is an essential means to their end game of absolute control of the thought, movement, and relationships with other global powers.

How far must China go before we reject the notion that their influence will stop at our border? I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to consider their answer carefully, as questions will inevitably rise about the relevance of free speech and the Constitution or the importance of a strong national defense.

We are in the midst of great power competition, and we do not have a National Defense Authorization Act. It would be the first time in 58 years. I encourage my colleagues to work with us. Let's get this complete because the threats are real, and the more we compromise our own values, the easier it will become for foreign influence to take hold in our society.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, atmospheric carbon dioxide just hit new records in our atmosphere, the highest in the history of humankind, and I rise for the 260th time to call this Chamber to wake up.

As we venture further into uncharted dangerous climate change, the National Council for Science and the Environment issued this report, "Climate Science Research in the United States and U.S. Territories." This report surveys climate research papers from public universities across all of our 50 States—every single one of them—to highlight the breadth and the depth of climate science coming out of our State universities and to showcase the climate science centers and institutes that they host.

Some colleagues pay no attention to the threat of climate change, but their home State universities sure do. Ten thousand peer-reviewed research papers published out of 80 universities from 2014 through 2018, that is, on average, 185 peer-reviewed articles published on climate change in each State.

The report says this: "In every State, public universities invest in scholarship and education to advance fields such as climate modeling, climate impacts, adaptation, and more. Increasingly, they go on, climate science has been integrated into course work on sustainability, energy, engineering, architecture, business, and even political science." One wonders what is the hold the fossil fuel industry has over the Republican Party that causes colleagues to ignore the research from their own home state universities?

The report continues: "Climate scientists are studying a wide diversity of topics. They measure carbon dioxide

and other greenhouse gas emissions. They are studying carbon and the impacts of a changing carbon cycle. They are studying impacts of climate change on the Nation's food security, crop yields, heat-stress, health impacts, soil erosion; on water resources, including water quality, balance, river basins, drought, precipitation, mountain snowpack; on impacts to critical infrastructure, such as sea level rise on coasts and on subtropical islands, to the impact of permafrost thaw on sub-Arctic rivers."

"Finally, researchers are also studying the social science of climate change, including changing attitudes, polarization, opinions, beliefs, and their impacts on framing in the media and on decision-making."

Region by region in every State, the report shows our State universities tracking climate change's consequences in fine detail. Quoting from the report, in the Midwest, "Agriculture is a major focal area for climate-related research . . . [with] more occurrences of the word 'agriculture' in climate-related papers from the Midwest between the 2014 and 2018 than in any other region."

In the Southwest, "A key focus of scientific research in the Southwest region is on the impact to people and ecosystems from heat, drought, wildfires, and flooding."

In the Southeast, "The impacts of climate change in the Southeast are becoming most visible through the increase of flooding, temporal and geographic shifts that affect human health, and growing risks of wildfires."

In the Southern Great Plains States, "Scientists in the Southern Great Plains are studying climate impact on food systems, sea level rise, as well as impacts to unique ecosystems in this region, such as a tall grass prairie in Oklahoma."

Across all of these regions, red and purple State universities are churning out climate research. In fact, conservative States' universities are home to some of the most prolific climate science departments and institutions. I wish they were listened to by our Members here.

Texas A&M University, the alma mater of climate-change-denying former Energy Secretary Rick Perry, produced 256 papers—256 papers—covering topics like shifting summer monsoons in the Lone Star State, local surface temperature increases, atmospheric changes, and climate adaptation strategies.

North Carolina State University produced 223 climate papers examining climate change and atmospheric chemistry, surface ozone, regional water research and precipitation, and it is home to the Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center, which helps coastal North Carolina grapple with rising sea levels, erosion, and flooding.

Go to Idaho. Researchers from Boise State and the University of Idaho issued 164 climate science papers cov-

ering threats like wildfires, bark beetles, shifting precipitation, rising temperatures, and disruption to ecosystems in National Parks like Yellowstone. Idaho also has two academic centers focused on climate change, the Hazard and Climate Resiliency Consortium and the Center for Resilient Communities. For the staff at these two centers, it is all climate, all the time. For the Idaho delegation, it is never climate, ever.

Let's look at what is happening in the home State universities of Republican Senators on our Environment and Public Works Committee. Here is what they will find in their university backyards. The University of Wyoming produced 124 climate change papers on wildfires, endangered species, Yellowstone National Park, and other climate topics—124. The university is home to both the State climatology office and an atmospheric science department, which does modeling and empirical climate research. Its faculty are working on subjects like—quoting here the report here—"the role of climate and variability on vegetation and fire. Using moderate climate analogs to understand past environmental disturbances. Developing Web-based animated maps of climate, and development of 3D climate visualization tools to enhance learning approaches in the classroom." I wonder if our Wyoming delegation has visualized that.

The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University published 183 climate change papers on things like Southern Plains grasslands, rising temperatures, soil respiration, and much more. OU is home to the Oklahoma University Climate Science Center and the Department of the Interior's South Central Adaptation Science Center.

Here is what the dean of the University of Oklahoma College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences said: "On the increasing strength of Earth sciences we can now state that global warming is 'unequivocal.'" He said: "The fact that the planet's warming, and the fact that CO₂'s a greenhouse gas, and the fact that it's increasing in the atmosphere, and that it increases in the atmosphere due to humans—about those things, there's no debate."

I am not sure the Oklahoma delegation here has taken that in yet.

West Virginia and Marshall Universities have turned out dozens of climate change papers on precipitation, drought, tree growth, and much more. The West Virginia Mountaineers have a Mountain Hydrology Laboratory, which reports on climate change's "important implications for management of fresh water resources," which include that "the highlands region in the central Appalachian Mountains is expected to wet up" as warmer air carrying more moisture leads to what they call "intensification of the water cycle"—what you and I would call worse flooding. The laboratory warns that "the implications of this intensification are immense."

The University of Arkansas contributed 51 papers and hosts the University of Arkansas Resiliency Center. Arkansas researchers warned of the need to reduce greenhouse gases, particularly including carbon dioxide and methane because these gases' "absorption of solar radiation is responsible for the greenhouse effect." The university describes the greenhouse effect thus: "These gases are trapped and held in the Earth's atmosphere, gradually increasing the temperature of the Earth's surface and air in the lower atmosphere."

A University of Arkansas scientist predicts "that the spread of plant species in nearly half of the world's land areas could be affected by global warming by the end of the century." Yet what do we hear from Arkansas about climate change?

Alaska actually gets its own regional chapter in this report. In Alaska, "Researchers at public institutions . . . are studying changes in the marine environment and the impacts to the valuable marine resources Alaskan communities depend on."

There are papers on thawing permafrost and its effects on water quality, infrastructure, and habitat for fish and wildlife. There is research on what rapid ocean acidification, rising sea levels, and shifting fish stocks mean for Alaska's coastal communities. And there is research into challenges facing Alaska's indigenous people fighting to protect their ancient way of life in a rapidly changing landscape.

Alaska is home to not one, not two, but three climate institutes: the Alaska Climate Research Center, the Alaska Climate Adaptation/Resource Center, and the Ocean Acidification Research Center. Alaskan researchers have written papers titled "Permafrost is warming at a global scale" and "Climate Change and Future Wildfire in the Western United States." The Alaska researchers don't mince words. I quote: "Projections of warming suggest that considerable change will occur to key snow parameters, possibly contributing to extensive infrastructure damage from thawing permafrost, an increased frequency of rain-on-snow events and reduced soil recharge in the spring due to shallow end-of-winter snowpack." It is not hard to understand, but where is the action?

In the Dakotas, North Dakota State and the University of North Dakota are studying the effects of climate change on the Great Plains, the Mississippi River, land use and adaptation, and public policy. They are also home to North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Center, the Global Institute of Food Security and International Agriculture, and the Center for Regional Climate Studies. South Dakota State has issued dozens of studies on climate change, including what it will mean for the State's groundwater supply, maize and wheat crops, and precipitation levels.

Heading south, the University of Mississippi and Mississippi State are

studying what climate change will mean for sediment flows, droughts, watersheds, and water quality. They are looking at what climate change will mean for Mississippi's vitally important rice crop—a crop that supports hundreds of rice farms in the State. And they do good coastal climate work with the Sea Grant Program.

Auburn, the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa, and the University of Alabama-Huntsville produced 140 climate papers that are in the council's study here. You would never know that from the Alabama delegation. Auburn has an International Center for Climate and Global Change Research, and the University of Alabama does climate change research at its Earth System Science Center.

All by itself, Iowa State is responsible for 117 papers on climate change: on agriculture—corn, grazing lands, yields; on weather—precipitation, droughts, temperature; and even on beliefs and behavior related to climate change.

Last but certainly not least among EPW Republican States is Indiana, home to two world-class universities that are doing extremely impressive work on climate change. Indiana University and Purdue combine for 289 papers. They are also home to the Center for the Study of Global Change at Indiana University and Purdue's Climate Change Research Center.

I hope it goes without saying that universities that study climate change and publish scientific papers on climate change also teach climate change in their coursework. Maybe we should spend a week here in the Senate getting a refresher on the home State climate change science. It might do us some good. But we don't. We waste week after week here as the danger looms, the warnings pile up, and the research keeps coming about climate change in our home States. We will be the most clearly warned body in history of disaster ahead. Yet we still sit here doing nothing. Never has a political body been more clearly warned of a more present looming disaster than this one—yet still nothing.

The council's report on State university climate research has these web diagrams, which show how climate change research focuses more on climate effects as they begin to manifest themselves in the States and not just predictions and science any longer. Now it is measurement of actual events. But the diagrams also show the various areas of research about which these research papers are being published.

Here is the web diagram for the topics that are addressed in climate science research in the southwestern universities. The 12 universities in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah in the study show real-time effects of climate change, like drought and wildfire, and point to direct links between tree mortality, drought, and climate. We in this

country depend on the Southwest for more than half of our specialty crops—vegetables, fruits, and nuts—so we have to pay attention when drought threatens all of those.

Here is another topic web for the Southeast highlighting what the universities' research has been on sea level rise, ocean acidification, adaptation, and management.

Here is a slightly different web. This web is not a web of science and inquiry. No, this is the web of front groups and dark money organizations that the fossil fuel industry has supported, created, and used for decades to sow false doubt about all of this science—all of this science from all of our 50 States. Their job is to lie about this science, and they have done it well. They have used this same web to deploy political muscle and propaganda to block action here in Congress. That is why, with all of this research being done in all of these States, nothing is happening on this floor. Nothing has happened since Citizens United gave the fossil fuel industry the equivalent of howitzers, whereas before then, they just had muskets.

I say to the Presiding Officer, I remember how bipartisan it was here. You weren't here then. Between 2007, when I was sworn in—all of 2007, 2008, and 2009, we had five different bipartisan climate bills popping up around on the Senate floor. There were five of them, all strong, serious bills—not little nibbly things to make people feel better; real bills.

In January 2010 comes Citizens United, and the fossil fuel industry gets its brandnew hardware, its political howitzers, and they go straight to the other side of the aisle and say: Anybody who crosses us is dead. Bipartisanship died that year on climate change, and it is only beginning—only beginning—to resurge now. But the decade we lost will cost us a lot, and it makes the urgency of what we have to do now all the more important. This web of denial, paid for by the fossil fuel industry, has stymied Congress for a decade.

I hope I don't need to remind anyone here that the fossil fuel industry has a conflict of interest as to this question. Indeed, the International Monetary Fund has quantified it as a \$650 billion-a-year conflict of interest. For \$650 billion in conflict of interest, you can pay for a lot of nonsense organizations that are phony front groups to put out your poison and your political propaganda and your political pressure.

It is time, at last, for Senators to pay attention to the trusted science actually happening in their own home State universities and not to this corrupt web of denial that has been propped up by the conflicted fossil fuel industry. This web of denial has done nothing but lied over and over again. They are probably wrong over and over again. The things they say are false over and over again. Yet the industry behind them still controls the U.S.

Senate, and we can't budge, despite the rest of the world moving on dealing with this issue.

Let me close with an anniversary that we marked this week. Ten years ago this Friday, a full-page ad ran in the New York Times—a full-page ad pointing out that the science of climate change was already by then—10 years ago—to use the words in the advertisement, “irrefutable,” “scientifically irrefutable.” The science is scientifically irrefutable. And it goes on to say that the consequences of climate change would be “catastrophic and irreversible.” Wow. The science is irrefutable; the consequences, catastrophic and irreversible? Who could have signed this ad? I will tell you who signed this ad. Donald J. Trump and his children, Donald Trump, Jr., Eric Trump, Ivanka Trump—oh, and the Trump Organization, right there. This is what the Trumps had to say about this 10 years ago, Friday.

I conclude by saying to my colleagues, the science is there for you to see. You don't have to go far. Just go to your home State university. It is right there waiting for you. For the truth of climate change, just turn to the researchers teaching your students in your State's own universities. They can tell you, just as Donald Trump and his family did 10 years ago, that what we face is irrefutable and that its consequences will be catastrophic and irreversible if we keep monkeying around and failing to act.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING HARRISON DILLARD

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a Cleveland native, a Buffalo soldier, and an Olympic legend—Harrison Dillard. Mr. Dillard died last month at the age of 96. His life included service to our country in World War II, four Olympic gold medals, and world records.

He grew up racing up and down the streets of our shared hometown of Cleveland with friends. When Mr. Dillard was 13, he saw his hometown hero, a gentleman named Jesse Owens, in a parade. He ran home and told his mother: “I just saw Jesse Owens, [Mom], and I'm going to be just like him.”

She humored her son. Think about how many people say that to mothers in Cleveland and other places. She humored her son like all mothers do, but Harrison Dillard was serious. He

and his friends would take old cars seats and put them in the street and jump over them for practice.

When he enrolled at Jesse Owens' alma mater, Cleveland's East Technical High School on the east side of our city, Owens himself gave Harrison a new pair of running shoes. Jesse Owens was one of the most famous athletes in the country. He won world records, one gold medal, and stood up to Adolph Hitler. Jessie Owens gave Harrison Dillard a new pair of running shoes.

Mr. Dillard joined the Army after high school. He served in a segregated unit. Just for younger people who don't know this history, we segregated our Armed Forces in this country, even in World War II. Just to add a little more to that history with those soldiers who came back from serving their country, they came back to a segregated country. They had fought for human rights. They came back, and they didn't have those human rights. Think about that.

After the war, General Patton saw Harrison Dillard in an Army track meet, and Patton said—pardon my language on the Senate floor: “[That man] is the best Goddamn athlete I've ever seen.”

Harrison Dillard proved him right. He represented our country at the Olympics in London. He brought home two gold medals in the 100-meter race. He achieved his childhood dream. He matched Jesse Owens' Olympic record time of 10.3 seconds. That was in 1948. He would later write in his autobiography: “I could finally say that I was just like [Jesse Owens].”

Plenty of people tried to hold Harrison Dillard back because of the color of his skin. He recalled how, after his military discharge, he was refused food at a restaurant. Again, he served his country, he came back to his country, and he was refused food in a restaurant because of the color of his skin. It is shameful how we treated veterans and fellow citizens in this country. It is a testament to Mr. Dillard's tenacity and talent that he achieved so much in the face of a society that was so often set up to hold him back. He ended his career by serving the city that raised him. He worked for the Cleveland public school system.

Now, I met Harrison Dillard once. Actually, I met him later as an adult. I saw him not that many years ago. I met him when I was in Boy Scouts at Camp Avery Hand in Mansfield, OH. Harrison Dillard came out and spoke to our Scout troop and other troops who were sitting there congregated to listen to this world class famous athlete talk to us about service. I remember I didn't know a lot about him because I was not even born when he won the Olympics, but I knew he was an Olympian. He was introduced as that. We got to listen to him, and he inspired us.

His legacy lives on in Northeast Ohio. He lives on around the country not only in our record books but also through the young people he inspired. I

ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Harrison Dillard—Olympic gold medal winner, U.S. Army veteran, and citizen of the great city of Cleveland.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 499.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Hugh Nathaniel Halpern, of Virginia, to be Director of the Government Publishing Office.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent on the Halpern nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 369 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 347, Eric Ross Komitee to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Mr. President, I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 370 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 353, John L. Sinatra, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

Mr. President, I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 371 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 478, Sarah E. Pitlyk to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Mr. President, I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 372 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 381, Douglas Russell Cole to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Mr. President, I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 373 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 459, R. Austin Huffaker, Jr. to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

Mr. President, I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 374 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 460, David B. Barlow to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.●

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report for December 2019. This is my second scorekeeping report since I filed the deemed budget resolution for fiscal year 2020 on September 9, 2019, as required by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, BBA19. The report compares current-law levels of spending and revenues with the amounts agreed to in BBA19. In the Senate, this information is used to determine whether budgetary points of order lie against pending legislation. The Republican staff of the Budget Committee and the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, prepared this report pursuant to section 308(b) of the Congressional Budget Act, CBA. The information included in this report is current through November 25, 2019.

Since I filed the last scorekeeping report on October 16, 2019, two measures with significant enforceable budgetary effects have been enacted. The first, the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Further Health Extenders Act of 2019 (P.L. 116-69), provided continuing appropriations and extended several authorizing provisions. Specifically, division A of that law extended discretionary appropriations through December 20, 2019, and division B extended a number of health programs, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, and certain Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act provisions. Division B also extended and increased benefits under the U.S. Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund and repealed a rescission of highway funding that had been included in the 2015 highway bill. CBO estimated that division B would increase outlays by \$1.1 billion over 10 years.

The second measure with significant budgetary effects to be enacted was the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemorative Coin Act (P.L. 116-71). This law directed the Department of the Treasury to mint and issue silver coins to commemorate the women who played a vital role in rallying support for the 19th Amendment to the U.S.

Constitution. CBO estimated that P.L. 116-71 would save \$2 million in 2020 and be budget neutral over the 5- and 10-year windows.

Budget Committee Republican staff prepared tables A-D.

Table A gives the amount by which each Senate authorizing committee exceeds or is below its allocation for budget authority and outlays under the fiscal year 2020 deemed budget resolution. This information is used for enforcing committee allocations pursuant to section 302 of the CBA.

The two enacted pieces of legislation that I mentioned earlier led to the Environment and Public Works Committee, EPW, exceeding its allocation (P.L. 116-69) and the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee generating \$2 million in savings in 2020 (P.L. 116-71). The House of Representatives' construction of division B of the P.L. 116-69, which combined numerous authorizing matters into one division, contributed to EPW's breach of its allocation. As EPW's highway rescission repeal provided the largest single budgetary effect, the entire division's effects were assigned to EPW consistent with longstanding congressional enforcement practices. It is important to note that EPW's highway repeal alone was scored by CBO as not producing an outlay or deficit effect. A detailed discussion of CBO's scoring of a similar provision is included in CBO's formal August 2019 estimate of S. 1992, a bill to amend the FAST Act to repeal a rescission of funds, which was reported earlier this year from EPW.

Table B provides the amount by which the Senate Committee on Appropriations is below or exceeds the statutory spending limits. This information is used to determine points of order related to the spending caps found in sections 312 and 314 of the CBA. The table shows that the Appropriations Committee is compliant with spending limits for current the fiscal year. Those limits for regular discretionary spending are \$666.5 billion for accounts in the defense category and \$621.5 billion for accounts in the nondefense category of spending. As no full-year appropriations measures have been enacted for fiscal year 2020, the amounts shown on the table reflect the budgetary authority effects of advanced or permanent appropriations made available in prior law.

The 2018 budget resolution contained points of order limiting the use of changes in mandatory programs, CHIMPs, in appropriations bills. Table C, which tracks the CHIMP limit of \$15 billion for 2020, shows the Appropriations Committee has not yet enacted full-year CHIMPs for this fiscal year.

Table D provides the amount of budget authority enacted for 2020 that has been designated as either for an emergency or for overseas contingency operations pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. Funding that receives either of these

designations results in cap adjustments to enforceable discretionary spending limits. There is no limit on either emergency or overseas contingency operations spending; however, any senator may challenge the designation with a point of order to strike the designation on the floor.

In addition to the tables provided by Budget Committee Republican staff, I am submitting CBO tables, which I will use to enforce budget totals approved by Congress.

CBO provided a spending and revenue report for 2020, Table 1, which helps enforce aggregate spending levels in budget resolutions under CBA section 311. In its report, CBO annualizes the temporary effects of the latest continuing resolution, which provides funding through December 20, 2019. For the enforcement of budgetary aggregates, the Budget Committee excludes this temporary funding. As such, the committee views current-law levels as being \$1,173.2 billion and \$668.4 billion below budget resolution levels for budget authority and outlays, respectively. Details on 2020 levels can be found in CBO's second table.

Current-law revenues are consistent with the levels assumed by the budget resolution.

Social Security levels are consistent with the budget resolution's figures for all enforceable periods.

CBO's report also provides information needed to enforce the Senate pay-as-you-go, PAYGO, rule, table 3. This rule was established under section 4106 of the 2018 budget resolution. The Senate PAYGO scorecard shows that there is currently \$2 million in room in 2020 due to the enactment of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemorative Coin Act. Please note that the deficit effects of division B of the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Further Health Extenders Act of 2019 are excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard pursuant to Title VIII of division B of that law.

This submission also includes a table tracking the Senate's budget enforcement activity on the floor since the enforcement filing on September 9, 2019. No budgetary points of order have been raised since that filing.

All years in the accompanying tables are fiscal years.

I ask unanimous consent that this statement and the accompanying tables be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TABLE A.—SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES—ENACTED DIRECT SPENDING ABOVE (+) OR BELOW (–) BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

(In millions of dollars)

| | 2020 | 2020– 2024 | 2020– 2029 |
|--|------|---------------|---------------|
| Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outlays | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Armed Services: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outlays | 0 | 0 | 0 |

TABLE A.—SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES—ENACTED DIRECT SPENDING ABOVE (+) OR BELOW (–) BUDGET RESOLUTIONS—Continued

| | [In millions of dollars] | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2020 | 2020–2024 | 2020–2029 |
| Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: | | | |
| Budget Authority | –2 | 0 | 0 |
| Outlays | –2 | 0 | 0 |
| Commerce, Science, and Transportation: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outlays | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Energy and Natural Resources: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outlays | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Environment and Public Works: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 8,058 | 38,589 | 77,069 |
| Outlays | 415 | 683 | 1,130 |
| Finance: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outlays | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Foreign Relations: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outlays | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outlays | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Judiciary: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outlays | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outlays | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rules and Administration: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outlays | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Intelligence: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outlays | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Veterans' Affairs: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outlays | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Indian Affairs: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outlays | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Small Business: | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outlays | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | | |
| Budget Authority | 8,056 | 38,589 | 77,069 |

TABLE A.—SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES—ENACTED DIRECT SPENDING ABOVE (+) OR BELOW (–) BUDGET RESOLUTIONS—Continued

| | [In millions of dollars] | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2020 | 2020–2024 | 2020–2029 |
| Outlays | 413 | 683 | 1,130 |

This table is current through November 25, 2019. This table tracks the spending effects of legislation enacted compared to allowable levels. Each authorizing committee's initial allocation can be found in the Senate Budget Committee Chairman's Congressional Record filing on September 9, 2019.

TABLE B.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS¹

| | [Budget authority, in millions of dollars] | |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| | 2020 | |
| | Security ² | Nonsecurity ² |
| Statutory Discretionary Limits | 666,500 | 621,500 |
| Amount Provided by Senate Appropriations Subcommittee | | |
| Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies | 0 | 9 |
| Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies | 0 | 0 |
| Defense | 42 | 0 |
| Energy and Water Development | 0 | 0 |
| Financial Services and General Government | 0 | 0 |
| Homeland Security | 0 | 9 |
| Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies | 0 | 0 |
| Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies | 0 | 24,682 |
| Legislative Branch | 0 | 1 |
| Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies | 0 | 71,821 |
| State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs | 0 | 0 |
| Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies | 0 | 4,400 |
| Current Level Total | 42 | 100,922 |

TABLE B.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS¹—Continued

| | [Budget authority, in millions of dollars] | |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| | 2020 | |
| | Security ² | Nonsecurity ² |
| Total Enacted Above (+) or Below (–) Statutory Limits | –666,458 | –520,578 |

This table is current through November 25, 2019. As no full-year appropriations bills have been enacted this cycle, the budget authority displayed here represents funding made available through either advance or permanent appropriations.

¹ This table excludes spending pursuant to adjustments to the discretionary spending limits. These adjustments are allowed for certain purposes in section 251(b)(2) of BBDECA.

² Security spending is defined as spending in the National Defense budget function (050) and nonsecurity spending is defined as all other spending.

TABLE C.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAMS (CHIMPS)

| [Budget authority, millions of dollars] | |
|---|----------|
| 2020 | |
| CHIMPS Limit for Fiscal Year 2020 | 15,000 |
| Senate Appropriations Subcommittees | |
| Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies | 0 |
| Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies | 0 |
| Defense | 0 |
| Energy and Water Development | 0 |
| Financial Services and General Government | 0 |
| Homeland Security | 0 |
| Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies | 0 |
| Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies | 0 |
| Legislative Branch | 0 |
| Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies | 0 |
| State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs | 0 |
| Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies | 0 |
| Current Level Total | 0 |
| Total CHIMPS Above (+) or Below (–) Budget Resolution | –15,000 |

This table is current through November 25, 2019.

TABLE D.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED EMERGENCY AND OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS SPENDING

| Emergency and Overseas Contingency Operations Designated Spending | 2020 | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Emergency | | Overseas Contingency Operations | |
| | Security ¹ | Nonsecurity ¹ | Security ¹ | Nonsecurity ¹ |
| Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 (P.L. 116–20) ² | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Current Level Total | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 |

This table is current through November 25, 2019.

¹ Security spending is defined as spending in the National Defense budget function (050) and nonsecurity spending is defined as all other spending.

² The Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 was enacted after the publication of CBO's May 2019 baseline but before the Senate Budget Committee Chairman published the deemed budget resolution for 2020 in the Congressional Record. Pursuant to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, the budgetary effects of this legislation have been incorporated into the current level as previously enacted funds.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, December 4, 2019.

Hon. MIKE ENZI,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2020 budget and is current through November 25, 2019. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of

section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels printed in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2019, pursuant to section 204 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–37).

Since our last letter dated October 16, 2019, the Congress has cleared and the President

has signed the following legislation that has significant effects on budget authority and outlays in fiscal year 2020: Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Further Health Extenders Act (Public Law 116–69); and Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemorative Coin Act (Public Law 116–71).

Sincerely,
PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020, AS OF NOVEMBER 25, 2019

| | [In billions of dollars] | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------|---|
| | Budget Resolution | Current Level | Current Level Over/Under (–) Resolution |
| ON-BUDGET | | | |
| Budget Authority | 3,704.2 | 3,773.5 | 69.3 |
| Outlays | 3,681.5 | 3,700.5 | 19.0 |
| Revenues | 2,740.5 | 2,740.5 | 0.0 |
| OFF-BUDGET: | | | |
| Social Security Outlays ^a | 961.2 | 961.2 | 0.0 |
| Social Security Revenues | 940.4 | 940.4 | 0.0 |

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

^a Excludes administrative expenses paid from the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020, AS OF NOVEMBER 25, 2019

[In millions of dollars]

| | Budget Authority | Outlays | Revenues |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Previously Enacted: ^{a,b} | | | |
| Revenues | n.a. | n.a. | 2,740,538 |
| Permanents and other spending legislation | 2,397,769 | 2,309,887 | n.a. |
| Authorizing and Appropriation legislation | 0 | 595,528 | 0 |
| Offsetting receipts | -954,573 | -954,573 | n.a. |
| Total, Previously Enacted | 1,443,196 | 1,950,842 | 2,740,538 |
| Enacted Legislation: | | | |
| Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Health Extenders Act of 2019 (P.L. 116-59) | 693 | 795 | 0 |
| Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Further Health Extenders Act of 2019 (P.L. 116-69) | 8,058 | 415 | 0 |
| Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemorative Coin Act (P.L. 116-71) | -2 | -2 | 0 |
| Continuing Resolution: ^a | | | |
| Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Further Health Extenders Act of 2019 (P.L. 116-69) | 1,242,511 | 687,329 | 0 |
| Total, Enacted Legislation | 1,251,260 | 688,537 | 0 |
| Entitlements and Mandatories | 1,079,063 | 1,061,080 | 0 |
| Total Current Level ^b | 3,773,519 | 3,700,459 | 2,740,538 |
| Total Senate Resolution ^c | 3,704,246 | 3,681,491 | 2,740,538 |
| Current Level Over Senate Resolution | 69,273 | 18,968 | n.a. |
| Current Level Under Senate Resolution | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Memorandum: | | | |
| Revenues, 2020-2029: | | | |
| Senate Current Level | n.a. | n.a. | 34,847,317 |
| Senate Resolution ^c | n.a. | n.a. | 34,847,317 |
| Current Level Over Senate Resolution | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Current Level Under Senate Resolution | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = public law.

^a Sections 1001-1004 of the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255) require that certain funding provided for 2017 through 2026 to the Department of Health and Human Services—in particular the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health—be excluded from estimates for the purpose of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Deficit Control Act) and the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (Congressional Budget Act). Therefore, the amounts shown in this report do not include \$562 million in budget authority and \$854 million in estimated outlays.

^b For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the Senate, the resolution, as approved by the Senate, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenue for off-budget amounts. As a result, amounts in this current level report do not include those items.

^c Section 204 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 requires the Chair of the Senate Committee on the Budget to publish the aggregate spending and revenue levels for fiscal year 2020; those aggregate levels were first published in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2019. The Chair of the Senate Committee on the Budget has the authority to revise the budgetary aggregates for the budgetary effects of certain revenue and spending measures pursuant to the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, as updated by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019.

| | Budget Authority | Outlays | Revenues |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Original Aggregates printed on September 9, 2019 | 3,703,553 | 3,680,696 | 2,740,538 |
| Revisions: | | | |
| Adjustment for P.L. 116-59, Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Health Extenders Act of 2019 (pursuant to sections 311 and 314 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and section 3005 of H. Con. Res. 71) | 693 | 795 | 0 |
| Revised Senate Resolution | 3,704,246 | 3,681,491 | 2,740,538 |

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF NOVEMBER 25, 2019

[In millions of dollars]

| | 2019 | 2020 | 2019-2024 | 2019-2029 |
|---|------|------|-----------|-----------|
| Beginning Balance ^a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Enacted Legislation ^{b,c} | | | | |
| Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Health Extenders Act of 2019 (H.R. 4378, P.L. 116-59) ^d | 0 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Christa McAuliffe Commemorative Coin Act of 2019 (S. 239, P.L. 116-65) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act (H.R. 1396, P.L. 116-68) | 0 | * | * | * |
| Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Further Health Extenders Act of 2019 (H.R. 3055, P.L. 116-69) ^e | 0 | * | * | * |
| Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemorative Coin Act (H.R. 2423, P.L. 116-71) | 0 | -2 | 0 | 0 |
| Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act (H.R. 724, P.L. 116-72) | 0 | * | * | * |
| Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 (S. 1838, P.L. 116-76) | 0 | * | * | * |
| | 0 | -2 | * | * |
| Impact on Deficit | 0 | -2 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Change in Outlays | 0 | -2 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Change in Revenues | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = public law.

^a On September 9, 2019, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget reset the Senate's Pay-As-You-Go Scorecard to zero for all fiscal years.

^b The amounts shown represent the estimated effect of the public laws on the deficit.

^c Excludes off-budget amounts.

^d The budgetary effects of division B of this act are excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard, pursuant to sec. 1701(b) of the act. The budgetary effects of division A were fully incorporated into the PAYGO ledger pursuant to the authority provided to the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee in section 3005 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018. The Chairman exercised that an adjustment in the Congressional Record on September 26, 2019.

^e The budgetary effects of division B of this act are excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard, pursuant to sec. 1801(b) of the act.

ENFORCEMENT REPORT OF POINTS OF ORDER RAISED SINCE THE FY 2020 ENFORCEMENT FILING

| Vote | Date | Measure | Violation | Motion to Waive | Result |
|---|------|---------|-----------|-----------------|--------|
| No points of order have been raised as of September 9, 2019 | | | | | |

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ISAKSON

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I rise to honor and pay tribute to my good friend Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON on his retirement from the U.S. Senate.

Throughout the years, I have gotten to know JOHNNY as a colleague but more importantly as a friend.

Together, we cochaired the National Prayer Breakfast and attended the

weekly Senate Prayer Breakfast. I always came away from those breakfasts thankful for colleagues like JOHNNY, who reminded me that we all share a common purpose and a common humanity and that, with faith and forgiveness, we can start anew.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, JOHNNY was always a tireless champion for our Nation's veterans—leading on issues

that face all of our brave men and women who have stepped up and served our country. Without JOHNNY, important legislation like the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act—also known as the Forever GI Bill—to increase the number of veterans who can access benefits under the post-9-11 GI bill, would not have been signed into law in 2017. And

whether it was his work on the Finance, Foreign Relations, or Health, Education, Labor, and Pension Committees, JOHNNY exemplified a fighting spirit and an enduring commitment to service.

Not long after I was elected to the Senate, JOHNNY and I began working together on legislation that was later signed into law to advance research on muscular dystrophy and help strengthen a program that provides information and education for people battling this disease. I will always appreciate his willingness to put partisanship aside in an effort to work toward a bipartisan proposal that would protect Dreamers last year.

Beyond just our legislative work together, I will always think fondly of JOHNNY as someone who is decent, caring, and kind. He even hosts a prerecess barbeque that has everything from pulled pork to brisket to mac and cheese and sweet tea and pecan pie. One year, you could smell the hickory-smoked meats in the halls of the Senate for days—and I loved it.

As we take this opportunity to honor JOHNNY, I also want to thank his wife Dianne and their three children and eight grandchildren for sharing so much of their beloved husband, father, and grandfather with the U.S. Senate.

As much as I will miss JOHNNY's company in the Senate next year, I know that this isn't his final chapter. He will continue to do good work for the people of Georgia, and I am lucky to count him as a friend.

Thank you JOHNNY.

REMEMBERING MISTER ROGERS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I wanted to take a moment to recognize Mr. Rogers, who is being celebrated with the release of a new movie starring Tom Hanks and a new album recorded largely in Nashville that features new renditions of the songs we loved hearing Mr. Rogers sing.

Fred Rogers learned to play piano when he was very young. He studied music composition in college, and he actually wrote the wonderful songs we came to know so well, including "Won't You Be My Neighbor," "It's Such a Good Feeling," and "Many Ways to Say I Love You."

Rogers taught us about kindness and love, but his lessons were never trite and they were not in isolation from the world or reality.

He talked to our children about assassination with a hand puppet after Robert Kennedy was killed. He talked about racism and about divorce. When teaching children how to deal with scary news on TV, he told the story that as a young boy his "mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" Inevitably with today's media and internet, after any disaster or emergency you will see people comfort one another with that quote from Mr. Rogers and thanking our brave police,

firefighters, and first responders. And that belief in the importance of "helpers" has inspired countless people to take on the role of being a helper, learning the skills and taking on the important role of saving lives, protecting our community, and rushing in when others are rushing out.

Mr. Rogers also shared with all of us a love for learning, the joy of making new friends and trying new experiences. He taught us the power of imagination, the awe of a new book, and the soothing help that a song can provide.

I often talk about what happens in Washington as a split-screen television—all the anger and the tweets and the upset on one side of the screen and all the quiet successes and getting along and bills passing and helpful meetings happening on the other side of the screen. As a society, in the media and online, we generally choose to amplify the one side of the screen—the angry and the noisy side. But this month is a good time to amplify the other.

My late friend Alex Haley, the author of *Roots*, used to say "Find the Good and Praise It." That is the best way to celebrate the memory of Fred Rogers—to find the good in one another, just as he did, and to help children find the good in themselves.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 178. An act to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 565. An act to include Portugal in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E1 and E2 nonimmigrants if United States nationals are treated similarly by the Government of Portugal.

H.R. 3460. An act to facilitate effective research on and treatment of neglected tropical diseases through coordinated international efforts.

H.R. 4018. An act to provide that the amount of time that an elderly offender must serve before being eligible for placement in home detention is to be reduced by the amount of good time credits earned by the prisoner, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4803. An act to facilitate the automatic acquisition of citizenship for lawful permanent resident children of military and Federal Government personnel residing abroad, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5277. An act to amend section 442 of title 18, United States Code, to exempt certain interests in mutual funds, unit investment trusts, employee benefit plans, and retirement plans from conflict of interest limitations for the Government Publishing Office.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today, December 4, 2019, he has signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 887. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 877 East 1200 South in Orem, Utah, as the "Jerry C. Washburn Post Office Building".

H.R. 1252. An act 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".

H.R. 1253. An act 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".

H.R. 1526. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Israel Road Southeast in Tumwater, Washington, as the "Eva G. Hewitt Post Office".

H.R. 1844. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Grove Court in Elgin, Illinois, as the "Corporal Alex Martinez Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 1972. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 West Kent Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the "Jeannette Rankin Post Office Building".

H.R. 2151. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7722 South Main Street in Pine Plains, New York, as the "Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent Post Office".

H.R. 2325. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Calle Alondra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the "65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building".

H.R. 2334. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Odessa, Texas, as the "Wilson and Young Medal of Honor VA Clinic".

H.R. 2451. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 575 Dexter Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island, as the "Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office".

H.R. 3144. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8520 Michigan Avenue in Whittier, California, as the "Jose Ramos Post Office Building".

H.R. 3314. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 McCulloch Boulevard North in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, as the "Lake Havasu City Combat Veterans Memorial Post Office Building".

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 565. An act to include Portugal in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E1 and E2 nonimmigrants if United States nationals are treated similarly by the Government of Portugal; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3460. An act to facilitate effective research on and treatment of neglected tropical diseases through coordinated international efforts; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4803. An act to facilitate the automatic acquisition of citizenship for lawful permanent resident children of military and Federal Government personnel residing abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3357. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Propamocarb; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10000-33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3358. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Etoxazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10000-97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3359. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fenpyroximate; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10002-00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3360. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred in the Department of Agriculture's FSA Salaries and Expense Account; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-3361. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an inventory summary of certain required activities performed during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to staff augmentation contracts for services for on behalf of the Department; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3362. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Repeal of Temporary Statutory Authorities" ((RIN0750-AK86) (DFARS Case 2019-D040)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3363. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3364. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clean Fuels Grant Program" (RIN2132-AB36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3365. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Idaho; Update to CRB Fee Billing Procedures" (FRL No. 10002-75-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3366. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Sulfur Dioxide" (FRL No. 10002-81-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3367. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Revisions to Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Annual Trading Program and Rescission of Clean Air Interstate Rule" (FRL No. 10000-20-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3368. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Title V Operation Permit Program" (FRL No. 10002-80-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3369. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Findings of Failure to Submit a Clean Air Act Section 110 State Implementation Plan for Interstate Transport for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)" (FRL No. 10002-78-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3370. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (18-3)" ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 10001-94)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3371. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (18-4)" ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 10002-30)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3372. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (18-2)" ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 10001-47)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3373. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Commissioner, Customs and Border Protection, Department

of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3374. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, certifications relative to the inclusion of the Republic of North Macedonia in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3375. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (P.L. 107-243) and the Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 1991 (P.L. 102-1) for the July 11, 2019 to September 9, 2019 reporting period; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3376. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the establishment of the danger pay allowance for Alexandria, Egypt; Cairo, Egypt; Khartoum, Sudan; Carthage, Tunisia; and Tunis, Tunisia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3377. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List of automatic rifles to Qatar for end use by the Ministry of the Interior in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-083); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3378. A communication from the Director, Office of Administration, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions from the Unanticipated Needs Account for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3379. A communication from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Gallery's Performance and Accountability Report for the year ended September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3380. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3381. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3382. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3383. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Five-Year Strategic Mission and Diversity and Inclusions Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2024"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3384. A communication from the Chair of the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3385. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3386. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3387. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3388. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-158, "Attorney General Grant-Making Authority Temporary Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3389. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-159, "Investigating Maternal Mortalities Temporary Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3390. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-160, "Student Activity Fund Theatrical and Music Performance Expenditures Temporary Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3391. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-161, "Indigenous Peoples' Day Temporary Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3392. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-164, "Intra-District Transfer Limitation Temporary Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3393. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-162, "Sanctuary Values Temporary Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3394. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-163, "MLK Gateway Real Property Tax Abatement Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3395. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3396. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election

Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3397. A communication from the Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for USAID's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3398. A communication from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3399. A communication from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Endowment's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3400. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3401. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3402. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3403. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department of Labor's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3404. A communication from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Foundation's fiscal year 2019 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3405. A joint communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3406. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Services' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3407. A communication from the Administrator, United States Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3408. A communication from the Chair of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for

the six-month period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3409. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Education's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3410. A communication from the General Counsel and Acting Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the federal entity inspector general report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3411. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3412. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3413. A communication from the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019 and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3414. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3415. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Veterans Affairs' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3416. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3417. A communication from the Chair of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3418. A communication from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a Management Report for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3419. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Reporting of Nonconforming

Items to Government-Industry Data Exchange Program" (RIN9000-AM58) (48 CFR Parts 1, 2, 7, 46, and 52)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 22, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3420. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Small Entity Compliance Guide" ((48 CFR Parts 22 and 52) (FAC 2020-02)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 22, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3421. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Introduction" ((48 CFR Part 1) (FAC 2020-02)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 22, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3422. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Report to Congress on Contract Funding of Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Awards"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-3423. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Trademark Classification Changes" (RIN0651-AD44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2972. A bill to restrict the export, reexport, and in-country transfers of certain items that provide a critical capability to the Government of the People's Republic of China to suppress individual privacy, freedom, and other basic human rights; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 2973. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to harmonize the definition of employee with the common law; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 2974. A bill to require the Postmaster General to establish a comprehensive organizational strategy to combat the use of the mail in the distribution of illicit drugs; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2975. A bill to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in western waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2976. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an election to advance future child tax credits in the year of birth or adoption; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2977. A bill to extend the termination of sanctions with respect to Venezuela under the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2978. A bill to ensure consideration of water intensity in the Department of Energy's energy research, development, and demonstration programs to help guarantee efficient, reliable, and sustainable delivery of energy and clean water resources; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 2979. A bill to improve drug testing for transportation-related activities; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2980. A bill to require the promulgation of certain standards for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2981. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. Res. 446. A resolution authorizing the printing of tributes and other related materials in honor of the late Senator Janet Kay Hagan; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 447. A resolution expressing serious concern about widespread irregularities in Bolivia's October 20, 2019, general elections and supporting the convening of new elections in Bolivia at the earliest possible date; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 133

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 133, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 191

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Alabama

(Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 191, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to include in periodic health assessments, separation history and physical examinations, and other assessments an evaluation of whether a member of the Armed Forces has been exposed to open burn pits or toxic airborne chemicals, and for other purposes.

S. 237

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes.

S. 460

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 460, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 642

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 642, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Rodrick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 670

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 670, a bill to make daylight savings time permanent, and for other purposes.

S. 750

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1032, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of income for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of certain corporations.

S. 1130

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1130, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

S. 1279

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1279, a bill to reauthorize

mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

S. 1397

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1397, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to provide for a national Federal write-in absentee ballot for domestic use.

S. 1602

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1602, a bill to amend the United States Energy Storage Competitiveness Act of 2007 to establish a research, development, and demonstration program for grid-scale energy storage systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1622

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances.

S. 1657

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1657, a bill to provide assistance to combat the escalating burden of Lyme disease and other tick and vector-borne diseases and disorders.

S. 1660

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1660, a bill to provide greater support for grandfamilies and older caretaker relatives.

S. 1719

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1719, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to create an interdivisional taskforce at the Securities and Exchange Commission for senior investors, and for other purposes.

S. 1757

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1757, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

S. 1967

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1967, a bill to promote innovative approaches to outdoor recreation on Federal land and to increase opportunities for collaboration with non-Federal partners, and for other purposes.

S. 2054

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2054, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 2327

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2327, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the eligibility requirements for transfer of unused entitlement to Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 2492

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2492, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide best practices on student suicide awareness and prevention training and condition State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy.

S. 2561

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2561, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 2570

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2570, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Greg LeMond in recognition of his service to the United States as an athlete, activist, role model, and community leader.

S. 2591

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2591, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and for other purposes.

S. 2621

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2621, a bill to provide for the restoration of legal rights for claimants under holocaust-era insurance policies.

S. 2699

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Massachu-

setts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2699, a bill to reauthorize the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2715

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2715, a bill to develop and implement policies to advance early childhood development, to provide assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2816

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2816, a bill to ensure that fixed broadband internet access service assisted by any Federal broadband support program meets a minimum speed threshold.

S. 2827

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2827, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the U.S. African-American Burial Grounds Network, and for other purposes.

S. 2833

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2833, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to extend the consumer credit protections provided to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents under title 10, United States Code, to all consumers.

S. 2842

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2842, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to expand and expedite access to cardiac rehabilitation programs and pulmonary rehabilitation programs under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2877

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2877, a bill to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 2898

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2898, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a full annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers.

S. 2931

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator

from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2931, a bill to establish a process for obtaining a Federal certificate of rehabilitation, and for other purposes.

S. 2941

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2941, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a consumer recycling education and outreach grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 2949

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2949, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to eligible organizations to provide service dogs to veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 2962

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2962, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit withdrawals from certain retirement plans for repayment of student loan debt, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 22

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 22, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that there is a climate emergency which demands a massive-scale mobilization to halt, reverse, and address its consequences and causes.

S. RES. 260

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 260, a resolution recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting the commitment of the United States Agency for International Development to global nutrition through the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 446—AUTHORIZING THE PRINTING OF TRIBUTES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS IN HONOR OF THE LATE SENATOR JANET KAY HAGAN

Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 446

Resolved, That there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of tributes and other related materials concerning the Honorable Janet Kay Hagan, late a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

SENATE RESOLUTION 447—EXPRESSING SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT WIDESPREAD IRREGULARITIES IN BOLIVIA'S OCTOBER 20, 2019, GENERAL ELECTIONS AND SUPPORTING THE CONVENING OF NEW ELECTIONS IN BOLIVIA AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 447

Whereas Evo Morales was elected as the first indigenous president of Bolivia in 2005;

Whereas, in 2009, Bolivians approved by a vote of more than 60 percent in a nationwide referendum a new constitution that established a limit of two 5-year presidential terms;

Whereas, in 2009 and 2014, President Morales won re-election to a second and third term in office with more than 60 percent of the vote;

Whereas, in 2016, 51.3 percent of Bolivian voters rejected a national referendum on the proposal by the Administration of President Morales to lift presidential term limits;

Whereas, in 2017, despite the results of the 2016 national referendum, President Morales' political allies in the Bolivian Constitutional Tribunal removed presidential term limits;

Whereas, on October 20, 2019, amid existing concerns over the politicization of Bolivia's electoral commission, Bolivian voters went to the polls for general elections to choose a new president, members of the Senate, and members of the Chamber of Deputies;

Whereas, at the invitation of Morales Administration, the Organization of American States (OAS) General Secretariat sent an Electoral Observation Mission to Bolivia that was comprised of 92 experts and observers from 24 different nationalities deployed in the country's nine departments and in three countries in which Bolivian expatriates could cast their votes abroad;

Whereas, on October 20, 2019, Bolivian electoral authorities stopped reporting the preliminary vote count for a period of 20 hours, subsequently announced preliminary results that negated the need for a second-round election, and Evo Morales proclaimed himself the winner of the presidential election;

Whereas, on October 21, 2019, the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Bolivia expressed "deep concern and surprise at the drastic and hard-to-explain change in the trend of the preliminary results revealed after the closing of the polls";

Whereas, in the aftermath of the October 20, 2019, general elections, violent protests occurred throughout Bolivia in response to electoral irregularities and the findings of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission;

Whereas, on October 30, 2019, the Morales Administration and the OAS General Secretariat signed an agreement to have the OAS conduct an audit of the integrity of the October 20, 2019, general elections;

Whereas, on November 10, 2019, an OAS technical mission issued a report on its audit of the integrity of the October 20, 2019, general elections, which included findings that—

(1) the preliminary and final election results were transmitted via a flawed computer transmission system that was accessed by unauthorized outside computer servers;

(2) there was a deficient chain of custody for and significant irregularities in the electoral tally sheets and other electoral records; and

(3) the audit team could not validate the results of the election and therefore recommended a new electoral process;

Whereas, on November 10, 2019, President Morales acknowledged the results of the OAS technical mission, announced that he would call new elections, and stated that, "new national elections will allow the Bolivian people to democratically choose new authorities with their vote";

Whereas, in the face of widespread public protests and a deteriorating security environment, President Morales departed Bolivia on November 12, 2019, and was granted asylum by the Government of Mexico;

Whereas, on November 12, 2019, the Bolivian Constitutional Tribunal recognized an interim president of Bolivia;

Whereas the transitional government in Bolivia has committed to hold new elections by January 22, 2020; and

Whereas the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights stated that protests occurring in Bolivia since the October 20, 2019, general election have left 23 people dead and more than 700 people injured: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern about the numerous irregularities that occurred during the October 20, 2019, general elections in Bolivia;

(2) commends the efforts of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Bolivia and supports the findings of the OAS electoral audit mission, which documented numerous irregularities during the October 2019 general elections in Bolivia;

(3) deplores the acts of violence that have occurred in Bolivia in the aftermath of the October 20, 2019, general elections and urges all Bolivians to repudiate violence and to peacefully exercise their rights of freedom of expression and assembly;

(4) urges Bolivia's transitional government to work expeditiously to establish the conditions for an inclusive, credible, transparent, and democratic elections as soon as possible in accordance with their laws and constitution;

(5) encourages the Department of State and the U.S. Mission to the Organization of American States to provide all appropriate support to facilitate the convening of free, fair, and transparent democratic elections in Bolivia as soon as possible in accordance with their laws and constitution;

(6) encourages the Organization of American States to take all necessary steps, in accordance with the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, to ensure respect for the will of Bolivian voters and the integrity of the new democratic elections in Bolivia as soon as possible in accordance with their laws and constitution; and

(7) supports the call by the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States for Bolivian authorities to ensure full respect and protection of human rights and accountability for any violation thereof.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1254. Mr. PETERS proposed an amendment to the bill S. 760, to enable registered apprenticeship programs to better serve veterans, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1254. Mr. PETERS proposed an amendment to the bill S. 760, to enable registered apprenticeship programs to better serve veterans, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. IMPROVED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM COORDINATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this Act:

(1) **REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.**—The term “registered apprenticeship program” means an apprenticeship program registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (50 Stat. 664; commonly referred to as the “National Apprenticeship Act”).

(2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Labor.

(b) **ADDITIONAL REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for any program applying to become a registered apprenticeship program on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) acquire from the program sponsor a written assurance that the sponsor—

(A) is aware of the availability of educational assistance for a veteran or other individual eligible under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, United States Code, for use in connection with a registered apprenticeship program;

(B) will make a good faith effort to obtain approval for educational assistance described in subparagraph (A) for, at a minimum, each program location that employs or recruits a veteran or other individual eligible for educational assistance under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, United States Code; and

(C) will not deny the application of a qualified candidate who is a veteran or other individual eligible for educational assistance described in subparagraph (A) for the purpose of avoiding making a good faith effort to obtain approval as described in subparagraph (B);

(2) in accordance with paragraphs (5) and (12) of section 29.5(b) of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), require the program sponsor, to the extent practicable, to provide standards that contain provisions to grant advanced standing or credit, and provide increased wages commensurate to such standing or credit, for any veteran or other individual eligible for educational assistance under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, United States Code, who—

(A) is enrolled in the registered apprenticeship program; and

(B)(i) has a demonstrated competence applicable to the apprenticeship occupation; or (ii) has acquired experience, training, or skills through military service that is applicable to the apprenticeship occupation; and

(3) when the Secretary approves the registered apprenticeship program, provide a copy of the program’s certificate of registration to the State approving agency designated under chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, in the State where the program is located.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I have 8 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Sen-

ate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nominations of Sean O’Donnell, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Paul J. Ray, of Tennessee, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Fernando L. Aenlle-Rocha, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, John Charles Hinderaker, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, Joshua M. Kindred, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, Scott H. Rash, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, and Matthew Thomas Schelp, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

The Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Sen-

ate on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

AUTHORIZING THE PRINTING OF TRIBUTES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS IN HONOR OF THE LATE SENATOR JANET KAY HAGAN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 446, submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 446) authorizing the printing of tributes and other related materials in honor of the late Senator Janet Kay Hagan.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 446) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

AMENDING SECTION 442 OF TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE, TO EXEMPT CERTAIN INTERESTS IN MUTUAL FUNDS, UNIT INVESTMENT TRUSTS, EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS, AND RETIREMENT PLANS FROM CONFLICT OF INTEREST LIMITATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5277, which was received from the House.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5277) to amend section 442 of title 18, United States Code, to exempt certain interests in mutual funds, unit investment trusts, employee benefit plans, and retirement plans from conflict of interest limitations for the Government Publishing Office.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5277) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 5, 2019

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, December 5; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Myers nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, we will have two votes at 12 noon and one vote at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow.

 ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:59 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 5, 2019, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 4, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

JOHN L. SINATRA, JR., OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

DOUGLAS RUSSELL COLE, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO.

R. AUSTIN HUFFAKER, JR., OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA.

DAVID B. BARLOW, OF UTAH, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH.

SARAH E. PITLYK, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI.

GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

HUGH NATHANIAL HALPERN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR GERALD BRENCE

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Gerald Brence, the Athletic Director for Plano ISD, for thirty-nine years of dedicated service to student athletes in Plano, Texas.

Before earning the title of Athletic Director in 2007, Gerald Brence served as the Head Coach of the Plano Senior High School Football team from 1992 to 2007. During his tenure, the Plano Senior Wildcats secured a state championship title in 1994 and made five trips to the state quarterfinals. One of the most-winning coaches in Plano Senior High's history, Coach Brence has earned the respect and admiration of those around him.

Under his steadfast leadership as Athletic Director, Plano ISD earned state championships in seven different sports including: golf, tennis, baseball, boys basketball, boys soccer, girls soccer, and girls basketball.

Our community is proud of Director Brence's leadership within Plano ISD, and we are grateful for the countless lives he has inspired throughout his career.

Now upon his retirement, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me thanking Director Gerald Brence for his dedication to Plano ISD.

HONORING RYAN OTTO BENNETT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Otto Bennett. Ryan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Ryan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan Otto Bennett for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE ONE HUNDRETH
SEASON OF ST. BONAVENTURE
UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the one hundredth season of St. Bonaventure University Men's Basketball.

St. Bonaventure University's basketball program is celebrating their one hundredth season this year, marking the beginning of this legendary legacy that started so long ago. The first game took place on December 11, 1919 in Butler Gym.

The once simple team rose to national prominence in the 1950s and 1960s, thanks to All-Americans Tom Stith, Sam Stith and Fred Crawford.

The centennial celebration also marks the fiftieth anniversary of the 1969–70 Final Four Squad. This legendary team finished with a 25–3 record which they are still remembered for today. In 1970, Bob "Big Cat" Lanier led St. Bonaventure to the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament. Lanier scored 2,067 points during his basketball career. The entire 1970s team will be recognized on December 7 for their accomplishments.

The Bonnies, throughout their tenure, have brought joy to many fans, gave many students a variety of opportunities on the team and have brought the community together over the fascinating game of basketball. This anniversary is one to be remembered—a great milestone in the history of both the team and the university.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to recognize St. Bonaventure University on their one hundredth season of basketball. Go Bonnies.

HONORING CHUCK SURACK, 2019 INDIANA BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chuck Surack, a distinguished entrepreneur and servant of Indiana. Last month, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce named Mr. Surack as the 2019 Business Leader of the Year.

Mr. Surack is the owner and president of the famous musical instrument and technology online retailer, Sweetwater Sound, Inc. This multimillion-dollar corporation was originally started with a recording studio in the back of

Mr. Surack's VW bus. Sweetwater Sound, Inc. is now one of the largest instrument distributors in the United States.

Committed to his community, Mr. Surack serves on the boards of Easter Seals Arc of Northeast Indiana, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, and Greater Fort Wayne Inc.

Madam Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Chuck Surack on this great achievement. His story is a true testament to the vitality of the American Dream and what a determined entrepreneur can accomplish. My best wishes to Mr. Chuck Surack for continued success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, on December 3rd, I missed Roll Call vote Nos. 643 and 644. I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 643 on H. Res. 546 disapproving of the Russian Federation's inclusion in future Group of Seven summits until it respects the territorial integrity of its neighbors and adheres to the standards of democratic societies.

I would have voted YEA on Roll 644 related to final passage of the Uighur Intervention and Global Humanitarian Unified Response Act.

HONORING WILLIAM EARL CODAY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Earl Coday. William is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, William has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William Earl Coday for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

• 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.

CELEBRATING GEORGE HYAK'S
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish Mr. George Hyak, of Victoria, Texas, a heartfelt happy 100th birthday and thank him for his service to our country.

George is an example of a life well-lived. He and his precious bride Sarah met at church as young teens. They kept in touch with handwritten notes while he was deployed a few short years later. Their love has lasted for decades—February marked 71 years of marriage and brought them two children, six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson. George also co-founded Dicks Food Stores in 1938, which his family still operates to this day in my hometown of Victoria. His family recalls that from a young age as one of six children, he worked to help provide for his family. Throughout his life, George has worked with diligence and integrity and in service to others.

George was drafted in 1942 into the Army VIII Corps under General Troy Middleton. Two years into his service, June 6, 1944, became a day that not only shaped George's life but the course of our entire nation and indeed the world. George joined more than 160,000 troops on D-Day as the Allies launched the largest seaborne invasion in history. In the words of Winston Churchill, the operation was "undoubtedly the most complicated and difficult that has ever occurred." Starting as an infantryman, George landed on the beaches of Normandy with the second wave of troops and took on enemy fire. Mr. Hyak risked his life to help turn the tide of the war in Europe, which ultimately led to its liberation.

What's more, he also bravely fought at the Battle of the Bulge and was one of the first in the group to invade Ohrdruf, a German concentration camp. As the war in Europe was coming to a close, George was in Frankfurt, Germany, awaiting orders to deploy for the invasion of Japan. I can imagine the emotions they must have felt when they heard the war was finally over—and instead they'd be headed home.

When George returned home, he continued to operate Dick's Food Stores. The longevity of the establishment earned it the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Treasure Business Award. It's an honor bestowed on businesses for providing employment opportunities and boosting the state's economy for at least 50 years.

George continues to bless the lives of those who've come to know him, whether a fellow soldier or friend. As we look to celebrate Thanksgiving, we as a nation have a lot to be thankful for. George is one of them. May Mr. Hyak's life serve as a reminder of the price that he and others like him paid for our freedom.

God has always had a plan for Mr. Hyak, and for us today George Hyak's life paints a picture of sacrifice and duty that we can all learn from. I join his friends and family in celebrating 100 years and thanking him for his service to our nation. Happy 100th Birthday, George.

TERRE HAUTE SAVINGS BANK
150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Terre Haute Savings Bank for 150 years of service to the people of the Wabash Valley.

Since first welcoming customers in downtown Terre Haute on December 1, 1869, the bank has expanded to eight locations in Vigo and Clay Counties. Terre Haute Savings Bank has put a focus on supporting local communities and local nonprofit organizations.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Bart Colwell, CEO of Terre Haute Savings Bank, and all employees on a successful 150 years of business. As Terre Haute Savings Bank continues to "Believe in the Valley," I wish them the best in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on November 15, 2019 during roll call no. 617, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 4863, Torres of California Amendment No. 2. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 618, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 4863, Flores of Texas Amendment No. 3. Had I been present, I would have voted "no." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 619, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 4863, McAdams of Utah Amendment No. 4. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 620, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 4863, Davidson of Ohio Amendment No. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 621, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 4863, Stevens of Michigan Amendment No. 18. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 622, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 4863, Torres Small of New Mexico Amendment No. 21. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 623, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 4863, United States Export Finance Agency Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 624, On Passage, H.R. 4863, United States Export Finance Agency Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING ISAAC DANIEL CONNER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Isaac Daniel Conner. Isaac is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Isaac has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Isaac has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Isaac has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Isaac Daniel Conner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR KYLE
STACK'S LIFE AND LEGACY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Kyle Stack for her lifetime of service. Mayor Stack passed away on November 29, 2019 which greatly saddened our community. Her work as Mayor of the City of Trenton is worthy of commendation.

Mayor Stack served for 26 years as the city clerk, before being elected as mayor in 2011. During this time, she was the only Master Municipal Clerk in Wayne County for several years. As mayor, she was instrumental in addressing the very real issue of trains blocking crossings for too long, bringing together the Michigan Department of Transportation, Community and State Leaders to resolve this problem. Mayor Stack also worked diligently on the redevelopment of the McLouth Steel plant. She served on the Trenton Rotary Scholarship Committee, Trenton High School Hockey Team's John McKay Scholarship Selection Committee, and was the first woman president of the Trenton Rotary Club.

Mayor Stack's life stands as a role model of selfless service and demonstrates a tremendous love for her community. Beloved for her generosity and tenacity, Mayor Stack's reputation is a testament to the significant impact she had on Trenton and its residents. Her dedicated work has been critical in building and expanding the thriving community of Trenton. Mayor Stack was a champion for the residents of Trenton, a mentor to her colleagues, and her visionary leadership continues to inspire the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor Kyle Stack for a lifetime of service to her community. We are grateful for her dedicated work and her compassion and leadership will be greatly missed.

IN SUPPORT OF HISTORICALLY
BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, more than one quarter of all undergraduate students in the United States attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions. These schools play a critical role in unlocking higher education opportunities for millions of degree-seekers, including students of color and low-income students, of which many are the first in their family to attend college.

To protect these essential institutions from the threat of closure and financial despair, we must continue to provide them with the resources they need to prepare students for the modern economy.

Title III, Part F of the Higher Education Act authorizes important, mandatory funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority Serving Institutions to educate and prepare students for professions in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, or STEM, fields.

Unfortunately, this critical source of funding expired on September 30, 2019. This lapse jeopardizes the viability of these institutions, as well as the STEM readiness of the students they serve.

At a time when diverse representation is low in the STEM economy, Congress must immediately restore mandatory funding to prevent permanent and irreversible damage to STEM programs at these historic institutions that give students from underserved communities an opportunity to rise above their circumstances.

On September 17, 2019, the House passed the FUTURE Act, an extension of the \$255 million in essential mandatory funding for HBCUs and MSIs. Despite receiving unanimous support in the House, the bill has yet to be considered by the Senate and was not included in the continuing resolution that passed in November.

As Congress considers spending bills for next year, we must restore this vital source of funding that expands opportunities for underrepresented students. It is past time to uphold our promise to support these historic institutions and the students they serve.

STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE
TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S PRO-
POSAL TO INCREASE HUNGER
AND FOOD INSECURITY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I am alarmed and outraged by the Trump Administration's decision to increase hunger and food insecurity for millions of Americans. Governments should strengthen

their people, assist the vulnerable, and improve well-being. Instead, the Trump Administration has advanced a rule change to cut millions of low-income children, families, veterans, people with disabilities, and seniors off their food stamp benefits, or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Trump Administration estimates that at least 3.1 million families would lose their SNAP benefits, including stopping free and reduced school meals for nearly one million children.

In 2017, almost 40 million people, including more than 12.5 million children, experienced food insecurity. In my home state of Illinois, more than 63 percent of SNAP participants are in families with children and almost 30 percent are in families with members who are elderly or disabled. This rule targets the most vulnerable people in my state and across the nation. Even the U.S. Department of Agriculture admits that this Trump policy would exacerbate food insecurity for millions of Americans.

This is unacceptable. Millions of low-income Americans rely on SNAP as the first line of defense against hunger and food insecurity. By imposing this harmful rule, the Trump Administration actually increases hunger and hardship by erecting additional barriers for families and individuals who are trying to meet one of the most basic needs for survival.

I stand in strong opposition to this unnecessary and spiteful rule. The Trump Administration is attempting to impose a policy that Congress has rejected twice in the last two versions of the Farm Bill via bipartisan votes. The policies of this Administration have advantaged the most secure and left working families and our most vulnerable populations behind. As the Trump Administration prioritizes giving trillions of dollars to the most privileged corporations and billionaires, it literally takes food from hungry children. I reject this disgraceful rule and will continue to fight for the people of Chicago and the nation to ensure they receive the food they need. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this proposed rule and demanding that the Trump Administration rescind the rule immediately.

HONORING NATHAN FLETCHER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Fletcher. Nathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan Fletcher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

MASTER SERGEANT JAMES
CHAMBERLAIN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sgt. James Chamberlain of La Veta, Colorado who is retiring from the U.S. Air Force after nearly 30 years of service.

Master Sgt. Chamberlain began his active duty service in 1992 shortly after graduating from Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Law Enforcement. Upon completion of his initial training, he went on to serve in numerous duty positions spanning from news broadcasting to military police security. The Air Force sent him to cities around the world such as Los Angeles, California, Azores, Portugal, and Keflavik, Iceland. His courage and service were exemplified during multiple voluntary deployments to the Middle East. During these deployments Master Sgt. Chamberlain earned dozens of awards and recognitions including the Iraq Campaign Medal with a Bronze Star, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Master Sgt. Chamberlain's military career was simultaneously complemented by his time as a police officer. He left active duty service in September 1996 and returned to his family ranch near Walsenburg, Colorado. It was there that he put his GI bill to use and graduated near the top of his class at the Southern Colorado Law Enforcement Training Academy in Trinidad, Colorado. He was hired as a police officer for the city of La Junta, Colorado in August 1997. He continued his service in the Air Force Reserve as part of the 310th Security Forces Squadron at the newly renamed Schriever Air Force Base outside of Colorado Springs, Colorado, an opportunity he was eager to pursue.

In Walsenburg, the community he has most recently been serving, Master Sgt. Chamberlain was named Distinguished Officer of the Year for the Colorado Police Protective Association and received the Distinguished Service Award by the city. Additionally, he earned the Police Medal of Honor and the Rescuer Award for Valor by Southern Colorado Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Council. This past year, he was even recognized by La Veta Schools on Veterans Day for his service as an Air Force veteran, a testament to what his sacrifices mean to his fellow community members.

Madam Speaker, Master Sgt. Chamberlain's service to his country and enduring work-ethic will continue to have a positive impact on the community for years to come. It is my privilege to recognize him today, and express heartfelt gratitude for the important work he has done throughout his life. I wish him a happy retirement from military service and sincerely hope that he knows how proud his community, the state of Colorado, and the entire country is of his sacrifice and service both as an Airman and a police officer.

HONORING VERA JUENGER

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vera Juenger of Millstadt, Illinois on her upcoming 102nd birthday. Known for her outgoing and active lifestyle, Vera is also recognized for her popular pecans, which she sells to loyal customers who come back year after year.

Born on December 31, 1917, Vera still lives in the home that she and her husband, Albert, built on a large farm in 1962. You can find Vera tending to her pecan trees or driving herself to Ott's fish stand, where she enjoys dinner and a beer with her family every Friday. Her impact on the community was exemplified by the turnout of over 200 people who attended her 100th birthday celebration. This year on her birthday, she plans to go to her favorite sports bar to celebrate with her friends and family.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Vera Juenger on a life that continues to be well-lived. On behalf of Southern Illinois, happy birthday.

HONORING BRIAN JOSEPH KELLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brian Joseph Keller. Brian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Brian has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brian Joseph Keller for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN MEMORY OF GARY MAZZONE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to observe and mourn the passing of retired Police Captain Gary Mazzone of East Windsor, Connecticut. Sadly, Gary's death was the result of a tragic plane accident that occurred on October 2, 2019 at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Connecticut.

Gary's full and productive life touched thousands of his fellow citizens. First, as a police

officer in the town of Vernon, Connecticut where I reside, later as an inspector in the office of Chief State's Attorney, the highest office in the Connecticut criminal justice system, and eventually as the lead Inspector in the office of the Litchfield State's Attorney. Altogether his service in the police and court systems of Connecticut totaled 42 years of diligent, competent, ethical professionalism. As a lawyer in practice in Vernon before entering Congress, I personally witnessed Gary's relentless work ethic, as well as his commitment to upholding the laws and Constitution of the state of Connecticut and the United States. His exemplary service and friendliness made him a natural role model to young officers who served under him as he rose to the rank of Captain. Despite his high rank and the extensive powers that go with it, Gary never "put on airs" and always kept a very grounded perspective on life. He had a great sense of humor and was always willing to listen to an opposing view point with respect and consideration. He was the quintessential American police officer—tough but fair, fearless but human.

As the many accolades and reminiscences poured forth in statewide media and in North Central Connecticut in response to the heart-breaking news, stories abounded not only of his work in public safety, but also of his volunteerism in the town of East Windsor, his support of the special Olympics, and his devotion to honoring our country's veterans.

Madam Speaker, perhaps most powerfully, his family shared with the people of Connecticut stories of his abiding love for his wife Joan, their children Daniel, Brian, Maureen, Kim, and Stacey, and his father Pasquale. He took an active and enthusiastic interest in all their pursuits and successes. In particular, the Hartford Courant sports page published a wonderful story describing his passionate love of high school football, particularly the Stafford/Somers/East Windsor Bulldog high school team that his son Brian coaches. He attended all their games and was always there to positively help his son and the players succeed. Three days after the crash, Brian summoned his father's memory to find the strength to coach the Bulldogs to an emotional victory against rival Valley Regional/Old Lyme. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD, the Courant's story by Mr. Shawn McFarland dated October 6, 2019 which captures so well the essence of Gary's lively spirit, family devotion, and deep impact he made on all who knew him.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me in expressing our profound admiration for Gary Mazzone's lifetime of public service and deepest condolences to his family for their loss.

[From the Hartford Courant, Oct. 6, 2019]

THREE DAYS AFTER HIS FATHER DIED IN THE B-17 CRASH AT BRADLEY AIRPORT, BRIAN MAZZONE IS BACK ON THE SIDELINE COACHING

After each Stafford/Somers/East Windsor football game, Gary Mazzone would be the first to greet his son, Brian, the team's head coach, with a hug. Those close to the team say that Gary never missed a game.

Gary Mazzone, 66, a retired police inspector in the Litchfield State's Attorney's office, was one of seven killed in Wednesday's B-17 crash at Bradley International Airport. Boarding the World War II era bomber was described as a "bucket list" type event for Gary Mazzone, who had a passion for history.

Saturday was Brian Mazzone's first game coaching without his father; the first game in which he wouldn't receive the traditional hug and "post game report," as Stafford assistant Bob Grant described.

As the final seconds ticked off in the Bulldogs' 21-7 win over Valley Regional/Old Lyme, one by one, Stafford players surrounded Brian Mazzone until the entire team had formed one giant hug around their coach. The final whistle blew, and Mazzone—who had remained composed for the entire game—broke into tears.

"I never used to cry, ever," Mazzone said. "My mom died 10 years ago. Once my mom died, you say 'hi' to me and I start crying now. When someone grabs you and hugs you . . . there's a lot of emotion in that."

Mazzone was a walking tribute to his father during the game. He wore Gary's Stafford football hoodie, which Brian picked up early Saturday morning at his father's home in Vernon. He wore a camouflage Bulldog hat, an homage to his father's love for hunting. Mazzone said he had gotten the hat for his father as a Christmas gift years back, and ironically enough, Gary Mazzone had requested a normal Bulldog cap instead. Brian Mazzone then went and got a camouflage hat for himself.

"He went to every game," Grant said. "Big Gar was something special. We'd go down and sit in the coach's room, and he'd sit with us. He was one of a kind."

Prior to kickoff, a "moment of celebration" was held in lieu of a standard moment of silence. All in attendance applauded Gary Mazzone's life, as Brian broke down in tears and was consoled by Grant. Brian Mazzone said his dad would have loved it.

"We've been crying a lot, and we've been watching the news," Mazzone said. "[Gary Mazzone] would be patting his chest, going, 'See me on the news? I was on CBS nightly news. You see that? I'm on the front page of the paper.' Every time, even back when he was working, he'd be, 'I'm in the news today. I'm in the news today.' He would eat up the attention. I'm very similar to him."

Mazzone described his dad as "funny as hell" and as a man who was full of life and loved having fun. He was known for his famous prank calls, where he would call a business and apply for an internship, and then never show up. In the days since Gary's passing, Brian has had many reach out to pass along their condolences. Almost all of them have had a new Gary Mazzone prank story to share, too.

Like Gary, Brian is lively. When his team forced a fumble early in the first quarter, Mazzone sprinted onto the field, pumping a fist and pounding his chest. When senior Tyler Ouellete connected with junior Trent Kology on an 84-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter, Mazzone sprinted the length of the field celebrating, nearly stride-for-stride with Kology.

"They always make fun of me when we watch the film and I'm jumping around and running," Mazzone said with a laugh. "If you notice, I run like an idiot. I've got my chest out like this. I don't know who taught me to run."

There was never a doubt for Mazzone that he would coach Saturday's game, though he said it had less to do with his father and more so to do with the fact that he didn't want to rearrange the schedule. The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference granted the team permission to move Saturday's game to a later date, though Mazzone didn't want to force his players to sit through back-to-back bye weeks.

That was to be expected of Mazzone, as his assistants, current and former players will tell you. In the face of an unbearable tragedy, his motives were for his team.

"We knew that we had to pick him up, because he's supported us all this time," said Ouellette, who threw two touchdown passes in the win. "We knew that we had to come through and support him. It was great to see him here. We all came together, and we all played hard for him."

Each Bulldog helmet had a "GM" decal in memory of Gary Mazzone. Valley Regional/Old Lyme also wore the decals on their helmets.

Tim King, head coach of the Warriors who opposed the Bulldogs on Saturday, is a long-time friend of Brian Mazzone, and understands what he was going through Saturday. In 2015, King coached two days after his father, George Sr., passed away at age 92.

"It's a football family," King said. "For 48 minutes, you battle on the field. But reality is this type of stuff. When I heard about it, it's the first thing I told our kids. You can worry about grades, you can worry about whatever, but when something happens as horrible as what happened to Brian's dad, that's reality. The game of football means absolutely nothing. All respect in the world, I know exactly what he was going through."

A handful of former Stafford players were in attendance, standing behind the Bulldogs' sideline, many wearing team gear. Mazzone greeted each with a hug following the end of the first quarter.

HONORING AUSTIN MCCOY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Austin McCoy. Austin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 393, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Austin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Austin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Austin has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and become a Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow. Austin has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Austin worked with the Platte Land Trust to build a sign for their new Charlotte Sawyers Nature Area located in Parkville, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Austin McCoy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING LEGAL SERVICES FOR SENIORS

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating Legal Services for Seniors on the occasion of their 35th Anniversary. Beginning in 1985, Legal Services for Seniors

has been dedicated to facilitating attorneys and legal advocates for senior residents of the 20th Congressional District of California. More specifically, Legal Services for Seniors has a history of providing no-cost legal representation to elderly low-income individuals residing in Monterey County who would otherwise not have access to the resources necessary for protecting their legal rights.

Legal Services for Seniors has made it their goal to address and correct legal harm done to Monterey County seniors. They have offices and outreach locations in Seaside, Carmel, Carmel Valley, Pacific Grove, King City, Greenfield, Soledad, Gonzales, Castroville and Monterey. Legal Services for Seniors' attorneys and advocates provide free legal advice and complete legal representation to local seniors in order to address legal problems including physical, financial, and emotional abuse. More than 90,000 seniors have benefited from no-cost legal support over the past 35 years. Many of the issues are very dramatic or life-threatening, and include abuse, Medicare, landlord-tenant conflicts, medical and private insurance issues, Social Security problems, consumer fraud, scams, identity theft, probate guardianships, wills and advance health care directives. Thankfully, approximately 3,000 citizens are assisted with these issues each year by Legal Services for Seniors. In 2018 alone, Legal Services for Seniors restored one million dollars in property fraudulently appropriated by the individuals which prey upon our seniors on the central coast of California.

In addition to direct client representation, Legal Services for Seniors provides community-wide presentations to approximately 2,000 seniors and their family members annually. These presentations provide information regarding issues which are vital to seniors' wellbeing, including recognizing and preventing elder abuse, scams, and consumer fraud as well as providing resources for affordable housing and end of life healthcare and decision-making. These services are crucial to informing citizens of their rights and resources. Additionally, the agency presents information on challenges faced by local seniors through public service announcements, newspaper articles, resource fairs, workshops, and other public venues.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the dedication and commitment to compassion and justice that Legal Services for Seniors provides to the 20th Congressional District. We are fortunate to have this non-profit establishment call the Central Coast home as the only nonprofit agency in Monterey County providing no-cost legal services to our elderly residents. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 35th Anniversary of Legal Services for Seniors.

HONORING MR. CEDRIC FLOUNORY

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mr. Cedric Flounory for his many years of federal service to the Internal Revenue Service, on the occasion of his retirement.

During his forty years of public service, Mr. Cedric Flounory has worked tirelessly within both the United States Air Force and the Internal Revenue Service. Mr. Flounory rose through the ranks ultimately becoming an Air Force Major. Throughout his military service, Mr. Flounory garnered awards for his steadfast dedication, earning the Air Force Good Conduct Award, the Marksmanship Award, and the Meritorious Service Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster. After eight years in the Air Force, Mr. Flounory continued serving the public with a career that has stretched more than thirty years at the Internal Revenue Service. A caring professional, Mr. Flounory has been praised for his work at the IRS, receiving awards like Employee of the Month and a Performance Award. His service both on the ground through military service and in the office through the Internal Revenue Service, portrays his dedication to the nation.

In short, Mr. Cedric Flounory has honorably served our country and the people of the 13th Congressional District. Please join me in honoring him for his forty years of federal service as we wish him well on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF BALLET WEST'S THE NUTCRACKER

HON. BEN McADAMS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. McADAMS. Madam Speaker, this December, Utahns and visitors to my state are breathlessly waiting for the curtain to go up on the 75th anniversary of a beloved holiday tradition—Ballet West's performance of "The Nutcracker". This season's \$3 million production restores the original choreography by Ballet West's founder Willam Christensen—or Mr. C—as he was fondly known to dancers and audience members alike. He passed away in 2001 at the age of 99.

Willam Christensen was known as a champion of American ballet, who headed important companies in Portland, San Francisco and Salt Lake City. He was born in 1902, in Brigham City, Utah. In San Francisco, in 1944, Christensen staged the first complete American production of "The Nutcracker." In 1951, Mr. C. moved with his ailing wife to Salt Lake, seeking a better climate for her health. He began teaching ballet at the University of Utah and founded what would become Ballet West in 1968. His production of "The Nutcracker" soon became a Utah holiday sensation. Many an aspiring young Utah male or female dancer traces the start of a career from being on stage in "The Nutcracker" party scene, where the story unfolds of young Clara's dream journey into the magical land of the Sugar Plum Fairy. Thousands of Utah children and their parents and grandparents have been transported from their seats in a darkened theatre to a place with waltzing snowflakes and a marvelous dancing bear.

When Ballet West performed "The Nutcracker" at the Kennedy Center in December of 2018, the Washington Post's dance critic wrote: "This is not only a beautifully danced and gorgeously designed production. It's also historic. The result is a fine balance of textural spectacle and elegant dancing."

The dancers, musicians, stage crew and artistic directors of this marvelous company have provided many Utah audiences with priceless holiday memories. It is my honor to congratulate them on this 75th anniversary, together with a wish for 75 more years of successful performances.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, I missed votes the week of November 18, 2019, due to full-time military duties with the South Carolina Air National Guard. Had I been present, I would have voted: Yea on Roll Call No. 625; Yea on Roll Call No. 626; Nay on Roll Call No. 627; Nay on Roll Call No. 628; Nay on Roll Call No. 629; Nay on Roll Call No. 630; Nay on Roll Call No. 631; Nay on Roll Call No. 632; Nay on Roll Call No. 633; Yea on Roll Call No. 634; Yea on Roll Call No. 635; Yea on Roll Call No. 636; Yea on Roll Call No. 637; Yea on Roll Call No. 638; Yea on Roll Call No. 639; Nay on Roll Call No. 640; Nay on Roll Call No. 641; and Nay on Roll Call No. 642.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE VANECEK

HON. RO KHANNA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, today I honor the life of George Vanecek, a key leader in the development of the internet and Silicon Valley. He passed away this September at the age of 61.

Born in Prague, Czech Republic, George escaped his home country as a boy with his family during the Prague Spring of 1968 after refusing to join the Czech Communist Party. They settled in the Oregon mountains. He was proud of his adoptive home and believed deeply in its promise of opportunity.

It was this appreciation that drove George's career, but it was his brilliant mind that steered it. George was not only an award-winning programmer at a young age; he was also a talented painter. He applied this artistry to the field of computing. After completing his PhD in computer science, George helped pioneer the first http servers at the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) before bringing the world wide web to Purdue University, where he was a professor of computer science and won the Excellence in Teaching Award early in his academic tenure. Then, at AT&T Labs Internet Platforms Division in San Jose, he oversaw the development of a vast platform for internet commerce. George co-founded several companies, working in areas like telecommunications and the early internet of things (IoT). George did this work with pride in the opportunity he had been given when he came to America. He cared deeply about giving back by developing systems in which computers enhanced human capacity. With an eye to the future, George's creativity and vision allowed him to become a leader in his field.

In his final position as Vice President and Chief Architect of Technical Architecture at FICO, he worked on solutions to today's big problems, like fraud detection and algorithmic bias, designing and overseeing the construction of a data streaming platform that could derive intelligent decisions from large amounts of data in real time. Perhaps more strikingly, George was known among his peers for showing up in the office wearing full leather, having just parked the Aprilia Tuono motorcycle he rode between lanes of traffic into the Santa Clara office each morning, not far from my district office.

George was not only a scientist but was also a friend and mentor to many throughout his career and life. He volunteered his time helping small business owners get started in his community. He was a scuba diver, a glider pilot, and a world traveler. He and his family foraged for mushrooms along California's many hiking trails and explored its wineries and local breweries. Madam Speaker, George was a Bay Area man through and through, and I'm proud to recognize him today for his contributions to our community.

HONORING THE HOLLISTER SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ACCELERATED ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work of the students, teachers, and staff at the Accelerated Achievement Academy (AAA) in the Hollister School District. AAA has been recognized in 2019 as a National Blue Ribbon School for fostering an innovative, multi-dimensional learning environment for students across the central coast of California.

The Accelerated Achievement Academy is one of the highest achieving schools in California, using evidence-based professional development and instructional practices in the classroom to engage students in transformative, real-world learning. AAA works with a Project-Based Learning (PBL) model that pushes students to develop deep content knowledge along with critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills. Through the PBL model, students interact with businesses, organizations, and their community. These interactions instill in them a sense of agency and purpose and a complex understanding of the world around them and their place in it.

The teachers and staff at Accelerated Achievement Academy are deeply committed to developing bright and high-achieving students into kind and compassionate individuals. Each classroom creates a social contract, an agreement of behavior that builds peer-instructor relational skills to raise the social and emotional capacity of each individual student. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the achievement and hard work of AAA.

IN RECOGNITION OF NICK GUILLETTE BECOMING THE CERTIFIED CROP ADVISER CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nick Guilette of Casco, Wisconsin for receiving the Certified Crop Adviser Conservationist of the Year award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). His leadership in agriculture conservation practices contributes greatly to Wisconsin's agricultural industry and set an excellent example of stewardship to the community and the environment.

Nick has a lifelong commitment to agriculture, growing up on his family's farm where they tended over 300 acres of land. He has dedicated his professional career to conservation efforts, excelling in positions such as Advanced Nutrient Management and GPS Technician, Certified Crop Adviser and Agronomist, and Demonstration Farm Project Manager. Utilizing his background in resource management and soil health, Nick provides guidance to local farms as well as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) within the USDA.

Nick partners with NRCS through his role as Demonstration Farm Project Manager. He works with producers through the Door-Kewaunee Watershed Demonstration Farm Network striving to protect the Great Lakes from excess nutrients and sediment leaving the rural landscape. Nick participates as an educator at field days, farm tours, workshops, and demonstration events on crop and nutrient management practices that build soil health and reduce erosion.

In addition to his partnership with the USDA, Nick is vital in furthering soil and water conservation efforts throughout Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional district. He actively participates in my Save the Bay initiative by lending his expertise at Door/Kewaunee Watershed workgroup meetings. He also played a key role in planning and leading a Save the Bay Field Day, showcasing new techniques in conservation farming to more than 125 producers and members of the agricultural community.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in thanking Nick for his commitment to land conservation and dedication to Wisconsin's agricultural industry. Northeast Wisconsin is fortunate to have citizens like Nick engaged in promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

RECOGNIZING KIM HERMAN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE WASHINGTON STATE HOUSING FINANCE COMMISSION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Kim Herman, Executive Director of the Washington State

Housing Finance Commission, on his retirement.

Kim Herman has served as Executive Director of the Commission since its beginning in 1984, guiding the organization through changing economic conditions and championing affordable housing in Washington State and across the country. Under Mr. Herman's leadership, the Commission has helped over 73,000 families become homeowners and assisted the development of 128,000 affordable multifamily housing units statewide. The Commission utilizes the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, the private market, and community partnerships to help families build a solid foundation with accessible and affordable housing. Last year, Mr. Herman was inducted into the national Affordable Housing Hall of Fame, a well-deserved recognition of his decades of work helping Washington State's most disadvantaged citizens, including seniors, farmworkers, and people experiencing homelessness, as well as moderate-income families.

Mr. Herman has built and supported the capacity of housing organizations throughout Washington. He helped to create the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance and has served on the boards of countless organizations and policy groups, including the Governor's Affordable Housing Advisory Board and Impact Capital.

Mr. Herman's work in housing has expanded not only the Commission's expertise, but the capacity of housing organizations throughout the state and the country by dedicating his time to multiple leadership positions at the National Council of State Housing Agencies and the National Rural Housing Coalition.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize Kim Herman's dedication to expanding access to affordable homes and congratulate him on his retirement from his longtime service to the communities of Washington State.

CONGRATULATING THE EAST ST. LOUIS FLYERS

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the East St. Louis Flyers for winning the Football 6A State Championship. After breezing past their opponents by a score of 43–21 in the finals, the team secured a perfect 14–0 record and their third state championship title under coach Darren Sunkett.

After the tragic and untimely loss of two players, Jermaine Falconer and Jaylon McKenzie, earlier this year, the Flyers found the inspiration to carry on and honor the memory of their fallen teammates. Despite incredibly difficult circumstances, the Flyers excelled on the field, outscoring their opponents by an average of over 36 points per game. These young men put their hearts into every game, and their hard work paid off with an accomplishment that they can be proud of for the rest of their lives.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the players, coaches, and families of the East St. Louis Senior High School football

team for their incredible season. Southern Illinois is proud of them.

CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF THE LOWER EASTSIDE ACTION PLAN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detroit's lower eastside communities for their ten years of engagement in the Lower Eastside Action Plan.

The Lower Eastside Action Plan, known commonly as LEAP, started through community group engagement in order to address disinvestment and structure demolition in Detroit's east side neighborhoods. The program has successfully engaged more than five thousand residents to strengthen neighborhood ties and repurpose vacant land. Residents working hand in hand have been able to reduce blight, prevent tax foreclosure, enhance public green spaces, and so much more.

Please join me in salute to the countless Detroit residents who have made the Lower Eastside Action Plan a successful community venture for the past ten years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CONOR LAMB

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. LAMB. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen travel delays I missed two votes on December 3, 2019.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 643, and YEA on Roll Call No. 644.

CONGRATULATING JUSTIN LOPEZ-CARDOZE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Justin Lopez-Cardoze, a seventh-grade life science teacher at Capital City Public Charter School, for being named the 2020 District of Columbia Teacher of the Year.

The DC Teacher of the Year award is granted each year to a public or public charter school teacher who is dedicated to student growth, and creating connections with families and communities, and who provides high-quality instruction.

Lopez-Cardoze, whose father was born in El Salvador, is the first Latino recipient of the DC Teacher of the Year award. He follows in the footsteps of the 2019 DC Teacher of the Year, Kelly Harper, who was the first DC teacher to become a finalist in the national competition for teacher of the year since 2005.

Lopez-Cardoze is a devoted teacher. He views his work as a way to pay back the

scholarship he won as a student, which made it possible for him to attend the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and become a teacher. The award comes with \$7,500 and makes Lopez-Cardoze eligible for the National Teacher of the Year award. Lopez-Cardoze is still paying off his student loans but he has pledged to use \$5,000 of his award, and to double that amount through fundraising, to create a scholarship fund to allow a student at Capital City Public Charter school to go to college.

His concern for his students is unfailing. When a student with sickle cell anemia approached him about proposed cuts to the National Institutes of Health, he led his students in developing an organization to educate the public about diseases often found among people of color.

In his three years at Capital City Public Charter School, in Northwest DC, Lopez-Cardoze has made himself an integral part of the community. He serves as the school's Science Department chair, seventh-grade team lead and middle school representative on the school's Equity Core Committee. As a member of the Equity Core Committee, he co-creates diversity, equity and inclusion sessions for staff and works to create a more culturally competent learning environment for his students.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Justin Lopez-Cardoze for being named the 2020 District of Columbia Teacher of the Year and for his commitment and dedication to DC students.

HONORING SISTER PAULETTE LOMONACO

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Sister Paulette LoMonaco, a cherished public servant and respected New York leader. Sister Paulette has dedicated her life to helping the vulnerable children, youth and families of New York City, most recently as the executive director of Good Shepherd Services. As she retires this year, I wanted to pay homage to the work she has accomplished on behalf of so many New Yorkers.

Sister Paulette was Good Shepherd Services' longest serving executive director, holding the position for 37 years and serving the agency for a total of 50 years. Under Paulette's leadership, Good Shepherd Services transformed from a small provider of out-of-home care for vulnerable girls into one of the largest youth social services agencies in New York City. Today, the agency works with 30,000 children, youth and families annually as well as informs policy debates and innovative models concerning youth outcomes within New York City and beyond.

Notably, Sister Paulette's unwavering commitment to the welfare of children and families has led to prominence and respect with city and state leadership. In fact, Sister Paulette fearlessly engaged with mayors and the archdiocese, fighting for accountability on social issues and, ultimately, modernizing New York City's conception of a nun in the 21st century.

For her efforts to expand opportunities for nontraditional education and support disconnected families, Sister Paulette has been honored by countless organizations. Not only was she selected by City & State as one of New York's 50 Over 50 and Power 100, but also as a recipient for the Lewis Hine Award and Robin Hood Hero Award. During her tenure at Good Shepherd Services, the agency received The New York Times' Company Excellence Award in 2007 and Crain's Best Place to Work in 2014 Award. Sister Paulette also pioneered the city's first ever transfer school in partnership with the New York City Department of Education and helped reshape the city's foster care system.

Madam Speaker, the people of New York owe a debt of gratitude to Sister Paulette for her years of service. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting her as she moves on to her next phase of life. I wish her and her family all the best and thank her for all she has done for New York's youth.

HONORING MR. FELIPE 'TRES'
BARRERA

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Felipe 'Tres' Barrera, a member of the Washington Nationals 2019 World Series Champions and a Rio Grande Valley Native.

Tres Barrera is an incredibly talented professional baseball catcher for the Washington Nationals. He was born in Eagle Pass, Texas, and moved to the Rio Grande Valley when he was 10 years old. Tres played on the baseball team for Hidalgo High School his freshman year, winning the District 32-3A Most Valuable Player award, before transferring to Sharyland High School. At Sharyland High School, Tres played football and baseball, and quickly became a standout athlete and student. He was selected to two all-state teams, and won the 30-5A Most Valuable Player and the All-Valley Player of the Year as a senior. His batting average was an astonishing .452, hitting 22 home runs during his time at Sharyland High School.

Tres' incredible work ethic, determination, and sheer talent earned him a spot on the renowned baseball team for the University of Texas at Austin. As a freshman, Tres was the team's starting catcher, won the 2014 College Home Run Derby, and led Texas to the College World Series. His achievements continued on.

During his sophomore year, Tres was a vital part of the University of Texas' Big 12 championship team, while adding his name to the All-Big 12 second team. In his junior year campaign, Tres earned the 2016 Academic All-Big 12 baseball honors and was named an All-Big 12 honorable mention. He left Texas after his junior year to join the minor leagues, but only after walking away with 20 home runs and 106 runs batted in (RBIs) for the University of Texas at Austin.

Tres Barrera's hard work and dedication continued for the next three years as he played for a number of minor league teams before being called up to the Major League

Baseball, MLB, on September 8, 2019, for the Washington Nationals. Being a member of the Nationals, Tres participated in one of the most unlikely runs in the history of professional baseball.

The Nationals' record through 50 games was a poor 19 wins and 31 losses before they won 74 of their next 122 games. This secured the Nationals a wild-card spot in the postseason. The Nationals continued their unlikely playoff run until the very end, where they beat the Houston Astros in seven games, winning the World Series on October 10, 2019. On that day, Tres earned himself the coveted World Series ring.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Tres Barrera worked tirelessly to prove that with determination, will power, and commitment, we can accomplish anything we set ourselves to do in life. Tres made history, gave young people across our country the hope to achieve anything they set their mind to and for that I stand here today to recognize him. He is a proud son of South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, and we appreciate him for his work and dedication to the Washington Nationals.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF VICTORIA J. POLLYEA

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and contributions of a tireless leader of the Tampa community, Victoria "Vicki" J. Pollyea.

Vicki was born and raised in Tampa, Florida. At an early age, Vicki learned how to take on challenges after being diagnosed with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMT). Vicki used her hard earned ability to "fight through" for herself and others her entire life. For example, having to undergo strenuous physical therapy in her youth, inspired her to pursue Occupational Therapy so she could be a source of strength and healing for others.

After graduating Summa Cum Laude from the University of Florida, Vicki worked as a pediatric occupational therapist until CMT forced her to retire. Again, even though she retired early from formal work, she kept her skills honed and never ceased using them to help others. And, being unable to continue practicing as an occupational therapist, she used her strength and energy to plunge into advocacy for CMT. She served as the web page moderator for Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association (CMTA); realized the impact that CMT had on her neighbors in Tampa and helped found the CMTA Tampa branch. Vicki then became a branch leader and a Support Group Leader for CMTA. She was always there for the newly diagnosed as a shining real-life example of perseverance.

Vicki's involvement and commitment to the Tampa community grew when she co-founded the Bayshore Gardens Neighborhood Association. She served as president for more than two decades. In addition to her position, she hosted annual holiday gatherings for neighbors, including many who didn't have anywhere else to go. Vicki also served on the Mayor's Neighborhood Task Force and helped

draft the City of Tampa's tree-protection code and her efforts to improve Bayshore Boulevard are evident every day.

Vicki used her voice to advocate for her South Tampa neighborhood and indeed the entire city. She helped manage the urban forest and ensured all neighborhoods had their voices heard. Shortly before her death, the Tampa City Council honored her with a commendation for her community service and a CMT walk-n-roll event has been named in her honor.

Vicki is survived by her husband, Archie Giannella; sister and brother-in-law, Lisa and Gordon; niece, Claire; stepson, Brock Heinz; godson, John Helmiere, Randi, John, and many beloved cousins. She also leaves behind a community of children, from babies to adults with babies of their own, who cherish her as a beloved "aunt".

Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful and saddened Tampa community, I am proud to honor Victoria J. Pollyea's life. Vicki was admired by her neighbors for her advocacy and her will to never let any challenge dim her passion to help others. Her devotion to her neighbors and Tampa inspires us still and will live on always in our hearts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast roll call votes on November 20th and November 21st. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: on roll call 632, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 633, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 634, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 635, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 636, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 637, I would have voted No; on roll call 638, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 639, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 640, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 641, I would have voted Aye; and on roll call 642, I would have voted Aye.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR EUGENE PARKISON FOR HIS 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LEXINGTON COMMUNITY

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Eugene Parkison, for the forty years he has dedicated to Lexington, Ohio and the surrounding area.

Mayor Parkison's career, now spanning more than four decades, exemplifies a selfless commitment to public service. After being appointed to a Lexington City Council seat in 1978, Gene was sworn in as Mayor in 1983. Today, with more than 35 years in this role, he is now the longest-tenured mayor in Richland County history.

As a holder of public office, Mayor Parkison has continually gone above and beyond his call of duty. His dedication has manifested

itself in countless ways over the years, including in his recent effort to collect and donate several boxes of clothing, shoes, and blankets to victims of Hurricane Harvey in 2017. For his remarkable service, Gene has been honored with several awards, including the proclamation of Eugene R. Parkison Day—which has been celebrated in Lexington on July 1st of every year since 2013.

Admired and respected by all, many current and former Lexington City councilman have cited Gene as an important mentor in their lives—both professionally and personally. However, beyond his work in local government, Gene has served the Lexington community in a number of other capacities as well, including as a member of the Catholic Charities Board.

As family, friends, and Lexington gather to recognize Gene's outstanding career, I salute him for his ongoing commitment to service above self. Mayor Parkison can take great pride in all he has accomplished and in the positive impact that his work has—and will continue to—have.

I thank Gene for his devotion to bettering Lexington, Ohio and in turn, I honor him for his incredible record of achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, due to personal reasons, I was not able to vote on Thursday, November 21, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 637; YEA on Roll Call No. 638; YEA on Roll Call No. 639; YEA on Roll Call No. 640; YEA on Roll Call No. 641; YEA on Roll Call No. 642; YEA on Roll Call No. 643; and YEA on Roll Call No. 644.

IN SUPPORT OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus is leading a Special Order Hour discussing support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions. Congress must provide mandatory funding for these institutions.

Fighting for historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) is one of the Congressional Black Caucus's highest priorities because HBCUs are critical contributors to the strength of the Black community and our country.

Many Members in our caucus have attended great HBCUs such as American Baptist College, Central State University, Clark Atlanta University, Fisk University, Florida A&M, Howard University, Jackson State University, Morehouse College, North Carolina A&T State University, North Carolina Central University, Prairie View A&M University, South Carolina State University, Texas Southern University, Tougaloo College, Tuskegee University, Virginia State University, Virginia Union University, and Wiley College among others.

In the 115th Congress, the CBC launched a tour of HBCUs called #CBCOnTheYard. The goal of the tour was to listen, involve, and mobilize students to effect change in their communities and to get their thoughts on the direction of the country and issues that affect their lives. The CBC hosted events at Morehouse College, Xavier University, Bowie State University, and Howard University.

According to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, HBCUs account for 22 percent of current bachelor's degrees granted to African Americans. Moreover, among African Americans, 13 percent of CEOs, 40 percent of engineers, 40 percent of health care professionals, 50 percent of teachers, 50 percent of non-HBCU professors, 50 percent of lawyers, 80 percent of judges, and 90 percent with bachelor's degrees in STEM subjects graduated from an HBCU.

The economic impact of HBCUs is equally impressive. A report by the UNCF called HBCUs Make America Strong: The Positive Economic Impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities shows that HBCUs generate \$14.8 billion in economic impact annually.

HBCUs are vital to the students who attend them and the entire country, which makes use of the valuable skills these graduates bring to the private and public sectors.

Our nation must continue to invest in HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 10

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Securities and Exchange Commission.

SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the upcoming implementation of the International Maritime Organization's new global sulfur standard for marine fuels, which is set to take effect on January 1, 2020.

SD-366

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine encryption and lawful access, focusing on evaluating benefits and risks to public safety and privacy.

SD-226

DECEMBER 11

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 2641, to promote United States national security and prevent the resurgence of ISIS, and other pending calendar business.

S-116

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Inspector General's report on alleged abuses of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

To hold an oversight hearing to examine modernization of the United States Copyright Office.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold closed hearings to examine an update on the situation and United States strategy in Afghanistan.

SVC-217

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael D. Weahkee, of New Mexico, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-628

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jovita Carranza, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6829–S6862

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2972–2981, and S. Res. 446–447. **Page S6858**

Measures Passed:

Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. 760, to enable registered apprenticeship programs to better serve veterans, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6837–39**

Peters Amendment No. 1254, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6838**

Tributes in Honor of the Late Senator Hagan: Senate agreed to S. Res. 446, authorizing the printing of tributes and other related materials in honor of the late Senator Janet Kay Hagan. **Page S6861**

Government Publishing Office: Senate passed H.R. 5277, to amend section 442 of title 18, United States Code, to exempt certain interests in mutual funds, unit investment trusts, employee benefit plans, and retirement plans from conflict of interest limitations for the Government Publishing Office. **Page S6861**

Myers Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Richard Ernest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina. **Pages S6829–36**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 72 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. EX. 375), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6836**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, December 5, 2019. **Page S6862**

Lydon Nomination: By 79 yeas to 14 nays (Vote No. EX. 376), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Sherri A. Lydon,

to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. **Pages S6836–37**

Duncan Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service. **Page S6837**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 91 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. EX. 377), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6837**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 75 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. EX. 378), John L. Sinatra, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York. **Pages S6841–42**

By 49 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 379), Sarah E. Pitlyk, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri. **Page S6842**

By 64 yeas to 29 nays (Vote No. EX. 380), Douglas Russell Cole, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio. **Pages S6842–43**

By 89 yeas to 4 nays (Vote No. EX. 381), R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama. **Page S6843**

By 88 yeas to 4 nays (Vote No. EX. 382), David B. Barlow, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah. **Page S6843**

Hugh Nathaniel Halpern, of Virginia, to be Director of the Government Publishing Office. **Page S6851**

Messages from the House: **Page S6855**

Measures Referred: **Pages S6855–56**

Executive Communications: **Pages S6856–58**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6858–60**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S6860**

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S6860–61**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S6861

Record Votes: Eight record votes were taken today. (Total—382) Pages S6836–37, S6841–43

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:59 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 5, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6862.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NAVY SHIP AND SUBMARINE MAINTENANCE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on SeaPower concluded a joint hearing with the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support to examine Navy ship and submarine maintenance, after receiving testimony from James F. Geurts, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, and Vice Admiral Thomas J. Moore, USN, Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command, both of the Department of Defense; and Diana C. Maurer, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, Government Accountability Office.

SUICIDES AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine servicemember, family, and veteran suicides and prevention strategies, after receiving testimony from Captain Michael J. Colston, USN, Director for Mental Health Programs, Health Services Policy and Oversight Office, and Karin A. Orvis, Director, Defense Suicide Prevention Office, Office of the Secretary, both of the Department of Defense; Matthew A. Miller, Acting Director, Suicide Prevention Program, Department of Veterans Affairs; Richard McKeon, Suicide Prevention Branch Chief, Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; and Ronald C. Kessler, Harvard Medical School Department of Health Care Policy, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

PROTECT CONSUMER DATA PRIVACY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine legislative proposals to protect consumer data privacy, after receiving testimony from Julie Brill, Microsoft Corporation, Maureen K. Ohlhausen, 21st Century Privacy Coalition, Laura Moy, Georgetown University Law Center, Nuala O'Connor, Walmart Inc., and Michelle Richardson, Center for Democracy and Technology, all of Washington, D.C.

FWS CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TASK FORCE

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine an original bill to create a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force, after receiving testimony from Brian R. Nesvik, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and Whit Fosburgh, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, both of Washington, D.C.; and Kent A. Leonhardt, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Charleston.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION OVERSIGHT

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Millennium Challenge Corporation, after receiving testimony from Sean Cairncross, Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation.

LEBANON AND IRAQ PROTESTS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism concluded a hearing to examine Lebanon and Iraq protests, focusing on insights, implications, and objectives for United States policy, after receiving testimony from Joey R. Hood, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Department of State.

NOMINATION

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Paul J. Ray, of Tennessee, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Blackburn, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, who was introduced by Senator Shelby, Fernando L. Aenlle-Rocha, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, John Charles Hinderaker, and Scott H. Rash, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, who were introduced by Senators McCally and Sinema, Joshua M. Kindred, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, who was introduced by Senator Sullivan, and Matthew Thomas Schelp, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, who was introduced by Senator Blunt, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 11 public bills, H.R. 5294–5304 were introduced.

Pages H9255–56

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H9256–57

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 741, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 326) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution (H. Rept. 116–322).

Page H9255

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H9225

Recess: The House recessed at 10:34 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H9229

Insider Trading Prohibition Act and directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic that have not been authorized by Congress—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 739, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2534) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit certain securities trading and related communications by those who possess material, nonpublic information, and relating to consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 77) directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic that have not been authorized by Congress, by a yea-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 196 nays, Roll No. 646, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 226 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 645.

Pages H9230–35, H9245–46

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act: S. 151, amended, to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 417 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 647.

Pages H9235–45, H9246–47

Consensus Calendar: Representative DeFazio presented to the clerk a motion to place on the Consensus Calendar the bill H.R. 2382, to amend title 5, United States Code, to repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service prepay future retirement benefits, it having accumulated 290 co-sponsors.

Page H9255

Recess: The House recessed at 3:43 p.m. and reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

Page H9254

Senate Referral: S. 760 was held at the desk.

Page H9254

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H9254.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9245, H9246, and H9246–47. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Committee Meetings

GROWING UP IN FEAR: HOW THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES ARE HARMING CHILDREN

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Growing Up in Fear: How the Trump Administration’s Immigration Policies Are Harming Children”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUILDING CONSUMER CONFIDENCE BY EMPOWERING FDA TO IMPROVE COSMETIC SAFETY

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Building Consumer Confidence by Empowering FDA to Improve Cosmetic Safety”. Testimony was heard from Susan Mayne, Director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

FLU SEASON: U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Flu Season: U.S. Public Health Preparedness and Response”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Health and Human Services officials: Nancy Messonnier, M.D., Director, National Center

for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., Director, National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health; Robert P. Kadlec, M.D., Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response; and Peter Marks, M.D., Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

OVERSIGHT OF PRUDENTIAL REGULATORS: ENSURING THE SAFETY, SOUNDNESS, DIVERSITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS?

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of Prudential Regulators: Ensuring the Safety, Soundness, Diversity, and Accountability of Depository Institutions?”. Testimony was heard from Rodney Hood, Chairman, National Credit Union Administration; Jelena McWilliams, Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and Randal Quarles, Vice Chairman of Supervision, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEW START TREATY

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Importance of the New START Treaty”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY INTO PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP: CONSTITUTIONAL GROUNDS FOR PRESIDENTIAL IMPEACHMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Impeachment Inquiry into President Donald J. Trump: Constitutional Grounds for Presidential Impeachment”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 722, the “Miracle Mountain Designation Act”; H.R. 1702, the “Free Veterans from Fees Act”; H.R. 2317, the “Peter J. McGuire Labor Day Landmark Act”; H.R. 3094, to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806, and for other purposes; H.R. 3349, the “Republic of Texas Legation Memorial Act”; H.R. 3465, the “Fallen Journalists Memorial Act of 2019”; and H.R. 5068, the “Women Who Worked on the Home Front Commemorative Work Act”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Curtis, Soto, Napolitano, Norton,

and Doggett; R. David Vela, Deputy Director, Operations, Exercising the Authority of the Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Ty Ellis, Mayor, Elk Ridge City, Utah; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States held a hearing on H.R. 1964, the “Lumbee Recognition Act”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BROKEN PROMISES: EXAMINING THE ADMINISTRATION’S RETREAT ON BANNING VAPING FLAVORS

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy held a hearing entitled “Broken Promises: Examining the Administration’s Retreat on Banning Vaping Flavors”. Testimony was heard from Mitch Zeller, Director, Center for Tobacco Products, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT THROUGH A NEGOTIATED TWO-STATE SOLUTION; VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2019

Committee on Rules: Full Committee continued a hearing on H. Res. 326, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution; and held a hearing on H.R. 4, the “Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4, the “Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019”, and H. Res. 326, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4, the “Voting Rights Advancement Act”, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in

the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides for consideration of H. Res. 326, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the resolution. The rule provides that the amendments to the resolution and the preamble recommended by the Committee on Foreign Affairs now printed in the resolution, modified by the amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted and the resolution, as amended, shall be considered as read. Testimony was heard from Representatives Cohen and Biggs.

CALM BEFORE THE STORM: REAUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION PROGRAM

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Technology; and Subcommittee on Environment held a joint hearing entitled “Calm Before the Storm: Reauthorizing the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program”. Testimony was heard from Scott Weaver, Director, National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology; Major General Lee Tafanelli, Adjutant General, Director of Kansas Division of Emergency Management and Kansas Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

EMBRACING CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: SMALL BUSINESS BEST PRACTICES

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Embracing Corporate Social Responsibility: Small Business Best Practices”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine strategic threats, ongoing challenges, and National Defense Strategy implementation, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine financial regulators, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, to hold hearings to examine the evolution of next-generation technologies, focusing on implementing MOBILE NOW, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women’s Issues, to hold hearings to examine illicit mining, focusing on threats to United States national security and international human rights, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “Privatized Housing: Are Conditions Improving for Our Military Families?”, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “Military Health System Reform: A Cure for Efficiency and Readiness?”, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Accountability and Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, hearing entitled “Building a 100 Percent Clean Economy: Solutions for Economy-Wide Deep Decarbonization”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Promoting Financial Stability? Reviewing the Administration’s Deregulatory Approach to Financial Stability”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance, hearing entitled “An Examination of the Federal Housing Administration and Its Impact on Homeownership in America”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 537, the “Bureau of Reclamation Pumped Storage Hydropower Development Act”; H.R. 722, the “Miracle Mountain Designation Act”; H.R. 877, the “Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow’s Needs Act”; H.R. 2642, the “Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act”; H.R. 3742, the “Recovering America’s Wildlife Act of 2019”; H.R. 3977, the “Justice for Native Survivors of Sexual Violence Act”; H.R. 4479, the “Disaster Recovery Workforce Act”; H.R. 4957, the “Native American Child Protection Act”; and

S. 209, the “PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Experts Needed: Options for Improved Science and Technology Advice for Congress”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit; and Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, joint hearing entitled “Where’s My Stuff? Examining the Economic, Environmental, and Societal Impacts of Freight Transportation”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations; and Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, joint hearing entitled “The Status

of the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Financial Management Business Transformation”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4920, the “Department of Veterans Affairs Contracting Preference Consistency Act”; and H.R. 3495, the “Improve Well-Being for Veterans Act”, 2 p.m., HVC–210.

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Rules and Procedures in the U.S. House of Representatives: A Look at Reform Efforts and State Best Practices”, 1:45 p.m., 210 Cannon.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine public diplomacy, democracy, and global leadership, 10 a.m., 1334, Longworth Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, December 5

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Richard Ernest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, post-cloture.

At 12 noon, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Richard Ernest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and Sherri A. Lydon, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

At 1:45 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, December 5

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 2534—Insider Trading Prohibition Act. Consideration of H. Con. Res. 77—Directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic that have not been authorized by Congress.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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