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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. BENTIVOLIO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 13, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KERRY BENTIVOLIO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

SEQUESTER SHOULD APPLY TO PAY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, much has been said about sequestration, but few have mentioned what bothers me the most about it. The pay of Members of Congress is exempted from the sequester. When Members of Congress exempt themselves from the operation of the law, it is not only unfair, it actually violates a core principle of republican government.

There is no less an authority than James Madison who will back me up on this. In The Federalist No. 57, he wrote:

I will add, as a fifth circumstance in the situation of the House of Representatives, restraining them from oppressive measures, that they can make no law which will not have its full operation on themselves and their friends, as well as on the great mass of society. This has always been deemed one of the strongest bonds by which human policy can connect the rulers and the people together. It creates between them that communion of interests and sympathy of sentiments, of which few governments have furnished examples; but without which every government degenerates into tyranny. If it be asked, what is to restrain the House of Representatives from making legal discriminations in favor of themselves and a particular class of the society? I answer: the genius of the whole system; the nature of just and constitutional laws; and above all, the vigilant and manly spirit which actuates the people of America—a spirit which nourishes freedom, and in return is nourished by it.

In the spirit of James Madison, I will be filing legislation to make the sequester apply to the pay of Members of Congress at the first moment that is constitutionally permissible. Members of this body must live under the same rules as everybody else. Our Founding Fathers expected it; the American people demand it.

OUR COUNTRY NEEDS A BALANCED PATH FORWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the House Republican budget unveiled yesterday by Chairman PAUL RYAN is a repeat of the same Tea Party principles that have already been rejected by the American people.

House Republicans are once again determined to place the burden of deficit reduction on the backs of middle class families, while the wealthiest Americans get yet another tax break. After wasting valuable time last Congress voting more than 30 times to repeal health care reform rather than focus on jobs and the economy, the Republican budget again calls for its repeal.

In addition, their budget ends Medicare as we know it, and surprise, surprise, turns it into a voucher program that reduces benefits and leaves seniors paying higher out-of-pocket costs.

While this budget blueprint is still lacking specific details, it is clear that in order to meet the spending targets it outlines, House Republicans would slash investments in key areas that are essential to economic growth and job creation. Education, job training, science, and research will all be on the chopping block in order to reduce the deficit, with little regard for the jobs that would be lost and the impact it would have on our Nation's competitiveness. The Republican budget factors in the sequestration's arbitrary cuts over the next decade, something else that is being rejected by the American people.

For New Mexico, this can mean more cuts to education targeted at low-income and special needs children; painful cuts to tribal communities that jeopardize our responsibilities to Indian country with our trust responsibilities; and cuts that impact funding for Los Alamos National Lab and the small businesses that contract with it, including cuts to important funding for environmental cleanup at LANL.

Regardless of the Republican rhetoric, the math just doesn't add up without steep cuts that will take their toll on New Mexico, threatening services that support the most vulnerable and investments that lay the foundation for a brighter future.

Our country needs a balanced path forward that focuses on growing the economy and providing opportunities for the middle class families. Sadly, the Republican budget fails to meet this goal.

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IT'S TIME TO APPROVE THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, 1,636; that's how many days it has been since the application to build the Keystone XL pipeline was filed. It took Canada just 7 months to approve the pipeline. President Obama has taken 4½ years.

Study after study has shown that not only is the pipeline safe, but it will provide a means of transporting oil that is safer than using trains or trucks. It is also environmentally safe. In fact, when compared to other means of transportation, it is perhaps the most environmentally friendly way to transport oil across our country. It will create thousands of jobs—at least 800 in my home State of Montana—and he still won't make a decision.

Earlier this month, the U.S. State Department issued its Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Keystone XL Presidential permit application, which confirmed what we already knew. The Keystone XL pipeline will have no significant impacts on the environment. In fact, this is the fourth environmental review of the Keystone pipeline—with a final report still to come—even though report after report has stated that the pipeline will not have significant environmental effects.

This report also comes after Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman approved a new route through his State for the Keystone XL pipeline project. Just this past January, I joined 150 other House Members in calling on President Obama to quickly approve the permits for Keystone in light of this new route. That was two months ago, and we have yet to hear anything back from the President.

As a member of the House Energy Action Team, I understand how important this project is to our Nation and to my home State of Montana. Let me be clear—this project means jobs for Montanans. This project could directly create more than 800 good-paying jobs in Montana and thousands more across the Nation.

It means coming one step closer to North American energy independence. The Keystone XL would be able to move up to 830,000 barrels of oil per day. That is about half the amount that the U.S. presently imports from the Middle East. And of the oil moved each day, 100,000 barrels will come from the Bakken formation, which spreads across Montana and North Dakota.

This isn't about politics. Republicans and Democrats alike support the pipeline. This is about our Nation's security. This is about lowering energy costs for American families. This is about American jobs.

Enough is enough. We can't afford to wait any longer. It has been 1,636 days. It's time for President Obama to approve the Keystone XL pipeline.

□ 1010

HOW ENERGY USE IMPACTS CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of how energy use impacts climate change and to show by example what is being done about it.

Our Nation continues to rely on high-polluting energy sources that threaten our climate and threaten our national security. We need to focus at all levels of government, Federal, State, and local, as well as in the private sector to promote clean energy and energy efficiency. State and Federal facilities, above all else, should be the gold standard for clean energy and energy efficiency.

For example, the Lincoln Unified School District, located in Stockton, California, recently committed to placing solar panels on rooftops throughout the school district. Lincoln was able to purchase these solar panels through low-interest Clean Renewable Energy Bonds to help finance this project that is estimated to save $1 million per year on energy costs. Not only does this project increase use of clean energy sources, but all the savings will be put back into educational programs, so this is truly a win-win for our students.

In addition, the University of the Pacific, also located in Stockton, California, has increased energy efficiency and sustainability. Pacific installed solar panels, energy-efficient lightbulbs in the quad and other locations, installed a robust recycling program, and installed a replacement chiller on its air-conditioning system which uses 52 percent less energy than the old chiller. It's impressive that these advancements were led by both students and faculty at the University of the Pacific.

These are just two examples of why I am introducing the Solar Energy Deployment Act. We need to encourage greater use of solar and other clean energies in our neighborhoods and on public and private lands. The Solar Energy Deployment Act awards grants on a competitive basis to State and local governments to design and install solar equipment on rooftops and above parking lots they own.

I commend the efforts made by the schools and public entities such as the Lincoln Unified School District, the University of the Pacific, and others across California and the United States that are making a concerted effort to utilize clean energy resources and to become more energy efficient.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, once again I rise to talk about hunger in America and, specifically, the effort to end hunger now.

Mr. Speaker, hunger is still far too prevalent in America. There are more than 50 million people in this country who don't know where their next meal will come from. Seventeen million of those hungry people are children—17 million, Mr. Speaker. That breaks my heart, especially when we have a way to end hunger in this country. It doesn't have to be this way.

The truth is that hunger is solvable. We have the means, the infrastructure, and the food to end hunger. We just don't have the political will to do so.

This point is delivered in a clear, concise, and emotional way in a documentary that is in theaters now called ''A Place at the Table.'' This film at its core may be a simple story of hunger in America, but it's really an emotional tale about how people are struggling with hunger in this country, about piecing just enough together to make ends meet day by day, week by week, and month by month.

These stories are not new and, unfortunately, they aren't unique. We don't have to look far to see a working mother who struggles to provide nutritious food for her children. We don't have to look far to see a young girl who struggles in school simply because hunger prevents her from concentrating in the classroom. We don't have to look far to see food pantries stretched beyond their means as they try to keep up with the demands of feeding the hungry in their communities. And we don't have to look far to see how often the hungry and undernourished are utilizing our health care systems for hunger and nutrition-related conditions.

What is new and unique today is the platform through which we hear these stories and experience what these individuals featured in the film are going through. The stories told by the directors, Kristi Jacobson and Lori Silverbush, weave together the heartbreaking history of how we went from almost ending hunger in America in the late 1970s, thanks in large part to the bipartisan cooperation led by Senator George McGovern and Senator Robert Dole, to now more than 50 million hungry in this country—40 years later, 50 million hungry in this country.

But this isn't just a story of woe, Mr. Speaker. For me, this is also a story of hope and optimism, a story of a difficult struggle, but a struggle fought with dignity. And it is a story that is part of a bigger purpose and goal, and that goal is to end hunger now.

At its heart, the point of this documentary is that we can end hunger now. And I'm pleased and impressed that a strong, coordinated social action plan accompanies this film.

This comprehensive plan can be found online at www.takepart.com/table, and I encourage everyone to take a look at this Web site. Once there,

people will be able to find important resources, including ways to access food assistance if they need help; an online gallery of artists, politicians, teachers, writers, and business and community leaders who once needed help through SNAP, the primary Federal antihunger safety program that we have in this country; and also, you see a list of partners who are helping combat hunger through this film. Most importantly, it outlines ways that people can help make hunger a national priority, and it includes specific actions that people can take in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, we've had a number of strong antihunger partners over the years, but this is the first time in recent memory that there is a dedicated effort to end hunger tied directly to a mainstream film that is nationally garnering critical acclaim.

The social action plan is based on a simple concept: that people will be moved by individual stories and the facts about hunger documented in this film. When they hear the information, they will want to take action. They will be moved to act in a meaningful way.

Through this Web site, people can take part in simple actions, like contacting their elected officials or volunteering to work with local organizations that are making a difference in their communities, organizations like FRAC, Feeding America, Share Our Strength, Bread for the World, DC Central Kitchen, AmpleHarvest.org, WhyHunger, and Wholesome Wave, just to name a few of the 30 organizations allied with this film.

There is also a book, Mr. Speaker, that accompanies the film that is also of the same name, ''A Place at the Table,'' that explains the issue of hunger and goes over the many ways that each of us can end hunger now.

As I've said over and over again, Mr. Speaker, hunger is a political condition, one that requires action by concerned Americans. Over the past few weeks, we have seen how so many Americans care about this problem and want to be part of the solution to end hunger now.

And I would, once again, Mr. Speaker, urge the President of the United States to take a leadership role, to organize a White House Conference on Food and Nutrition to devise a plan to end hunger now.

Mr. Speaker, with partners like those behind ''A Place at the Table,'' along with their social action plan, we can make a real difference. We can end hunger now.

And it is also my hope, Mr. Speaker, that this Congress will step up to the plate and join in the effort to end hunger now. It is our moral obligation. It is the right thing to do. Now is the time.

''RYANOMICS''—THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, ''Ryanomics,'' the House Republican budget, the so-called path to prosperity, is based upon a fanciful theory of trickle-down economics. This is a well-worn idea that belies the facts that we've seen proven time and time again.

That truth is that giving tax breaks and hollowing out the Tax Code with loopholes for the wealthy, while cutting spending for the social safety net and the poor, while cutting everything else that makes America great, that somehow this is going to create prosperity for all. Indeed, the Republicans have played from this same playbook before, and it has failed.

□ 1020

It has failed again, and it continues to fail. This was an economic theory first proposed by the American hero, Ronald Reagan. They called it Reaganomics. Trickle-down economics is what they liked to say: it would trickle down to the poor. George Herbert Walker Bush called it ''voodoo economics.'' I think he was right on with that because in practicing voodoo, they just ask you to believe. And that's what Ryanomics is proposing for us to do. The numbers just don't add up.

Today, we only have to look at Europe to see the terrible effects of severe austerity. The Republican prescription of cut, cut, cut has been tried, tried, tried repeatedly across Europe and has only exacerbated the problems over there. Now, under the guise of balancing the budget in 10 years, we've got Ryanomics II, or Turbo Ryanomics. They're going to take $15 trillion and balance the budget in 10 years, doubling down on a theory that Americans rejected just last year. Four or 5 months ago, we rejected Ryanomics; but here we have Ryanomics II, or Turbo Ryanomics.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not here to solely criticize the path that Republicans have charted for this House with their budget priorities. In fact, I agree with them that Congress must make difficult choices about future spending. The problem is that all too often this body asks very little of the rich and the powerful, handing out tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires like candy, doing this at the expense of the middle class and the poor. You have seen the income disparity between the top 2 percent and the middle class. The gap continues to widen.

Shared sacrifice should truly be that. It should be something that all Americans share in. Why does Congress continue to give tax breaks to big corporations that outsource jobs but fail to invest in education and scientific research that would help the American economy by creating jobs and reducing unemployment? Why would they continue to give tax breaks to those who don't need them, rather than educating the next generation of workers so that this country can continue to compete and be at the top of the global economy?

Despite the fact that trickle-down economics has been roundly criticized and discredited, my colleagues across the aisle choose to double down on what hasn't worked, and they want to continue to relentlessly cut, cut, cut the programs and the services that Americans depend on every day and which help drive our economy. I believe we must reduce our debt—and we must do that in a responsible and sensible way that slows spending over time. We can no longer leave working Americans behind while we allow the wealthy to walk away with the largest share of national prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the CPC, the CBC, and the Democratic budgets that keep our promises and invest in what works to grow the middle class.

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

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all who call upon Your name. Send Your Spirit to fill their hearts with those divine gifts You have prepared for them.

May Your grace find expression in their compassion for the weak and the poor among us, and may Your mercy encourage goodwill in all they do and accomplish this day.

As the Members of the people's House face the demands of our time, grant them and us all Your peace and strength, that we might act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with You.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. COFFMAN 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

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

SELECTIVE SERVICE

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, in 1972, I volunteered to serve in the United States Army at a time when young men were still being drafted into our military. The last draftees were inducted into the United States Army in 1973, and 2 years later, given the success of the all-volunteer Army, the requirement for young men to register with Selective Service ended.

In a symbolic show of strength to the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan, President Jimmy Carter asked Congress to reinstate the Selective Service System in 1980. Congress did so, and to this day all males are required by law to register with the Selective Service System within 30 days of their 18th birthday. However, despite the first gulf war, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, conscription has never been considered as a viable option by our military.

Mr. Speaker, my bill, H.R. 978, will end the registration requirement and dismantle the outdated Selective Service bureaucracy—saving the taxpayers over $24 million a year—and I urge its adoption.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Buffalo River is identified by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative as one of 43 areas of concern in the Great Lakes watershed. In 2011, a coalition of corporate and community partners teamed up with State and local governments to begin a multimillion-dollar cleanup of the Buffalo River. Unfortunately, sequestration and uncertainty about a new Federal budget threaten to delay this project.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes are a unique national treasure with global significance. They are the largest source of surface freshwater on Earth, containing 20 percent of the world's supply. They contain 95 percent of America's freshwater, and they support 1.5 million jobs and $62 billion in wages in the shipping, recreation, and fishing industries.

Preservation of our Great Lakes has both environmental and economic impacts and has always enjoyed bipartisan support. We cannot afford to allow sequestration to halt critical projects like the Buffalo River cleanup. I urge my colleagues to repeal the sequester and protect funding for the Great Lakes restoration.

REFUNDABLE CHILD TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, each year, billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars are wasted due to abuse of the $1,000 refundable child tax credit. Instead of hitting up taxpayers for even more taxes, Washington needs to go after these billions of dollars that are fraudulently wasted.

It's time to end this sham. That's why I have reintroduced commonsense legislation, H.R. 556, that stops this abuse by requiring tax filers to provide their Social Security number in order to receive this tax credit, just like we do for the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Congress' nonpartisan tax scorekeeper, the Joint Committee on Taxation, has found that my bill would save taxpayers an estimated $24.4 billion over the next 10 years. With the dire need to get our fiscal house in order, this simple, commonsense fix can go a long way toward protecting precious taxpayer dollars by stamping out waste, fraud, and abuse. It's time to get this done.

RYAN BUDGET

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the House Budget Committee, I understand well the challenges of budgeting for our Nation's future. Unfortunately, the budget introduced by House Republicans this week fails at its most fundamental tasks: protecting the middle class and laying the groundwork for strong economic growth.

As it has for the last 2 years, the Ryan budget once again makes deep cuts to Medicare, as it also repeals a host of Federal measures making health insurance affordable for middle class families. It replaces the security of Medicare with a voucher that will lose its value over time—driving many middle class seniors into poverty—and makes deep cuts to education, transportation and infrastructure, and public health and safety, gutting society's basic functions without which businesses can't find educated workers, move their products to market, or operate safely.

Voters roundly rejected this approach only a few months ago. I call on my colleagues to reject this budget and join me in supporting a balanced approach to deficit reduction.

□ 1210

COAL

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I was recently visiting with my constituents in Nicholas County, Kentucky, when I learned about the latest casualty in the Obama administration's war on coal. Joy Global, a manufacturer of underground mining equipment, operates a plant in neighboring Bourbon County. The news had just broken that Joy Global plans to cease all operations and manufacturing at that plant. The story of Joy Global is timely in light of President Obama's nomination of Gina McCarthy to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.

I wish those who are responsible for the war on coal could have been with me that Friday morning. It's easy to sit in Washington and issue regulations when you don't have to confront the human cost.

The Obama administration's war on coal cost more than 3,000 well-paying coal miner jobs in Kentucky last year. Thousands of families potentially went from healthy incomes to food stamps. But this administration doesn't appear to care.

The coal industry supports 19,000 full-time jobs in Kentucky while providing our State with the Nation's fourth lowest utility rates. Mr. Speaker, it's time the administration put people ahead of its radical agenda.

OPPOSING THE CLOSING OF THE IRVINGTON, TEXAS, POST OFFICE

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my frustration and disappointment with the Postal Service's decision to close the Irvington Station Post Office that

serves ZIP Code 77022 in Houston, Texas, on April 30.

This post office is highly valued in our district and has served residents of the Northside area in Houston for 50 years. The Postal Service announced that the Irvington office would be demolished, despite the fact that the agency has failed to ensure that local residents will still have access to essential mail services.

The Irvington office's lease is expiring, and instead of finding a new location nearby or moving retail operations into the Northline Commons area as a compromise, the Postal Service has chosen to close the office. I contacted and met with postal officials without success.

Moving forward with the closure is irresponsible and undermines the integrity of the agency. The people living in and around the 77022 ZIP Code will not have the same access to postal services as everyone else.

I understand the Postal Service's budget constraints and support reforming the agency. However, maintaining a presence in the area makes smart business sense for the Postal Service and fulfills a need in this revitalized community. The post office is losing customers and friends in this effort.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. KILDEE. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the House Republicans and Congressman RYAN released their budget, which, unfortunately, once again seeks to balance the budget on the backs of seniors, the middle class, and the most vulnerable among us. The GOP budget presents the same failed policies that Americans rejected last fall.

This budget is full of false realities, fuzzy math, and the wrong priorities. Instead of closing the corporate jet loophole, the Republican budget ends Medicare as we know it, turning health care for seniors into a voucher program. Instead of ending billions in tax subsidies for Big Oil, the Republican budget slashes Medicaid for the most vulnerable among us, turning it into a block grant program. And instead of asking the wealthiest among us to pay their fair share, it wants to kick millions of people off health care plans by repealing the Affordable Care Act—well, actually, repealing the parts of the Affordable Care Act that provide care for people but somehow preserving the cost savings and the revenues that it delivers.

Instead of targeting the most vulnerable communities and placing the burden entirely on the middle class, Republicans should work with Democrats to put in place a balanced and bipartisan budget that puts Americans back to work.

SEQUESTRATION AND MILITARY PERSONNEL

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring light to one of the many overlooked effects of sequestration. I just came from a Military Personnel hearing where the Services had an opportunity to speak frankly about how these cuts will affect them. Some of the worst impacts will come as a result of civilian furloughs.

Fifty-two percent of military behavioral health specialists are civilians, and those civilians will be furloughed, as will 62 of the specialists who work for the Marine Corps' Wounded Warrior unit. These specialists provide a vital service to our injured servicemembers. So how can Congress continue to treat the work of these and other Federal employees in what is perceived as a very callous manner?

Mr. Speaker, we have asked our men and women in uniform to sacrifice so much. How can we possibly ask them to sacrifice even more? We must come together to solve sequestration before these devastating cuts become irreversible.

125TH ANNIVERSARY FOR THE CITY OF ORANGE

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on April 6, the city of Orange, California, will celebrate its 125th anniversary. As the third oldest city in Orange County, the city of Orange is a big city but with a small town feel.

Orange is home to notable attractions like the Plaza at Orange, the Outlets at Orange, the UCI Medical Center, the Children's Hospital of Orange County, and my alma mater, Chapman University.

This milestone will be celebrated in Old Towne Orange, and it will commemorate the families, the residents, and the businesses that have made the city what it is today.

Congratulations to the city and residents of Orange on this incredible occasion. I am proud to represent the city of Orange and the 46th Congressional District of California. Happy 125th anniversary, city of Orange.

TANF AUTHORIZATION

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, Republicans say the darnedest things. I'd like to read a statement from a 2005 letter from the Republican Governors Association outlining its priorities for TANF reauthorization:

> As Governors, we believe the following provisions . . . are integral to State programs and support their inclusion and protection as the bill moves forward through regular order.
>
> The [2005] Senate bill provides States with the flexibility to manage their TANF programs. . . . Increased waiver authority . . . and the ability to coordinate State programs are all important aspects of moving recipients from welfare to work.

The letter was signed by Mitt Romney, Jeb Bush, Mike Huckabee, Mitch Daniels, Rick Perry, and many more.

Mr. Speaker, today, the House debates banning the very waivers that Republican leaders from across the country have already expressed their support for. Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to listen to Republican Governors and allow States to find new and creative models to move people from welfare to work.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

MARCH 13, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 13, 2013 at 10:41 a.m.:

Appointments: Senate National Security Working Group.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 890, PRESERVING THE WELFARE WORK REQUIREMENT AND TANF EXTENSION ACT OF 2013

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 107 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 107

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 890) to prohibit waivers relating to compliance with the work requirements for the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–3 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a closed rule for consideration of H.R. 890, the Preserving Work Requirements for Welfare Programs Act of 2013.

□ 1220

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

It was not the intention of the Rules Committee, Mr. Speaker, to have a closed rule. However, the committee received only four amendments, one of which was withdrawn. The remaining three amendments were all subject to points of order for germaneness and other violations of the rules of the House. Unfortunately, we are left with little choice but to propose a closed rule.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 890 would prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from issuing waivers relating to compliance with the work requirements for welfare recipients, which were created under the historic 1996 welfare reform law. These work requirements have led to more work, more earning, less welfare dependence, and less poverty among low-income Americans.

Additionally, H.R. 890 incorporates the text of H.R. 987. H.R. 987 extends the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs, also known as TANF, which is due to expire on March 27, through the end of 2013.

Mr. Speaker, the Welfare and Medicaid Reform Act of 1996 made historic changes in the way our country treats its most impoverished citizens. Generally, the reforms offered States new flexibility in designing welfare programs. However, in exchange for that flexibility, strong new Federal work requirements were put in place. These requirements specified the minimum number of hours per week an individual must engage in either work or work-related activities and penalties for failure to comply.

What were the results of the 1996 reforms? Well, let me just go over a few. America saw the greatest reduction in poverty among children since the 1960s. The employment rate for single mothers in 2010 is higher than it was in 1996, even though the unemployment rate itself has almost doubled during that period of time. Poverty among single mothers has fallen by 30 percent. The list of successes associated with the law, which I must stress was bipartisan and worked upon by both parties both in this Chamber and obviously by President Clinton, goes on and on.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the Welfare Reform Act specifically prohibited waivers of the new TANF work requirements. Under both Republican and Democratic administrations, it's been assumed that these requirements could not be waived. However, the current administration, through a so-called ''informational memorandum''—I'm frankly not quite sure what that is—has decided it does have the authority to waive these work requirements.

Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan compromise that was drafted in 1996 has done a good job in reducing poverty in this country and improving the lives and the prospects of those mired in very difficult circumstances. We should not allow the administration to undo, by an informational memorandum, what the Congress and Presidents in the past have been able to accomplish by statute.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill and a good rule. I urge the support of the rule and the underlying legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would tell my colleagues that this is not a good rule. It is a closed rule, and there's no need for it.

This prevents Members of the House of both parties from coming to the floor with ideas or ways to amend this legislation. Because of the rule, they're prevented from doing so. I think that is an unfortunate fact. We should have deliberation on this House floor. Given the fact that we're not doing much of anything, we certainly have the time to deliberate, and I would hope that in the future that we would see more flexibility on the rules and less closed rules. So I urge my colleagues to vote against the rule because of that.

Mr. Speaker, once again the Republican majority in the House is proving that they never let facts get in the way of a good press release.

Today's bill takes a sensible, bipartisan piece of legislation and tacks on a partisan political ploy that was used in the last Congress to try to embarrass President Obama.

Instead of bringing a simple, clean extension of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Republican majority is continuing a political attack from the last election. And like many of the other political attacks lobbed against President Obama in that campaign, this attack is simply untrue and destined for failure.

Over the last 2 years, members of the majority have charged that actions taken by the Department of Health and Human Services to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the TANF program are an attempt to ''let people sit at home and collect welfare checks.''

Such charges have been declared false by numerous fact check organizations, including Factcheck.org, PolitiFact, and The Fact Checker at The Washington Post.

Furthermore, Ron Haskins, the former Republican staff director of the Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee and one of the chief architects of the 1996 welfare reform law, said the reforms similar to the ones being made by HHS are justified. And he added:

> I do not think it ends welfare reform or strongly undermines welfare reform. Each State has to say what they will do and how that reform will either increase employment or lead to better employment.

That's Ron Haskins, the former Republican staff director of the Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, the merits of the changes implemented by HHS strengthen Federal efforts to move Americans from welfare to work. In allowing States the flexibility from rigid TANF requirements, the administration requires that any changes provide a more efficient or effective means to promote employment. In explaining the policy changes, HHS Secretary Sebelius stated:

> Governors must commit that their proposals will move at least 20 percent more people from welfare to work compared to the State's past performance.

Under such requirements, it is impossible to assert that these changes will weaken the Federal efforts to move citizens from welfare to work. In fact, in looking at the actual rules even briefly, it is clear that these changes strengthen our Federal efforts by allowing for more effective and more efficient programs by giving them room to operate at the State level.

Mr. Speaker, it may be surprising to some watching today's proceedings that the majority disapproves of the administration's programmatic changes. The underlying principle of the changes is the belief that States should have flexibility to implement proven and effective methods for moving Americans from welfare to work.

Yet today, a Republican majority that often boasts of its commitment to States' rights now stands in fierce opposition to that very principle. They find themselves demanding that even when more effective methods for putting Americans to work are available, Federal standards dictated from Washington must rule the day.

And the real irony in their argument against the administration's action is that the request for flexibility came from a Governor, a Republican Governor. And it was not just a Republican Governor from a blue State like New Jersey or a purple State like Virginia. No, Mr. Speaker, the Governor of Utah—one of the reddest States in the Nation—is the one that has requested this waiver.

I've seen some interesting legislative jujitsu on this House floor. One day they're adhering to the Hastert rule, and the next day the Boehner rule applies. This Republican majority legislates by lurching from one issue to another issue trying to find something that works.

So I can't say that I'm surprised that they're declaring themselves against increasing work requirements for TANF recipients as requested by a Republican Governor. The only thing I can chalk it up to is politics. You'd think that at some point the Republican majority would rather legislate instead of fighting a political battle that was decided 4 months ago, a political battle that they lost badly. Sadly, that day is not today.

If this majority were truly serious about work and employment, about actually reducing the number of people on TANF, then we would be voting on a bill to repeal the sequester and we would be voting on a bill to save the 750,000 jobs that will be lost this year because of these arbitrary, mindless, senseless, and thoughtless cuts.

The reauthorization of TANF in and of itself is not controversial. We can move that bill on suspension. What appears to be controversial to this Republican leadership is putting people back to work. What appears to be controversial to this Republican leadership is saving our economy from the devastating sequester cuts. What appears to be controversial to this Republican leadership is responsible governing.

In contrast, Mr. Speaker, House Democrats have a plan that House Republicans block time after time after time to avoid sequester.

Congressman VAN HOLLEN has a balanced sequester replacement, one that will get rid of the arbitrary cuts and replace them with a balanced mix of cuts and revenues, revenues that come from closing tax loopholes that even Republicans like Mitt Romney thought we should eliminate.

Congressman VAN HOLLEN has come to the Rules Committee four times this year alone in the hope that this Republican leadership, the ones who promised an open House and an open legislative process, would make his amendment in order. And four times now, the Republican leadership in this House has refused to make that amendment in order.

□ 1230

Why, Mr. Speaker? Why? Why not allow the Van Hollen sequester replacement bill to come to the floor for a vote? Didn't Speaker BOEHNER promise a more open House? Didn't he say that the House should work its will?

Mr. Speaker, this is not a way to run a democracy. This is not an open and fair process.

That's because this Republican leadership is not about openness. They're not about legislating responsibly. They're about desperate attempts to score cheap political points. That's what they're doing with the sequester. And that's what they're doing with this TANF reauthorization—something that should be totally noncontroversial, something that should be approved with an overwhelming bipartisan vote.

Mr. Speaker, we should defeat this closed rule, an unnecessarily closed rule, and defeat this bill. It is time we put partisan politics aside, at least until the next election season begins, and start working for the American people.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

It was once famously observed that the inhabitants of the United Kingdom and the United States were two people divided by the same language. Evidently, that applies to the people of Massachusetts and the people of Oklahoma.

I want to thank my good friend, who kindly sent me a note. I had mentioned if you're from Oklahoma, we would say he's from Worcester, but he said it's ''Worcest-ah.'' So I want to get that right, and I want to thank my friend for correcting me. That's probably the only place my friend and I will agree, and I'll agree that it was appropriate to correct me.

Let me just make a couple of simple responses to what my friend had to say. I don't want to re-debate sequester. He and I had an opportunity to do that in the context of the continuing resolution last week. But the idea that that was somehow partisan, when over 50 of my friends' colleagues voted for it on final passage, strikes me as odd. It was, actually, quite bipartisan, and we began a process in that that is going to result in saving the American people $1.2 trillion.

We think we made initial steps in improving the bill. It appears to us as if that same process is working now on the other side of the rotunda amongst our friends in the Senate, and so we're working our way towards a responsible piece of legislation, operating through regular order and trying to find common ground.

We're not happy with the sequester. We tried to fix it a couple of times, as my friend recalls. Neither the Senate nor the President ever took us up on that offer, so we worked hard. Now we found another route. Perhaps we can keep working and find some common ground in some other areas.

As to this bill itself, let's just go back to the specifics. All we're doing is making sure that the work requirement stays in place. I'll make a rather bold prediction and say after the rule vote is over, probably a lot of Democrats will vote for that legislation.

They'll vote for it for two reasons:

First, it reauthorizes TANF, which is a good thing. We agree on that. It's a good piece of legislation. And certainly we should provide the neediest of our people certainty through the end of the fiscal year, as opposed to the end of March. So I think that's an effort by both sides to do the right thing.

But second, if there's a misunderstanding here and we misinterpreted the administration, fair enough. I don't think we did, but regardless, let's just make absolutely sure and pass this legislation. If we both agree on it, it shouldn't be a point of a great deal of contention.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

First of all, I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Oklahoma, for his improved pronunciation. I appreciate that. And I also appreciate the spirit of bipartisanship that he has displayed on a number of issues, most recently on the Violence Against Women Act.

I kind of wish that that same spirit was brought to this bill here today, this TANF bill, because it would pass overwhelmingly.

Just so that there's no confusion about what HHS is trying to do, I would like to insert into the RECORD a letter that Kathleen Sebelius, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, sent to the Honorable DAVE CAMP, the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, which explains how the administration views this flexibility that they might at some point utilize. But basically it is not to weaken the work requirement; it is to support States that have better ideas to improve the results to get more people to work.

The other thing, Mr. Speaker, I would say is that, again, it's ironic that my friends on the other side have kind of chosen to put a little bit of politics into this debate given the fact that a Republican Governor from a red State, Utah, suggests to the administration that he might have a better idea on how his State might get better results in putting more people to work, getting people off of public assistance and into the workforce.

I think that's a good thing. I think what all of us believe is whatever it takes to get more people into the workforce is a good thing.

I would also say to my friend—he mentioned that the Republicans have had proposals to deal with the sequester. Not in this session they haven't. Not a single time in this current Congress have my Republican friends brought an alternative to the floor to avoid sequester—these arbitrary, mindless, senseless cuts that go across the board.

If you had a line item in the budget that said ''fraud, waste, and abuse,'' under the sequester that would be treated the same way as a line item for medical research or for education or for transportation and infrastructure. This is not a way to deal with our budgetary challenges.

The reason why I bring up sequester today is because I wish there were a greater sense of urgency in this House of Representatives to deal with it. We're all talking about welfare-to-work right now. But by allowing the sequester to continue to go into place, CBO tells us that we're going to risk 750,000 jobs; 750,000 of our fellow citizens will be out of work because of the inaction of this Congress.

I find that unacceptable. We ought to be preserving jobs, we ought to be expanding jobs, we ought to be doing everything we can to get people back to work because that's the surest way to reduce our deficit. The more people working, the more revenues, the more we can pay down our deficit.

We should be talking about trying to get our budgetary House in order without diminishing the quality of life and the standard of living for people in this country.

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
Washington, DC, July 18, 2012.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP: Thank you for your interest in the guidance we have released to states concerning the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

The 1996 welfare reform legislation established work requirements which have been critical to moving people off welfare and into jobs. The proposal we have outlined strengthens the law's purpose to move people off of welfare and into jobs by utilizing state-based innovation. Our goal is to accelerate job placement by moving more Americans from welfare to work, and no policy which undercuts that goal or waters down work requirements will be considered or approved by the Department.

For years, Republican and Democratic Governors have requested more flexibility in implementing welfare reform so they can meet their states' specific needs. In 2005, 29 Republican Governors requested ''[i]ncreased waiver authority, allowable work activities, availability of partial work credit'' so they might more ''effectively serve low-income'' Americans. Certain elements of the proposal endorsed by the 2005 Republican Governors were very far-reaching and would not be approved under the Department's proposed waivers. More recently, Utah and Nevada requested waiver opportunities. While it appears some of the policies enumerated in the letters would not be eligible for waivers under our policy, we look forward to receiving and being able to consider a formal application from these and other states. The Department is providing a very limited waiver opportunity for states that develop a plan to measurably increase the number of beneficiaries who find and hold down a job. Specifically, Governors must commit that their proposals will move at least 20% more people from welfare to work compared to the state's past performance. States must also demonstrate clear progress toward that goal no later than one year after their programs take effect. If they fail, their waiver will be rescinded. And if a Governor proposes a plan that undercuts the work requirements established in welfare reform, that plan will be rejected.

We will follow our initial guidance to states with further information detailing metrics and accountability measures. The policy we have outlined is designed to accelerate job placement rates for those on welfare, not address other aspects of their lives. No plan that undercuts the goal of moving people from welfare to work will be considered or approved. For example, the Department will not approve a waiver that changes the definition of work requirements to include any of the activities outlined in a 2005 GAO report on TANF such as personal care activities, massage, and journaling. We will continue to hold states accountable for moving people from welfare to work.

STRENGTHENING WELFARE REFORM THROUGH STATE-BASED INNOVATION

For states, welfare can too often be a maze of red tape and nonsensical rules. For example, states can get more credit for assigning people to do job search than for placing them into paying, private-sector jobs. The rules not only place an administrative burden on states, but make searching for a job and securing employment more difficult for families. The proposal we have outlined gives states flexibility to cut red tape and get people back to work.

As noted earlier, when Congress considered legislation reauthorizing the TANF program in 2005, Governors from across the country also expressed their support for more flexibility for states in the TANF program. In a letter to Congress, the following Governors specifically endorsed Senate legislation, which would have allowed many states to receive waivers far broader than we are allowing now—including, for example, waivers of the time limits in the 1996 welfare reform law. Governors signing this letter included:

Bob Riley, Alabama; Frank H. Murkowski, Alaska; Mike Huckabee, Arkansas; Arnold Schwarzenegger, California; Bill Owens, Colorado; M. Jodi Rell, Connecticut; Jeb Bush, Florida; Sonny Perdue, Georgia; Linda Lingle, Hawaii; Dirk Kempthorne, Idaho; Mitch Daniels, Indiana; Ernie Fletcher, Kentucky; Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Maryland; Mitt Romney, Massachusetts.

Tim Pawlenty, Minnesota; Haley Barbour, Mississippi; Matt Blunt, Missouri; Dave Heineman, Nebraska; George E. Pataki, New York; Kenny C. Guinn, Nevada; John Hoeven, North Dakota; Bob Taft, Ohio; Donald L. Carcieri, Rhode Island; Mark Sanford, South Carolina; M. Michael Rounds, South Dakota; Rick Perry, Texas; Jon Huntsman, Jr., Utah; James Douglas, Vermont.

As also noted previously, we do not go as far as these Governors in supporting state flexibility. Within limits, however, we agree with their letter that states should have ''the flexibility to manage their TANF programs and effectively serve low-income populations.'' If a Governor commits to a plan to strengthen work requirements that moves more people from welfare to work, we welcome the opportunity to review that proposal. On the other hand, if a Governor is satisfied with the status quo, the state will not be required to submit a waiver request and can continue to operate under the current welfare system.

We do not have to choose between providing temporary assistance to families who fall on hard times and putting people back to work. We can do both by strengthening work requirements so more people move from welfare to work and giving states flexibility to tailor their welfare reforms to their specific needs. But while we continue to explore new ways to strengthen work requirements, we will not accept any changes that undercut employment-focused welfare reforms that were signed into law fifteen years ago.

As we have relayed to your staff, we would welcome the opportunity to brief them on the legal and programmatic issues related to this policy and to discuss the feedback we have received from states about the challenges that the current requirements present to creating jobs. Attached is a more detailed description of HHS' waiver authority under current law. I will also provide this response to Senator Hatch.

Sincerely,

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS.

Enclosure.

ATTACHMENT—LEGAL BASIS FOR UTILIZING WAIVER AUTHORITY IN TANF

The exercise of waiver authority contemplated in the July 12 Information Memorandum is clearly authorized by section 1115(a)(1) of the Social Security Act. Section 1115(a)(1) allows the Secretary to ''waive compliance with any of the requirements of section . . . 402 [of the Act] . . . to the extent and for the period [s]he finds necessary to enable [a] State . . . to carry out'' an approved experimental, pilot, or demonstration project that will assist in promoting the objectives of the TANF program. 42 U.S.C. §1315(a)(1). As the Information Memorandum explains, section 402 sets forth state plan requirements for the TANF program, including the requirement that a plan ''[e]nsure that parents and caretakers receiving assistance under the program engage in work activities in accordance with section 407.'' Id. §602(a)(1)(A)(iii). By authorizing the Secretary to ''waive compliance with any of the requirements of section . . . 402,'' therefore, section 1115 permits the Secretary to waive the requirements of section 407 when she determines that a waiver would promote the objectives of the TANF program and satisfy the other prerequisites for a waiver.

Your letter maintains that the Secretary's section 1115 waiver authority does not extend to the requirements described in the Information Memorandum because those requirements are set forth in section 407 rather than section 402. But, as explained above, the plain text of section 402 incorporates the requirements of section 407 by reference. Moreover, the Department has long interpreted its authority to waive state plan requirements under section 1115 to extend to requirements set forth in other statutory provisions that are referenced in the provisions governing state plans. This interpretation has been consistently applied throughout the history of section 1115, including in the context of the Medicaid, child support, and former Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) programs. For example, in Wisconsin's well-known ''Work Not Welfare'' demonstration implemented in 1995, the state received a waiver of rules related to the distribution of child support. While section 1115 references the child support state plan provisions in section 454, the child support rules waived in the Wisconsin waiver are in section 457, but included by reference in the state plan in section 454(11). (Additional examples can be provided upon request.) If Congress had intended to restrict the Secretary's waiver authority when it replaced the AFDC program with the TANF program in 1996, it could have deleted section 1115's reference to section 402 or otherwise indicated its intent to depart from past practice. Congress did not do so and the Department is adhering to its longstanding interpretation that section 1115 waiver authority extends to requirements incorporated by reference into the state plan sections of programs, including Medicaid, child support, and TANF.

Your letter also claims that section 415(a)(2)(B) of the Act precludes the Secretary from waiving section 407's requirements. But section 415(a)(2)(B) has no application here because it is a transitional provision applicable only to waivers under the former AFDC program, which was replaced by the TANF program in 1996. Indeed, the plain language of section 415(a)(2)(B) makes clear that it is limited to waivers that related to ''a State program funded under this part (as in effect on September 30, 1996)''—that is, under the former AFDC program. 42 U.S.C. §615(a)(2)(B) (emphasis added). That provision thus does nothing to restrict the Secretary's waiver authority with respect to the current TANF program.

Mr. MCGOVERN. So having said that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 3 minutes at this time to the gentleman from Puerto Rico, my good friend, Mr. PIERLUISI.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, although I strongly support the TANF program, which provides payments to low-income families with children, I rise in opposition to the rule and to the underlying bill. Yesterday, I filed the budget-neutral amendment to H.R. 890. However, the Rules Committee reported a closed rule, thereby foreclosing debate, and a vote, on my amendment.

My amendment sought to eliminate disparities that the territories face under TANF. Under current law, the territories are not eligible for TANF supplemental grants, contingency funds, and mandatory child care funds.

Moreover, Federal law imposes an annual cap on the overall funding that each of the territories can receive under a variety of public assistance programs, including TANF. I have introduced legislation to repeal this funding cap, which has not been increased since 1996, and to make the territories eligible for TANF grants they do not presently receive. The amendment I filed yesterday was rooted in this legislation but modified to comply with PAYGO rules.

Those who seek evidence of how Puerto Rico is hurt by its territory status need look no further than the unequal treatment my constituents receive under TANF and other safety-net programs. These programs are designed to help our Nation's most vulnerable residents, none of whom—I must emphasize—earn enough to pay Federal income taxes.

This treatment would be unprincipled under any circumstances, but it is particularly unfair when one considers that, last November, voters in Puerto Rico rejected the current status and expressed a desire for statehood, a status that would entitle them to equal treatment under all Federal laws. If Congress elects to undertake a comprehensive reauthorization of the TANF program, I hope my colleagues will work with me to eliminate the disparities that Puerto Rico faces under current law, especially in light of the fact that my constituents have rejected the political status that allows for such unequal treatment.

□ 1240

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

I just want to quickly respond to my friend's point on sequester again. A little bit like Lucy and the football, we've tried this twice, and the idea that we should now have to tee it up a third time before the President rouses himself—or the Senate—to action, strikes me as a little bit extreme. Again, we've tried to do it. We're now moving through another process. It seems to be working. Regular order seems to actually be working around here, and I'm hopeful we'll get to, before the end of the month, a resolution that will be considerably better than the CR, that will frankly have folded a lot of the work of the Appropriations Committee into what is effectively the fiscal year 2013 budget.

To my friend from Puerto Rico, it is my understanding—and I'm not a parliamentarian—that the amendment was not germane or was ruled out of order to the bill. Again, I'm not and don't pretend to be an expert on that, but I think he makes an excellent point, and it is certainly a matter worthy of consideration at some appropriate time.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we don't have a great deal of disagreement here. Let's just make sure that the work requirement is there. There is considerable debate as to who asked for waivers, whether they were asked for, and whether it was reform. I've seen a lot of back-and-forth on this, and I don't pretend to know; but I think it's the clear intent of this Chamber, and always has been since the legislation was passed, that the work requirements remain intact. So just reiterating that point I think makes it crystal clear to everyone and perhaps eliminates the confusion.

Again, I think the reauthorization of the underlying legislation is something that both parties want to accomplish and want to provide certainty for people that are in very difficult circumstances that they're not going to be at risk financially if for some reason, which I don't anticipate, we actually don't get our work done by March 27 and avoid some sort of catastrophic government shutdown. Again, something that I know the President wants to do and something that my friends on the other side of the aisle want to do and something I think our colleagues in the United States Senate want to do.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume just to address a couple of points of my colleague from Oklahoma, whom I have a great deal of respect for.

First of all, if we had an open rule, Mr. PIERLUISI could have had a chance to offer his amendment, and we could get a judgment from the Parliamentarian then. Secondly, also the Rules Committee could have waived the germaneness rule to allow Mr. PIERLUISI to have his amendment made in order. So the Rules Committee could have done that, and chose instead to report a closed rule here so that nobody can offer anything. It is completely closed, a closed process.

Secondly, with regard to sequestration again, I point out that the President of the United States did offer a grand bargain. My Republican friends said no to that. He put a lot of different things on the table trying to come up with a grand bargain to deal with our deficit but also not undercut our economy. It was a balance of cuts and revenue, but my Republican friends said no to that.

And I would repeat again, in this Congress, the House Republicans have done nothing, have proposed zero to be able to avoid the sequester. There have been no alternatives brought before the Rules Committee, nothing brought to the floor.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN has, on four different occasions, tried to avoid sequester with a very balanced approach, and it would save 750,000 jobs. If there's anything that's urgent in this Chamber, it should be to preserve and protect the 750,000 jobs that will be lost because of these sequester cuts.

I would finally say that the United States Senate, far from a perfect branch of government in my opinion, but nonetheless, the Senate Majority Leader had an alternative to sequester that got 51 votes. That's a majority. But, unfortunately, under the Senate rules and with Republican insistence that they needed 60 votes, it didn't make it. But 51 Senators voted for an alternative.

So there are alternatives out there; and the notion that we should kind of sit back, lay back, and maybe something will emerge miraculously to deal with this issue I don't think is the proper role of the House of Representatives. We ought to be deliberating and debating and finding ways to protect those 750,000 jobs.

We talk about welfare to work here. And again, the irony is we're trying to prevent the administration from being able to have the flexibility to be able to work with States who want to get better results, to get more people off of welfare to work. But when you talk about getting people to work, we ought to also be talking about preserving the 750,000 jobs that will be lost because of our inaction on sequester.

Mr. Speaker, at this point I'd like to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), the ranking member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, as we continue very important efforts to strengthen the middle class in America, I think it's important to recognize that there are millions of Americans who would like to be part of it, who are struggling at the bottom rungs of the economic ladder hoping to work their way into the middle class. I think

that's where our focus should be, because in recent decades, we've seen growing economic inequality in this country where a few have so much and many have so very little.

One of the goals of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, or TANF, initiative back in 1996 was to help those who wanted to climb the economic ladder. In hopes of accomplishing that, and valuing personally the importance of work, I voted for welfare reform. And if you evaluate it based on how many poor people it's denied assistance to, it's a great success. If, on the other hand, you evaluate it based on how many poor people it has helped to secure good, livable wages in long-term jobs, its success, at best, is very spotty.

Today's debate ought to be about how do we strengthen the effectiveness of TANF and related programs to assist more people in working their way into the middle class. But instead of focusing on lifting people up, like the previous temporary extension of TANF, this Republican effort is really about putting them down. It's about suggesting that the stereotype of the welfare Cadillac, of the aimless and the shiftless who don't want to work is real. Instead of a vision about an effective, long-term reauthorization of welfare to work, this bill represents the third time that Republicans have insisted on just a temporary, short-term extension of the same old programs.

The last time that we did this, Republicans included a firm prohibition and strong rhetoric about denying anyone using their electronic benefits at strip clubs or casinos. Who could object to that? But it's hardly central to how we advance these individuals who want to work.

This time it's the leftover Presidential campaign ploy arguing that the administration wanted to encourage more welfare loafing and idleness by weakening work requirements. Neither this bill nor its predecessors were truly about helping more people to secure jobs. They're about reinforcing the prejudice that many poor people are takers, not makers; that they're just eager to take somebody else's tax money and loaf.

Well, I believe that today's attempt to restrict State authority to strengthen welfare-to-work initiatives also totally contradicts what is happening at this very moment with a blockheaded Republican budget that would block-grant almost unbridled authority to the States to weaken health care. Because of the way that the TANF program is currently structured, whether this rule and this bill are approved is largely irrelevant to 99 percent of the working-age poor people in America today who are not currently participating in any of the TANF work activities.

I think we should do better by these folks. They want to become part of the middle class, but they find themselves in no job or a dead-end job. Instead of focusing on denying assistance to as many people as possible, we ought to be engaging in constructive, bipartisan discussion about what are the best ways to make the program effective to lift people up. Instead of focusing on waivers and simply waving good-bye to the many people in America who are economically disadvantaged and want a better opportunity, who want some hope to get out of poverty, let's try to do more to assist those people in more productive, long-term programs.

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

□ 1250

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, can I inquire of the gentleman from Oklahoma whether he has any additional speakers.

Mr. COLE. I'm prepared to close whenever my friend is.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I thank the gentleman, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this closed rule. Again, I regret very much that something that really should be truly bipartisan and totally bipartisan and totally noncontroversial has now become politicized so that there's division.

Again, I wish that we had followed the same path we did with the Violence Against Women Act, when a more controversial and divisive attempt on that bill was put aside for something that was more of a consensus and had broad bipartisan support. We could do the same thing here, and I wish we would.

There is no need for this bill to become politicized; and my guess is that when it comes back to the House, the controversial provisions that we are complaining about right now will probably be gone.

Mr. Speaker, we just had a long discussion about work requirements; but, ironically, the bill that we're going to deal with tomorrow cuts this program called the SNAP Employment and Training Funding. This is a program that helps low-income individuals get training for proper employment, training for jobs that could help those individuals lift themselves out of poverty and off public assistance.

It is my understanding that my friends are going to bring a bill that guts that particular program. I find that puzzling because the whole point of that program is to give people the training they need so they are qualified for some of the jobs that are open out there, and yet we're going to eliminate that.

My friends have routinely gone after the SNAP, or food stamp program, again, helping low-income families get by during difficult times while they find employment. Sadly, there are a lot of people who are working who earn so little that they still qualify for SNAP. We ought to have a greater discussion on poverty and how to deal with some of these big issues like hunger and food insecurity, and I hope at some point we can have that discussion.

But, today, what I wish we were doing, in addition to passing a noncontroversial TANF bill, I wish we were on the floor debating an alternative to the sequester—750,000 jobs are about to be lost, 750,000 jobs. If we are truly interested in work, we ought to protect those jobs.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN of Maryland had an alternative that four times he's brought to the Rules Committee. Four times the leadership here has said, no, you can't bring it to the floor, you can't debate it, you can't deliberate on it.

And my friends on the other side of the aisle in this Congress have offered zero. They're totally content to let the sequester go into play—750,000 jobs at stake.

I think that's what we should be doing here, Mr. Speaker.

As I yield back the balance of my time, I would urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to suspend politics for just a little while so we can get a few major things done. We can do the politics next year when it's campaign time, but now's the time to achieve results.

We can come together on a lot of these issues. I hope that that happens; but if this is any indication of how we're going to proceed, it makes me less hopeful.

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

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

I want to take a moment and respond to some of my friend's concerns and points. First, simply on sequester, with all due respect, I'm glad there's an interest now. There wasn't an interest last May when this House passed legislation. The Senate never picked it up; the President never offered a counter. There wasn't an interest last December. There seems to only be an interest here in the final, waning days.

Now, we actually think we're proceeding in the continuing resolution, perhaps in the upcoming budget debates, and perhaps later on in ways where we can come back and work in a bipartisan fashion. But our efforts to do that were twice rebuffed, and now we're beaten up for not doing it a third time. I think two chances is about as many as you get. And, again, we'll try to find another way to work with our friends on this thing.

As for the job loss, I couldn't agree more with my friend. This is a tremendously bad thing for the economy. This is not the right way to do things. We would have preferred to have done it differently.

Now, you can always arrive at some interesting figures on job loss. According to the CBO, the Affordable Care Act will cost 800,000 jobs. I doubt my friends would work with us to repeal that and save those 800,000 jobs. They've got other objectives there.

Our objective in the entire sequester effort is simply to begin to lower the

long-term debt for this country, a debt that is going to undermine the economy and destroy many, many, many tens of thousands of jobs in the coming years unless we deal with it. We're making that effort today in the Ryan budget, in the Budget Committee. That will be on the floor next week.

I know my friends will have an alternative for that. I welcome that. I'm glad they're doing that. They did not do that when they were in the majority.

The Senate finally, for the first time in 4 years, looks like it's going to put out a budget. It's not a budget that I would like, but they're going to put one out; and I think that's a very good thing.

So, again, I see some little gleams and glistenings of progress around here. And I do want to thank my friend because we have worked together in the last 70 or 80 days on some significant things. I worked with my friend on the fiscal cliff. I worked with my friend on Hurricane Sandy relief, worked with my friend on violence against women; and I very much appreciate his kind words about that.

So I actually see opportunities in front of us, as well as obvious differences and debates that we're surely going to have.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I believe that the underlying bill provides additional certainty for those currently on the TANF program and ensures that their benefits will not lapse at the end of the month, something I know that my friends are concerned about, just as we are, and want to ensure that that doesn't happen.

In addition, it maintains the bipartisan work requirements that this administration professes to support, but has clearly created some doubt about. So let's give them the opportunity, through this legislation, just to make sure that there's no misunderstanding, that both parties and the administration want to maintain the work requirements.

In closing, I would urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying legislation.

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. COLE. 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.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1455

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 2 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order: ordering the previous question on H. Res. 107; adopting H. Res. 107, if ordered; and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 890, PRESERVING THE WELFARE WORK REQUIREMENT AND TANF EXTENSION ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 107) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 890) to prohibit waivers relating to compliance with the work requirements for the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 233, nays 195, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 64]

YEAS—233

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Radel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—195

Andrews
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal

Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—3

Costa
Lynch
Sherman

□ 1527

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. WILSON of Florida 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. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 64 I was at a meeting with the Vice President and others at the White House and was caught in traffic on the way back to the Capitol. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 233, noes 194, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 65]

AYES—233

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Radel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOES—194

Andrews
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—4

Bishop (UT)
Costa
Graves (MO)
Lynch

□ 1535

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

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

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 295, nays 120, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 66]

YEAS—295

Aderholt
Alexander
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Beatty
Becerra
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chu
Cicilline
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Grayson
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Horsford
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston

Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Noem
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pascrell
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Reichert
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Upton
Van Hollen
Vargas
Visclosky
Wagner
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoho
Young (IN)

NAYS—120

Amash
Andrews
Bass
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bishop (NY)
Brady (PA)
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Butterfield
Capuano
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Clarke
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Conaway
Conyers
Cotton
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
Denham
Dent
Duffy
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Flores
Foxx
Fudge
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Joyce
Kilmer
Kind
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Lance
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Lewis
LoBiondo
Lummis
Marchant
Matheson
McDermott
McGovern
Miller, George
Moore
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
Nugent
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Radel
Rahall
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Slaughter
Stivers
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tipton
Turner
Valadao
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Walberg
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Owens

NOT VOTING—15

Cantor
Costa
Gohmert
Granger
Huelskamp
Hunter
Lynch
Markey
Murphy (FL)
Rangel
Royce
Serrano
Sires
Terry
Young (FL)

□ 1542

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PRESERVING THE WELFARE WORK REQUIREMENT AND TANF EXTENSION ACT OF 2013

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 107, I call up the bill (H.R. 890) to prohibit waivers relating to compliance with the work requirements for the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 107, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–3 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 890

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 ''Preserving the Welfare Work Requirement and TANF Extension Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON TANF WAIVERS RELATING TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE TANF WORK REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may not do the following:

(1) Finalize, implement, enforce, or otherwise take any action to give effect to the Information Memorandum dated July 12, 2012 (Transmittal No. TANF–ACF–IM–2012–03), or to any administrative action relating to the same subject matter set forth in the Information Memorandum or that reflects the same or similar policies as those set forth in the Information Memorandum.

(2) Authorize, approve, renew, modify, or extend any experimental, pilot, or demonstration project under section 1115 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315) that waives compliance with a requirement of section 407 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 607) through a waiver of section 402 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 602) or that provides authority for an expenditure which would not otherwise be an allowable use of funds under a State program funded under part A of title IV of such Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) with respect to compliance with the work requirements in section 407 of such Act to be regarded as an allowable use of funds under that program for any period.

(b) RESCISSION OF WAIVERS.—Any waiver relating to the subject matter set forth in the Information Memorandum or described in subsection (a)(2) that is granted before the date of the enactment of this Act is hereby rescinded and shall be null and void.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM AND RELATED PROGRAMS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013.

Activities authorized by part A of title IV and section 1108(b) of the Social Security Act (other than under section 403(b) of such Act) shall continue through December 31, 2013, in the manner authorized for fiscal year 2012, and out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for such purpose. Grants and payments may be made pursuant to this authority on a quarterly basis through the first quarter of fiscal year 2014 at the level provided for such activities for the corresponding quarter of fiscal year 2012.

SEC. 4. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 890.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 890, Preserving the Welfare Work Requirement and TANF Extension Act of 2013.

In July of last year, the Obama administration's Department of Health and Human Services issued an information memorandum saying they would accept and approve applications from States seeking to waive the requirement that 50 percent of their welfare caseload be engaged in or preparing for work.

This work requirement was a critical part of the 1996 welfare reforms that created the current Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, cash welfare program. Those reforms also led to more work, more earnings, less welfare dependence, and less poverty among families headed by low-income single mothers.

Yet, without any thought of consulting Congress, as is required by law, the administration saw fit to unilaterally waive the work requirements and risk the progress that has been made in the last 16 years. And that's why we are considering this legislation here on the floor today.

Simply put, this bill would block waivers, so HHS can't allow States to bypass the work requirements and financial penalties Congress put in place in 1996 for failing to engage welfare recipients in work.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle will argue that Republicans are making a big deal out of nothing and that we're responding to a problem

that doesn't exist since no States have applied for waivers—yet. But the American people have made their views clear. A survey last year revealed 83 percent support a work requirement as a condition for receiving welfare.

Clearly, the best way out of poverty is a job, and it's critical that our laws both foster job creation as well as ensure welfare is always a pathway to work. That's what this legislation is about: ensuring that work and other productive activities remain a central part of the TANF cash welfare program, as the 1996 reforms intended.

Setting aside the success of the work requirement in moving low-income individuals from welfare to work and the overwhelming support the policy enjoys among the American people, current law prohibits the administration from waiving the welfare work requirement. Waivers of certain State report requirements are permitted under the TANF program, but the work requirement may not be waived.

A summary of the 1996 reforms prepared by Ways and Means Committee staff immediately following the law's enactment could not be clearer on this point. It plainly states:

> Waivers granted after the date of enactment may not override provisions of the TANF law that concern mandatory work requirements.

As a Member of Congress who helped write the welfare reform law and served as a conferee on the bill, the statement in this report actually captures the correct intent of Congress.

Historical precedent is not on the Obama administration's side, either. No prior administration, Republican or Democrat, has ever attempted to waive the work requirements in the 16 years between the law's enactment and the July 2012 information memorandum.

Following the July 2012 action, the Government Accountability Office looked into this and ''did not find any evidence that HHS stated it has authority to issue waivers related to TANF work requirements.'' In short, no administration attempted to waive the work requirements because they knew it was illegal to do so.

Finally, if we need more evidence that, despite their promises to the contrary, the administration's policy would weaken the work requirement, we need look no further than the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. This legislation saves $61 million over 10 years because CBO recognizes the administration's waivers will allow some States that may otherwise pay penalties for failing to meet the work requirement to avoid such penalties through a waiver.

In addition to preventing the administration from waiving the work requirement, the legislation before us extends the TANF program's authorization at current funding levels through the remainder of this calendar year.

The TANF program provides helpful assistance to individuals most in need of a safety net as they look and prepare for work. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE,
Washington, DC, March 8, 2013.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to the consideration of H.R. 890, the Preserving Work Requirements for Welfare Programs Act of 2013. Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Education and the Workforce with regard to H.R. 890 on those matters within the committee's jurisdiction.

In the interest of expediting the House's consideration of H.R. 890, the Committee on Education and the Workforce will forgo further consideration on this bill. However, I do so with the understanding that this procedural route will not be construed to prejudice the committee's jurisdictional interest and prerogatives on this bill or any other similar legislation and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to my committee in the future.

I respectfully request your support for the appointment of outside conferees from the Committee on Education and the Workforce should this bill or a similar bill be considered in a conference with the Senate. I also request that you include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, March 12, 2013.

Hon. JOHN KLINE,
Chairman, Committee on Education and the Workforce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN KLINE, Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 890, the ''Preserving Work Requirements for Welfare Programs Act of 2013,'' which is expected to be considered on the floor this week.

I appreciate your willingness to forgo action on H.R. 890. I agree that your decision should not prejudice the Committee on Education and the Workforce with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 890 on the House Floor.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP,
Chairman.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself such time as I shall consume.

Bringing up this bill today is doubly unfortunate. Number one, this is a time when we should be coming together—or at least trying to. This is a time when we should not try some partisan efforts. Unfortunately, that's what this is all about. This bill is essentially a pure fabrication of what is true.

□ 1550

Last summer the administration came forth with a proposal: states would be allowed to apply for waivers and have some flexibility in terms of the application of the work requirements—not the end of them or changing them, but the implementation of them—provided any project would be required to increase employment by at least 20 percent. So this claim that what is being done here is an effort to put at risk the work requirements is fallacious.

What happened? After HHS spoke, the Romney campaign decided they might have a campaign issue. So they essentially put together a campaign ad with the fallacious claim that what the Obama administration was trying to do was to weaken welfare reform. The instantaneous reaction of fact checkers was four Pinocchios, pants on fire, complete untruth.

And this is what Ron Haskins had to say, the Republican person on the staff most involved with the chairman and myself:

> The idea that the administration is going to try to overturn welfare reform is ridiculous. States have to apply individually for waivers, and they have to explain in detail why the approach would lead to either more employment or better jobs for people who are trying to stay off welfare.

Indeed, earlier in 2005, 29 Republican Governors wrote asking if they could obtain a waiver in terms of the implementation of the work requirements, and on three occasions the Republicans brought legislation to the floor which would have brought about this kind of a waiver.

Here's what was said by President Clinton, who worked on welfare reform and signed it in 1996:

> When some Republican Governors asked if they could have waivers to try new ways to put people on welfare back to work, the Obama administration listened.

And I insert at this point that there was a request from the Republican Governor of Utah.

I continue with the quote:

> Because we all know it is hard for even people with good work histories to get jobs today. So moving folks from welfare to work is a real challenge, and the administration agreed to give waivers to those Governors and others only if they had a credible plan to increase employment by 20 percent, and they could keep the waivers only if they did increase employment. Now, did I make myself clear? The requirement was for more work, not less.

So this was tried last year. There was an effort by the Republicans. They came forth with a bill. The campaign was full blast. And what they wanted to do was to reaffirm or to support a political ad by their candidate for President. That's what that was all about.

We had a vote along partisan lines. And as we said, it went nowhere in the Senate. By the way, I don't think it helped their Presidential candidate as it was so blatantly false, so patently political.

The election is over. The people have spoken. The President has been reelected. Why bring up this political horse? It's worse than lame; it's mistaken.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. I would just say, Mr. Speaker, for 5 seconds that in the Statement of Administration Policy we got yesterday, they say that no States formally applied for State waivers.

I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT).

Mr. REICHERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill before us today because Congress must ensure that work continues to be the centerpiece of the TANF welfare program, and I regret that we are here today debating the Obama administration's efforts to undermine work requirements.

I think that my Democrat colleagues would agree that our time would be better spent discussing bipartisan improvements to TANF and other programs designed to help low-income parents find and go to work. I look forward to having those discussions and conversations as the chairman of the Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, bipartisan discussions were actually happening before the Obama administration announced they would waive work requirements for welfare recipients last summer. That announcement completely undermined bipartisan negotiations in our committee about ways to strengthen this program. Incredibly, administration officials knew about those negotiations and even had a draft of bipartisan legislation in hand before they announced their misguided waiver policy.

Usually, if an administration wants to change the law, they must submit a legislative proposal for Congress to consider, but that's not what the Obama administration did with its proposal to waive the TANF work requirements.

Even though the administration had said repeatedly in their annual budget they would work with Congress to reform welfare, they didn't propose any changes to the program. Instead, they simply claimed they could waive the current work requirements at the heart of welfare reform without even notifying Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I'm surprised that the administration would proceed with its waiver policy, especially knowing that real bipartisan progress was being made.

The truth is, Mr. Speaker, the President's waiver policy increases spending by $61 million, according to CBO. There are currently 240 combinations of work, education, and training requirements falling under the 12 definitions included in this law. The administration does not have the authority to waive work requirements; that authority is not granted under the law. Therefore—this is very important—the misuse of authority is subject to congressional review and disapproval. That's why we are here today. This is Congress' responsibility, and we were working together with the White House, which is also our responsibility.

Today I'm standing here asking my colleagues across the aisle and on my side of the aisle to support this bill and reject the administration's waiver proposal. That way we can get back to working together to close loopholes, strengthen work requirements and ensure that more welfare recipients go back to work and move up the economic ladder.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 2 minutes to another gentleman who has worked on welfare reform over the years, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL).

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LEVIN.

Well, we're at it again. There is no greater misuse of time than re-fighting the last election. The last election is just that: the last election. It's over.

Governor Romney's pollster said at the time, ''We're not going to let our campaign be dictated by fact checkers,'' after it was pointed out that there were so many mistakes and miscalculations in their proposal.

They might not have cared about the facts, but today I do. I chaired the Democratic position with Lynn Woolsey and Vic Fazio at the behest of Dick Gephardt at the time. One of the goals of welfare reform was to move unemployed Americans from welfare to work, and it did work. The legislation has been very successful in meeting that goal.

□ 1600

Welfare reform put people back on the work rolls. Welfare rolls have dropped by half, and poverty amongst children has dropped as well. The administration's TANF waiver initiative continues on this success of promoting welfare to work. It is ludicrous for our Republican friends to try to get in the way of people working by their stopping this waiver initiative—an initiative, by the way, that the Republican Governors asked for. Bill Weld was a very successful Governor of Massachusetts on the issue of welfare reform. He wanted the waiver. He asked for the waiver, as did George Pataki of New York. They asked for the waivers, Republican Governors.

The President is not dropping welfare's work requirements. He is allowing the States to experiment. You would think our Republican friends would be entirely in favor of letting Governors experiment on getting people back to work fairly quickly. Secretary Sebelius has stated that the Department's goal is to accelerate job placement, requiring States to commit to a plan that will move at least 20 percent more people from welfare to work compared to the last marker of the State's performance. Let me repeat: a 20 percent increase in getting people on welfare to work from the last marker.

I must be missing something here. I sat through months and months and months of deliberation. We reached a compromise. Some of us were disappointed in parts of it, but the Clinton administration signed on. It worked. Those are the facts, not opinions.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. GRIFFIN).

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 890, to prevent the administration from gutting critical TANF work requirements which have been central to TANF's success over the past two decades.

President Clinton shared the belief that welfare reform should be about moving people from welfare to work, and the 1996 bipartisan welfare reform law he signed promoted work as central to these reforms. The TANF program's statutory work requirements have reduced poverty and welfare dependence for the program's recipients. Since the enactment of the 1996 welfare reform law with its work requirements, the number of individuals receiving welfare has dropped by 57 percent, and employment and earnings among single mothers has increased significantly.

In my home State of Arkansas, TANF success stories are based on the core work requirements. We've got the story of Suzette. When she started participating in Arkansas' Work Pays program, she was a single parent without child care or transportation. With TANF assistance and support from her caseworker, within 6 months, she was promoted to shift manager at McDonald's and then on to a career at Tyson Foods. Now Suzette is providing child care and transportation herself, and her self-sufficiency was made possible through this program's key work requirements. This success story is exactly why Arkansas has not requested a waiver from the work requirements. In fact, no State has requested a waiver.

The administration's unprecedented action of pushing the waiver idea is a fundamental unwinding of years of progress made toward work as the cornerstone of moving people from poverty to self-sufficiency. We must uphold TANF's statutory work requirements and protect Congress' constitutional authority to legislate. I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 890.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), who is the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Human Resources with jurisdiction over TANF.

Mr. DOGGETT. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I believe in the value of work. That's one of the reasons that I voted for the 1996 welfare reform law, because I wanted to see more people move from welfare to work. Our laws need to encourage job opportunities, but in the effort that we have before us

today, it seems to me that this legislation as proposed is less malevolent and more irrelevant to those poor people.

Because of the way the TANF program is currently structured, only about 1 percent of working-aged adults across America who are poor are participating in TANF work activities at any particular time. So, this afternoon, for 99 percent of the poor Americans who are not participating in TANF work activities, this bill is not all that significant. These are people who are struggling to get up the economic ladder at about the first rung. What happens and whether there are waivers or there are not waivers, I think they basically just feel that we've waved goodbye to their plight and are not responding to it in a constructive way.

It also is important to remember that we have a higher proportion of our population living near the bottom of the economic ladder today than when welfare reform was first enacted. In 2011, about 46 million American neighbors lived in poverty. About 350,000 of those lived in the San Antonio area. Amidst this poverty, amidst this growing inequality in resources in our country, we have the lowest level of poor children receiving direct cash assistance from TANF in almost 50 years. In my home State of Texas, one in every 20 poor children receives TANF assistance directly, and when children get assistance, they don't get very much.

As we look at the whole question of extending the TANF law, what we've had are only short-term extensions, not long-term reform. And each of these has provided some convenient political opportunities to reenforce the old welfare Cadillac stereotypes that just blame the poor for being poor. A previous extension we had out here focused on whether we would prohibit poor people from withdrawing any of their TANF benefits at a strip club or at a casino. It's not an unreasonable restriction, but it's hardly going to the core issue of how to get more Americans out of poverty and into the workplace, and I don't think today's bill helps in that regard either.

I believe that poverty should be viewed as a major national problem that needs a resolution by our working together and not viewed as a weapon to just score political points out of the last Presidential campaign.

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

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. DOGGETT. I think the real poverty at stake today is the poverty of cooperation, that of seeking a bipartisan response to poverty, a poverty of balance that contributes to the many children and their parents who are out there and who are seeing so little progress.

If you evaluate the TANF program and how it has operated over the last decade and a half, based upon the number of poor people who have been denied assistance, it has been a tremendous success; but if you evaluate it based on how many poor people have moved out of welfare and into the workforce—into a job with a living wage that they're still in—I think the progress has been very spotty, at best.

The responsibility for those failures is shared broadly here in Washington and in the States, many of which just used the TANF resources to replace other things they were doing in the social service area. I believe that today's attempt to restrict State authority to strengthen welfare to work initiatives is totally contradictory with what's going on right now in the Budget Committee on block granting health assistance.

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

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DOGGETT. So, Mr. Speaker, rather than arguing over whether the States have all the flexibility they need, our goal ought to be: For the taxpayer and for poor Americans, how can we get more people into the workforce? And today's bill contributes little to that process.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I would just say that waiving the work requirement isn't going to get more people into work.

With that, I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED).

Mr. REED. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to rise in support of this proposed legislation before us today.

I have been sitting here, listening to the arguments of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and I've heard conflicting messages. I've heard that this is an irrelevant piece of legislation, that it's not necessary because no one is requesting a waiver, that HHS and the administration have not engaged in a policy that allows waivers to occur; yet in the same breath, in the same argument, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle say, But many Republican Governors are asking for waivers from States in going forward.

The point is: this needs to be clarified. This needs to be firmly stated in our record and in the laws of the land that TANF requires a work requirement for our welfare program.

I am a firm believer in the work requirements as they empower our unemployed, our underemployed—the folks who need it the most—to have the skill sets and the resources to put them back to work for generations to come so as to take care of their children and the people who are below them in regards to their needs.

□ 1610

What I would say is any effort to send a conflicting message that somehow waivers are an acceptable policy should be fought on both sides of the aisle and rejected. That's why this legislation is necessary, and it is also necessary to get the reauthorization in place so that we can set the stage for a comprehensive, vigorous debate on welfare reform at the end of this 9-month reauthorization that this legislation does.

So I encourage my colleagues, this is not about a Presidential election; this is about firm, solid policy when it comes to our welfare rolls in America. This is about giving people the tools to get back to work, and that work under the welfare program makes sense and is good, sound policy. I urge my colleagues to join with us and support this reauthorization.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), another member of our committee, and a most active one.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LEVIN. I rise in opposition to this bill today.

The underlying premise of this bill has been roundly and routinely denounced by fact checkers. This bill is at best a solution looking for a problem. In 1997, I carried legislation in California to implement the Federal Government's welfare reform. It was the California welfare reform measure. We took our work seriously, and we took the work requirements in the Federal legislation seriously in California, and we worked across the aisle to adopt practical welfare reform. My bill was signed by the Republican Governor at the time, Governor Pete Wilson, and it's still being followed by the Democratic Governor of California today, Governor Jerry Brown.

Welfare reform in California has contributed to substantial increases in the employment of very low-income earners and markedly helped families in California move from welfare to work. Fifteen years later, the program caseload in California is roughly 60 percent of what it was in 1998, even in the face of this Great Recession that we're coming through.

Waivers can be an important tool to allow States the flexibility to run Federal programs in the most efficient and effective way, a tool used to move people from welfare to work, and it shouldn't fall the victim of politics. Every State is different—we hear that on this floor all the time. States should have the flexibility to do what they need to do in order to effectively and efficiently move people from welfare to work, and that's what this provision does.

And the idea that we're standing here today debating this, whether or not it should be expunged from the Federal tool chest, is purely politics, and it should not happen. I urge a ''no'' vote.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, we spend a lot of time in this body talking about the need to be bipartisan. People rightly feel, I think, that

things get too polarized around here. I think back to the mid-nineties when Republicans controlled the House. We had a Democrat President, and people back then thought things were a bit too polarized as well. Yet in the midst of that atmosphere, Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich came up with landmark legislation to reform our welfare programs, and they did so in a bipartisan fashion.

One of the keys to the success of those reforms were the work requirement provisions that led to more jobs, bigger paychecks, and fewer people in poverty, children in particular. As President Clinton said at the time:

> First and foremost, welfare reform should be about moving people from welfare to work.

As further proof that this is not a partisan issue, Republican or Democrat, I look to my own State of Indiana. Before the 1996 welfare reform law was passed, then-Governor Bayh, a Democrat, created similar work requirements for Hoosiers who received certain government benefits. Not only did Indiana's reforms ensure that those who needed assistance were able to receive it, but it also helped ensure that they were quickly back to taking care of themselves.

As Mr. Bayh later said:

> The bottom line was trying to make someone self-sufficient. We were trying to achieve two values—one was the notion of community, and also responsibility.

Indiana's welfare-to-work initiative was a very successful program that remains a hallmark of his governorship.

With bipartisan consensus on this issue, and for all the talk in Washington about the need to be bipartisan, work across the aisle, it amazes me that HHS would unilaterally try and waive these work provisions. The welfare reform of the 1990s lifted millions out of poverty and put them on a path to self-sufficiency. It was a signature bill for bipartisanship in this town. Let's not undue these positive results by allowing HHS to gut key provisions of this bill.

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

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of this bill.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, rarely have I been a fan of the concept that one size fits all. Therefore, I find it necessary to not be in favor of this legislation. However, I am strongly in favor of TANF. TANF is a greatly needed program. It provides temporary assistance to needy families, and we need to try to make those programs as effective as we possibly can. TANF is designed to help people who may have become parents too soon. Their jobs may have gone out of business. They may have dropped out of school, don't have much in the way of formal education and training, and may even have a prison record.

In order to provide the most effective help, their State may need the flexibility to design and implement the best program they possibly can. They may even have clients who have three or four children and no husband or no wife. They may need babysitting help and cannot find it. They may need a waiver. I agree with the administration's position; and if a State determines that they can do a better job with the waiver, and Health and Human Services agrees, then they ought to be able to get one.

I've been told, and I believe, that if you give a man or woman a fish, they can eat for a day; but you teach them how to fish effectively, and they can eat for a lifetime. I disapprove of this restriction on this bill.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND), a cosponsor of the underlying bill.

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Chairman for yielding me time this afternoon.

I am proudly standing here as an original cosponsor of this bill, H.R. 890. I think today gives us an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to speak with clarity and say once and for all, regardless of the interpretations and regardless of the arguments on this floor, that we require an individual, before they benefit and they take, that they must work. I think it is a very safe thing for us to do. It mirrors the culture of this country down through the years.

You know, I support these requirements because working is the best way to lift people out of poverty and give them the opportunity for earned success. I remember in my youth, my father, he clearly made us work. He made us understand the value of hard work. It wasn't a punishment; it wasn't cruel. He knew that through hard work that our character would be molded, and we would understand that through work and through the sweat of our brow that we would find the destiny for our own lives.

I think today what this body should do, and will do, is clarify that the work requirements of TANF is a good thing. These work requirements are bipartisan. We've all heard on the floor today the bipartisan effort between Republicans and Democrats alike during 1996. What we're saying is they were good then, and they are good today. Most importantly, I am pleased with what occurred back in the mid-nineties. When you're talking about almost 73 percent of those who were on welfare moved to work, that's a positive thing for the lives of the American people.

□ 1620

The administration's unprecedented actions are clearly circumventing this law and the will of the people, with over 83 percent of Americans today believing that these work requirements are a positive thing.

It's common sense, it's a self-evident truth: if you want a positive future, you must help create that, and part of that requirement is that you must work.

I urge my colleagues today to join me in supporting H.R. 890 because it returns us to the real work of helping people who need it most.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) has 15 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. I now with great pleasure yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for yielding and for his tremendous leadership.

I rise in opposition to this TANF reauthorization bill that would deny States the opportunity to help put more unemployed people to work.

With 26 million working-age adults in America living below the poverty line, and millions struggling to stay afloat, I'm appalled that the House Republican priority is to bring to the floor a bill that further restricts the TANF program's ability to improve job outcomes and get people to work.

Funding for the TANF program has not kept pace with need. As a result, four out of five children living in poverty today are not being reached. Instead of targeting the President's reforms, which would actually increase flexibility for States, mind you, Congress should be focused on creating jobs and ladders of opportunity.

Now, I was on the conference committee that Congressman THOMPSON mentioned. I was in the California legislature, and I was on the conference committee that negotiated California's TANF program. And let me tell you, I voted against it. I voted against my own conference committee's report because, as a former welfare recipient myself, I didn't want to see more welfare recipients being penalized by a work requirement with no real effort and initiative and resources to help primarily women move from welfare to work.

This administration's reforms would correct for this, finally. It would create that flexibility that was needed then.

That's why yesterday myself, Congressmen RAÚL GRIJALVA, JUDY CHU, and EMANUEL CLEAVER, we submitted an amendment to restore the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund to further support our Nation's jobless workers and put people back to work.

It's not surprising that our amendment was ruled not in order by the Republican-controlled Rules Committee, but it does underscore the reality that Republicans are far more interested in scoring political points than they are in putting people back to work.

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

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. LEE of California. American families need a national strategy to end poverty, and this should be part of that. As chair of the Democratic whip's Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity, I'm working with all of our colleagues to advance that goal. Unfortunately, this reauthorization, though, takes us in the exact opposite direction.

We need to extend the TANF program, but this is not the way to do it. We need flexibility.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this bill.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RENACCI), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Preserving the Work Requirements for Welfare Programs Act of 2013. This extension of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program not only provides families the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty, but also maintains a valuable and bipartisan provision of the 1996 welfare reform law.

When first created, TANF was designated to get individuals back to work. Congress took further action in 2006 to strengthen work requirements after some States began counting activities like personal journaling, bed rest, and even weight loss as work activities.

Getting individuals back to work must remain TANF's purpose. However, HHS' unprecedented attempt to allow States to waive this work requirement has undermined this goal. These requirements were included in TANF for good reason.

If you're unemployed, maintaining your skill set is incredibly important to the company who wants to hire you. The longer you're out of work and the more your skills deteriorate, the less employable you are.

I can speak with some authority about this because I've owned and operated multiple businesses employing thousands of people. All things being equal, I would hire the individual who was most prepared to step into the position immediately.

So this is not about punishing those who are out of work. This is about giving those who are down on their luck the best chance to get back on their feet and start providing for their families again. If you speak to those that are out of work, that is what most will tell you they want: a chance to earn more money, help their family, and improve their situation in life.

I believe my colleagues on both sides of the aisle generally want to help those who are out of work. Instead of heated rhetoric, we should be focused on our common goal: providing much-needed assistance for the unemployed, while also helping them find the work they so desperately desire.

I ask my colleagues to come together and extend this important safety net, along with simple reforms that will ensure the program's effectiveness.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

I want to associate myself with all of the members from the distinguished Ways and Means Committee who have tried to explain to the majority authors of this bill that the waivers are narrowly offered and do not allow States to alter their work requirements.

These waivers would only be granted to those States who prove that they can quantitatively increase the number of their welfare beneficiaries who find and keep jobs. This waiver is in keeping with the Republican mantra of States' rights and allowing them to be flexible.

So we have heard a lot of hyperbole and exaggeration about what this does. And I think that really is in keeping with what we have heard about welfare reform since 1976, when Ronald Reagan trotted out the Welfare Queen, the woman who had 80 names, 30 addresses, and an annual income of $150,000 when you count Medicaid and food stamps, and who drove around in a Cadillac.

So it's difficult to get people to listen when, as social and political scientists have said, these stereotypes have been driven for decades by gender and racial stereotypes. And I think that's what we're dealing with here today, Mr. LEVIN.

We are not going to hear the level of levity that we need because I think that the low-wage workforce benefits tremendously by women, and particularly women of color, working for nothing. So the prospect of them getting customized labor training, in lieu of wiping down a table in a diner, is a little bit more than they can stand.

You know, if, in fact, we're going to have true welfare reform where we're going to lift people out of poverty, then this bill is not the direction we should be taking.

Mr. CAMP. At this time I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee, Dr. ROE.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 890 and preserving one of the most significant and successful Federal reform initiatives in the last 20 years.

Seventeen years ago, a Republican-led Congress worked with President Clinton to fix a broken welfare system. The bipartisan law that resulted established the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program. This law also required individuals to work, prepare for work, or look for work as a condition of receiving public assistance.

In the years following passage, the number of individuals receiving welfare dropped by a whopping 57 percent. The poverty level among single mothers fell by 30 percent, and I saw this in my practice as an OB–GYN physician. No question that it worked.

□ 1630

And this is while their income and earnings increased significantly. Poverty levels among young African Americans dropped to its lowest level in 2001. Last July, the Department of Health and Human Services issued an unprecedented guidance indicating that it would allow States to waive welfare work requirements. The law and the historical record are clear: the administration does not have this power.

But if there's any confusion, H.R. 890 will dispel it. This commonsense bill would prohibit the Secretary of HHS from moving ahead with this illegal waiver plan. More than 80 percent of Americans support the work requirements included in welfare reform, and this legislation ensures the hard work of the 104th Congress and President Clinton isn't undone by this administration.

Mr. Speaker, we should celebrate work in this country. We should help those who are down on their luck find a job—something all the House will do later this week when it considers the SKILLS Act. And for those Americans who need help, we should offer it—but not as a permanent entitlement.

I commend Chairmen CAMP, KLINE, and SCALISE, along with Mr. SOUTHERLAND, for their leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this bill.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. I thank my friend for yielding.

It is, and I think should be, the law in this country if you're able-bodied, you can't get welfare unless you work. That became the law in 1996.

Last year, two Republican Governors approached the administration and said, Before we send people to work full time, what we'd like to do is get them some training. So instead of simply getting a job, a person gets a career so they make some more money and don't wind up back on the welfare rolls because they're in a string of entry-level jobs. And the administration said to those two Republican Governors, Well, we'll let you do that, but only if you can prove that the result of this experiment will be more people are working, not fewer. The only way you can get this waiver is if you can prove that there will be more people moving from welfare to work than under the present system. This makes perfect sense to me.

It's said around here all the time that Washington should not dictate the rules, that one size does not fit all, and

that some of the best ideas come from our State capitals and local officials. If you believe those things, as I do, then you should vote against this bill. Because what this bill says is there will be no waivers, under any circumstances, for any Governor, whether it makes sense in their State or not. Keep this in mind.

Under the administration's policy, you can't get a waiver unless you can prove that more people move from welfare to work than under the present system. This is common sense. It's federalism. It lets the States do what they think is best under the right circumstances. And we should vote ''no.''

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, welfare work requirements have helped Michiganders and millions of Americans reduce their dependency on government assistance and get back on their feet again, and that's a good thing. And that, for many people, is the American Dream.

In the 1990s, while serving in the Michigan Legislature, I had the privilege of cosponsoring legislation that did this very thing in promoting workfare and edufare that ultimately became, arguably, the pattern for the 1996 Federal reform. It changed lives. We had welfare recipients who were completely reliant on government now given hope. I'll never forget the single-parent mother who was on welfare for most of her adult life and said in a public service announcement that she asked to be involved with, after going on edufare and then workfare, I was angry when I was first approached with this requirement. Now I can only say it changed my life. It not only changed my life in developing self-sufficiency, but it changed my family's life. They know that they can indeed make it on their own.

Those were illustrations that we experienced; and I saw how it worked in Michigan and then later in our country as a whole after the 1996 reforms. Unfortunately, last July, the Obama administration offered guidance that would undermine this requirement. Without consulting Congress, and despite bipartisan support for work requirements, the Department of Health and Human Services began moving forward this agenda. Congress should repeal the HHS's waiver plan and prevent the administration from waiving the work requirements. It's the right thing to do. It's time to move past this waiver debate so we can move forward with building a stronger, sounder TANF program that promotes self-sufficiency and positive action.

Please join me in supporting H.R. 890.

Mr. LEVIN. It is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the floor leaders for their hard work, but I have another explanation for where we are today.

My colleague before me indicated that flexibility is important. It means that we, your Representatives, are listening to you. But I'm listening to more voices than just those who are here on this floor. I'm listening to the voices of those who want to get out of poverty, and I'm delighted to be part of a newly established caucus that focuses on eliminating poverty.

I was here for the first reform bill, and I do believe there's something important about work; but let us understand that when we talk about poverty, we're talking about children, we're talking about parents who are raising children and who may need to be home. We've always made the argument that mothers working at home is work.

I'm disappointed in this legislation primarily because it takes the flexibility away from Governors to determine how best to get people back to work. But why don't we bring a bill to the floor to raise the minimum wage from $7 to $9? Why do we not listen to people who say, I barely can make it, such as one of my constituents who said, Not only am I at minimum wage, but they require me to pay for my parking. Can I please get a lift?

Or maybe we're not aware of title 3 in the housing act that has people in public housing being able to work, which was an amendment that I offered to that particular title to allow those to work on projects that the housing authority has. My housing authority just told me that people are lining up to work. They have people working.

So this is not about making people work. It's about ignoring and picking on, again, President Obama's administration because they decide to listen to Republican and Democratic Governors to work on behalf of the American people. Let's get it right. Let's talk about getting people out of poverty. Let's raise the minimum wage. Let's talk about the flexibility so that people can work. Because they want to work. I haven't heard anybody that doesn't want to work. But realize if you are getting TANF, you're getting it because of your children, because of some situation that puts you in a place that you hope to get out of.

I don't think it is the right thing to do to strangle the hands of the administration doing what the American people would like them to do. Let's vote against this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to simply express my disappointment in H.R. 890, The Preserving Work Requirements for Welfare Programs Act of 2013, which it actually does not do.

I had an amendment prepared which would simply make the effective date for this bill of December 2035. This is not a whimsical attempt to delay implementation; but merely an expression of my frustration that Members on the other side have come to disagree with policies which their Caucus, past and present, helped to create and foster.

In 2012, the Department of Health and Human Services announced that it would consider requests from the states to operate demonstration projects within the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to help recipients prepare for, find and maintain employment.

The effort was partially a response to requests from governors throughout the United States—including many Republican governors—asking for just such flexibility to operate TANF. The Secretary of HHS has stated that any governor wanting such a waiver must commit that their proposal will move at least 20 percent more people from welfare to work.

Rather than embrace the Administration's efforts to provide states flexibility, however, Republicans in Congress have waged a disingenuous campaign against the waiver proposal, drawing rebukes from fact-checkers.

On Feb. 28, House Republicans introduced H.R. 890 to prohibit the Administration from granting such flexibility to states. The bill was unanimously opposed by my Democratic colleagues during a Committee markup held on March 6, 2013.

This year's action comes after Republicans took nearly identical action last fall. After passing it out of the Ways and Means Committee against unanimous opposition from Committee Democrats, House Republicans passed a resolution disapproving of the Administration's flexibility plan on Sept. 20, 2012.

Let's look at some facts:

Same Waiver Authority Used by President Clinton—On July 12, 2012, HHS issued guidance that it was exercising the agency's authority under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act to entertain requests from States to conduct demonstration projects under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. A legal analysis from the Congressional Research Service (CRS) found that HHS' current waiver initiative is ''consistent'' with the prior practice under the Clinton Administration, which permitted dozens of welfare waivers prior to the enactment of the 1996 welfare law.

Projects Must Focus on Increasing Work—The HHS notice clearly and repeatedly states that all demonstration projects must be ''focused on improving employment outcomes.'' Such outcomes must be demonstrated by a rigorous evaluation, and states must meet targets for accelerating job placements for welfare recipients.

Cutting Red Tape and Increasing Performance—Governor Herbert of Utah, a Republican, informed HHS that his state would like to be evaluated on the basis of the state's success in placing welfare recipients into employment, rather than on their participation in certain activities, and that this approach ''would require some flexibility at the state level and the granting of a waiver.''

Providing States with Flexibility, While Holding them Accountable—HHS Secretary Sebelius has stated, ''the Department is providing a very limited waiver opportunity for states that develop a plan to measurably increase the number of beneficiaries who find and hold down a job.

Specifically, Governors must commit that their proposals will move at least 20 percent more people from welfare to work compared to the state's past performance.''

No Effect on Funding Levels or Time Limits—Nothing in the waiver authority applies to the current five-year federal time limit on TANF assistance. Additionally, demonstration projects will in no way affect the fixed block

grant amounts now provided to states under the TANF program.

Republicans Were For Welfare Waivers Before They Were Against Them—In 2002, 2003, and 2005 Republicans passed legislation on the House floor that included a provision allowing the waiver of TANF work requirements. While these waiver proposals were broader and affected many more programs than the policy now proposed by HHS, the Congressional Research Service confirms that all of these bills "would have had the effect of allowing TANF work participation standards to be waived" Chairman CAMP, along with Speaker BOEHNER and Representative RYAN, voted for all three of these bills.

Claims that Waivers Remove Work Requirements Are Clearly False—President Clinton, who signed the 1996 welfare reform law, said "When some Republican governors asked if they could have waivers to try new ways to put people on welfare back to work, the Obama administration listened because we all know it's hard for even people with good work histories to get jobs today. So moving folks from welfare to work is a real challenge. And the administration agreed to give waivers to those governors and others only if they had a credible plan to increase employment by 20 percent, and they could keep the waivers only if they did increase employment. Now, did I make myself clear? The requirement was for more work, not less."

Ron Haskins, the lead Republican Congressional staffer in charge of drafting the 1996 welfare reform law, has said "there is merit to what the Administration is proposing," and "I don't see how you can get to the conclusion that the waiver provision undermines welfare reform." Politifact declared that Governor Romney's claim that the waiver proposal would eliminate work requirements for welfare recipients was "pants on fire" false. The fact checker said the contrary was true, stating: "by grating waivers to states, the Obama administration is seeking to make welfare-to-work efforts more successful, not end them."

FactCheck.org says Romney's claims on the issue "distorts the facts" and is "simply not true." It reiterates that work requirements are not being dropped under the waiver proposal, and that "benefits still won't be paid beyond an allotted time."

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN).

Mr. STUTZMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate his hard work on this.

Mr. Speaker, Hoosiers understand that welfare checks are not a substitute for paychecks. Last year, President Obama's administration really undermined commonsense and time-tested reforms by trying to weaken work requirements that were created in the 1996 bipartisan welfare reform law. These work requirements helped lift Americans out of poverty and into the workforce. In just 5 years, welfare dependency was nearly cut in half, more single mothers found jobs, and child poverty fell drastically. Unfortunately, President Obama's decision to reverse course will drive up government spending without doing anything to lower unemployment.

Growing up on a farm in northern Indiana, I learned at a very young age that a good neighbor is someone who will roll up their sleeves to help someone pick themselves back up, that neighbors look out for neighbors, friends look out for friends, and family looks out for family. And that's exactly the commonsense approach that Chairman CAMP's bill takes.

This legislation extends assistance to fight poverty by restoring the work requirements that made welfare reform a success in the 1990s. I appreciate and applaud Chairman CAMP for introducing this legislation to help American families without creating a permanent subsidy. Americans want to work, but we need to make sure that they have the skills and they're capable and willing to perform the jobs that are provided to them in their communities.

□ 1640

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) has 7 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has 6½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS).

Ms. JENKINS. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and for his leadership on this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, today, the House will act to protect our Nation's welfare-to-work programs, which have been enormously successful in moving millions of Americans out of poverty, off government dependency, and into jobs since 1996. Following the implementation of welfare-to-work requirements, the number of individuals receiving welfare dropped by 57 percent, poverty among single mothers fell by 30 percent, and child poverty decreased dramatically.

Welfare reform laws specifically forbid any administration from changing the work requirements without congressional approval. The current administration has ignored this and attempted to waive the work requirement, which would destroy critical aspects of welfare reform and years of progress.

With the passage of H.R. 890, the House will block the administration's controversial waiver plan, and in the days ahead I hope the administration will work with Congress, instead of around it, to strengthen the TANF program and help low-income families achieve financial independence.

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

It's so ironical it's worse than that. The Republicans are in their budget saying, "let's block grant Medicaid and all nutrition programs and send back those programs entirely to the States in the name of flexibility." And now they come forth arguing that the proposal of this administration to provide flexibility to the States, if requested, and if it increases work participation 20 percent, they throw up their hands and say, "no." It's worse than contradictory.

CRS has made clear the following:

> The Secretary's interpretation of her current authority under section 1115 with regard to waivable TANF provisions under section 402 appears consistent with the Secretary's practice under the same provision as it existed under the AFDC program.

TANF is going to be extended. We don't need to do it with this provision that harks back to the campaign. The 20 percent requirement, the Secretary made clear, it isn't waiving the work requirement; it's letting the States implement it. It was requested by the Governor of Utah, a Republican.

Bill Clinton has been mentioned so often. And I just urge everybody to listen to what he said. It strengthens the work requirements:

> The requirement was for more work, not less.

So to come forth here and say that it weakens it is fallacious, to put it mildly.

Do you know what this is in a few words? This is an effort in 2013 to validate a fallacious political ad of the year 2012. And that's worse than unhappy when this place is searching for some ability to work together.

The election is over. Let's get on with the work ahead of us.

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

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

I would just say—as other speakers have mentioned—the 1996 welfare reform law has been tremendously successful. It has lowered welfare roles, it has lifted people out of poverty, it has reduced poverty for single mothers, and reduced poverty for children. And before that, before we had the 1996 welfare reform law, whether times were good or bad, welfare rolls only increased.

Clearly, the welfare reform law has been successful. Frankly, we need to protect the law from this administration, because what this administration wants to do is undermine the work requirement in welfare.

And what are we talking about here? The work requirement is really that only half of the welfare caseload has to be in work. That means for the other half, States have ultimate flexibility to determine how to move those people into job readiness and to work. For the half of the people that need to be in some form of work requirement there are 12 definitions of what is work in the law. Let me just list those off:

Subsidized private employment, subsidized government employment, job search, community service. You can be in community service and that qualifies for work.

Work experience, on-the-job training. If you're getting training related to your job, that counts as work.

Vocational education. So you can be training in a vocational discipline and still have that qualify for work.

Caring for the child of a TANF recipient in community service. So you can care for somebody else's child and that counts as work. And we're only talking about half of the welfare caseload.

Job skills training, education related to employment, completion of secondary school. That all counts as work.

Let's look at the Statement of Administration Policy. They say that no States have formally applied for waivers. No States are asking for this because they already have tremendous flexibility.

But let me just say, if you're going to change the law—and what this administration is trying to do is change the law—you don't just send a letter, or what they're calling an information memorandum. What is that?

Frankly, when the Government Accountability Office looked at this, they said they can't do business this way. This is a rule. And to follow a rule they need to follow the Congressional Review Act, they need to follow the law. And the law says they need to notify Congress, which they did not do. This is something they did on their own.

So on many levels we need to turn this around. They've entered into a gray murky area that we really don't know what they're doing, whether it's legal or not, whether States will have authority to do this or not. Given that the law was explicit that there is no waiver of this work requirement, given that this work requirement was a condition for States getting a cash payment, a block sum amount in welfare, and given the flexibility that was written into the law, it's very important that we make this clear.

Frankly, I think my friends on the other side should be joining Republicans in protecting the constitutional authority of the Congress to make the laws, not the bureaucrats at the Department of Health and Human Services. So I would ask my friends, vote for this bill, support the work requirement, support the ability of the Congress to make the laws under the Constitution of the United States.

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am voting against H.R. 890 because it, just like nearly identical legislation brought before the Ways and Means Committee last year, is based on partisan charges that have been widely discredited by independent fact checker. It would also block new and innovative ways to move more people from welfare to work. At a time when Congress confronts so many pressing issues, not the least of which is preventing the misguided cuts in the sequester from hurting our economy, H.R. 890 is a step in the wrong direction.

H.R. 890 prevents the administration from pursuing flexible, innovative ways to return people to work. As Health and Human Services Secretary Sebelius informed our committee, "the Department is providing a very limited waiver opportunity for states that develop a plan to measurably increase the number of beneficiaries who find and hold down a job. Specifically, Governors must commit that their proposals will move at least 20% more people from welfare to work compared to the state's past performance."

The Congressional Research Service (CRS), in reviewing the administration's authority to permit demonstration projects, found that the current waiver initiative is "consistent" with prior practice. The CRS review found that dozens of waivers for demonstration projects have been approved in the past when their subject matter has been referenced in Section 402 of the Social Security Act (just as the administration currently proposes). CRS also found nothing in the law bars Secretary Sebelius from providing waivers related to employment activities in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

H.R. 890 seems more focused on politics than on policy. On that basis, and because it would impede progress in helping more welfare recipients move into work, I oppose this legislation.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to H.R. 890—Preserving Work Requirements for Welfare Programs Act of 2013.

This bill prohibits the Secretary of HHS from using longstanding authority to issue waivers that allow states to conduct demonstration projects under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. It also reauthorizes the TANF program through December 31, 2013.

In Texas over 68,000 families receive TANF benefits. TANF is a block grant program to help move recipients into work and turn welfare into a program of temporary assistance.

In order to receive the maximum TANF benefit, families must be in compliance with work requirements and no one may remain on TANF for more than 60 months. Federal TANF law requires states to penalize families that fail to meet these requirements.

In response to a request from a bipartisan group of governors for more flexibility, the Obama Administration said the federal government would consider waiving existing work participation requirements for states that were experimenting with "new, more effective ways" of helping welfare applicants find work, "particularly helping parents successfully prepare for, find, and retain employment."

The Administration hasn't gotten rid of the work requirement or laid out a new theory of what it ought to include. It has given states the ability to seek executive branch approval for new methods.

This legislation is not needed, for no state has requested a waiver. This is the second time this bill has been introduced, as a solution to a problem that doesn't exist.

The House should focus on extending TANF benefits to needy families in the country.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 890. I urge members of both parties to oppose this legislation, which in only a few pages demonstrates all that is wrong with Washington—politicians putting partisan concerns ahead of constructive policy. Governors from several states have overcome partisan differences to support the waivers H.R. 890 wishes to eliminate. Let us follow their lead and defeat this legislation together.

H.R. 890 is a simplistic bill. It prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services from giving effect to the July 2012 guidance that granted states waivers regarding the design of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) programs. It also prohibits further experimentation, banning pilot programs or demonstration programs that could potentially revolutionize TANF, making it more effective and less costly. Though these changes seem small, they can mean a world of difference for families in need of the training and educational opportunities that new approaches to TANF could provide.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is one of the most remarkable pieces of work that I have ever seen considered on this floor. Not because it is such a bad piece of policy. Not because of how abominably it misrepresents the current state of federal and state practices. Not even because we are still litigating a claim which was dreamed up by a failed presidential campaign last summer, and which was roundly rejected by the American people.

No, Mr. Speaker, this legislation is remarkable because my friends across the aisle are demanding that we wrest control from the states in favor of a more inflexible and inefficient approach. The claims of federalism invoked by my Republican colleagues in so many of legislative battles I have witnessed over the years are nowhere to be heard.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 890 is wrong—and it is wrong for all the wrong reasons.

Despite H.R. 890's claims, the waivers granted to TANF program operators in July 2012 do not weaken TANF's work requirements—they strengthen them. These waivers provide states with the opportunity to determine what works best for them. These waivers allow states to experiment with alternative employment and training programs that reflect the varied problems confronting TANF recipients who wish to join the work force. Successful programs can then be replicated in other states and limited resources can be stretched further to ensure more effort is expended finding jobs instead of complying with red tape.

Despite what H.R. 890 presumes, these waivers won't lead to TANF recipients laying on hammocks, but rather are the key to unlocking the potential of men and women who want their own piece of the American dream. The waivers will allow program officials to provide the training and education necessary for many beneficiaries to join the ever more competitive labor market. Further, they will allow states to tailor their programs to the specific demands of their local economies, and ensure that TANF continues to improve in its mission to see recipients become self-sufficient. This—Mr. Speaker—is what good government looks like. This—Mr. Speaker—is why Republican and Democratic governors across the nation support these waivers.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask my friends across the aisle to put aside partisan concerns for just this moment and vote their conscience on this matter. I want them to ask whether they can in good conscience continue to oppose these commonsense reforms simply because it plays well with the fringes of their party. I want them to consider what it will sound like next time I hear from them that the federal government is too large and should cede more authority to the states. I want them to consider what people will hear when they claim to favor state solutions to national problems. Quite simply I want them to consider their professed principles instead of partisan politics—for if they do, they cannot support H.R. 890.

I urge everyone, Democrat and Republican, to vote ''no'' on H.R. 890. We've litigated this long enough—lets finally put it to rest.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I must express my profound surprise by the Republican effort to undermine state flexibility to strengthen work outcomes for people who receive TANF. In contrast to prior Republican support for such TANF waivers, in contrast to longstanding Republican advocacy for greater state flexibility, and in contrast to the reality that the TANF waivers would actually accelerate job placements and dramatically improve work outcomes, the current Republican rhetoric jettisons past support for state flexibility to improve TANF outcomes and disingenuously charges the Administration with gutting welfare reform. It is in states' best interests to improve the work outcomes of their citizens, which is why Republican and Democratic governors have asked for the type of flexibility provided by the Administration's waiver.

Under current rules, a state can meet its work requirement even if no recipient finds a job. In contrast, approved demonstration waivers explicitly would focus on improving employment outcomes. Under current rules, states spend very little of their TANF funds on work activities and substantial resources monitoring participation in activities. In contrast, approved demonstration waivers would help states make more effective and efficient use of limited resources. Under current rules, people are discouraged from getting a high school diploma or GED, even though they're more likely to find good jobs with such education. In contrast, approved demonstration waivers would allow states to focus on building a better skilled workforce.

Under current rules, people working in subsidized jobs don't count toward the state's work rate. In contrast, Illinois boasted one of the most successful subsidized employment programs in the nation while using TANF Emergency Funds. The program directly placed almost 30,000 unemployed and underemployed adults in jobs that paid approximately $10 per hour, putting almost $9 million dollars into the pockets of hard working Illinoisans and into the economy. Almost 5000 employers in Illinois benefited.

Why Republicans would oppose innovative programs to help the unemployed get solid jobs is simply puzzling. Rather than advancing political theatre, the Republicans should be working with Democrats to replace the across-the-board spending cuts, strengthen the middle class, create jobs, expand our economy, and responsibly bring down the deficit. It is these proactive steps at governing that my constituents seek.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 890, the Preserving Work Requirements for Welfare Act of 2013. This legislation would overturn the Administration's proposal to allow states greater flexibility to help more Americans move from welfare to good jobs. Several states have requested this flexibility, including some states with Republican governors and legislatures. This is a politically disingenuous bill which only prevents Congress from devoting our time to finding actual solutions to lowering our unemployment rate.

As a condition of receiving federal TANF funding, states are required to document the number of hours that welfare recipients spend in paid jobs, voluntary work, or other activities directly related to finding employment. Many states have argued that the current law's requirements are onerous and counterproductive to helping welfare recipients find work to lift their families out of poverty.

In response to state feedback, the Administration proposed a program to allow states to use alternate, outcome-based measures for job placement, rather than relying solely on numerical work participation standards. This waiver would give states the flexibility needed to improve the effectiveness of TANF programs by focusing on the outcomes that matter to our families. The Administration's waiver program has strict requirements to hold states accountable for making measurable progress in job placement.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 890, which would hinder states' autonomy and flexibility in finding solutions that work for their residents. Instead of wasting time on partisan proposals, we must work across the aisle to find real solutions for working families in my Dallas district and across the country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 107, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

□ 1650

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. ENYART. I am opposed to the bill in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Enyart moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 890, to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. ___. PROTECTING UNEMPLOYED PARENTS, INCLUDING VETERANS, WOMEN, VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS, AND GRANDPARENTS WHO ARE RAISING THE CHILDREN OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

Nothing in this Act shall prohibit or limit a State which is receiving funds under section 403 (a)(1) of the Social Security Act from providing assistance, job opportunities, or educational training authorized in this Act, for—

(1) unemployed parents, including veterans, women who are victims of domestic violence, and victims of natural disasters; or

(2) grandparents caring for children who have a parent who is, or who had a parent who died while being, a member of the United States Armed Forces.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I haven't been in Washington very long. Like so many in southern Illinois and across our Nation, I answered the call to serve. I grew up in a household where I was taught the importance of fairness, duty, and honor. Whether it was walking the beans on my grandparents' farm or working with my father on the line at Caterpillar, I understood the importance of hard work, fair pay, and taking responsibility for myself and our family.

When I was 19, I enlisted and arrived for duty at Scott Air Force Base, a vital component of our national security and major employer in the district I now represent. For 35 years, I served in the military. For the past 5 years, I served as the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, where I led our response to natural disasters and oversaw the largest deployment of Guard troops since World War II. Serving alongside those 13,000 soldiers and airmen and hundreds of civilian employees proved to me that the resiliency of Illinoisans, whether recovering from floods, ice storms, or earthquakes, or coming together as a community to support our service men and women overseas, is unparalleled.

Today, I offer the final amendment to the bill. It will not delay nor kill the bill nor send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will proceed immediately to final passage, as amended.

From my experience as an enlisted man to that of commander of the Illinois National Guard, I'm concerned about how this bill interferes with States' rights and might unfairly affect unemployed veterans and their families, victims of domestic violence, and victims of natural disasters, as well as grandparents caring for children whose parents are deployed.

In January, families in Sparta, a town I represent in southern Illinois, had the joy and blessing to welcome home over 150 soldiers with the Guard's 661st Engineer Company and 662nd Engineer Fire Fighting Detachment from Afghanistan. I was the commander who signed their deployment orders and sent them into harm's way. I was honored to see their safe return. For many of these men and women, their return means making a young family whole again. They could not have borne their responsibilities in Afghanistan without support from grandparents, spouses, and a community like Sparta.

That's why I'm so alarmed by this bill in its current form. Why would Congress seek to make it more difficult for a single parent or grandparent to care for children while their mother or father is deployed overseas? Is that the message we want to send our troops, that their service is a burden to those back home?

For our veterans in Sparta and across the Nation facing new, sometimes heartbreaking challenges in their transition to civilian life, know that the promises we made to them are on the line. For us in southern Illinois, I'll be blunt. We need jobs.

Southern Illinois hasn't seen an economic recovery yet. Out of 102 counties

in Illinois, six in my district in southern Illinois are among those struggling most, with more than 20 percent of families trying to make ends meet on incomes less than $23,000 a year.

The fact is that our heroes, our veterans returning home, don't necessarily have jobs waiting for them. That's why this bill in its current form is so out of touch with the realities that our veterans face. Instead, Congress is telling our veterans and our military families: your service isn't good enough. You haven't done enough for our Nation. Once again, Congress has gotten it wrong.

Another example, in Illinois we don't qualify assistance for victims of domestic violence. That's why I have to ask, given the critical need for us to responsibly reduce the deficit and actually work on improving our economy, why would Congress focus on questioning the expertise and recommendations made by my State or any other?

Where I come from and where I'm proud to represent, we all share the southern Illinois values of hard work, integrity, and fairness. Veterans and military families, victims of domestic abuse, communities overcoming natural disaster, like Harrisburg, Illinois, these are the good people who shouldn't be pawns of politics in Congress, and we owe them the assurance that this bill will not reduce critical assistance.

I urge my colleagues to stand by our veterans and military families. I urge them to consider honoring our home State's authority. I ask they pass this commonsense amendment to invest in the resiliency of our communities.

I yield back the balance of my time

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CAMP. I have to say, Mr. Speaker, this is one of the most unnecessary and meaningless motions to recommit I've seen in my time in Congress. The definition of who's eligible for TANF is left to the States. So the idea that somehow this motion to recommit singles out unemployed parents, TANF applies to unemployed parents. TANF applies to people that are veterans. TANF applies to people who are grandparents. It's about getting the unemployed jobs.

So I have to say, I'm puzzled by this. It seems totally political and completely unnecessary. None of these groups mentioned in this motion to recommit are excluded from receiving TANF benefits.

What this is about is not weakening the work requirement. I understand why the administration may want to weaken the work requirement since their record on job creation is so atrocious. But the fact is that States have tremendous flexibility here. Half of the caseload doesn't have to meet the work requirement. They can be engaging in whatever activity or no activity the State determines. The other half has 12 different categories, including vocational training and other job readiness activities, that will qualify as work.

This is a straight extension of current law. This is an extension of current law that has proven extremely successful. Let's not weaken the requirement. Let's extend the welfare program, the TANF program, at current levels, and let's get people back to work.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 199, nays 230, not voting 2, as follows:

[Roll No. 67]

YEAS—199

Andrews
Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—230

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Radel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—2

Costa
Lynch

□ 1735

Messrs. NUNES, JOYCE, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Messrs. CRENSHAW, CARTER, COTTON, Ms. GRANGER, Messrs. SCALISE and BURGESS changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mr. COOPER changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 246, noes 181, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 68]

AYES—246

Aderholt
Alexander
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Radel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOES—181

Amash
Andrews
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Markey
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
Meeks
Meng
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—4

Cartwright
Costa
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1742

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 68, I was detained off the floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 1, noes 421, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 69]

AYES—1

Cárdenas

NOES—421

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn

Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—9

Bachmann
Carney
Coble
Costa
Johnson (GA)
Jones
Lynch
Markey
Schrader

□ 1759

Mr. OLSON changed his vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

HOERBIGER CORPORATION OF AMERICA—50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, April 9, Hoerbiger Corporation of America will celebrate its 50th anniversary. A well-known and highly respected south Florida-based company, Hoerbiger provides many hardworking Americans with high quality manufacturing jobs in our south Florida community.

I commend this innovative corporation for its half decade of business prowess, its commitment to sustainable businesses practices, its fairness to its employees and generosity to our community.

Since 1963, Hoerbiger's focus on quality and innovation has established it as an industry leader, much to the credit of its founder, Hubert Wagner. The legacy of success continues with the expert guidance of its current president, Hannes Hunschofsky.

This exemplary corporation and community partner has accomplished much over the years, and I am pleased that it calls south Florida home. Congratulations to each and every one at Hoerbiger for achieving this exciting milestone, and I wish you many more years of success.

A BALANCED BUDGET

(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. Madam Speaker, the only way to get our economy growing stronger is to take an honest account of the fiscal problems we face and put forward serious policies to address these challenges—it is called budgeting.

A fundamental part of governing entails writing and passing a budget, something we have not seen from the Senate Chamber in over 4 years. Four years, that's how long my constituents and Americans across this country have had to wait for the Senate to perform its most basic function as a legislative body.

Before today, the only thing certain was that the Senate would not consider a budget. Today, the Senate Democrats introduced a budget, and I'm glad they did. It's about time. Unfortunately, after reviewing their proposal, today the only thing certain is that their budget will never balance.

We owe the American people a responsible, balanced budget. The House budget introduced yesterday balances the budget in 10 years. The Senate Democrats' proposal never balances—ever.

A balanced budget will foster a healthier economy and create jobs, Madam Speaker. The American people elected us to lead and put forward solutions, not hide from challenges and posture for the next election.

CONGRATULATING MARS, INCORPORATED

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mars, Incorporated for being recognized by Fortune Magazine as one of the ''best companies to work for.''

Many folks are familiar with the Mars' delicious snacks, such as M&Ms and Snickers. In my home State of Georgia, we have come to know Mars as a great place to work through its merger with Wrigley.

Since joining the Mars family in 2008, employees at the Wrigley manufacturing plant in Flowery Branch, Georgia, have benefited from being part of the Mars community. Mars employees are given wonderful opportunities for growth and advancement. As a result, the company boasts a low turnover rate.

Mars' strategies have resulted in diversity that strengthens its business model by mentorship opportunities which are built into the company's structure, including a ''reverse internship'' in which a younger employee introduces an executive to social media.

Like Wrigley, Mars is truly an American success story. Mars remains a family-owned company that places high value on its human capital, which it demonstrates through significant investment in its 72,000 employees.

Through innovation and creativity, Wrigley continues to identify new markets and growth opportunities, such their new Alert chewing gum line.

I want to congratulate the hardworking Mars workforce throughout the United States, and especially the Wrigley employees in Georgia, for building a great company. The millions of Americans who enjoy Juicy Fruit, Life Savers, and your other wonderful products wish you continued success.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, this week, the House Budget Committee chair, PAUL RYAN, laid out his budget plan. Sadly, it's just more of the same. Like a bad

record, this year's Republican proposal is virtually the same document as the one he proposed last spring. It harms the middle class. It harms low-income Americans, and it is especially bad for women and families.

Now they have framed this budget and called it a prosperity one, a prosperity plan. But this budget should be called ''the road to austerity,'' because it is a plan that is most noteworthy for the rather harsh austerity it demands of the many and the lavish benefits it extends to the few. It clearly envisions a rising tide of selective tax cuts that would lift all yachts but leave many dinghies behind.

Our Republican friends like to talk about making the hard choices. What they propose here would indeed make things much harder for millions of Americans, but it will also make things much easier for a fortunate few. That's their plan.

Now, specifically under this plan, he has this new goal of balancing the budget in 10 years. To accomplish this, he slashes funding safety net programs that serve seniors, students, children, low-income families, and women. The budget slashes food stamps and cuts funding for infrastructure investments like high-speed rail. We're falling way behind the rest of the world. We need to invest in our infrastructure to stay competitive. And it does nothing for job creation or to help the unemployed.

The Ryan plan replaces Medicare, and really ends Medicare as we know it by replacing it with a voucher system and replaces Medicaid by making it a block grant to the States. These cuts hurt tens of millions of Americans who count on these programs for their health care coverage.

But not to just rely on what I'm saying, to quote The Washington Post:

> The 10-year spending plan released Tuesday by Representative Ryan is virtually identical to last year's GOP budget. It would defund President Obama's health care initiative and guaranteed Medicare coverage for future retirees and sharply restrain spending on the poor, college students and Federal workers.

Now, what I find very hypocritical about this budget is that they say that they are going to repeal ObamaCare, or the Affordable Care Act, yet this bill passed this Congress. It was upheld by the Supreme Court. We had an election where this was the issue that people ran on, and President Obama was reelected, strongly. So they keep flip-flopping on this issue. They say they want to abolish ObamaCare, but then they rely on the savings of over $700 million in that program.

So when Congressman RYAN was Vice Presidential candidate Ryan, he campaigned against the health care provider cuts of $716 million, the same ones he wants to keep in this budget. The Republicans opposed these cuts when they were part of the Affordable Care Act, then they passed two budgets that included these cuts. And then Congressman RYAN and Presidential candidate Romney campaigned against the cuts in the 2012 election. And now Mr. RYAN wants to keep them, once again. That's not just a 180-degree turn, it's 180 degrees times four, so it's a change of 720 degrees.

But one thing that is completely clear in this budget is that women, in particular, will suffer because of the choices the Republican budget makes.

□ 1810

Instead of closing tax loopholes for companies that ship jobs overseas, the budget kicks kids out of Head Start. Instead of getting rid of tax breaks for the oil and gas industry, for single moms struggling to put food on the table it cuts food stamps.

It seems to me with the budget right now that we are spending at a roughly proposed 3.1 percent, but 1.1 percent is tax loopholes. If you just closed those tax loopholes, you would be able to significantly reduce the deficit and the debt. Why in the world are we giving tax loopholes for companies that move jobs overseas? If you're going to give a tax incentive, it should be to the companies that stay in America and create jobs for Americans.

Now, instead of ensuring that women are not discriminated against by health insurance companies, this bill would repeal the rights women earned in the Affordable Care Act. The Republican budget cuts Medicare benefits, cuts Medicaid services, cuts health research funding and so much more all in the name of a new agenda that they have that will cripple our economy and cause real and lasting harm to the women of America.

The Democratic approach is a more balanced one. Everyone agrees that we need to reduce the deficit and cut the debt, but it's a matter of how you do it, what priorities you have in it and what's your timeframe. The Democratic plan is balanced. I would call it a three-legged stool. You have cuts, you have revenues and you have investments to help grow and expand the economy and create jobs, investments in education and innovation.

Chairman Bernanke has testified before Congress that many of the reasons why America is really digging its way out of this recession and bouncing back faster and stronger than Europe is that we have had a balanced approach, whereas Europe has had an austerity, austerity, austerity approach. As many economists say, ''You cannot cut your way to prosperity.'' Austerity needs to be balanced with revenues and also investments.

I'm joined tonight by DINA TITUS from the great State of Nevada. She was reelected in this session. She was an outstanding member of our caucus. We are so thrilled that she's come back to join us.

I yield the gentlelady as much time as she may consume.

Ms. TITUS. Thank you, Congresswoman MALONEY, for letting me join you tonight, and thank you for organizing this very important special hour to talk about the Republican budget and its unacceptable impact on women.

For the third year in a row, Chairman RYAN has proposed an uncompromising budget plan that is out of touch with my State of Nevada's priorities and the country's vision for the future.

Chairman RYAN has used a lot of gimmicks in his budget, but no amount of chicanery will hide what this budget really means for women.

Instead of laying out a fair and balanced plan, as you said, Congresswoman, Representative RYAN's budget undermines the health and economic security of the elderly and the disabled, most of whom are women, and disproportionately harms low-income women and families they struggle to support.

It also would repeal the Affordable Care Act. This landmark legislation that we passed increases access to critical women's health services such as prenatal and maternity care, and it finally ends the longstanding notion that being a woman is a preexisting condition.

The proposed budget also threatens a laundry list of vital programs that help women and children such as SNAP, WIC, Head Start, school lunches, TANF, and Pell Grants, just to name a few. These are programs that millions of women across the country and their families rely on every day just to get by.

Instead of protecting such critical programs, Representative RYAN and the Republican Party would rather protect tax breaks for the wealthiest folks in our country, for oil companies and for those companies you mentioned that ship our jobs overseas.

The Federal budget is a blueprint for our Nation's future. It's a statement of our national priorities. It should reflect who we are, and it should provide a path forward that we can all be proud of.

My constituents in Las Vegas and our constituents around the country deserve better than this old rehashed Ryan budget which slashes programs for children, dismantles health care for women, eliminates the safety net for seniors and defunds education and needed research and development that we should be investing in as part of that three-legged stool.

Instead, we need to get to work on a balanced plan that protects women and families and makes those needed investments in our future.

Again, I thank you, Congresswoman MALONEY, and our colleagues who have joined us tonight to talk about these important issues, and I urge you to give careful consideration to the Ryan budget with all those hidden little tricks and old hat policies.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I thank you for joining us tonight to share how this impacts on Nevada, an important State that you're representing. And I just want to express my gratitude that you have come

back to Congress and that you're a part of our caucus.

Another outstanding woman in our caucus is CAROL SHEA-PORTER from the great State of New Hampshire. And it is a State that's really unusual now in that all of its elected officials are women: the Governor, the legislature, the State and the assembly. We're so pleased that their Congresswoman is here today, and I know she has a special message from the great State of New Hampshire.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. I thank you, Congresswoman MALONEY, for the chance to speak about the damage that the Ryan budget would do to women and to families.

There are a couple of points. The new Ryan budget and the cuts to discretionary programs and the cuts to Medicare and Medicaid guarantees would disproportionately affect the women and children who are already suffering this year because of the sequestration.

The Ryan budget would dismantle the SNAP food program just like it does Medicare. About two-thirds of the SNAP benefits go to families with children. They rely on this.

The Ryan budget would roll back affordable health care provisions, bringing back gender-rating and allowing preexisting conditions like pregnancy and domestic violence.

Discretionary spending programs have already seen sequester cuts that will force women and families in need off of programs that help them. The Republican budget would further decimate these programs.

The special supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants and Children, the WIC program, is one of our most successful and essential nutrition programs. Sequester will drop about 600,000 women and children from this program. Under the Republican budget, even more babies and mothers would be kicked off.

The new budget's enormous cuts would do even more than the sequester has done to destroy jobs and hurt our economic recovery. At a time when women are making unprecedented gains in higher education and the workforce, a war on jobs is a war on women and their families.

A budget is a moral document, and the Ryan budget fails this basic test of morality. This is wrong for women, and it is wrong for families, and we just reject this.

I thank you for the chance to talk about it.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I appreciate your input and for being here tonight to participate in this Special Order. You've raised some very relevant points.

I want to talk about the special impact the Ryan budget has on the Pell Grant cuts.

One of the ways women try to climb out of poverty and close the pay gap is through education, especially higher education. And as we all know, college tuition has far outpaced inflation for years and years. That's why programs such as the Pell Grant program are so important. And fully two-thirds of Pell Grant recipients are women.

Yet again, the Ryan Republican budget hurts women college students by cutting nearly $83 billion—that's with a ''b''—from Pell Grants over the next 10 years. They're doing this even though Congress already enacted and paid for annual mandatory inflationary increases in 2010 and recently cut Pell Grant benefits and eligibility to control costs. So the Ryan Republican budget will make it that much harder for women to climb the ladder of opportunity, get a college degree, get a decent job and start or maintain a family. It just does not need to be that way.

□ 1820

As President Obama has said, the math in this Ryan budget does not add up, and the math that is there cuts programs helping working women and single moms. The Ryan budget will be devastating for working women, low-income families and young women trying to afford college. Head Start, early childhood care, food stamps, Pell Grants for college, and so much more would be slashed under this budget. Let's start with early childhood education.

Many researchers and economists tell us that the very best investment that we can make in our society and in our children is in early childhood education. These cuts in the Ryan budget are on top of the $85 billion from sequestration, which are already in effect. Because of the sequestration, 70,000 children nationwide will be kicked off of Head Start. Another 30,000 low-income children will lose child care assistance because of the cuts to the child care and development block grants. That's a total of 100,000 low-income kids being kicked out of early childhood services. That's already happening as we are speaking tonight on the floor. The Ryan budget would double those cuts, which would mean another 100,000 kids losing services.

What are the working moms of 200,000 children across the country supposed to do? Women only earn 74 cents to the dollar of what men earn in similar jobs. While they are at work, how are these women going to afford to take care of their kids when they lose these services?

The answer is they'll need to find another affordable child care option, which, if you're a mom, you know how difficult that is. Or you'll have to cut back on hours at work because there is no child care. This will only widen the already existing economic divide that separates men and women.

It's not just the economic divide between men and women. The gap between the haves and the have-nots, because of the Ryan budget and the Bush years, has never been greater, but that's not all. Many of these same families would also lose the assistance they need so that they can feed their families.

Now from the great State of Maryland is the ranking member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, ELIJAH CUMMINGS. It's good to hear that like-minded men have joined us in this Special Order on the Ryan budget and how it affects American families.

Thank you for being here.

Mr. CUMMINGS. It's my honor. I want to, first of all, thank the gentlelady for yielding, and I thank you for calling this Special Order.

As I was listening to you talk, particularly when you talked about Pell Grants and women, I could not help but think about something that you and I hear over and over and over again as we serve together on the Joint Economic Committee. We hear that the less education a person has the more recessionary periods affect them negatively. In other words, if you have a little education, less than a high school education, your chances of being put out of a job or of not having a job are great. If you have a college education, you have a better chance of retaining a job.

You talked a moment ago about women, and women with regard to Pell Grants. Just the other night, I was at Howard University's annual dinner where they were trying to raise money for students to get scholarships. The president of the university got up and said something that was very interesting. He said, We are now having to let young people go who have averages above 3.2 because they don't have the money. I can guarantee you most of those folks were women. He said, when they did the research and looked at young people who had left school years ago and when they just kind of tracked them, they noticed that only about 25 percent ever even returned to school.

What you're talking about is the quality of life for women. So, when you look at the Ryan budget cutting Pell Grants and cutting those things that women are so concerned about—their children and how they're going to be able to raise them, to nurture them, to give them a head start—those things are being cut as if somebody is just going through a forest, cutting down trees with a hatchet. I think that we have to stand up for women. We have to make sure that we let the Nation know what is being done in this budget and make it clear that we're not going to stand for it.

I just want to thank the gentlelady for her presentation tonight and for bringing us together with regard to this very, very important issue.

Keep in mind that he is talking about doing away with the Affordable Care Act. So much of the Affordable Care Act goes to keeping people well—keeping women well, keeping their children well, keeping their families well. It allows them to have affordable and accessible insurance, which is something that women are most concerned about,

and being able to pay comparable rates that men would be paying. I mean, he comes in, and he wants to just do away with the Affordable Care Act and create and give us this budget that really makes no sense.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I want to thank the gentleman for his insight on how this budget is affecting his constituents, and to hear from him that women and men may have an almost perfect score in college and have to leave because they can't afford it, their Pell Grants have been cut—it's just unconscionable that the wealthiest country in the world is not there to invest in the next generation, in the next leaders, the next teachers and engineers that our country needs.

It's not just education. It's not just housing. We're talking about food on the table. Once again, as they did last year, House Republicans are proposing to slash the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. This is commonly called the ''food stamps.'' For people who don't have enough money for their food, this helps them, but they are calling for taking the food stamps and turning it into a block grant. Now, we who have worked in city, State, and Federal Governments know that ''block grant'' is another way of saying cut—permanently cut—and, in some cases, sliding it out of existence.

SNAP currently helps, roughly, 47 million low-income Americans afford the food they put on the tables every day, and during these past few years of the Great Recession, SNAP has been a lifeline to those in need, making sure that in the wealthiest country in the world American families don't have to go hungry. People who apply for food stamps need food. Now women make up, roughly, 60 percent of SNAP's adult beneficiaries, and more than half of SNAP households with children are headed by a single adult, the vast majority of whom—over 90 percent—are women. That means that single moms on SNAP are already struggling to make ends meet and to take care of their kids.

They will be losing these benefits because the Ryan Republican budget refuses to close the $1.1 trillion in tax loopholes. Now, I for one say let's close those tax loopholes and keep the food on the tables of America's families who need it. I find that outrageous.

I am really thrilled that a new Member of Congress, LOIS FRANKEL—a woman with a great record of distinction in the State of Florida—has joined us. I want to thank her for coming and providing the perspective of her State. When it's cold, I know all my constituents want to be in Florida, but I'm pleased that she is here with us now.

Thank you for being here.

□ 1830

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Thank you, Congresswoman MALONEY. I'm pleased to be with you. I came up here as a new Member in a bipartisan spirit, and I really wanted to be standing here today embracing Mr. RYAN's plan; but I have to tell you, I'm worried about it. And I want to tell you why I'm worried about it. I'm worried about it for Sabrina, for Lucy, for Ruth, Lola, and Barbara.

I'm going to tell you about them. Sabrina is a small business owner. She has a little catering company. She called my office because she's looking for a way to get a small business loan so she can stay in business and improve it. It's hard today getting loans from the banks.

Lucy is a bright-eyed young student in a community college. She is thrilled to have a student loan, a Federal student loan.

Lola is a teacher who has a daughter with cerebral palsy, and she depends on services from the government to help her with her daughter.

And Ruth, Ruth is 91 years old. She used to be a ball of a fire, but she recently hurt herself. She just got out of the hospital, and she can't move around. She can hardly get out of bed. She depends on Meals on Wheels to feed her so she has food every day.

And then there is Barbara who's outlived most of her relatives. She's in a nursing home in my hometown, and she has Alzheimer's.

I know you ask me why I'm worried about them. You know why I'm worried about them, because they are the victims. They will be the victims of this proposed budget. And what's going to happen? Will Sabrina lose her business? Will Lucy have to drop out of school? Will Ruth go hungry? Will Lola have to give up her work so she can stay home with her daughter? Tell me something, who is going to take care of Barbara? Who's going to take care of her?

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. No one. No one. She is going to have to quit her job and stay home and take care of Barbara.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Barbara is in no condition to take care of anybody. Listen, I think we all know, the American people know that we have to get our fiscal house in order. There is a deficit problem for us, but the American people want us to solve it in a responsible manner because I also know this: we still have a job problem out there. We have slow economic recovery. And now as we are just turning the corner, all of a sudden we have this plan, this bill, this proposal, this budget that independent analysts tell us is going to throw, what, 2 million people out of work, the majority of them women. It will really crush these people like Lucy, Ruth, and Lola and Barbara and Sabrina. We can tell each other hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of stories.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Thank you for putting a human face on what it's meaning for people who are coming to your office for help. But also what has to be part of this equation is that the economy is still very fragile, and you can't cut your way to prosperity. These deep cuts could put the economy in a tailspin. Chairman Bernanke, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, has testified that we need a balanced approach, that we shouldn't slash so severely. Many economists say that the American economy is doing better than Europe because we are not cutting as deeply as Europe is, so giving the economy a chance to recover.

So to go in with these draconian cuts, not only does it hurt people, such as with the stories you're telling us, but it could hurt the recovery, the overall economy that for the past 35 months has been growing private sector jobs and digging ourselves out of that deep recession, so it could possibly throw us back into it. You've raised an important point, and I yield back to you.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. I ask another question: What is the logic in taking little children out of Head Start programs when we know that the path to middle class, the path to be able to take care of your family, to take care of yourself, to be a tax-paying citizen is education? So I ask you, Congresswoman, why would we pass a budget that would take 27,000—I think even more, I think the last sequester bill would take 27,000 children out of child care, Head Start, and this new budget doubles down. Why would we do that?

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Well, I think you pointed out that this budget is not only draconian and unfair; it is filled with contradictions. Why in the world would you let these tax breaks continue for big oil companies that are making a profit, and we're subsidizing some of them to the tune of 40 percent, yet you're going to take the future of our young kids and throw them off. It is a total, total contradiction; and it's completely wrong.

I want to point out the biggest contradiction in this budget. It repeals the Affordable Care Act, but keeps the law's budget savings and uses it to balance their budget. So they say in the budget they're going to repeal the Affordable Care Act. How are they going to repeal it? It passed the Congress; it is the law of this country. It was upheld by the Supreme Court. We had an election where this was a central point of debate; and, guess what, President Obama won the election, and he ran on the Affordable Care Act. So they say that they're going to repeal it. They don't have the votes to repeal it. And even if they did, he'd veto it. There's no way they can repeal it, so it is a complete—really a hoax. It's a hoax.

Then they claim to protect Medicare while ending Medicare as we know it for future seniors and our children and our grandchildren. And the biggest hoax, they sit there and say they are going to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and then they take the savings from the Affordable Care Act, the $718 billion that was put there from the providers, and they use that to balance

their budget. So the numbers do not add up.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Let me ask you this: Does the repeal of the Affordable Care Act come with a repeal of people getting ill? I'm trying to figure out the logic here because if you repeal the Affordable Care Act, if you take Medicare and now you turn it into a voucher program or what they call ''premium support,'' which means literally thousands of dollars more coming out of the seniors' pockets to take care of themselves, you're not repealing illness. All you're doing with this Ryan budget is shifting the burden back to the middle class.

You hit it on the head when you said let's keep giving those tax breaks to the big oil companies, the people who want to move their companies offshore, to big corporations with huge profits paying almost nothing in taxes. Here's how we're going to clean up our fiscal house: we're going to tell people when they're oldest and they're sickest, you're going to have to pay more money, or just don't get sick.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. The gentlelady is correct. They're shifting the burden onto the middle class, the elderly, and the poor. Again, President Obama's budget contains $1.3 trillion in spending, and in that budget is $1.1 trillion in tax breaks. So where are the priorities of this country? Close the tax breaks, keep the food on the table, or close the tax breaks and reduce the deficit.

I think they're not sincere about wanting to reduce the deficit and the debt because if they were, they would take those tax loopholes and close them. Some are important such as the deduction for a family's home. That allows many middle class and moderate middle class Americans to own their own home. They are able to deduct that.

□ 1840

But there are all these other deductions that make no sense. Why in the world are we giving a subsidy to companies that move jobs overseas? It's crazy. If anything, the subsidy should be for companies in America making it in America, creating jobs in America, and paying their taxes, their Social Security, and their Medicare in America.

So this whole budget is an exercise in contradictions and it's an exercise in, really, lack of good judgment or values, and I hope that we are able to defeat it.

I hope that the Democratic plan will be the one that is finally the one that passes. This is just the same old same old from the last 2 years: slash the safety net and protect tax breaks. The Ryan approach just isn't a balanced or, I would say, fair or valued approach.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Thank you, Representative. I want to thank you for letting me join you here today.

I just want to say this. I know we've been standing up here and we've been critical of this Ryan budget and, respectfully, I think we're just saying it like it is. But I want to just say this, and I know you feel the same way. I hope that we can vet it.

You know, we're venting our feelings here today. And our constituents need to know that we're going to stay strong for them and the women of this country, the Lucys, the Sabrinas, the Barbaras of this country, and of course the men that we love, too. But I hope that we can find a way, that we can find a middle ground, we can find a reasoned budget that gets people back to work, that we secure our families and we get our fiscal house in order in a reasonable amount of time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I want to thank you, Congresswoman, and you raised some important points.

And one that was not raised, that is the illnesses that we do not have cures for in this country. And one of the things that America's always led the world in is scientific research, yet this budget cuts that research. It cuts the National Institutes of Health that could come up with the cures for the diseases that she mentioned.

America is a place of innovation and medical advancements, and Congress should be focused on keeping that status, that we don't want to lose our leadership in innovation.

To give one example, breast cancer is one of the most common cancers among women. One in seven women will come down with breast cancer, and it is one of the leading causes of death among women of all races in America. In 2009, over 210,000 women in the United States were diagnosed with breast cancer, and over 40,000 women died from the disease.

Over the past 5 years, the National Institutes of Health spent more than $3 billion on breast cancer research, which dwarfs any amount we see in the private sector or nonprofit sector. And yet, in the Ryan budget, the NIH would be cut and slashed by billions and billions of dollars, yet these dollars are the hope for saving lives. They're the hope for finding cures. And we know that health research has paid off.

Another important area is Alzheimer's. The number of women and men that contract Alzheimer's is huge and growing, and this cut will be cutting the research that we have in Alzheimer's and other lifesaving efforts to prevent Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and other diseases.

So we've been making a lot of progress in health research and innovative research, and all of that research is really at risk under the Ryan Republican budget.

I am very pleased that one of my colleagues from the great State of Texas, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who is a strong advocate for women, children, and families, has joined us. Thank you so much for being here tonight.

I yield the gentlelady as much time as she may consume.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank my friend from New York, Congresswoman MALONEY, for her leadership on economic issues particularly impacting women, for the persistence of her introduction of the Equal Rights Amendment, long overdue, that we all join in to ensure the rights of women. And let me thank the gentlemen that are on the floor that joined us this evening.

I want to follow up, as I listened to the discussion that you just had, I met with Dr. Brinkley in the hallway, who is one of the leading researchers in biomolecular research from Baylor University, in my Congressional region, if you will. I consider representation because it is such a massive institution. And he brought with him two of his researchers. In fact, the headline on one of my papers was the standstill work of one of our important researchers because of the sequester, and certainly because of this budget. All of that points to women who are most vulnerable as relates to the needs of research in chronic illnesses.

Let me cite for my colleagues about this question of Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security what is drastically cut and reordered under the Ryan Republican budget. I'm really saddened that misinformation comes that the Medicare's predominance, in terms of its help, goes to those who are fat cats.

Let me share some numbers with you. Many of these are women. We do know that women live longer, and so the needs that they have for Medicare and Social Security may be extended.

And may I take something out of our vocabulary, though it is in the dictionary. Medicare and Social Security are earned. I don't know where we got the word ''entitlement,'' because entitlement suggests you're entitled with no basis of responsibility. But they earned this. Women earned this.

And women started before the fight that we had, Congresswoman, for pay equity over the last decade or two. They were making the lower wages, and so their Social Security input had to be much lower as they continued to work years in.

But let me just share with you on the Medicare beneficiaries:

Annual income less than $22,500: 50 percent of the Medicare beneficiaries include in that number women;

Chronic conditions: of those who receive Medicare, 40 percent include in that number women;

Fair and poor health: 27 percent, women in that population;

Cognitive mental impairment: 23 percent, women in that population;

Functional limitations: 15 percent, women in that calculation.

So, as I look at this budget, 60 percent of it is taking away health care from the poor and middle class, which would include women.

The idea that the bill slants itself toward protecting the interests of the wealthy by not listing any deduction that you're willing to take. Now, I know if we get into a discussion about deductions, we put ourselves in that circle; but let me just say, middle class

Americans need mortgage deductions. I know, however, that that is one that is under discussion.

But why did our friends writing this budget not list the deductions that they would be willing to put on the table? Some of us realize that mortgage deductions help young families. It helps single women. It helps women who are maintaining or getting their first house. So here we have a special emphasis.

I'm glad my colleague mentioned breast cancer. I have introduced legislation on triple negative. It happens to have a far-reaching impact on women from all ethnic groups, whether they are Caucasian, whether they are Hispanic, or whether they are African American or Asian, but it is a deadly form of the disease, a more deadly form of the disease. And so that kind of research which many of us are arguing for is now limited because of this budget.

The budget does not—well, let me just say this. The budget takes for its own what was accomplished with the savings in the Affordable Care Act. It takes for its own the cuts that we made, were willing to make in 2012, over a trillion in cuts and spending. And it totally ignores economists who have indicated that the austerity format that was taken in Europe was the completely wrong direction, and that, then, impacts our families more negatively.

□ 1850

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Will the gentlelady yield?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I would be happy to yield.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I want to point out and make sure that our colleagues and the listening public know that the Ryan plan assumes the $85 billion in sequester cuts. So these cuts are on top of that. And according to the bipartisan Congressional Budget Office, the sequester could cause the U.S. economy to lose 750,000 jobs. And the Ryan plan compounds these job losses.

The Economic Policy Institute has initial estimates that the House Republican budget would cost 2 million jobs in 2014 alone, relative to current policy. So why in the world would we want to take these steps that are going to result in job loss?

I yield back to the lady.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlelady for that astute assessment. When I give these various points, women are disproportionately placed. Many of them are heads of households, many of them are senior women. Many are going back into the workforce because they have resource shortages, if you will. And the Ryan budget takes in all of these; i.e., the $85 billion in sequester cuts. By the way, again, I introduced legislation to eliminate the sequester provision out of the Budget Reconciliation Act. I happen to think that it is meritorious because we need to start from a fair point of view, not what I call nickel and diming, ending people's research, closing doors in the Capitol, and a number of other things that are not good for America.

But let me just finish on this. If we're interested in R&D, as we indicated, or clean energy—slashed. Obviously, it will have an impact on the quality of life of families who are raising their children. What about nutrition assistance, the SNAP program? What an obliterating cut to the SNAP program, which is now serving 48 million people. Let me remind my colleagues that these are military persons, women who are in the military. These are young families. These are individuals who are in school. And so women are disproportionately impacted.

And this, I think, is clearly one of the largest conflicts of reason, and that is to underfund or take away the funding for the Affordable Care Act, which has been reaffirmed by the United States Supreme Court and has been documented as having a health care savings and providing for a healthier America. And here we are taking away coverage from 27 million Americans.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. They take away the good aspects of it, all the preventive and the health care. They propose to eliminate that, but then they keep the tax savings from it to balance their budget. It is a hoax. It's not realistic. It's not true. And I really appreciate your words here today on the floor.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. They take all the good things that, might I say, the Democrats have worked on and can really be defined as balanced and fair and utilize it in a budget that is absolutely lopsided. And I thank you for having us on the floor to explain to the women of America why this budget will not be good for them, their children, or their expanded families, and that we're committed to standing against this kind of approach that is really not the American way.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentlelady.

In conclusion, Americans can't afford more fuzzy math and budget gimmicks. We need real solutions that help grow our economy, create jobs, support the health and economic security of our seniors, and one that will address the arbitrary sequester cuts. Chairman RYAN's budget fails to address any of these.

Our Republican friends like to talk about making the hard choices. What they propose here would indeed make things much harder for millions of Americans, but it will also make things much easier for a fortunate few. That's their plan. The reality is that the majority's Ryan budget harms those who need help and doles out tax breaks and benefits to those who do not. So let me be as clear as I possibly can: the Ryan budget, if it were passed by the House, would risk our recovery.

I want to thank all the participants tonight. I thank the like-minded men who came to the floor to support us and the women that have spoken out tonight on how the budget affects women, children, and their expanded families.

I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 803, SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND INVESTING IN LIFELONG SKILLS ACT

Ms. FOXX, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–16) on the resolution (H. Res. 113) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 803) to reform and strengthen the workforce investment system of the Nation to put Americans back to work and make the United States more competitive in the 21st century, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

FIREARMS TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join with us and pass the bipartisan legislation to strengthen Federal penalties for straw purchasing of firearms. I'm a hunter and a gun owner, and I believe strongly in the Second Amendment. I support law-abiding Americans' right to own firearms, and nothing in this legislation infringes upon that right. This bill simply helps keep guns out of the hands of dangerous criminals who cannot legally buy guns on their own.

I chair the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. Our task force has developed a comprehensive set of policy principles that will help reduce gun violence. To develop these principles, we met with virtually everyone who had an interest on this issue: Republicans, Democrats, the NRA, gun owners and gun safety groups, mental health experts, educational leaders, people from the video game and movie industries, hunting and sportsman's groups, law enforcement leaders, and the Vice President of the United States. Out of these meetings, one of the principles we developed dealt specifically with strengthening penalties

for gun trafficking and for straw purchasing. This is something we should all be able to agree on.

At a hearing yesterday held by my colleague and friend, Mr. CUMMINGS from Maryland, and one of his cosponsors, Mrs. MALONEY from New York, we heard testimony from New York City fireman Ted Scardino. Mr. Scardino was wounded and two of his fellow firemen were killed when a gunman lured them to a house that that gunman had set on fire and then started shooting at them. The shooter had his neighbor buy the gun for him because he could not pass a background check.

Mr. Scardino said yesterday:

> Putting a gun in someone's hand that isn't supposed to have one must be stopped.

So let's pass this bipartisan bill and let's stop it.

I now yield to my colleague and good friend from Maryland, the author of this legislation and a leader on this issue, Mr. CUMMINGS.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise today to ask every Member of the House to join our bipartisan efforts to combat firearms trafficking and cosponsor H.R. 452, the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act.

Earlier this year, I was honored to join colleagues on both sides of the aisle to introduce this commonsense proposal to make firearms trafficking a Federal crime for the first time and to impose stiff new penalties on straw purchasers. Since then, the number of cosponsors has swelled, adding both Republicans and Democrats. It has also gained bipartisan support in the Senate.

Our bill has been endorsed by law enforcement officials across the country, and it does not affect the rights of any law-abiding gun owner. The only people that would be against this bill would be straw purchasers and those who are forbidden legally from possessing a gun.

Just yesterday, we held a bipartisan forum, as my colleague has just mentioned, to hear the accounts of first responders who have been the victims of gun violence resulting from straw purchases or other trafficking incidents.

□ 1900

I want to reiterate what has been said by Mr. THOMPSON about Ted Scardino. He was a brave firefighter from New York who suffered multiple gunshot wounds and saw two of his colleagues gunned down on Christmas Eve when they were responding to a fire. Mike Chiapperini and Tomasz Kaczowka were those colleagues who are now no longer with us. Here is Tomasz. He was just a 19-year-old who had just joined the volunteer fire department.

It turned out that the fire was set by a convicted felon, William Spengler. He previously served 17 years in prison for killing his grandmother with a hammer. Spengler ambushed these first responders and sprayed them with bullets. Despite his criminal record, Spengler walked into a gun store, alongside a straw purchaser, to obtain guns to be used to kill these brave men. As Mr. Scardino said yesterday, he supports our bipartisan legislation because he wants to keep guns out of the hands of deranged killers, create a deterrent to providing guns to dangerous criminals, and prevent more tragic deaths like these.

After working on this legislation for several years, Mrs. MALONEY and I have never been more hopeful that we can pass it with significant bipartisan support. I urge all my colleagues to cosponsor this bill.

Mr. THOMPSON, just very briefly, one of the things that has been said over and over again—and we hear it from the NRA—is that we ought to deal with the laws that we already have. Well, right now, there's a phenomenal loophole with the laws that we already have.

Law enforcement, by the way, brought this to the attention of our committee, and they didn't ask for a trafficking law—they begged for it. Because as was testified to yesterday in the hearing, those who want to commit some kind of crimes, they're always looking for what they call a hustle; they're looking for something to make their money off of.

Witnesses told us yesterday—as a matter of fact, the head of the San Francisco police said that it has become easier to deal in guns and more lucrative than to deal in drugs. So a lot of folks that would normally be going to deal in drugs are now dealing in guns. Why? Because there is no dedicated trafficking law, and this is what our bill will do. It also will increase those penalties for straw purchasers.

I want to thank the gentleman, by the way, for your hard work. You've done an outstanding job in bringing Members of the House together to forge ahead with regard to legislation to address these issues, and I want to thank you.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the gentleman.

I appreciate the fact that you provide clarity on the one issue, and that is that the critics of anything we try and do to prevent gun violence repeatedly state, Just enforce the laws that are on the books. Here, this gun trafficking proposal that you and Mrs. MALONEY have introduced is, I think, illustrative of the fact that sometimes you actually need other laws. Because there are no laws on the books to prevent against something that leads to the tragedies that we heard about in your hearing yesterday and that, sadly, the folks in this New York area and the families of these slain individuals will have to live with for the rest of their life.

I can't emphasize enough: there is no dedicated law on the book that prohibits trafficking of guns. People are trafficking in guns, and they are used to kill people. We have an opportunity, and I commend you and Mrs. MALONEY for not only your dedication and your effort to bring this to an end, but the fact that you've reached out across party lines. You have a bipartisan coalition; you have bipartisan authorship of this bill recognizing that we've got to bring this to a stop.

The only sad commentary that I have is one of our brave colleagues who was willing to stand up and take a position on this bill to prevent criminals from getting guns, has been under attack by some who have just mischaracterized his position, mischaracterized his dedication, mischaracterized his motives, and mischaracterized the bill that all of you are working so hard on.

So thank you for being here tonight, And thank you very much for your tireless effort in bringing closure to this issue.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Thank you very much.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I would now like to yield to my friend and colleague from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Thank you so much for organizing this.

I want to thank my dear friend and colleague, MIKE THOMPSON, not only for his leadership here on the floor, but the great work that he has done as the leader of the House Democratic Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. One of the things that he underscores at all of our hearings and meetings is that he is himself a gun owner. He enjoys hunting; he enjoys having a gun for protection; he enjoys it for target shooting. But he also understands that certain guns are not for hunting; they're just for killing people, such as assault weapons, and that there are loopholes in our laws.

I regret to inform you tonight that there has been another mass murder in New York yesterday, where a gunman shot down four law enforcement in upstate New York. Now, if we don't make changes, we can only expect more of the same. It was only 10 days after the tragic killing of 20 young innocent children in Connecticut that the tragedy happened in upstate New York.

Now, the straw purchaser that bought the guns—the rifle and the assault weapon—for the felon that murdered two police officers and firemen, I doubt that that neighbor would have bought those guns for him if the law had been on the books that straw purchasers could be looking at 20 years for knowingly buying guns and giving them to a criminal or a person who could not legally have that gun.

Now, this bill has been endorsed by 30 different law enforcement organizations. Law enforcement is asking us to give them the tools to get illegal guns out of the hands of criminals. This bill that I authored grew out of a hearing we were having on violence on the border of Mexico. The agents testified that guns were being shipped into Mexico that were then used to kill our border

agents. So I asked the question: Why don't we just stop the guns? At that point, the agents testified that they don't even bother to bring charges against straw purchasers because the laws are so weak. They call them a ''slap on the wrist,'' a paper violation, that you wouldn't be punished at all.

So what we're trying to do with this bill is to make trafficking in guns to felons, to drug cartels, to gang leaders a crime—it's unbelievable that it's not a crime now—and to increase the penalties for the straw purchasers. I think it's reasonable, it's common sense, and, fundamentally, it will save lives in our country. It was introduced with Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MEEHAN and Mr. RIGELL. Mr. RIGELL is a member of the NRA. Also, I think that Mr. MEEHAN was also a former leader in law enforcement, so he had really literally understood the need of it.

At our hearing yesterday—and at the hearings we've had in the Government Reform and Oversight Committee—law enforcement is basically begging us, absolutely begging us to give them the tools to better protect Americans.

I hope that we will listen to our chairman's plea, MIKE THOMPSON's plea, that at least on this we can come together and forge a bipartisan effort to pass these two important bills. So I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the gentlelady for her dedication, for her hard work on this, and for her taking time to be here tonight to talk about this.

You raised the issue and praised those on the other side of the aisle, many of whom have experience—one Member from Virginia, who is an NRA member, one from Pennsylvania, who is, I believe, a district attorney; extensive law enforcement background.

□ 1910

It's important that we have this type of across-the-aisle cooperation. As a matter of fact, the people of the United States of America, every one of us hears it every time we go home—we hear it in our townhall meetings, we can read it in our constituent mail, our friends tell us, our neighbors tell us: work together to solve the problems that we all face as Americans.

The fact that we have folks on the other side of the aisle coming forward to work together and then they're demonized and they're criticized for doing this, all Americans need to speak out against this. When something like this happens, we need to let everyone know that, no, we want our Members of Congress to work together to solve these problems that threaten our communities, threaten our children, threaten our grandchildren, and threaten our neighborhoods. It's very, very important to do that.

As the gentlewoman pointed out, I am a gun owner and I hunt, and I believe strongly in the Second Amendment. I'm not interested in giving my guns up, and I'm not going to ask any other law-abiding citizen to give their guns up. At the same time, I'm a father and I'm a grandfather, and my kids and my children deserve to live in a safe community. Two of my sons are first responders. One is a firefighter; another one is a deputy sheriff.

When I sat through your hearing yesterday and listened to the testimony of the wounded firefighter talk about his colleagues who were killed—called to respond to a community catastrophe, a house on fire—doing their job, doing what we ask these first responders to do—and they get there and they're ambushed by a sick deranged murderer who has a gun because somebody bought it for him, because it was illegal for him to buy it himself, he couldn't buy it himself. It was just terrible to relive this for the witnesses who were there and certainly eye opening for anyone who paid attention to what the possibilities are out there in any of our communities.

Madam Speaker, I would like to yield time to a new Member of our House—someone who has been doing outstanding work, vice-chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, someone who brought with her not only an interest and a passion for this, but also an incredible constituency, because it was in her district that Sandy Hook took place—the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

Ms. ESTY. Thank you so much, Congressman THOMPSON, for organizing this Special Order and for your incredible leadership on these important issues that the country deserves to have a voice and deserves to have a vote.

And I wanted to thank Congressman CUMMINGS and Congresswoman MALONEY for your important leadership on this very important issue that is truly a remarkable hole in the law that I think most people had no idea.

These are the holes that we saw yesterday, because the holes in the law are allowing holes in the hearts of the families of America. Holes like this, shot with assault weapons, to brave firefighters who were responding to a fire on Christmas Eve, that's what this really means.

This is a 19-year-old young man following in his family's footsteps and his lifelong dream to be a firefighter and instead was met with this, and that ended his life—a man who never should have had those guns.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of welcoming to Washington Team 26, a group of 26 cyclists from the town of Newtown, Connecticut, in my district, who rode to Washington in support of commonsense legislation to reduce and prevent gun violence. The Sandy Hook ride to Washington was a successful event. It was also emblematic of what we're seeing across the country in the wake of the tragedy in Newtown.

Americans have been touched by the strength and love of the families and the people in Newtown in a way we have not seen in this country before. I can assure you, the Connecticut effect is not going away anytime soon because the American people are stepping up and making their voices heard for commonsense, reasonable regulations and laws to reduce and prevent gun violence. For far too long, for far too long, communities across this country, like West Webster, New York, and like Newtown, Connecticut, have paid for the price of inaction here in Congress. We cannot keep losing precious children and courageous police officers and brave first responders and many other innocent lives because we have allowed, and we are allowing, guns to be put into the hands of people who do not have permission and do not have the right to have them.

It is shocking and it is wrong that we do not have vigorous Federal laws making straw purchasing and trafficking in guns a Federal crime. We've learned today, and we learned yesterday in our hearing, that it is against the law to traffic in drugs, it is against the law to traffic in tainted food, but it is not against our Federal laws to traffic in illegal weapons in this country, and that is wrong and we need to fix it.

That's the reason that the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act has bipartisan support in the House. That is the same reason that this measure has the strong support and backing and urging and pleading of the hardworking law enforcement officers in my State who are dealing with the consequences of illegal drugs, including the leadership of Connecticut Attorney General and my friend George Jepsen.

There's a reason that law enforcement officials and groups around the country have been asking for us to pass this law. Few policies reflect commonsense, like keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals. If we are going to accomplish that goal, we must address this gaping hole with the lack of Federal laws punishing gun trafficking and straw purchasing.

Now is the time to act. We have a real opportunity to enact and to fix this hole in the law and to prevent holes in the hearts of the American people. I'm very proud to be a cosponsor of the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act and the Straw Purchaser Penalty Enhancement Act to do just that.

For the families of Newtown, for families across this great country who are affected by gun violence, for children and for police officers and first responders everywhere who put their lives on the line for us every day, and for all those whose lives are at risk today because of illegal guns, let's meet the call of the American people to strengthen the penalties for gun trafficking and straw purchasing.

I urge my colleagues to support this very laudable legislation, and I urge members of the public to urge their Representatives to stand up for safety for our first responders for our communities.

I thank my good friend, the gentleman from California, for yielding.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Thank you, Congresswoman ESTY, and thank you for your work on the task force and for your work every day to make sure that we all come together to make our communities safer places to live, to work, to recreate, and to raise our families.

One of the things, one of the beautiful benefits of doing this work for me has been the honor I've had in not only working with great dedicated people, yourself included, but meeting some of your wonderful constituents. Their passion is on fire in Connecticut. I've met with them many times with you, sometimes alone. We got another glimpse of it yesterday, as you mentioned, when Team 26 rode into Washington, D.C., rode all the way from your district to Washington, D.C., to call on all of us to work together to pass these bills to make our communities safer. They're wonderful folks, they're dedicated, they're hard-working, and I can understand why after watching you and experiencing your leadership on this issue. So thank you very much for all that you are doing.

And I just want to remind folks that the American people want us to make our communities safer; they want us to pass sensible laws that will do this. And everyone will tell you we shouldn't allow criminals and the dangerously mentally ill to get firearms.

Well, how in the world can you do that if you don't do some just real commonsense steps to make sure that doesn't happen?

We're talking about a couple of them today—straw purchases and gun trafficking.

□ 1920

Who in the world could be opposed to stopping straw purchases? And that means just what it says. That means somebody buys a gun and gives it to somebody who's not allowed by law to own a gun, who is trafficking in guns, making a living, making a profit, making a business out of buying guns and then shipping them someplace, taking them someplace, introducing them to a community where they're going to be used for unlawful purposes. No one could possibly be against that.

Background checks is another one. As you know, our task force will be holding a hearing this Friday on background checks. Ninety-four percent of the American people believe we should pass background checks. Eighty-four percent of the NRA members think we should pass a background check bill. We're going to have an opportunity next week when I introduce legislation to put in place background checks for the American people to call their Representatives and let them know. This is important stuff. We need to have that check in place so people who are dangerously mentally ill, people who are criminals, if they try and buy a gun from someone selling that gun, it will be flagged if they're not allowed to have them and they'll be stopped, at least in that case. They may try and find other ways to do it, but it's incumbent upon us to do everything we can to make sure that that doesn't happen again.

I'm now going to yield to my friend and colleague, the vice chair of the task force, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank you for yielding, and most of all I thank you for your leadership in the firearms task force, the prevention of gun violence.

You've done a tremendous job in bringing diverse views into focus to respond appropriately to the children who were murdered senselessly in Newtown, Connecticut. They were young people, babies, whose bodies were riddled with bullets. I think finally we have concluded that we have to do something in response to the murders.

One of the things we have to do is reduce violence generally—and violence prevention. This week I'll be introducing the Youth PROMISE Act, which has a proactive approach to make sure that young people get on the right track and stay on the right track.

We have to deal, as you have indicated, with the mental health challenges. Those with mental health challenges have to get services, because if they're allowed to roam the streets with untreated mental health problems, you have a lot of difficulties.

There have to be some firearm-specific situations, such as an assault weapons ban, limiting the size of magazines, background checks, but also straw purchases, people who buy firearms for others knowing they could not buy them for themselves. Violating the law and circumventing the good background check processes we have has to be dealt with.

So I thank you for your leadership. I thank you for all that you have done. We have a lot that we can do in response to Newtown, and we expect to do it.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the gentleman for being here tonight and for his leadership.

Madam Speaker, I'll end where I started. As I said, we have to come together to work on these issues. These are the issues that the American people want us to find solutions for. Let's close these loopholes, make sure that illegal gun activity doesn't take place, and protect the Second Amendment. You know I'm four-square on that, and we'll do everything we can to make sure that that happens. These are commonsense issues, and we should find cooperation across the aisle.

As I said, I'll end where I started. I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join together and to pass these bills that both protect our Second Amendment rights and help make our communities safer places in which to live, work, play, and raise our families.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 14, 2013, 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:

671. A letter from the Acting Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation [CPCLO Order No.: 001-2013] received February 25, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

672. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1070; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-099-AD; Amendment 39-17340; AD 2013-03-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

673. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0098; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-039-AD; Amendment 39-17339; AD 2013-03-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

674. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1110; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-013-AD; Amendment No.: 39-17353; AD 2013-03-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

675. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp Turboshaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1005; Directorate Identifier 2012-NE-27-AD; Amendment 39-17349; AD 2013-03-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

676. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lycoming Engines and Continental Motors, Inc. Reciprocating Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1245; Directorate Identifier 2012-NE-41-AD; Amendment 39-17279; AD 2012-24-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

677. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0339; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-051-AD; Amendment 39-17259; AD 2012-23-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

678. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0590; Directorate Identifier

2011-NM-112-AD; Amendment 39-17265; AD 2012-23-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

679. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Univair Aircraft Corporation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0360; Directorate Identifier 2010-CE-061-AD; Amendment 39-17023; AD 2012-08-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

680. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG Turbofan engines [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1056; Directorate Identifier 2012-NE-32-AD; Amendment 39-17271; AD 2012-24-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

681. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0186; Directorate identifier 2011-NM-286-AD; Amendment 39-17278; AD 2012-24-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

682. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (Sikorsky) Model Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1206; Directorate Identifier 2012-SW-021-AD; Amendment 39-17269; AD 2012-23-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

683. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0421; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-042-AD; Amendment 39-17284; AD 2012-25-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

684. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0678; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-285-AD; Amendment 39-17280; AD 2012-24-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

685. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopters, Inc., Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0746; Directorate Identifier 2008-SW-332-AD; Amendment 39-17337; AD 2013-03-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

686. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0547; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-234-AD; Amendment 39-17354; AD 2013-03-20] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

687. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0595; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-055-AD; Amendment 39-17962; AD 2012-23-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

688. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0591; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-015-AD; Amendment 39-17264; AD 2012-23-08] received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

689. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1220; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-208-AD; Amendment 39-17277; AD 2012-24-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

690. A letter from the Department of Transportation Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation Paralegal Specialist, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Schweizer Aircraft Corporation [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0602; Directorate Identifier 2009-SW-061-AD; Amendment 39-17338; AD 2013-03-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. FOXX. Committee on Rules. House Resolution 113. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 803) to reform and strengthen the workforce investment system of the Nation to put Americans back to work and make the United States more competitive in the 21st century (Rept. 113–16). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CLAY (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 1104. A bill to amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase the transparency of Federal advisory committees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HURT (for himself, Mr. COOPER, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. GARRETT):

H.R. 1105. A bill to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to provide a registration exemption for private equity fund advisers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. CHU, Mrs. ELLMERS, and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 1106. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide for increased limitations on leverage for multiple licenses under common control, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 1107. A bill to provide for the establishment of a grant program to assist State and local governments to install solar energy systems; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CUELLAR (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. VELA, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 1108. A bill to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1109. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require cost or price to the Federal Government be given at least equal importance as technical or other criteria in evaluating competitive proposals for defense contracts; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PIERLUISI (for himself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Ms. BORDALLO):

H.R. 1110. A bill to amend the Tsunami Warning and Education Act to direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, through the National Weather Service, to establish, maintain, and operate an additional tsunami forecast and warning center for the improvement of the evaluation of tsunami risk to, and the dissemination of forecasts and tsunami warning bulletins for, the public in Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1111. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a 500 percent excise tax on corporate contributions to political committees and on corporate expenditures on political advocacy campaigns; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1112. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its reporting requirements to require public companies to report certain expenditures made to influence public opinion on any matter other than the promotion of the company's products or services; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1113. A bill to make the antitrust laws applicable to a political committee under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 which is established and administered by a separate segregated fund of a corporation pursuant to section 316(b)(2)(C) of such Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1114. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend the ban on the making of contributions by certain government contractors to other for-profit recipients of Federal funds, to limit the amount of contributions the employees of for-profit recipients of Federal funds may make during any calendar year in which such funds are provided, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1115. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit any national securities exchange from effecting any

transaction in a security issued by a corporation unless the corporation's registration with the exchange includes a certification that the corporation currently is in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 governing contributions and expenditures by corporations which were in effect with respect to elections held during 2008; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1116. A bill to require the approval of a majority of a public company's shareholders for any expenditure by that company to influence public opinion on matters not related to the company's products or services; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1117. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to apply the ban on contributions and expenditures by foreign nationals to domestic corporations in which foreign principals have an ownership interest; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1118. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit corporations which employ or retain registered lobbyists from making expenditures or disbursements for electioneering communications under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1119. A bill to prevent funding provided through the Federal Reserve System from being made available to corporations that finance political campaigns or political propaganda, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. KLINE, Mr. PETRI, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. FOXX, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SALMON, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. GOWDY):

H.R. 1120. A bill to prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from taking any action that requires a quorum of the members of the Board until such time as Board constituting a quorum shall have been confirmed by the Senate, the Supreme Court issues a decision on the constitutionality of the appointments to the Board made in January 2012, or the adjournment sine die of the first session of the 113th Congress; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 1121. A bill to protect cyber privacy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER (for himself, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. FLORES, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. HALL, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. JONES, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LATTA, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LONG, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MICA, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. POMPEO, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 1122. A bill to amend the General Education Provisions Act to prohibit Federal education funding for elementary schools and secondary schools that provide on-campus access to abortion providers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COBLE, Mr. WATT, Mr. POE of Texas, and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 1123. A bill to promote consumer choice and wireless competition by permitting consumers to unlock mobile wireless devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Ms. BASS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. RUSH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CLAY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. HAHN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TONKO, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. KEATING, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. WATT, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. ENYART, Mr. ELLISON, and Ms. MENG):

H.R. 1124. A bill making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for the TIGER Discretionary Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.R. 1125. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 1126. A bill to facilitate the completion of an appropriate national memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 1127. A bill to require the President to develop a comprehensive national manufacturing strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama (for himself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. TURNER, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 1128. A bill to ensure the effectiveness of the missile defense system of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COBLE (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 1129. A bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. MENG, Mr. KILMER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. LATTA, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. KLINE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. OLSON, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. YODER, Mr. HOLT, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. BARBER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. LANCE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. PETERS of California):

H.R. 1130. A bill to authorize further assistance to Israel for the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DENHAM (for himself, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois):

H.R. 1131. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend military commissary and exchange store privileges, without time-period limitation, to members of the Armed Forces who are involuntarily separated with a service-connected disability and also to extend such privileges to their dependents; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DENHAM (for himself and Mr. ROE of Tennessee):

H.R. 1132. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to jointly ensure that the Vet Centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs have access to the Defense Personnel Record Image Retrieval system and the Veterans Affairs/Department of Defense Identity Repository system; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 1133. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 1134. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a grant program and pilot program designed to improve the delivery of health care to veterans residing in rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan (for himself and Mr. GARRETT):

H.R. 1135. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to repeal certain additional disclosure requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr.

DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California):

H.R. 1136. A bill to amend the Hate Crime Statistics Act to include crimes against the homeless; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. WITTMAN):

H.R. 1137. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to conduct a Joint Venture Program to protect, restore, enhance, and manage migratory bird populations, their habitats, and the ecosystems they rely on, through voluntary actions on public and private lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California):

H.R. 1138. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a loan guarantee program to assist small business concerns that manufacture clean energy technologies in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. OWENS (for himself, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 1139. A bill to permit aliens who lawfully enter the United States on valid visas as nonimmigrant elementary and secondary school students to attend public schools in the United States for longer than 1 year if such aliens reimburse the local educational agency that administers the school for the full, unsubsidized per capita cost of providing education at such school for the period of the alien's attendance; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 1140. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the medical expenses of dependents who have not attained age 27 to be paid from a health savings account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1141. A bill to amend section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that any hours worked by Federal firefighters under a qualified trade-of-time arrangement shall be excluded for purposes of determinations relating to overtime pay; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 1142. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to permit an exchange of land between the city of Ketchum and the Blaine County School District, Idaho; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 1143. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require the Bureau of Prisons to provide secure storage areas on institution grounds outside the secure perimeter for employees authorized to carry a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 1144. A bill to restore an opportunity for tribal economic development on terms that are equal and fair, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself and Mr. CAPUANO):

H.R. 1145. A bill to help ensure the fiscal solvency of the FHA mortgage insurance programs of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WHITFIELD (for himself, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, and Ms. SCHWARTZ):

H.R. 1146. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate, and less costly; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 1147. A bill to provide limitations on maritime liens on fishing permits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. MARINO, Mr. CARTER, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. HULTGREN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. JONES, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. REED, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BARTON, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. YODER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. MARCHANT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. POSEY, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. STEWART, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SALMON, Mr. FLORES, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. ELLMERS, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. ROSS, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. KLINE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. FORBES, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. YOHO, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. MESSER, Mr. RADEL, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. LONG, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. HUNTER):

H. Con. Res. 23. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the conditions for the United States becoming a signatory to the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, or to any similar agreement on the arms trade; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. TERRY (for himself and Mr. NEAL):

H. Res. 112. A resolution celebrating the history of municipal bonds, the 100-year precedent of the Federal tax exemption for municipal bond interest, and the important contribution municipal bonds have made to economic growth and wellbeing in each State and municipality in our great Nation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. OLSON, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. CARTER, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BARTON, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. FLORES, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. VELA, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. O'ROURKE):

H. Res. 114. A resolution recognizing the Sabin Vaccine Institute on the 20th anniversary of its founding; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan:

H. Res. 115. A resolution providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. PETERS of Michigan:

H. Res. 116. A resolution expressing support for the designation of March 13 as ''K-9 Veterans Day'', in order to recognize the service and improve the treatment of military working dogs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CLAY:

H.R. 1104.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States grants the Congress the power to enact this law.

By Mr. HURT:

H.R. 1105.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 1106.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution permits the Congress to, ''regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the indian tribes''

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 1107.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 1108.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 8: Powers of Congress Clause 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1109.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

''The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. PIERLUISI:

H.R. 1110.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1111.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

''The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1112.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

''The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1113.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

''The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1114.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

''The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1115.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

''The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1116.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

''The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1117.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

''The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1118.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

''The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1119.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

''The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 1120.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 1121.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 1122.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States;

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 1123.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 8 gives Congress the authority ''To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries.'' This legislation addresses the rights granted by Congress to selected copyrighted works.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 1124.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution and

Article 1, Section 9, clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.R. 1125.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to:

Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 1126.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 1127.

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, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama:

H.R. 1128.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8. The Congress shall have the power to . . . make rules for the Government and Regulation of land and naval Forces . . . To make all laws this shall be necessary and proper. . . .

By Mr. COBLE:

H.R. 1129.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 1130.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 1131.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 1132.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 1133.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2. The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 1134.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I, SECTION 8:

POWERS OF CONGRESS CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 1135.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 1136.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 1137.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 1138.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 1139.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 1140.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SARBANES:

H.R. 1141.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 1142.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

''The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article N, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).''

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 1143.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

''The Congress shall have Power. . .To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof''

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 1144.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1. Section 8. Clause 3.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 1145.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mr. WHITFIELD:

H.R. 1146.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

AND

Article I, Section 8, Clause 8

The Congress shall have Power . . . to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 1147.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 24: Mr. MASSIE.

H.R. 25: Mr. ALEXANDER.

H.R. 35: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 36: Mr. FLORES, Mr. LANCE, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 52: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 55: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 155: Mr. BONNER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TONKO, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. MICHAUD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 164: Mr. MORAN, Mr. RUNYAN, and Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 171: Mr. ENYART, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 176: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. FLORES, Mr. MICA, and Mr. RADEL.

H.R. 183: Mr. CLAY and Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 196: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 198: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 207: Ms. JENKINS and Mr. PRICE of Georgia.

H.R. 258: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 285: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 311: Mr. ROKITA, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 333: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 335: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. MAFFEI.

H.R. 351: Mr. BARROW of Georgia and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 358: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 360: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WATERS, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BARBER, Mr. BERA of California, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HIMES, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. FARR, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 361: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 401: Ms. ESTY, Mr. YODER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HECK of Nevada, and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 411: Mr. MAFFEI.

H.R. 447: Mr. MESSER and Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 454: Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 481: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 485: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 486: Mr. MARKEY, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 487: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 540: Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 541: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 544: Mr. THORNBERRY, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 569: Mr. NUGENT, Mr. STIVERS, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. COLE, and Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 570: Mr. NUGENT, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. COLE

H.R. 581: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 582: Mr. HANNA, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. RADEL, and Mr. PITTENGER.

H.R. 584: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 604: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 611: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 627: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. LATTA, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. CULBERSON, and Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 628: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. DELBENE, and Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 630: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 633: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 634: Mr. CONAWAY and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 647: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 659: Mr. HANNA, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 661: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 669: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 676: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 683: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. MAFFEI.

H.R. 688: Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 690: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 693: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 719: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 721: Mr. REED, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. JONES, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 722: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 724: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 725: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 729: Mr. MARKEY.

H.R. 732: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 736: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 742: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 755: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 763: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. PAULSEN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. COLE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. YODER and Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 769: Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. CHU, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. Danny K. Davis of Illinois, Mr. FARR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. HANABUSA, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 776: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 782: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 794: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 811: Mr. REED.

H.R. 819: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 825: Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 826: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 828: Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 833: Mr. PERRY, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. STEWARD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 850: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. UPTON, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 877: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 892: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 896: Ms. SPEIER, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 900: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN.

H.R. 903: Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. YODER, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 904: Mr. GIBSON, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. ALEXANDER.

H.R. 916: Mrs. BLACKburn, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. JONES, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 940: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. KLINE, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 956: Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. BARTON, and Mr. RUNYAN.

H.R. 958: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. HOLT, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 961: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 973: Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. KELLY.

H.R. 979: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 981: Mr. HOLT, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 996: Mr. OWENS, Mr. NOLAN, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1003: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 1005: Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 1008: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 1014: Mr. BARR and Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 1025: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 1026: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 1032: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 1039: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. LONG, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 1089: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 1090: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 1102: Ms. NORTON, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN, and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.J. Res. 20: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.J. Res. 21: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.J. Res. 26: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.J. Res. 28: Mr. ROKITA.

H.J. Res. 34: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H. Res. 36: Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. NUNNELEE.

H. Res. 69: Mr. BENISHEK and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN.

H. Res. 74: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 80: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H. Res. 86: Mr. OLSON, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H. Res. 87: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H. Res. 90: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. MOORE, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HIMES, Ms. HAHN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. NEAL.

H. Res. 94: Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. ELLISON.

H. Res. 95: Mr. STIVERS.

H. Res. 101: Mr. KING of New York.

H. Res. 108: Mr. ELLISON.

H. Res. 110: Mr. VARGAS.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013 No. 36

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, thank You for Your promise to meet all our needs. Plant Your peace in the garden of the hearts of our Senators, enabling them to feel the power of Your presence when they need it most. May they find opportunities to trust You, even in the midst of trouble. Lord, bring them through the difficulties of our times, as gold tried in the fire. Help them to be healing agents as they exemplify for the American people civility, graciousness, and oneness. Let Your spirit guide them moment by moment, keeping them close to You.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN 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. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 13, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COWAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 933, the continuing resolution legislation. Last night I filed cloture on a motion to proceed to this most important legislation. We are now in the midst of another filibuster. If no agreement is reached, the cloture vote will be tomorrow morning.

THE RYAN BUDGET

Mr. President, yesterday Americans got their first look at this year's Ryan Republican budget. It turns out it looks like last year's Ryan Republican budget. I wasn't the only one who said: Gee whiz, not again.

Here is the headline from Bloomberg News:

Ryan Budget Replays Republican Hits.

One Washington Post reporter compared the release of the not-so-new and certainly not improved Ryan Republican budget to the movie ''Groundhog Day,'' where Bill Murray relives his least favorite holiday over and over and over. Remember, this is the third Ryan Republican budget.

This is what the Washington Post also wrote:

The unrepentant reprisal of the same fiscal vision that was decisively repudiated last fall is bound to attract notice.

Indeed, this is the same budget plan we saw from Congressman RYAN last year and the year before that. Even the name is the same. If anything, this new version is even more extreme than the last two Ryan Republican budget proposals—proposals that sought to end the Medicare guarantee and raise taxes on middle-class families, all the while handing out more tax breaks to the wealthy.

The Ryan Republican budget is anything but balanced, and it reflects the same backward values Americans rejected in November. Instead of asking the wealthiest to contribute their fair share, the Ryan Republican budget demands that middle-class families pay more in taxes. Instead of ending wasteful corporate tax loopholes, it basically ends Medicare. In fact, the Ryan Republican budget takes special aim at health care. It would eliminate free preventive health services for 34 million Americans. The Ryan Republican budget would increase prescription drug prices for seniors by $2.5 billion in 1 year. It would end the coverage guarantees for 3.1 million young men and women who are on their parents' health plans. The budget would end coverage for mammograms, cervical cancer screenings, and contraception for more than 47 million women and allow insurance companies to deny care for 17 million children simply because they were born with a heart defect or some other illness. These drastic cuts will literally cost lives and also jobs.

Instead of a balanced approach that protects the American economy, the Ryan Republican budget guts education, medical research, infrastructure, and even public safety. The Ryan Republican budget would actually jeopardize the economic recovery; it wouldn't help it. And in case you are thinking such huge and painful cuts can buy an awful lot of deficit reduction, think again. Instead, Congressman RYAN's cuts will buy more tax breaks for the wealthiest among us. This budget isn't a serious attempt to

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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reduce the deficit. Meaningful deficit reduction will require shared sacrifice, including contributions from those who can best afford to contribute to it.

Today, Budget Committee chairman PATTY MURRAY will introduce a budget that reflects the principle of balance. Senator MURRAY's plan, the Democratic plan, will cut wasteful spending, reduce the deficit, and close tax loopholes that benefit the rich, and it will invest in the things that help our economy grow: education, preventive health care, worker training, and roads and bridges. It will invest in a strong middle class. And unlike the Ryan Republican plan, it won't leave you wondering if it is Groundhog Day all over again.

As things now stand, we are in the midst, as I indicated, of a filibuster to even try to get on the bill. If we get on the bill tomorrow morning, then there will be 30 hours of waiting around, staring at each other. I just alert everyone that we have an Easter recess coming a week from Friday, and we are not going to be able to do that. The budget has a locked-in amount of time, 50 hours, plus the vote-athon. So everyone should be prepared to change their plans for the first few days—we hope it is the first few days—of the Easter recess.

We are not even on this bill, and that is such a sad thing. I thought it was such a good atmosphere here. We had a bill at a decent time from the House. As I indicated yesterday, I didn't like everything in that bill, but we had Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY working together. They checked in with me and Senator MCCONNELL to let us know how they were doing, and they did well on their own. They didn't need our help. They came up with a plan that was fair and as balanced as could be under the sequester situation, and it was bipartisan. The amendment that is being filibustered is sponsored by MIKULSKI and SHELBY. So this is a real shame.

I said last week when we were going on this bill that we would have opportunities for amendments. I hope we can get on the bill and have some amendments offered, but each day that goes by—and we have wasted 2 so far—we are unable to have the amendment process. We had yesterday waiting all day for Harkin and Cruz because that is the first Democratic amendment and the first Republican amendment. They are still on deck, waiting to come whenever the umpire says we can go forward—the umpire being one Senator.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

THE BUDGET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, four years, four long years, that is how long Kentuckians and Americans from coast to coast have had to wait for Senate Democrats to perform their most basic of legislative responsibilities.

Later today, we hope, that long wait will come to an end when they finally release a budget plan.

Given what we have heard about that budget so far, it is obvious why they refused to release one for so many years.

We hear it won't prevent programs such as Medicare from going bankrupt.

We hear it contains yet more wasteful ''stimulus'' spending, spending that turns out to be a lot more effective at generating jokes for late-night comedians than jobs.

And in order to finance more spending, we hear it relies on more than $1 trillion—that is trillion with a T—in new taxes, including on the middle class. Remember, Washington Democrats already got more than $600 billion in taxes this year. So where is this new revenue going to come from, charities, the home mortgage interest deduction? Will they go after families and small businesses yet again?

At least there is one thing we almost certainly know: their budget will never balance—not today, not tomorrow, not ever.

If that was my vision for the country, frankly I would want to hide it from the American people too.

Look, a budget like that would be a disaster for our country. It would betray those who are going to need Medicare when they retire.

It would betray the younger Americans who would be forced to grapple with the consequences of Democrats' failure to get serious about the debt.

It would betray the hard-working middle-class families that simply can't afford higher taxes, especially in the Obama economy.

And if that is really the kind of budget Senate Democrats plan to offer, it would sacrifice Americans' hopes for sustained economic recovery at the altar of higher taxes and bloated, unaccountable government.

It would also draw an important contrast with the budget Republicans put forward yesterday.

Because here is the thing: Republicans believe we should be growing the economy, not the government—and the House Republican budget reflects just those priorities.

It is a budget that does something else too; it actually balances.

That is important for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that it would help unleash economic growth and bring down our country's massive debt load. Interest payments on the national debt alone are set to exceed everything we spend on defense in just a few years' time, so the path we are on clearly is not a sustainable one.

With that in mind, I hope Democrats offer something serious today. I hope they face up to the fact that they already got the revenue they are going to get. So that they can start dealing with the real issues that are leading us to fiscal ruin.

And I hope they will finally stop trying to shield the Washington establishment from every single attempt to inject a little accountability and reform, because if the reports I have seen are correct, the budget they plan to offer would do none of these things. It would only speed up the dangerous trajectory we are on rather than change it; entrench government waste and cronyism rather than root it out; and make things worse for the families we represent rather than give them hope. Hope is something the American people really need right now. They have been battered by the President's economy. They are tired of seeing their money wasted on an endless labyrinth of self-perpetuating bureaucracy.

So I am calling on my Democratic friends to shelve the extremist liberal budget we have been hearing so much about. Let's get serious here and start doing the things necessary to make government more efficient, more pro-growth, more responsive, and more compassionate—in other words, enact the same priorities Republicans have and, frankly, the priorities many of our constituents have too.

After 4 long years, Senate Democrats should be willing to do more than just protect their buddies in government at all costs—to offer Americans something better than a budget that would expand the IRS and crush the middle class.

The American people deserve better than that. Haven't they waited long enough already for true growth-oriented reform?

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 21, H.R. 933.

The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 21, H.R. 933, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I wanted to make a few comments. We have finished our analysis of this bill. The bill has 587 pages and spends well over $1 trillion. We finished at 9 p.m. last

night. We have no objection to moving to the bill through a fair and open process. We will be happy to submit our ideas to the chairman and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. There is a lot we ought to discuss about this bill. However, there is no attempt to filibuster the bill. There was an attempt to do our job, which was to actually read the bill and see what is in it so we would be prepared to offer constructive criticisms to the bill.

With that, I leave and I will be back on the floor in a little bit when the managers of the bill come to the floor. If they want to offer amendments and ask unanimous consent to move on to the bill, I am sure there will be no objection.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I respect my friend from Arizona. He is my friend, and we have worked together on a bipartisan basis. I respect his right as a Senator and his responsibility as a Senator to speak on issues that he thinks are important to our Nation and his home State as well as to offer amendments if that is the appropriate approach he wants to use. However, we have wasted a day. We lost a day in the U.S. Senate.

Yesterday was the day to begin the amendment process and we could not. Senators objected to our coming to this process and even offering an amendment on the continuing resolution, which is the Federal budget for the remainder of this year; in other words, until September 30. We know we are just days away from the continuing resolution expiring. We don't want the government to shut down; we do want to fund the government. We understand there must be spending cuts and there is a healthy difference of opinion on where those cuts should be made. The Senator from Arizona was on the floor yesterday and we spoke of this.

One aspect of this bill, which I wish to address for a moment, is the Department of Defense appropriations. This is a new responsibility which I have on the Senate Appropriations Committee, and it is an awesome responsibility. Not only are we dealing with the security of the United States of America, first and foremost, we are dealing with a massive spending bill. This is larger than any other spending bill in the Federal Government.

Last week the House of Representatives passed a continuing resolution which covers the Department of Defense for the remainder of this year. Many changes are included in there, but that was done along with the military construction budget and the Veterans Administration budget. That was all finished last week. It was all sent to us by the House last week ready for us to address it if we cared to.

Well, we had that chance yesterday, and we didn't do it. Now we have another chance today, and we should take it. We have a lot to do in a limited amount of time. We have this week and the next to accomplish not only the passage of this Federal budget for the remainder of this year but also next week we will begin consideration of a budget resolution for spending in the next fiscal year. Those are two awesome responsibilities back to back and up against the Easter recess.

Senator HARRY REID, the Democratic majority leader, has come to the floor expressing some frustration. He wanted to move on this continuing resolution this week—as early as yesterday—and give Members an opportunity to offer amendments. There were several Members who stepped forward prepared to do so, but there was a stop. There was a hold.

I understand the Senator from Oklahoma—and I believe my friend from Arizona may echo his remarks—is prepared to not stand in the way of any of the amendments. If Members wish to offer amendments, they can do so, and I hope they will.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, could I ask my friend a question while he is on that subject?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask permission to engage in a dialogue with my friend from Arizona.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. I say to my friend from Illinois that there is no further objection. The Senator from Oklahoma and I have reviewed the bill and yesterday we discussed its length and our obligations. I promise to my friend from Illinois that we will not rehash that discussion we had. We have no objection whatsoever to taking up amendments right now and moving forward with that. I hope that is perfectly clear to all Members. Very frankly, I am eager to move forward.

I will mention to my friend from Illinois that I appreciate the new responsibilities he has. I appreciate the responsibilities he has addressing, as he just said, the largest single part of our appropriations bill which is in the Defense authorization. During the intervening time we had requested, I came up with, for example, $65 million for Pacific coast salmon restorations for States, which includes Nevada. We are going to restore salmon restoration in the State of Nevada?

Also listed here is the Department of Defense to overpay contracts by an additional 5 percent—totaling $15 million—for Native Hawaiian-owned companies. I would be glad to include this long list for the RECORD.

There is a request for $993,000 in grants to dig private wells for private property owners; $10 million for USDA high-energy cost grant program to go to subsidize electricity bills in Alaska and Hawaii; $5.9 million for economic impact initiative grants. The list goes on and on.

I say to my friend from Illinois that we were trying to examine this legislation—the 587 pages or whatever it is—to find this sort of issue. It is our obligation to do so. We have found these things, and we are still finding additional elements.

I see my old friend, the distinguished majority leader, on the floor. We are ready to move forward with amendments. I was saying to my friend from Illinois that we found numerous additional provisions in this legislation that we think are important for debate and discussion. I won't go through all of them, but some of the items include $120 million for Guam; $5 million for the National Guard STARBASE Youth Program; $154 million for alternative energy resource. It goes on and on. In the meantime we have ships that cannot deport, planes that cannot fly, and men and women we cannot train and equip. Yet we have this kind of stuff on the appropriations bills.

I want to share with my colleagues that the Senator from Oklahoma and I finished examining this bill yesterday. We are prepared with amendments and moving forward with vigorous debate. If there was any misunderstanding about that, I apologize to the majority leader and my friend from Illinois.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as I said yesterday on the floor, I have nothing but the highest respect for my friend from Arizona. I know he looks into things very deeply, and I appreciate his peacemaking. Even though he is a famous man in America and the world because of his wartime experiences, he is also a peacemaker, and I am grateful for that.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to proceed be agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will proceed to H.R. 933.

The clerk will report the bill.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 933) making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 26

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Mr. REID. On behalf of Senators MIKULSKI and SHELBY, I call up their substitute amendment, as modified, which is at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] for Ms. MIKULSKI and Mr. SHELBY proposes an

amendment numbered 26, as modified, as follows:

On page 1, strike lines 3, 4, and 5.

(The text of the amendment is printed in the RECORD of Monday, March 11, 2013, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I withdraw the cloture motion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion is withdrawn.

Mr. REID. The first two amendments we will go to on this bill, according to the two managers, are the amendments by HARKIN and CRUZ. If Senator HARKIN is not available immediately, then Senator CRUZ can do it. These are the first two amendments, and I ask that both of them come to the floor at the earliest possible time. In fact, soon. The two managers, Senator SHELBY and Senator MIKULSKI, will be here shortly.

In the meantime I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I will withdraw my request for a quorum call. I didn't know my friend, the distinguished Senator from Illinois, was here wanting to talk, which is a rare occasion.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, if we could continue our dialogue.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I want to thank the majority leader before he leaves the floor. I look forward to amendments and debate. Again, I apologize to all my colleagues if we held up this legislation, but we did want time to examine this legislation as we had previously requested. I thank my colleagues and look forward to moving forward with amendments. The Senator from Oklahoma and I are prepared with amendments whenever they are in order.

I thank my friend from Illinois, and I appreciate the enormous responsibility he has in his new position.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Arizona as well. I think we have a rare moment of peacemaking and harmony in the Senate. It may not last for long, so I want to speak while we have that moment and say for the Record that I don't dispute any of the statements made by the Senator from Arizona nor do I question his right to do so, including his responsibility to raise questions about spending.

We are at a time when we are cutting spending right and left—even at the Department of Defense. I do want to put on record the following: This bill, which we are considering as it relates to the Department of Defense in its entirety, is the bill that was passed by the House Republican majority. This is not a bill which was written on this side of the Rotunda. We have received it. That doesn't mean we should not ask questions about what the House did, but I don't want to be assigned the blame or asked to take responsibility for provisions which I did not author. We took the House version and brought it to the floor in an effort to get this moving in an expedited manner.

I know some of the questions the Senator from Arizona has raised are not new. There was a longstanding debate here in the Senate about whether to expand the notion of minority contracting to include Native Alaskans and Native Hawaiians. Understandably, Senator Stevens of Alaska, who chaired the subcommittee for a long time, and Senator Inouye, who also chaired the subcommittee—and unfortunately he passed away just a few weeks ago—believed that the minority status for contracting should include their native tribes people. They fought for it, and it was included. I know the Senator from Arizona perhaps took exception to that and debated with them. To renew that debate is perfectly appropriate, but it is not a new provision in the bill. It is something that has been there for some time. I welcome the debate. I think it is a fulsome debate and an important one, but I wanted to say that for the Record.

This is the House Republican bill and the measures which the Senator from Arizona addressed have been debated for a lengthy period of time. Some issues that were raised are new to me. I have to look more closely—and I should—to find out the merits of the provisions.

Before we go any further with that, I——

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, could I briefly respond?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if I could ask any time that we use from now until the managers arrive on the floor be for debate only. I ask unanimous consent for that purpose.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I say to my friend I had no assurance that what came from the House—the defense portion of this bill—was going to be ''preconferenced,'' and that it was going to be the final bill. So to expect for me to honestly examine the House-passed bill without knowing what the disposition of it would be on the Senate side is a little much. During the intervening time, the Senator from Oklahoma and I have found items in this bill that have nothing to do with the defense bill. For example, $65 million for Pacific coast salmon restoration for States including Nevada. I know there are rivers coursing through Nevada all the way to the Pacific Ocean, but the point is there is $993,000 in grants to dig private wells for private property owners.

We have a list of provisions which we were able to uncover which we find controversial and should be open for debate and discussion. But it is over, and we are moving forward.

I hope the Senators whose amendments have just been made and ordered will come to the floor so we can debate and vote.

I thank the Senator from Illinois, and I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. I see my friend and colleague from the State of Rhode Island, who serves on the Defense Appropriations Committee as well as the Armed Services Committee, and I will yield to him next.

I do want to say a word about the Department of Defense appropriation contained in this bill. This act provides $604.9 billion, including $87.2 billion for overseas contingency operations. That is a reduction from the 2012 level of $633.2 billion. There were no changes in the bill that passed the House last week. The bill fully complies with the spending caps in the Budget Control Act. It contains no Member-requested earmarks in compliance with the earmark moratorium. Congress has cut the defense budget to find programs which we believe are excessive to accommodate scheduling delays, budget errors, and unspent funds.

The bill includes 671 cuts to programs in the budget request that have funds that are not needed for the remaining 6½ months of the year. I believe everyone should agree with the notion that if we are going to replicate last year's budget—for goodness' sake, we are not going to build the same ship twice, so we are trying to avoid those obvious misappropriations and waste of Federal tax dollars.

The bill also rescinds $4 billion in unspent prior-year appropriations for 87 programs that have been delayed or terminated.

There has been talk in the press that the Defense appropriations bill included here gives an advantage to the Pentagon when it comes to sequestration, but that is not true. Until this bill is enacted, the Defense Department is dealing with two challenges: sequestration and the threat of defense being under a full-year continuing resolution for the first time in our Nation's history.

This bill does nothing about sequestration. Nearly $42 billion in defense cuts have already been ordered by the President, and this bill does not change that at all.

Some people think the Defense Department is being afforded special treatment in being able to transfer money to deal with sequestration. In fact, this bill keeps a tight rein on the Pentagon's transfer authorities. The bill actually provides less transfer authority than what the Defense Department requested in February of 2012.

The Defense Department asks for $5 billion in general transfer authority. The bill allows $4 billion. The Defense Department asks for $4 billion in transfer authority for overseas contingency accounts. The bill provides $3.5 billion. All these transfer authorities are subject to congressional approval processes.

The perception that this bill gives the Pentagon excessive flexibility to deal with sequestration is not correct.

The other challenge facing the Department of Defense is the threat of a year-long continuing resolution if we fail to pass this bill—a bill that would do nothing more than extend the authority of last year's spending bill. Some of the Department's most pressing fiscal challenges relate to trying to live in today's world using last year's budget. Passing a defense bill will give the Pentagon relief from the threat of living under a full-year continuing resolution for the very first time. But that is not because of flexibility, that is because an appropriations bill is a better steward of taxpayer dollars than a continuing resolution.

Here are five reasons why a continuing resolution would be harmful to our national defense: Readiness. Readiness is the way to measure whether our troops are properly trained and equipped to do their mission. Under last year's funding bill, operation and maintenance accounts would be underfunded by $11 billion. In other words, if we just took last year's bill, we would be short $11 billion in preparing our troops for battle. I will tell my colleagues that these operations and maintenance accounts which result in readiness training mean survivability for our men and women in uniform. It is that basic. That directly translates into less training, if we don't do something about it, and delayed repair of equipment. Every member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has warned us that readiness is on the verge of plummeting because of fiscal uncertainty. That is disgraceful and unacceptable. Once readiness goes down, it takes years to rebuild it.

Spending on unneeded programs is also a concern. Continuing last year's bill would fund $17 billion worth of programs that are no longer needed—specifically 31 programs that have ended.

For example, a continuing resolution would provide $2.6 billion for MRAP armored vehicles. The Pentagon has already bought these vehicles, and with our troops beginning to draw away from Afghanistan, we don't need more at this moment. This bill would not provide funds for unneeded programs such as this.

Third, no new starts or multiyear authority. A simple extension of last year's bill would extend the prohibition on new programs and multiyear contract authority. A multiyear contract must be specifically authorized by law and only when the government would save approximately 10 percent compared to buying each year's requirements.

If this authority is not provided, the taxpayers stand to lose $150 million in cost savings for the V–22 *Osprey* and as much as $373 million in savings on the Army's Chinook helicopter. To put that in simple terms, if we can enter into multiyear contracting and get discounts on what we will need in the future, it is in the best interests of our national defense and the taxpayers. Losing that multiyear contracting results in the opposite. We overpay for things we know we will not need.

When the government needs to be finding ways to make taxpayer dollars stretch further, a simple extension would require the government to turn away from cost savings that have already been negotiated.

On the fourth point, shortfalls will go unaddressed. There is a long list of shortfalls in the defense budget that are not controversial but wouldn't be fixed by a continuing resolution. Here are just a few examples we are considering: $1.5 billion for National Guard equipment; $2.3 billion for ship operations; $271 million to close the shortfall in TRICARE health care programs; $211 million added for the Iron Dome missile defense program that protects Israeli cities from short-range rockets.

The President of the United States visited us yesterday for lunch and talked about his upcoming trip to the Middle East to meet with our allies in Israel. I will tell my colleagues the President, as well as the leaders in Israel, know how important the Iron Dome missile defense program is and we should not shortchange it.

Another example: $45 million is added to focus intelligence efforts on finding Joseph Kony, the notorious leader of the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda.

I recently visited Africa. I have been in the field with our troops who are stalking this man and they will find him. He is a notorious murderer. The President has said we will put an end to his reign of terror and we will. This bill, the bill we are considering, will provide the funds to finish that.

Let me summarize by saying this bill is a compromise solution that meets budget caps, does not unfairly help the Department of Defense compared to other agencies. It eliminates wasteful and unneeded spending, lowers the risk to readiness and the threat of a hollow force, takes care of our troops and their families, and addresses the priorities of our national defense.

I will not quibble or argue with my colleague from Arizona or any other colleagues. If there are provisions in the House bill—which is included here in its entirety—that need to be challenged, addressed, debated or changed, so be it. That is why we are here. But we are starting with this and with the good intention of finding funds for the Department of Defense in very challenging times.

I yield the floor to my friend from Rhode Island.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, first, let me commend the Senator from Illinois for a very thoughtful statement about the pending appropriations bill, particularly with respect to the funding of the Department of Defense.

I wish to spend a moment to talk about another looming issue that is beyond appropriations but is rapidly approaching.

In June of last year, as we commemorated the 40th anniversary of legislation to establish the Pell Grant Program, we narrowly averted a doubling of the interest rate on need-based student loans.

Back in January of 2012, Congressman COURTNEY and I introduced legislation to permanently extend the 3.4-percent interest rate that has helped make college loans more affordable for millions of students across the country. But my colleagues on the other side of the aisle instead voted for budgets that effectively called for the doubling of the rate. They did this at a time when students are struggling—and I will point out some of the difficulties we face—at a time when college costs are increasing and at a time when college is becoming more and more essential for obtaining any type of long-term, stable employment and ability to contribute to the continued economic growth of the country.

It took thousands of calls and letters and rallies from students and parents across the country and President Obama himself getting involved in this issue to bring everyone to the table to negotiate. However, we were only able to get a temporary, short-term fix. Essentially, we were able to keep the interest rate at 3.4 percent but only until July 1 of this year. Interest rates will again double then on these need-based loans unless we act.

One of the other ironies, of course, is that even at 3.4 percent, that is a substantial interest payment at a time when Federal fund rates are closer to 1 percent and when large financial institutions can borrow at these very low rates, et cetera. So given that factor also, it is essential we once again respond, prior to July 1, to the anticipated doubling of the student loan rate.

Now is the time to develop not just a short-term solution but a long-term solution to this growing burden of student loan debt, the rising cost of college, and the need to improve higher education outcomes so students complete their degrees and get the full benefit of their investment in education and we get the benefit as a society and as an economy of their education.

Everyone agrees college costs are too high and are climbing higher. There has to be real reform by higher education in terms of the way they deliver services. They cannot continue to pass on increased costs. If that continues to happen, families will be priced out of a college education, even with our grants and loans; so we have to do something.

Student loan debt is the next big financial crisis we are facing. Even if we act now, we are looking at some very sobering statistics about the growth of student loan debt already. That should prompt, again, action now to prevent the doubling of the interest rate and longer term action to control the costs of higher education and the ability of families to respond to those costs.

Student loan debt continued to rise throughout the recession. In fact, one of the ironies of the recession is people can't find jobs; they are going back to college to get more training and sometimes they are going back to college because that is what they can do. So the irony, of course, is we are adding to the student debt. In fact, today, student loan debt is the second largest outstanding balance after mortgage debt. It eclipses credit card debt. It is the second largest outstanding balance in our economy behind mortgage debt. Borrowers are struggling under that debt.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York recently reported that 17 percent of student loan borrowers are more than 90 days past due on their payments—a large increase from under 10 percent in 2004. So in roughly a decade, we have seen an increasing amount of students unable to shoulder the burden of their debt. Even worse, if we consider that 44 percent of student loan borrowers are not in repayment—these are people who statutorily don't have to start paying—the effective delinquency rate rises to more than 30 percent. That is stunning.

This is affecting also the lives of these young people at a time when they are beginning to establish or are hoping to establish households. A recent Pew Research Center survey illustrates what is happening. As the percentage of young adult households with student loan debt climbed from 34 percent in 2007 to 40 percent in 2010—again, a huge increase in debt—the share of younger households owning their home has declined sharply from 40 percent in 2007 to 34 percent in 2011. Home ownership, which is one of but not the only measure of the American dream, is also one of the strongest supports of the American economy, but it is rapidly being priced out of the reach of young students because of their student debt. They literally can't qualify for mortgages.

Car ownership shows a similar trend. In 2007, 73 percent of households headed by young adults owned or leased at least one vehicle. By 2011, that figure dropped to 66 percent.

Students are caught literally between a rock and a hard place. Huge financial debts for their college education prevent them from buying homes, buying cars, and prevent this economy from growing as it has in the past because of new households, young households coming into the marketplace, buying homes and buying cars and starting families.

We can't do away with education. It is more important each day in a global economy. We have to deal with this issue of rising costs. The cost of attending college has increased by more than 550 percent since 1985. Let me repeat that: 550 percent. That is rising faster than gasoline, health care, and other consumer items. It is skyrocketing. Again, the universities, the colleges, education leaders at every level—Federal, State, and local—have to begin to respond to this rising cost of education. But keeping student loans affordable and interest rates low is one part of the solution, particularly this immediate crisis facing us by July 1.

The Federal Government should price student loans based on our actual costs of operating the student loan programs. We should set the student loan interest rates in a way that minimizes the cost for students while covering most of the cost for the taxpayer. The Federal Government provides student loans to increase the number of Americans who can obtain college degrees. We do not and should not run these programs to generate revenue. They should be to increase the capital—the human capital—of our country. I plan to introduce legislation to set student loan interest rates based on the principles of keeping costs low for both students and taxpayers.

Providing more grant aid through Pell grants and other programs is another way to tackle these college costs. However, if college costs continue to rise at the current rate, students relying on the Pell grant will continue to lose ground. We need States and institutions to partner with us to make college affordable. Again, it has to be a cooperative effort.

With respect to the Pell grant, I have talked about the loans, but the Pell grant is just an outright grant of funds to the student without the need to repay. It was for a long time the backbone of our Federal support to students in college and families trying to put their children through college.

In 1976 the Pell grant maximum was $1,400. That was enough to cover 72 percent of the cost of attendance at a public 4-year college. In fact, in those good old days, with a Pell grant and a summer job and a little help, you were usually able to emerge from college after 4 years without a huge debt, and you could start your family and buy your car at a younger age.

In 2010 the maximum Pell grant was increased to $5,550, but that is only enough to cover 34 percent of the cost of attendance at a public 4-year college.

In my State, we have been particularly hard hit by this recession and economic downturn, and students and families are feeling this pressure of increased tuition and higher fees at schools and colleges acutely. They need these resources, and we have to ensure that they get these resources.

As I indicated, I am planning to introduce legislation to strengthen our higher education system and student aid programs by reestablishing a strong Federal-university-State partnership for college access and affordability and by requiring institutions to assume more of the risk in the student loan programs and to do so in a way that I think will vindicate our best principles and our soundest economic rationale.

I look forward to working with Chairman HARKIN. He has been a leader on these issues for so many years, both as the chairman of the HELP Committee and chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee. We want to start by preventing, obviously, the doubling of student loans by July 1. That is step 1, but it cannot be the last step.

Mr. President, with that, I yield floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I come to the floor on the 1,414th day since the Senate has passed a budget and on a day where, amazingly, the President of the United States is reported to have said: ''We don't have an immediate crisis in terms of [our] debt.''

Well, we do have a debt crisis that threatens both future generations—because somebody is going to have to pay that debt back, and thanks to abnormally low interest rates, right now they are not spiraling out of control, but if interests rates were to return to historic norms, I believe for each additional percentage point in interest we would have to pay on our national debt, it would result in roughly $1.7 trillion more we would have to pay back. So in many ways the United States is lucky, even though we are on the brink of what scholars such as Reinhart and Rogoff have said—we are on the precipice of a debt crisis because once interest rates begin to rise, the creditors lose confidence in our ability to repay that debt, and our economy spins out of control, resulting not only in a severe recession or worse but also harm to some of the most vulnerable people in our society who depend on the safety net that government provides.

It is also, in a debt crisis, impossible for the Federal Government to do what it must do in terms of national security. Indeed, that is what led the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mike Mullen, to say that the single greatest threat to our national security is our debt. And it keeps getting worse and worse because the President seems unwilling to deal with the obvious and to enter into what he likes to call the grand bargain but one that can only occur if the President is willing to talk about the entire economy and not just raise taxes.

The President has said that we must embrace a balanced approach to deficit reduction. Of course, reasonable people can disagree on what a balanced approach looks like, but we all know what a balanced budget looks like.

Yesterday morning House Republicans released a plan that balances the Federal budget over the next 10 years. We still do not have the President's proposed budget even though it was due on February 4, and we are now advised that we may not see the President's own proposed budget until sometime in April, which, coincidentally, is after the time that the House and the

Senate will act on their proposed budgets. It seems once again that the President has taken to leading from behind.

For that matter, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney has told us that the President's proposed budget will not even try to balance the budget but, instead, put us on what he calls a ''fiscally sustainable path.'' But that cannot be true. Unless the Federal Government adopts serious reforms to Medicare and Social Security, mandatory spending programs which occupy roughly 61 percent of all Federal spending—the kinds of reforms the President has constantly rejected—we cannot put our country on a fiscally sustainable path by definition.

As the President knows because his own bipartisan fiscal commission told him so in December 2010, to save Medicare we must make structural changes that ensure the program will be affordable over the long term. I do not know any young person the age of my two daughters—30 and 31—who actually believes Medicare and Social Security are going to be there for them when they retire. They simply do not believe it because they see the irresponsibility of the present generation in not only racking up bills they are going to have to end up paying, they are seeing us do nothing to address the fiscally unsustainable path for Medicare and Social Security.

Any of us who have studied the problem understand what the problem is with the Medicare system. Right now, an average couple will put, let's say, $1 in the Medicare trust fund for every $3 they will ultimately take out of it. This is not a pay-as-you-go system by any means, as opposed to Social Security, where basically you will get $1 out for every $1 you put in Social Security—but not Medicare because of its unique problems.

The current Medicare system incentivizes quantity over quality, and its price controls distort the entire health care market. In my State, in Texas, about one-third of the doctors will not even take a new Medicare patient because of government price controls that basically provide compensation to them roughly one-third less than what private health insurance plans would provide. Expanding those price controls, as the President has proposed, would only make Medicare's problems worse.

For all the challenges Medicare has, Medicaid—which is designed to provide health care to low-income Americans—is even worse in terms of the compensation provided to medical providers, hospitals, and doctors, and so many of them simply will not take Medicaid patients, leaving Medicaid-eligible beneficiaries ''coverage'' but no access in many instances.

By restructuring the Medicare Program and increasing competition, we can hold down cost growth in Medicare and make it available not only to the present generation of seniors but also to future generations of seniors. That is the sort of serious issue that is not going to go away that the Senate budget should deal with.

It should also provide a framework for sensible Tax Code reform. We all know the Tax Code is way too complicated. We also know it is riddled with tax credits, deductions, credits—what the Simpson-Bowles Commission called tax expenditures. Yet the President does not want to eliminate those tax deductions, credits, and expenditures for the purpose of reforming the Tax Code, bringing down marginal tax rates not only for businesses and individuals, he wants to use it to raise taxes again.

There is a bipartisan consensus, however, that tax reform should lower the rates and broaden the base. Indeed, those are the recommendations of the Bowles-Simpson Commission and the Domenici-Rivlin panel as well. But, as I said, the President wants to use what he calls tax reform as a Trojan horse to raise taxes again. He argues that we will not have a balanced approach to deficit reduction unless we pass another massive tax hike, and that is after the President raised taxes by $600 billion in January.

From what I understand, our friends across the aisle—Senator MURRAY, as the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee—are about to unveil a budget proposal that would raise taxes again by at least $1 trillion.

I realize that if you think government is the answer to almost every question that comes up in America today, you are going to need bigger government, more intrusive government, funded by higher tax revenue. But they seem to be forgetting a few things. First of all, the Congressional Budget Office tells us that Federal tax revenues in 2014 are already projected to exceed the historical average. Secondly, the President's health care law, ObamaCare, already contains another trillion-dollar tax increase that is discouraging job creation and hurting our economy. Finally, as I pointed out, Democrats in this body already got a $600 billion tax increase earlier this year, while hard-working Americans—the middle class in America—got a tax increase with the return of the payroll tax.

By my view, no one should be talking about another tax increase until the Federal Government quits wasting so much taxpayer money. My colleague from Oklahoma, Senator COBURN, who was just on the Senate floor, has singlehandedly worked tirelessly to expose frivolous and unnecessary spending, and the numbers are remarkable. For example, when Senator COBURN asked the Government Accountability Office to investigate how much Federal spending was duplicative, the Government Accountability Office found that more than $364 billion of duplicative spending existed. And the President wants to close down tours at the White House because of the budget sequester. Give me a break.

How can anyone support another massive tax increase when the Federal Government is literally spending hundreds of billions of dollars on redundant services? For that matter, how can anyone support another massive tax increase when we are spending nearly $15 million each year to give millionaires unemployment checks? How can anyone support another massive tax increase when we are spending $½ million on shampoo products for dogs and cats? That is your Federal Government at work for you. How can anyone support another massive tax increase when we are spending $181,000 studying the effects of cocaine on Japanese quail? I know these sound ridiculous to the extreme, but that is the whole point. The Federal Government is littered with spending that we simply do not need, and yet, rather than do something about that, our friends across the aisle want to raise taxes once again, along with the President of the United States.

No one said cutting spending or reforming entitlement programs or overhauling our Tax Code would be easy. But if the President truly wants a balanced approach to our fiscal and economic challenges, he will stop leading from behind and start leading from the front.

I am shocked the President would say in an interview with Jon Karl, ABC News, that there is no immediate crisis in terms of the debt. What he might be forgetting is what economists tell us: When the debt gets so large, it retards economic growth. Forget the debt crisis part. That has an immediate impact on job creation in America.

We are all wondering why the recovery from the recession of 2008 has been the slowest since the Great Depression. Well, one reason is people are worried about tax rates going up because they see debt upon debt being piled up. They are sitting on the sidelines waiting to see what is going to happen. They are also experiencing additional costs in terms of health care, when they were told by the President back in 2008–2009 if we passed ObamaCare, the average family would see a reduction in their health insurance premiums by $2,500. They were also told a lot of other things, such as if you like what you have, you can keep it. That did not end up being true either.

The President needs to listen to his own experts, such as the bipartisan fiscal commission he himself appointed. Not only do we risk a debt crisis if we do not deal with the $16.5 trillion debt we have if interest rates were to go up, it is having an immediate impact on unemployment. More than 20 million people in this country are either out of work or working part time and want to work full time. That ought to be enough to get the President to act.

Should he choose to act, should he choose to lead, we will be happy to meet him halfway to deal with the single most important issue facing the

country today. But it starts with passing a budget, something Senate Democrats have not done for 1,414 days.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, thanks to the cordiality and cooperation of Members on both sides of the aisle, but particularly those who initially had an objection to us going forward, we now can move forward. We are waiting for the junior Senator from Texas, Mr. CRUZ, to come to the floor. He will be offering the first amendment. As soon as he gets here, we are off and running.

I am going to thank everybody for getting us to this point: Senator SHELBY for working with me on the bill, Senators REID and MCCONNELL, and particularly now Senators MCCAIN and COBURN. We have a way of addressing their concerns. So we are ready. We are waiting for the Senator.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 TO AMENDMENT NO. 26

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CRUZ], for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. RISCH, Mr. VITTER, Mr. COBURN, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. HELLER, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. JOHANNS, proposes an amendment numbered 30 to amendment No. 26.

Mr. CRUZ. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of funds to carry out the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING.

None of the funds made available in this Act may be used—

(1) to carry out any provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111–148) or title I or subtitle B of title II of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–152), or the amendments made by such Act, title, or subtitle; or

(2) for rulemaking under such Act, title, or subtitle.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise to deliver my first official speech on the floor of the Senate on an issue which I believe is the most urgent issue facing the country; namely, the dire need to restore economic growth to our Nation.

I will note at the outset this is the second opportunity I have had to speak on the Senate floor. The first was last week during the historic filibuster led by the junior Senator from Kentucky for nearly 13 hours.

I will note a particular debt of gratitude I owe to Senator PAUL. The very first time I spoke on this floor was in a colloquy with Senator PAUL. I had the opportunity to read Travis's letter from the Alamo, to read Shakespeare's ''St. Crispin's Day Speech,'' to read the opening monolog from ''Patton,'' and to read Ronald Reagan's 1964 speech, ''A Time to Choose.'' This is a debt I will always owe Senator PAUL. As they say in the beer commercial: ''It don't get no better than that.''

Sadly, I promise my colleagues in the rest of my tenure, I am confident we will not have an opportunity to rival those glorious words William Barret Travis penned as he was standing for principle 177 years ago.

This being said, the topic of the day is, in my judgment, a topic of exceptional importance. Every elected Member of Congress, whether Republican or Democratic, should have as their very first priority restoring economic growth in this country. In the last 4 years we have seen stagnant growth. In the last 4 years our economy has averaged 0.8 percent growth each year. To put that in context, this is a fraction of historical levels. Since World War II, our economy has enjoyed 3.3 percent growth per year.

Last quarter the economy was struggling along and grew 0.1 percent. It was effectively stagnant.

If we want to solve the great many fiscal and economic challenges facing this country, growth is the critical precondition. If we want the 23 million people who are struggling to find jobs to get back to work—and I know every one of us wants those 23 million people to get back to work—we must restore economic growth. If we want to turn around the train wreck which is the balance sheet of the Federal Government, our perennial recurring deficits and debts, this can't be done without restoring growth.

In my view we should be working across the aisle in a bipartisan way to focus on bringing growth back. This should be our No. 1 priority. Given that, the purpose of this amendment is to advance economic growth and, in particular, to delay funding of ObamaCare until economic growth returns.

Let me be clear. In my view ObamaCare should be repealed in its entirety, which was the very first bill I introduced in the Senate. At a minimum, in my judgment, ObamaCare should not be funded and implemented at a time when our economy is gasping for breath, at a time when our economy is struggling to such a degree that implementing it right now could well force us into a recession.

It seems to me every Member of this body should stand together in acting decisively to prevent this economy from being pushed into a recession. Implementing ObamaCare at a time when the economy is so weak could do just that. ObamaCare hurts the economy. It hurts jobs. It hurts young people. It hurts Hispanics. It hurts African Americans. It hurts single moms. It hurts everybody struggling to climb the economic ladder.

I would like to initially talk about four promises which were made when ObamaCare was passed and the reality we have seen as it has begun to be implemented. It is ironic the law is called the Affordable Care Act. In the 3 years it has begun to be implemented, it has proven to be neither affordable nor caring.

No. 1, before ObamaCare was adopted, President Obama promised the American people ObamaCare would reduce the cost of insurance. In particular, the President said American families would pay $2,500 less for their insurance premiums by the end of his first term. I would note his first term ended not long ago. Today, American families are not paying $2,500 less in health insurance premiums. They are not paying a penny less. Indeed, today American families are paying $3,000 more in health insurance premiums than they were. That is a $5,500 swing out of the pockets of hard-working Americans who are struggling make ends meet. The reality has not lived up to the promise.

The management consulting firm Oliver Wyman issued a new study recently which predicted people aged 21 to 29 could see a 42-percent hike in premium costs. The higher premiums in particular are hitting young people. Indeed, I would point out, if you are a young person, this law going into effect right now when the economy is struggling is particularly problematic. If you are a young person coming out of school today, you are facing: No. 1, fewer jobs. If you didn't graduate from high school, you are facing an unemployment rate today of over 12 percent. You have less opportunity. If you are between 16 to 19, you are facing an unemployment rate of over 25 percent.

If you are a minority, if you are Hispanic, you are facing an unemployment rate of nearly 10 percent. If you are African American, you are facing an unemployment rate of over 14 percent.

What are you seeing actually in the job market if you are lucky enough to get a job? More and more employers are dropping health care coverage because of the burdens of ObamaCare. More and more employers are forcing employees to work fewer hours because of the burdens of ObamaCare. More and more individuals are seeing their premiums climb, especially young people.

If you are a young person coming out of school today, you may not find a job.

It is harder to find a job because of economic growth right now. If you do find a job, there is a real possibility that job will not have health insurance and you will find your hours reduced. If you do have health insurance, you will pay higher premiums. The promises have not lived up to the reality.

The second differential between promise and reality is President Obama repeatedly told Americans, ''If you like your health plan, you can keep it.'' This unfortunately has not proven to be the case.

The latest forecast from the Congressional Budget Office estimates some 7 million people are expected to lose or be dropped from their employer-provided health insurance by the year 2020. Indeed, health insurers in 34 States have stopped carrying child-only insurance policies. In my home State of Texas, one of the largest insurance markets in the country, every single carrier has dropped its child-only health insurance coverage. The same is true for other large States such as Florida and Illinois. The promise, if you like your health care coverage, you will be able to keep it, has not lived up to reality, as more and more Americans are losing their health insurance.

No. 3, President Obama pledged repeatedly not to raise taxes on families making less than $250,000 a year. That promise has not materialized. Within ObamaCare, there is a tax on those who do not maintain government-approved health insurance. There are increases on the threshold of the deduction for unreimbursed medical expenses. There is an increase in taxes on distributions from Health Savings Accounts and from flexible spending arrangements. Indeed, in total, over $1 trillion in tax increases are contained within ObamaCare. The promise has not lived up to the reality.

The fourth promise which has not lived up to the reality is in February of 2010, former House Speaker NANCY PELOSI said ObamaCare would create 4 million jobs, 400,000 jobs almost immediately.

This was in 2010. By 2011, the CBO Budget Director testified before a House Budget Committee that ObamaCare would result in an estimated 800,000 fewer jobs in the United States by 2021. The promises have not lived up to reality.

I wish to talk about five distinct harms which have come from ObamaCare and made life more difficult for Americans.

No. 1, ObamaCare harms the poor and those who are struggling to climb the economic ladder. Right now, 60 million people are enrolled in Medicaid. Medicaid is a program which is struggling, which is challenged and desperately in need of reform to improve how it operates. ObamaCare, by raising the eligibility age and trying to incentivize and pressure States into expanding Medicaid, is designed to move at least an additional 18 million people onto Medicaid over the next 10 years.

The data demonstrates Medicaid beneficiaries face worse health outcomes than just about anybody else in the marketplace.

In 2010, the ''Annals of Surgery'' issued a landmark study which examined the outcomes from nearly 900,000 individuals undergoing surgery from 2003 to 2007. The conclusion of this study was Medicaid patients were almost twice as likely to die as those with private insurance. Medicaid patients' hospital stays were 42 percent longer and cost 26 percent more.

Even more striking, Medicaid patients, when compared to people without health insurance, people who were uninsured, Medicaid patients were 13 percent more likely to die. They stayed in the hospital for 50 percent longer and cost 20 percent more.

In 2011, Johns Hopkins did a study of patients undergoing lung transplantation. Their conclusions were very much the same. They found that Medicaid patients were 8.1 percent less likely to be alive 10 years after the transplant compared with those with private insurance and also compared to those without any insurance at all. Overall, the Johns Hopkins study found that Medicaid patients faced a 29-percent greater risk of death, and yet ObamaCare is moving more and more of the economically disadvantaged onto Medicaid, which subjects them to those worse health care outcomes.

No. 2, ObamaCare hurts seniors. ObamaCare took $716 billion from Medicare, a large portion of which came from the Medicare Advantage Program which serves a great many seniors, and especially poor seniors. According to the Office of the Actuary at the Center for Medicaid and Medicaid Services, the Medicare Advantage cuts in ObamaCare will reduce enrollment from 14.8 million to 7.4 million by 2017. It will cut it in half. Seven million people will lose their coverage under Medicare Advantage.

I would remind everyone that the President said, ''If you like your health insurance, you can keep it.'' Yet 7 million seniors are losing Medicare Advantage.

The Heritage Foundation found the substantial cuts to Medicare Advantage in particular hurt seniors in the States of Texas, California, New Mexico, Louisiana, Alaska, New York, Massachusetts, and also in the District of Columbia. Those States are expected to lose more than 50 percent of their enrollees by 2017.

I would suggest that each of us, as we return to our constituents, as we return to address seniors, any in this body who vote today to implement ObamaCare despite the difficult economic times, should be prepared to answer to seniors in our States who say: Why did you vote to damage the Medicare Advantage Program that I was relying upon?

Also, the harm to Medicare Advantage in particular is visited upon minorities. Hispanics are twice as likely to enroll in Medicare Advantage than the average Medicare beneficiary. African Americans are 10 percent more likely. So ObamaCare targets a program that is helping seniors and in particular is helping those seniors who are most vulnerable. In addition, 31 percent of African-American Medicare beneficiaries and 38 percent of Hispanic beneficiaries are enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans.

So those of us who return to our States that have substantial minority populations need to be prepared to explain to Hispanic seniors and African-American seniors why this body, why the Federal Government is damaging a program they are relying upon for essential health care.

No. 3, ObamaCare is harming jobs. In March 2013, the Federal Reserve said, in its annual ''beige book''—which analyzes economic data from across the country—that ''employers in several Districts cited the unknown effects of the Affordable Care Act as reasons for planned layoffs and reluctance to hire more staff.''

Added health care costs are making it harder for businesses to hire new workers and especially low-skilled workers. This is a point that is worth underscoring because the detrimental effects of ObamaCare are not uniformly distributed throughout our population. They fall the hardest on those who are most vulnerable among us. The Heritage Foundation found that ''workers who cannot produce at least $20,000 per year'' for a single plan ''or $27,500 per year'' for a family plan ''of value to employers will have serious difficulty finding full-time jobs.''

Madam President, when I read those statistics, those are not simply empty words on a page. Those are data that strike very close to home because 55 years ago that precisely described my father. When my father came as an immigrant from Cuba in 1957, he was 18, he was penniless, and he could not speak English. The very first job my father received in Austin, TX, was washing dishes making 50 cents an hour.

The reason—he told me—he got that job was, he said: Look, I couldn't speak English. I couldn't interact with people as most jobs required, but I could wash dishes. So he worked 7 days a week. The reason he worked 7 days a week is because when you washed dishes, they allowed the employees to eat, and he didn't have the money to buy food. So by working 7 days a week, he ensured he ate 7 days a week.

So when I read statistics like this and the words, ''those who cannot produce $20,000 per year in value to an employer will find themselves unable to find jobs,'' I can't help but think about my dad as that 18-year-old kid just beginning to climb the job ladder, not speaking English, not having yet developed skills, but what he could do

was wash dishes. And working at 50 cents an hour is what enabled him to pay his way through the University of Texas. It is what enabled him to graduate, to get a higher paying job, and eventually to start a small business. Then, today, to become a pastor.

My father is here today visiting me, and I think about the impact these burdens would have had on him, and I tell you I am grateful that in 1957 this so-called Affordable Care Act had not been implemented because it could well have shut down the opportunity for him to survive and pay his way through school and begin climbing the economic ladder.

Additionally, ObamaCare keeps small businesses small. ObamaCare is designed so that its principal burdens are triggered when a business has 50 employees or more. As a consequence, there is an incredible deterrent to small businesses hiring more than 50 employees because hiring that 50th employee triggers enormous burdens and expenses. That has particular implications for everyone in this economy struggling to find work because two-thirds of all new jobs come from small businesses. By keeping these businesses small, what we are doing is stifling the ability to grow the economy, and in particular to grow the economy by creating opportunities for those who need to begin and want to begin climbing the economic ladder.

By hiring the 50th employee, if a small business does not provide government-approved insurance, it faces a penalty of up to $3,000 for each uncovered worker beyond 30 employees. Thus, as the Wall Street Journal explained:

> If a company with 50 employees hires a new worker for $12 an hour for 29 hours a week, there is no health insurance requirement. But suppose that worker moves to 30 hours a week. This triggers a $2,000 Federal penalty. So to get 50 more hours of work a year from that employee, the extra cost to the employer rises to about $52 an hour—the $12 salary and an ObamaCare tax of what works out to be $40 an hour. Moving to 33 hours a week costs the employer about $10 more in ObamaCare tax.

The result is small businesses are staying smaller, and the opportunities for those struggling to achieve the American dream are limited. That leads to the fourth harm: ObamaCare hurts workers.

One of the consequences we are seeing over and over is that in order to avoid the crushing costs of ObamaCare, employers are limiting the hours employees can work. So, for example, in January, a Wendy's franchise in Nebraska announced it would cut the hours of nonmanagement employees to 28 hours a week. As a result, about 100 employees' hours were cut. That is a direct impact of ObamaCare for those 100 employees who were working at Wendy's.

Now, some may say: Well, is Wendy's a career? So many kids, so many young people, so many Hispanics and African Americans begin, as my father did, washing dishes or flipping burgers, and they use those jobs to gain skills and advance up the economic ladder. To have a law that forces small business owners to reduce those hours, to limit the hours those workers can work, is particularly harmful.

A Taco Bell in Guthrie, OK, has also cut worker hours. A single mother of three told Oklahoma News 9:

> They informed everybody that nobody was considered full time any longer, that everybody was now considered part-time, and [they] would be cutting hours back to 28 hours or less due to ObamaCare.

She went on:

> Several of the people I work with, some of them are single parents, and we do the best we can, and 28 hours a week just isn't going to cut it for the bills.

For those who are struggling, for the single moms in this country who are working as hard as they can to provide for their kids, seeing their hours reduced because of the consequences of this law is a real and material hardship, and that, sadly, is happening all over the country.

Stephen Caldeira, president of the International Franchise Association, predicts that ''many stores will have to cut worker hours out of necessity.''

Let me point out, by the way, it is not hard-heartedness on the part of those small business owners. It is the simple reality of trying to survive in this economy. As Caldeira continues, it could be the difference between staying in business or going out of business.

Indeed, a 2011 Hudson Institute study estimates that the insurance mandate will cost the franchise industry $6.4 billion and put 3.1 million jobs at risk. That is worth underscoring: 3.1 million jobs at risk of kids flipping burgers, of single moms struggling to provide for their kids who are facing hard times because of ObamaCare. It is those who are most vulnerable who are hit the worst.

Indeed, if we look at the premium increases, in particular for young people, they have been significant. If ObamaCare is fully implemented, they are likely to be extraordinary. According to a 2013 staff report from the Senate Finance Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the ObamaCare impact on young adults in the individual market is expected to be staggering.

If we look at the city of Austin—a city I have lived in for many years, a terrific city, a city whose slogan unofficially is ''Keep Austin Weird.'' It is a young, hip, vibrant——

Ms. MIKULSKI. Weird?

Mr. CRUZ. Weird, which in Austin is very fitting. It is a young, hip, vibrant city. It is referred to as the ''Live music capital of the world.'' Right now, a young adult in Austin in the individual health insurance market pays an average premium of $648. Under ObamaCare, that is anticipated to rise to $1,836. That is a 183-percent increase.

I wish to repeat that, to underscore it. Today, they are paying $648. That is expected to rise to $1,836. An additional $1,200 out of the pocket of a young person struggling to survive is substantial. And, indeed, nationally, that is consistent with the pattern that is expected all over the country. That is the average annual increase. It is parallel to what is expected in Chicago, Phoenix, Atlanta, and Milwaukee.

Madam President, I have been informed that the Senator from Utah has a time issue. I ask unanimous consent to yield to the Senator from Utah, and thank him for joining me.

Ms. MIKULSKI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, as the manager of the bill, I thought we were going to—of course Senator CRUZ has offered his amendment—but we were going to rotate speakers from the Democrats and Republicans. There was no agreement to do roundrobin here, where the Senator from Texas would yield to the Senator from Utah. I think there is some confusion. I wish to follow the traditional regular order, where the Senator from Texas, the proponent of the amendment, has full and ample time; then other Senators respond, and then Senator LEE. I am not going to make a scene, but that is the way we usually do it.

Has the Senator from Texas concluded his remarks?

Mr. CRUZ. In terms of my remarks, I have about an additional 10 minutes I wish to give. But I was just informed that the Senator from Utah had a scheduling issue, and asked if we could show him consideration. I am being told now that—if the Senator from Maryland would prefer, I am happy to continue my remarks.

Ms. MIKULSKI. And for the Senator from Utah, we all have scheduling issues. What we would want to do is make sure everybody has their say. If the Senator from Utah has a statement he wishes to put into the RECORD or wishes to return, we welcome him back. We in no way want to impede his ability to speak.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, the issue has been obviated. So if I may simply continue my remarks, and when I conclude, I will yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. The fifth impact of ObamaCare is that it imposes a substantial harm on the economy. On the economy altogether, ObamaCare includes more than 20 tax increases. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that over the next 10 years ObamaCare will raise $1 trillion in taxes. That is $1 trillion from the private sector that is not going to be available to be used to hire new workers.

Job losses just in the medical device industry, as a result of the medical device excise tax, could total as much as 47,100 or 10 percent of the medical device industry employment. Those jobs are needed. Those job losses are not

driven by market conditions. Those job losses are driven by one thing, which is the policy decisions of the Federal Government to implement ObamaCare.

On March 5, 2013, Russell George, the inspector general for the IRS, testified in the House Committee on Appropriations:

> It is unprecedented in recent history the amount of responsibility the IRS is being given in an area that most people don't think of as an IRS function.

He went on, ''This is going to lead to problems.''

The Congressional Budget Office expects ObamaCare penalties to total $130 billion over the next 10 years. That is up $13 billion from previous forecasts. And more taxpayers will be hit with ObamaCare taxes as time goes on. There is a 0.9-percent tax surcharge on individuals' earned income, and a 3.8-percent surcharge on investment income for individuals making more than $200,000.

But those taxes are not indexed for inflation. And so as inflation raises the nominal income of Americans, it will push more and more from the middle class into paying those taxes. The Tax Policy Center estimates that by 2013, 2.4 percent of households will pay one or both of those taxes; by 2022, 4.6 percent of households will pay; by 2032, 9 percent of households will pay. That is a significant additional tax burden falling on Americans.

In addition, one of the most problematic short-term and long-term implications of ObamaCare is less innovation. The United States has enjoyed tremendous advantages because our free-market system encourages investment in innovation. In health care in particular we have seen incredible innovation—whether in medical devices or whether in pharmaceuticals—because the incentives are there to invest in new health care treatment. As a result, millions have lived better lives, have lived longer lives, have not died from diseases that previously were incurable and previously were untreatable. Because of the innovation we have had in the medical field, it has led to the United States enjoying a world-class health care system. ObamaCare is substantially diminishing innovation in health care.

Venture capital, the seed money that funds new research and development in health care, has dropped precipitously. In 2010, venture capital in health care services was $1.2 billion. By 2011, it had dropped more than in half, to $541 million. According to Dr. Scott Gottlieb of the American Enterprise Institute, only about 30 venture stage health care services companies got funded last year, compared to hundreds from previous years.

If we want to continue the incredible medical innovation we have seen over the last century, we can't be drying up the capital that is devoted to research and development, that is devoted to new and innovative companies. And that is exactly what ObamaCare is doing.

Then there are the compliance costs. The compliance costs from ObamaCare are, quite simply, massive. ObamaCare will require American businesses, families, health care providers to spend more than 127 million hours per year in compliance costs. What could be done with 127 million hours? The problem with big numbers is it is hard to get your mind around them. What does it mean that 127 million hours are being spent on complying with ObamaCare?

To put that into perspective, Mount Rushmore—which took 14 years to build—could be completed over 1,000 times, and that is each and every year. That underscores how staggering; we are talking about 1,000 Mount Rushmores each and every year. I would note there may be some Members of this august body who would like to see themselves on those 1,000 or more Mount Rushmores.

But rather than needless compliance, we should be putting that energy into productive endeavors. None of that compliance cost is productive. As we say in Texas, it produces neither trucks nor tortillas. It is simply wasted time dealing with the burdens of government.

To give you a sense of the volume of burdens, as of today the administration has created more than 19,000 pages of regulations, bulletins, and guidance since ObamaCare became law. If the IRS and HHS and the Department of Labor continue at their current pace, we can expect an additional 3,000 pages of rules—which is what I have here, 3,000 pages—in the next 6 months, the period covered by this continuing resolution.

This is 3,000 pages right here. I will tell you, I am very glad I don't have to sit down and read these 3,000 pages. But I will tell you also, yesterday I held a tele-townhall with thousands of Texans. A small business owner asked a question. She said, Look, in our small business, we are struggling to make ends meet. How do we ascertain what these regulations contain? I will tell you, I was very frustrated that I could not give her a good answer, because on my desk here is 3,000 pages, and yet what has already been promulgated is over 19,000 pages. So take this stack and send it six times up in the air. It would reach nearly into the gallery.

I told her, I don't have a good answer for how you, struggling to make payroll, to make sure your employees keep their jobs, possibly digest 19,000 pages of regulations, with new pages coming out without ceasing.

Why is our economy struggling? It is not hard to figure out why our economy is struggling when you think about the compliance costs and regulations that are being heaped on small businesses, when they are told, Figure out what is in the 19,000 pages of regulations, and if you get it wrong, you can be assured the hammer of the Federal Government will come down upon you.

That is why I am introducing this amendment today. This amendment to the continuing resolution is a very simple amendment. It simply provides that none of the funds within the continuing resolution shall be spent to implement ObamaCare or to engage in rulemaking under ObamaCare.

Let me be clear. In my view, ObamaCare should be repealed altogether. I think the harms from ObamaCare—and particularly the harms of the most vulnerable among us—are significant enough that we should repeal it in its entirety. I recognize that is not a view shared by every Member of this body. At a minimum, however, I would submit that every Member of this body will agree that restoring economic growth should be a critical priority. And with our economy gasping for breath—last quarter, we were at 0.1 percent growth—allowing ObamaCare to be fully implemented right now has the potential of pushing this economy into a recession. I know no Member of this body wants to see the economy go into a recession. No Member of this body wants to see the American people pay the price for damaging economic growth. If we allow ObamaCare to be funded and implemented right now, each of us who votes to do so will bear a significant amount of responsibility for the economic damage that comes.

I would submit that every Member of this body, Republican and Democrat, should stand together and say, at a minimum, let's restore growth first; at a minimum, let's wait until we get back to historic levels of growth—3.3 percent—before implementing such an incredibly antigrowth, job-killing omnibus bill.

Let me close with a simple observation of the power of growth. If we could get back to historic averages, 3 percent to 5 percent, every other problem this body wrestles with becomes much simpler to resolve. Four percent growth for a decade would create over 10 million new jobs. Four percent growth for a decade would produce over $3 trillion in additional tax revenue. I would note, that exceeds the tax increases. The revenue from the tax increases that have been proposed by President Obama exceeds the revenue from the tax increases that, my understanding is, the Budget Committee will include in its budget before this body.

I am all for new revenue to pay down our debt. I just believe the revenue should come from economic growth and not from higher taxes that hammer small businesses, kill jobs, and restrict growth.

Most importantly, 4 percent growth over a decade would lift over 3 million out of poverty and into the middle class. Growth sometimes seems to be an abstract number that only economists worry about, but sustained growth is what has led to the unprecedented prosperity of our great Nation. It is the reason why for centuries millions of people have come to America seeking a better life, because there has

been no country on Earth that has allowed so many people to start with nothing and achieve anything.

A stagnant economy hurts, first and foremost, those struggling to climb the economic ladder. And, in my opinion, every one of us should come in to work every day fighting for those struggling to climb the economic ladder to make sure we remain the land of opportunity; to make sure we remain the hope and beacon to the world; to make sure that every American has a fair chance to achieve the American dream. With stagnant growth, millions are shut off from that American dream. And I know no Member of this body wants to see that happen.

Respectfully, I would urge my colleagues to restore growth first. Do not allow this bill to be implemented, to kill economic growth, to kill jobs, and to potentially push this economy into a recession. Instead, let's get growth back, let's maintain our economic strength and security, and let's make sure opportunity remains—not just for us but for the next generation and the generations after that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I guess I am compelled to say: Here we go again. We have been down this road a few times before since we passed the Affordable Care Act. Let me see, my notes tell me it is 33—this makes the 34th time that someone on the Republican side has tried to do away with the Affordable Care Act. This is the 34th time, and they failed every time. But they are free to offer amendments, I understand that. I respect the Senator's right to do that, but we have already made our decisions on this and we are moving ahead.

I have said many times as the chair of the HELP Committee, if someone has suggestions on how to improve the Affordable Care Act, to make it work better, be more efficient, I am open to that. That should be allowed, and we should have a constant exchange on maybe how we can improve it. But this idea that we are going to repeal it? I would also say I wonder if my friend, the Senator from Texas, saw the last election. The Senator from Texas got elected, that is for sure, and I congratulate him on that. But the Presidential candidate of the Republican Party who said he wanted to repeal the Affordable Care Act lost. President Obama, who was the President who initiated this and signed it into law won, I think quite convincingly.

So the American people basically have said it is time to move on with the Affordable Care Act. Yet here this amendment basically would repeal it.

I wonder if the Senator from Texas understands it is not just the Affordable Care Act his amendment would hit, it would hit a lot of other things. When we passed the Affordable Care Act there were authorizations for other programs that were included with it. When the amendment says we cannot fund any of the provisions of the Affordable Care Act, I just made a note that we also reauthorized the Nurse Training Partnership Act. So a lot of the funds there go for training nurses.

Does the Senator really believe we should stop funding training for nurses in America at this time when we need more nurses and more nurse practitioners than ever before, at a time when our nursing profession is facing a kind of age cliff? We have a huge cohort of nurses now who are going to be retiring. We need to bring in new nurses. Yet his amendment would cut funding. He says nothing we can do could support nurse training yet in America.

Medicare fraud and abuse—fighting fraud and abuse in Medicare; that was also included in the Affordable Care Act. Again, they have tried frontal assaults on getting rid of the Affordable Care Act. Now this amendment says we are going to not fund it. It would be strange. We have a law in effect but no funding to take advantage of it.

It is almost like some people on the other side of the aisle have an obsession with tearing down health care reform. I think it is unfortunate that some missed the results of the last election, so it is time to move on. This amendment really is the equivalent of repeal. It would turn back the clock on all we have accomplished in the past year. The administration would not be able to build the insurance exchanges or enforce the act's requirements on private insurers.

Again, if this amendment were adopted, it would mean we would go back to the good old days when the insurance companies were in the driver's seat, telling you what kind of health care you are entitled to and when you are entitled to it.

Ever since we passed the Affordable Care Act, and during the time we debated it on the Senate floor, we kept asking our friends on the Republican side: What is your alternative? Basically, what we got was the status quo: Let's just stay with what we have.

I think the American people got pretty fed up with what we had, where insurance companies could turn people down at the very moment when they got sickest; when people had preexisting conditions and could not get insurance or had to pay exorbitant prices for it.

I had a note, we had a family, the Grasshoffs, from Texas—the Senator's home State. They were unable to find coverage to pay for their son's hemophilia treatment. Why? Because they had reached their lifetime limit on insurance payments.

The Affordable Care Act bans lifetime limits, so now they can get treatment. More than 100 million Americans are currently protected by this provision. This amendment would take it away. So the Grasshoffs' treatment for their son with hemophilia would end, and they cannot afford to pay for it out of their own pockets. Keep that in mind when you vote on this amendment.

The Affordable Care Act allows young people to stay on their parents' policies, we know, until they are age 26. More than 3 million young people are taking advantage of this right now. Repeal would take that away from families. The adoption of the Cruz amendment would take that away because, obviously, we could not fund anything to help make this work.

I mentioned preexisting conditions—people who have high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, previous bouts with cancer. Right now the Cruz amendment would say no. The insurance companies can say: No, we are not going to insure you or if we do, you are going to pay sky-high prices for insurance.

One of the big things we put in the Affordable Care Act was prevention and wellness programs that would prevent illness. So we provided for free preventive services such as mammograms and colonoscopies, so people can get those without paying copays, sometimes as much as $300 to as much as several hundred dollars for these essential services. The Cruz amendment would put us back where we would have to pay for those preventative screenings.

The Cruz amendment would deprive States and localities of vital funding to combat chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease, as well as funding to make sure our kids have access to lifesaving vaccines. Thanks to health reform, the Prevention and Public Health Fund is saving lives. The Cruz amendment would stop that.

I picked up a little bit of what the Senator from Texas said about young people; that their insurance rates are going to go sky high. Has the Senator ever heard of the marketplace? It is where people compete. Under the Affordable Care Act, all of these insurance companies now will have to go on the exchanges in the open market, with full transparency, and they are going to have to compete. We have not had that in the past, but under this we do. The Cruz amendment would take that away—a real market out there for insurance, for individuals, small businesses. They would have the same purchasing power and choice that only big companies had before.

I guess what is most important is these exchanges that we are setting up will bring coverage to 32 million Americans who do not have coverage right now. They live in the oppressive fear that they are just one illness away from bankruptcy, losing their homes, not knowing if they can afford another doctor visit.

Did anyone tell States to stop this, stop what they were doing to help serve our citizens? That is what this Cruz amendment does. The Cruz amendment would take us back to the days of the doughnut hole for the elderly because the Affordable Care Act

closes that doughnut hole. We are closing it year after year; 6.1 million seniors have already saved more than $5.7 billion in discounts on drugs purchased in the doughnut hole. The Cruz amendment would stop that. It would increase seniors' drug prices by an estimated $3,500 per person over the next 10 years.

One of the key features we put in the Affordable Care Act was going after Medicare fraud, preventing Medicare fraud. We have increased criminal penalties, we have launched innovative technologies to detect and pursue those who would defraud Medicare, and we have put more cops on the beat to preserve Medicare funds for beneficiaries and not those who would scam the system. The Cruz amendment would stop all that, stop our efforts we put in there to get a handle on Medicare fraud.

Something that is very important to so many of us is what is happening in rural areas. Right now, under the Affordable Care Act, there are incentive payments paid to rural primary care providers in rural America—States such as North Dakota and Iowa and Texas. Right now the Cruz amendment would stop that incentive payment for primary care providers in rural areas.

I mentioned preventive services—right now every senior gets a wellness visit once a year. More than 34 million seniors got that last year, a free preventive service in Medicare so they can go in and get a wellness check to find out if they need to do something to take better care of themselves. They do not have to pay for that. The Cruz amendment would say if they want to do it now, they have to start paying for it.

Since this is kind of a blunt instrument, this amendment we have before us would defund all activities related to health reform, including paying the Federal employees who administer Medicare. Secretary Sebelius has informed us payments to Medicare providers would be significantly disrupted by this. You just cannot separate the Affordable Care Act from all the other provisions of Medicare that are being run by Health and Human Services or by CMS, the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services.

Oh, yes, the Senator also talked about the deficit, reducing the deficit. I don't understand why someone would want to stop something which the Congressional Budget Office said would reduce the deficit. I guess we are going to reduce the deficit by increasing the deficit? That is sort of the logic of this amendment.

The Congressional Budget Office affirmed that the Affordable Care Act reduces the deficit by more than $100 billion in the next 10 years, and more than $1 trillion in the decade that follows. So the Cruz amendment would roll that back. I guess the Senator wants to reduce the deficit by increasing the deficit. Go figure that one out.

It is time to stop the silly games, but I guess it will continue. After all, in 1935 the Congress and President Roosevelt passed the Social Security Act. Seventy-five years later there are still some on the Republican side who would like to get rid of that.

I guess we will continue to have a few voices—not everyone—who will still be fighting the Affordable Care Act a year from now.

In 1965 Congress passed Medicare—the Republicans fought it bitterly, by the way—and 45 years later a few on that side are still trying to undo Medicare by voucherizing it, and that sort of stuff. I just have to say: Here we go again.

William F. Buckley was the founder of the National Review and sort of the godfather of the modern conservative movement in America. He was a very intellectual kind of guy. He was very intellectual and a good writer and speaker. I always enjoyed watching William F. Buckley. He once said: ''A conservative is a fellow standing athwart history yelling: Stop!''

Well, is that really the role? I think there should be a different role, and that is to stand with liberals, moderates, and everybody else to figure out what is best. We need to figure out what is best for moving ahead and not to just yell ''stop'' or repeal something. We need to do something that is so meaningful and so broadly supported, then figure out how to make it work the best.

I kind of conclude where I began. If people have suggestions on how to make the Affordable Care Act work better, smoother, be more efficient, more cost effective, fine. That would be a good debate and discussion. Just to say: No, we are not going to fund it is an ideological approach. It is not based on budget considerations, it is not based on reducing the deficit, which I just pointed out. It is not based on a rational reading of the bill and what is happening out there in terms of setting up the exchanges and all the other things I mentioned. It is just an ideological approach. It is sort of tearing it down and sort of going after President Obama, I guess, one more time. I don't want to take the position that somebody cannot offer an amendment such as that. Sure, they can offer an amendment. They can do anything. However, reasonable, rational people in the Senate don't need to follow that. We need to do what is best for the American people and leave the ideology behind.

I hope the Cruz amendment will be seen for what it is, an attempt to repeal ObamaCare at this moment in time when we are on the cusp of actually having it fully implemented. States have already moved ahead. Even very conservative Republican Governors have joined in and said: Yes, we want to extend Federal Medicaid coverage in our States. Conservative Republican Governors are setting up exchanges. We are moving ahead. Now is not the time to say: Well, we are going to cut the funding.

Again, keep in mind, this doesn't just defund the Affordable Care Act. I said there were other things, such as the Nurse Professional Training Act, which we put in the Affordable Care Act, which would also be defunded. It was reauthorized along with the Medicare fraud and abuse and the area health education centers. There are a number of things that were put in with the Affordable Care Act that would also be defunded under the Cruz amendment.

I hope everyone will see the amendment for what it is, and I hope the Senate will soundly reject it.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, we will be alternating on both sides of the aisle. I regret Senator LEE had to leave, and we welcome those who support the Cruz amendment to speak before we have to take a break.

I have to go to a meeting with Senator REID and other members of the committee at 12:30 p.m. We ask those who have views on this to come forward and speak. I do have some comments on the Cruz amendment.

First of all, we welcome Senator CRUZ. He is the new Senator from Texas. He replaced a very dear friend, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison. Senator Hutchison and I were close friends and we usually agreed on goals, but there were times we didn't agree on methods. With Senator CRUZ we agree that we do need a job-creating strategy. We know we need to promote economic growth in whatever we do and even follow the physician's adage of ''do no harm.'' That is why I absolutely disagree with the Senator's amendment. The very things he wants to accomplish and his underlying premise—though obviously well argued from his view in a persuasive way—I totally disagree with.

First of all, let's talk about what the Cruz amendment does. It prohibits discretionary funds from being used for the Affordable Care Act. It is affectionately known by some of us as ObamaCare, because Obama does care. So the Cruz amendment would prevent the Department of Health and Human Services from implementing the Affordable Care Act. This would mean the staff, for example, CMS, could not issue or enforce regulations on insurance abuse practices, such as gender discrimination. Quality reforms that improve the care that everybody does and actually lowers cost would also be affected. For example, Johns Hopkins lung transplants were cited as one study—Madam President, I could go on, but if the Senator from Utah is ready to speak, I will yield the floor. We were alternating, so it is actually the Senator's turn.

Madam President, as robust as my remarks would be, I will yield to give the Senator from Utah his rightful chance to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I wish to extend my gratitude to my colleague from Maryland for allowing me to speak at this time. I appreciate that.

I rise in support of the amendment proposed by my good friend, the Senator from Texas, that would defund the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act for the remainder of this fiscal year. Almost everything the American people were told about ObamaCare by the bill's proponents has turned out to be incorrect. We were promised it would save money. Now we know it will cost us more money. In 2 short years, the projected cost of the government health care takeover has ballooned from $940 billion to $1.76 trillion. We were told it would help a struggling economy. Now we know it will help smother a still struggling economy.

Employers cite ObamaCare as a principal reason and reluctance to hire new employees. According to the National Federation of Independent Business, ObamaCare's unconstitutional mandate—which the Supreme Court salvaged only by rewriting it as a tax—will kill between 125,000 and 249,000 jobs over the next 10 years. According to the Congressional Budget Office, ObamaCare will reduce total American employment by 800,000 jobs by 2021.

In fairness, these are only projections. Although I believe even those projections are optimistic, they certainly contradict the fairytale arguments in favor of ObamaCare in 2009 and 2010, but they are still just best guesses.

The reason Senator CRUZ introduced, and the reason why I support, this amendment is that the case against ObamaCare is rapidly moving from fears about tomorrow to pain that is felt today—right now.

In 2008, then-Senator Obama promised that his policies would lower health care premiums for the average American family by $2,500; 4 years later—and 2 years after President Obama signed ObamaCare into law—the Kaiser Foundation reports that family health insurance premiums have actually risen by $2,370. This is one of the things we were told we needed to pass the bill in order to find within the bill a $5,000 premium hike on working families.

What else have we found? We found that when the Federal Government requires businesses to provide health insurance for their full-time employees, businesses respond by cutting employee hours. Other companies have chosen to go farther and have simply laid employees off altogether or shifted those jobs overseas. Other companies have admitted that the cost ObamaCare adds to their business will have to be passed on to their customers in the form of higher prices.

Then there is the devastating impact ObamaCare has had on our medical device industry, which is targeted for a special punitive tax under this law. Companies from Boston Scientific, Stryker, Smith & Nephew and others are laying off workers and shipping their jobs overseas.

It is important to remember that each of these layoffs is, in a sense, a double strike against our economy. On the one hand, when people lose their jobs and their health insurance, the economy suffers in and of itself because of that impact. On the other hand, at the very same time this is occurring because ObamaCare and the rest of the President's failed agenda are weighing down our economy quite heavily, there are not enough new jobs being created for the recently unemployed Americans to fill. So the unemployed are not only staying unemployed for longer than normal, but they are also increasing demand for already overburdened government assistance programs. Thanks to ObamaCare, fewer people are working and paying into the system to support people ObamaCare is preventing from finding work and health insurance in the first place.

The beauty of the Cruz amendment is that we don't have to pass it to discover what it would do. We already know exactly what it would do. It would delay the implementation of ObamaCare and thereby save taxpayer money and American jobs. It would also restore a semblance of democratic accountability to a process that is badly in need of precisely that. After all, the various departments of the Federal Government have already issued some 20,000 pages' worth of regulations to formalize the ObamaCare system. In other words, the 2,700-page monstrosity Congress passed in 2010 was only a fraction of the final deforesting product.

Does anyone—literally anyone in the entire country—know what those 20,000 pages of regulations say? For all we know, we could be violating ObamaCare right now. Somewhere in those 20,000 pages there might be something saying we cannot do what we are doing at the moment.

Some might think I am exaggerating, but as we were all shocked to learn recently, 98 percent of individual health insurance policies in the United States right now are in violation of ObamaCare's standards. When ObamaCare goes into full effect, those Americans who own those policies will have to either buy more expensive insurance than they have now or pay the unconstitutional fine. The unconstitutional fine was, according to the Supreme Court, unconstitutional as a fine and could be sustained by the Supreme Court only because the Supreme Court rewrote the law as a tax instead of a fine.

To recap, ObamaCare is already costing us jobs that we need badly. It is raising health care costs. It is adding to our deficit and debt. It is forcing families off their health insurance policies they have and like. It is a Trojan horse for 20,000 of new law that no elected official wrote and not a single citizen in the United States has read.

Then, of course, there is the slow-motion train wreck of the law's implementation. A majority of States in the Union have already refused to set up their own ObamaCare exchanges. The bill has been passed and the American people now see what is in it and they want no part of it. So the Department of Health and Human Services is now charged with setting up Federal exchanges in those States, but they don't know how.

The clock is ticking. People are losing their health insurance. The exchanges are supposed to be ready to handle the massive influx of people dumped by ObamaCare onto those same exchanges, and the exchanges are not going to be there.

What will be there? Well, according to a report issued by the Associated Press, uninsured Americans will find a 15-page, 21-step application that will need approval from three separate Federal agencies. There are expected to be more than 4 million of these applications next year alone. Even as an advocate of the program says in this same AP story: The form will take a considerable amount of time to fill out and will be difficult for many people to be able to complete. That part of the process ''does not get you to the selection of a plan.''

ObamaCare is going to make doing your taxes feel like a round of golf. For this reason, there are some who believe the only way to expose ObamaCare and rescue the health care system is to let nature take its course, to let it go into effect as soon as possible. They say that the sooner it collapses, the sooner we can repeal it and start over.

The Senator from Texas and I and everyone else supporting this amendment reject that logic. We cannot in good conscience send millions of innocent Americans into a dangerously dysfunctional health care system run by unaccountable, if well-intentioned, bureaucrats. We will not sacrifice millions of families to prove a political point. People's lives and livelihoods are at stake. The American people are not pawns in Washington's partisan political game. We work for them, not the other way around.

As public servants we have an obligation to protect the American people—those who elected us to serve. ObamaCare is going to hurt our country, our economy, our constituents, our friends, and our neighbors. It is the single greatest threat to our economy and to our health care system. Eventually, ObamaCare will be repealed. The American people will see the damage it does and demand that we scrap it and start over. But for now we must at least defund it, at least for the life of this continuing resolution—for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Senator CRUZ and I have been assured that this amendment will fail and ObamaCare will move ahead as planned. If that is the will of the Senate, then so be it. But when ObamaCare does start to break down—when waiting times start to grow, when costs start to explode, when taxes start to rise, when doctors and nurses start to quit, when hospitals start to close,

when businesses start to shutter, when take-home pay falls and jobs disappear, when patients and families truly find out what is in this bill, then the American people will know who is responsible for the catastrophe of ObamaCare and who, like the Senator from Texas, tried to help.

A few years ago, when then-Speaker of the House NANCY PELOSI famously told Members of the House that you have to pass this 2,700 page bill in order to find out what is in it, she perhaps saw what we would be experiencing today or at least some aspect of it. But either way, today we now see what is in what they passed back then. We, as Members of the Senate, have had an opportunity to review this piece of legislation over the last few years. We know what economic impact this law is already having as its still massive implementation has moved forward.

We need to make ourselves accountable to the American people for what is in this law and what we now know is in this law. I, therefore, respectfully urge each and every one of my colleagues to support this amendment.

Thank you, Madam President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise to speak on the Cruz amendment. I am glad Senator LEE had a chance to speak.

As I said, the Cruz amendment would prevent the Department of Health and Human Services from implementing funding for the discretionary spending aspects of the Affordable Care Act. Since the Presiding Officer knows the Affordable Care Act so well and played a major part in it when she was a Member of the House of Representatives, she knows this amendment would have disastrous consequences. It would essentially defund the Affordable Care Act. They call it ObamaCare. I call it ObamaCare. As I said earlier, Obama does care, and that is why we passed the legislation in the first place.

The Cruz amendment means that CMS couldn't do their job to, for example, issue regulations on ending gender discrimination. It has been said that there are all these pages of regulation. But why should we pay more for health insurance than men of comparable age and health status—as much as 50 percent more?

The Affordable Care Act also ends discrimination on the basis of preexisting conditions. As the Presiding Officer knows, in eight States women were denied health insurance because domestic violence was deemed a preexisting condition. They were battered in their own home, and then they were battered by their insurance agency. What are we doing here? This is not where we are going.

Excuse me. I promised I wouldn't try to incite; I would try more to inspire. But I feel very strongly and passionately that the Cruz amendment should not pass. It should not pass.

I wish to speak to what the Senator said about economic growth. He said he is for economic growth. I want to be on that list. He is a progrowth Senator. I want to be on that list too. I think it is a committee of 100. What I want him to know is that without a form of health care that provides universal access but insisting on delivery models of reform, we will have a catastrophe and not only in an earned benefit program such as Medicare. What happens is if people don't have health insurance, it gets shifted onto other people who do have health insurance and the employers who have the generosity and wherewithal to pay for it.

So if we want to be for economic growth, the first thing we need to do is clean up our own act here. This is what we need to do here. The politics of brinkmanship, ultimatum politicians, shut down, show down, and slam down must end. That is what we are trying to do here. What we are trying to do is move legislation so there is no government shutdown.

Businesses don't invest in creating jobs because they don't have certainty. They don't have reliability. Where is the Federal Government going? What is it going to do? How is it going to get its act together so businesses can invest, whether it is in their own employees or perhaps bringing money back home from overseas, legally earned profits, to put into infrastructure? So if a person is progrowth, they want to have health insurance.

The two costs business cannot control are the cost of health care and the cost of energy. We can control the impact on reforming the cost of health care through ObamaCare. Why do I say that? First of all, if a person doesn't have health insurance, they get sick and go to the emergency room. Do my colleagues know what the average cost of an emergency room visit is? It is $1,000. Do my colleagues know what a primary care doctor gets? He gets $40. Now, what is wrong with that picture? He gets $40, not $400, by the time all of it is taken out.

I wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues a fantastic documentary that was on CNN on Sunday night. It was called ''Escape Fire.'' It was a complete 2-hour documentary from CNN, not some lefty think tank or nothing like the Institute of Medicine. This was a CNN documentary on the cost of health care and how the system we have now increases costs but does not increase or improve health outcomes.

I am not going to argue all those dynamics here today, but if we really want to lower the cost of health care, we want to have President Obama and our Affordable Care Act. This is what businesses want. What they don't want is cost-shifting. Because some people don't have it or because they got it too late in their own situation, the cost is actually greater.

The other side has talked about small business. Senator CRUZ just told this wonderful story about his father—a Cuban refugee, essentially—who came to this country. Because he couldn't speak English, he took a job where it wasn't required, washing dishes. And then here we go, one generation later, Senator CRUZ is a Senator. I think that is a wonderful personal story. He then went on to talk about business.

His story is a lot like my own family's story. We came from Poland. When we came from Poland, it was not because we were rich; we came because we thought that Lady Liberty and her shining light really meant something. My family started small businesses. My grandmother ran one of the best Polish bakeries in Baltimore. My father had a small grocery store. Because of a large family, he left school in the eighth grade, but through his own grit and determination, with my mother at his side, he served a community. Over 700 people came to my father's funeral because they loved him as much, in their own way, as we did. My father, through his grit, determination, and working—the same as Senator CRUZ's father—my father worked 6 days a week, 12 hours a day. He sent his three daughters to college to be sure they had an education in post-high school.

He wanted to have health care. My father was crazy about Social Security and BlueCross and BlueShield. My father couldn't get on Social Security until the 1950s because small business was excluded. The reason he liked Social Security was that he worried about my mother and he worried about his girls. He was worried that if he died, would his own insurance—my father had insurance. My father was a planner and a provider—a planner and a provider—but he worried about whether that would be enough to take care of us. So when he was eligible for Social Security, he said: I will pay my fair share so if anything happens, fine, and if nothing happens, I am glad to pay my fair share.

As a small businessman, he didn't have access to big markets, but through the Maryland Grocers Association—again, in the 1950s—he could come in on BlueCross and BlueShield. He wanted health insurance for himself, for my mother, for his daughters, and, if he could, for the few people who worked for him because he knew that people were one financial bankruptcy away if a big illness happened.

What my father faced in the 1950s America is facing now in 2013.

So what does ObamaCare do? It improves access for 35 million Americans who are without health insurance. It ends the punitive practices of insurance companies, one of which is gender discrimination. The other is the preexisting condition denials. It also strengthens Medicare in a way that actually reduces health costs. Data has been released in the last several days that actually shows health care costs are going down, and it is not because of the recession. It is because our reforms

are going into effect, such as the famous Pronovost checklist developed at Johns Hopkins University that was quoted in another study: If we wash our hands and take care of certain things in the OR, we won't get an infection. And if we don't get infections, we don't stay in the hospital longer than necessary.

I chaired the quality initiatives committee that examined how we could, through improvements in quality, not only save lives but would it save money, and the answer was a resounding yes. I didn't make that up.

They said: MIKULSKI, you are a social worker. What do you know about delivering health care?

It wasn't my idea. I went to learned societies, such as the Institute of Medicine, that said to err is human, but it is also costly. I am not talking about the medical malpractice stuff—infections, returning admissions to hospitals within 10 days or 30 days because of the way people are often discharged, the issue of prevention.

I am the author of the so-called preventive amendment that went into the health care bill.

What was that all about? It meant that early detection and screenings save lives—early detection and screenings save lives. That means if you get your mammogram, if you get your PSA test for a man, you are more likely to find it.

But it is not only for that dread, awful ''C'' word. Let's take a ''D'' word: diabetes. A lot of people walk around and do not know they have diabetes or high blood pressure. Both are silent killers. They can result in strokes or death. If you have undetected diabetes, it can kill you through a coma and other things, but it can also kill you slowly. The consequences of prolonged diabetes can result in the loss of eyesight, the loss of a kidney, diabetic myopathy, where you cannot walk. And if you come in so late, you are often—rather than facing an amputation, wouldn't it have been better to find it 10 years before and get you into the right program, with the right diabetic educator, to make sure we not only control your diabetes but we are not paying for amputations, which is a heartbreak for the family and the person and a budget buster to us?

This is what prevention is all about. It is not some gooshy-pooh thing. It is not like a slogan on a cereal box. This is the real deal. If you find certain of these chronic conditions sooner, you can manage their escalation. That helps the family and the patient. It also helps control our costs.

This is what we are talking about. This is why we care so much. And for women, we were helped through this bill, dealing with gender discrimination, preexisting conditions. Children were helped. And now, right now—because ObamaCare is not fully implemented—it stops insurance companies from denying families health insurance or charging sky-high premiums because their child has a preexisting condition.

What are we talking about here? We are talking about autism. We are talking about type 1 diabetes. We are talking about even children who have arthritis.

The other day I had such a poignant thing happen. I was dashing to the elevator, and there was a family with a young lady, a young girl about my height, but about—well, she was 13 and a tween. When they showed me their picture of the last time we met, that tween, that young lady, was in a wheelchair. We do not think of someone around 11 or 9 having arthritis, but she does. This is going to be a chronic condition with this young lady. But through the work of NIH, other great research, and working with a biologic that was used for other medical issues but allowed under FDA to work with her, under very strictly controlled conditions, with parental consent, of course, this young lady stood next to me. We laughed and we joked, back to back, because the little girl that was in the wheelchair is now a tween, and she is a lot taller than I am. We had a good laugh. But I will tell you, when I got on that elevator I had a good cry, and I was so emotional about it, I even feel it today.

What are we doing here? Don't we want to give this little girl a break? When her mother and father applied for health insurance, do we want the schoolmarmish no—the nos of the insurance company saying: No, that kid has arthritis. We cannot insure you.

That kid does have arthritis, but she is walking today. She is standing proud with her mother and father, joking with a U.S. Senator, doing well in school. Isn't that what we want for our country and for our young people? Why would we want to repeal legislation that does that?

I could talk a lot about this bill. I feel so strongly about the incredible infrastructure we have in our United States—NIH, academic centers of excellence, learned societies from IOM to the American Academy of Pediatrics that have advised us along the way—all of us working together. The biologic was developed by the private sector—the private sector—working with doctors, working with FDA, to say: Can we try an off-label that meets all the ethical things where children are involved?

We did it, and look at the story. That is just one story. We are a country of 300 million people. That story is being acted out every single day, and it is being acted out right now in the ER. If you came to the ER with me at Johns Hopkins, the University of Maryland, at Mercy Hospital, are there people who are there from trauma? Yes. Are there people there who were in an automobile accident? Yes. I was there 3 years ago myself with a fall coming out of church. Yes. But over 70 percent who are there are there because they do not have health insurance. And they are using a thousand dollars a visit being in there. What kind of system is that?

So if we repeal the President's Affordable Care Act, the consequences on families, the consequences on business, will be horrific. We are simply shifting the cost rather than solving the problem.

Are there reforms necessary? Yes. Do the Senators from Texas and Utah, who spoke, offer suggestions? Yes. But let's let ObamaCare go forward. Let's evaluate, let's do due diligence, and let's do oversight and make sure health reforms we have instituted are working, but do not repeal it. We will endanger lives, and we will endanger our economy.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 2 p.m. be equally divided between Senator CRUZ and myself or our designees; that at 2 p.m. the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Cruz amendment; that there be no amendments in order to the Cruz amendment prior to the vote; further, that upon the disposition of the Cruz amendment, the next amendment in order be an amendment offered by Senator HARKIN relative to Labor-HHS appropriations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the time in the quorum call be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I rise to speak on the pending question, which is the Cruz amendment, to defund ObamaCare. I appreciate him offering the amendment on this very relevant issue. I am glad we are talking again about it.

When I ran for office 2 years ago, this was one of the central issues. There has been a court decision since then. We need to understand, court decisions are about the constitutionality of something. They do not speak to its policy wisdom. That is what this debate is about today. I think it is important because since the election—and even going into the election—we had lost some view on this.

But let me begin by saying health insurance is a problem in the United States. There is no doubt about it. I think that to be in opposition to the health care bill is not to say that we think nothing should happen. On the contrary, I know health insurance is a major problem for millions of Americans. Its affordability is a problem. Its access is a problem, the ability of people to get the kind of health coverage they want.

In fact, when I was speaker of the Florida House—I had the honor of being that for 2 years in Florida—we actually worked on some ideas that created a marketplace where the private insurers and others could come together and create creative packages for people. That is the kind of insurance you need. Not everybody needs the same health insurance. Let me give you an example.

A family of four with two children—I have four children—I promise you, you are going to wind up in the pediatrician's office quite a bit, for everything and all kinds of stuff. We are very blessed. My children, thank God, are very healthy. And even then, there are issues where you need to bring them, whether it is primary care, whether it is vaccinations, whether it is a cold that does not go away—whatever it may be. I think it is so critically important to have that. So families in that circumstance need a certain type of coverage.

Then there are other people, people I know who are in their mid to late twenties. They never go to the doctor. But if they ever get sick, it is probably going to be, unfortunately, something very bad. So those folks maybe would rather have a plan that covers them upfront with some primary care coverage—maybe a higher deductible that you could pay with a health savings account—but on the back end some catastrophic hospitalization costs so if you truly get sick, God forbid, you have the opportunity to have the kind of coverage you need.

The point is everybody needs different kinds of health care coverage. My hope is that this country and the Federal Government—to the extent it has a role to play in all this—would help incentivize the creation of marketplaces for those sorts of innovative health ideas.

As I said, not everybody needs the same health insurance. That is why there are some principles that should have guided us when this was debated before I got here and should guide us going forward.

For example, I think one of our guiding principles should be that Americans should be able to buy health insurance from any company in the country that is willing to sell it to them. Right now, health insurance is regulated at the State level. In essence, these States have mandates as to what insurance companies must offer in order to sell insurance in that State, and you cannot buy insurance if it does not have all of those. The equivalent would be of saying: You either have to buy a Cadillac Escalade or you have to buy nothing. Some people do not want a car that is that big and that fancy. They need something that is a little different.

The point is those choices are not available to consumers. We should start with an organizing principle by saying every American should be able to buy health insurance they want from any company in America that is willing to sell it to them.

Another part of that is you should be able to buy health insurance for yourself. Let me tell you why that is problematic. If your employer buys the health insurance for you, they do not have to pay taxes on the money. Taxes are not paid on the money that is used to buy that health insurance. But if you buy it for yourself, it is income, it is treated as income. You have to pay tax on it. That is problematic for a couple reasons. No. 1, some businesses and some employers would rather give them the health care money so they can go out and buy the plan they want. Others would want to buy you plans or give you options among different plans.

Federal employees know very well what that is like. Let me tell you what a Federal employee gets. A Federal employee gets a book. In that book you get to choose between—depending on where you live—a bunch of different plans. You go right down the graph, and it tells you: This is how much this plan offers, this is how much you have to pay in premiums per month, this is how much you are going to owe in copayments if you go to a doctor, if you go to a specialist, if you go to a hospital.

How many people in America get that choice? How many people in America get the same choices on buying health care that their Congressmen and their Senators get? Very few. To me, that is a serious problem.

The good news about this—imagine now, for a moment, a country where people control their health care dollars, where you got to buy the insurance you wanted from the company you wanted. Let me tell you what the market is going to do. It is going to react to that. What the market is going to do—when there are people out there who are going to have choices over how they spend their health care dollars—they are going to start creating insurance packages that people want to buy. They are going to realize: We have a bunch of 25, 27, 29-year-olds in the United States who do not get sick. We should create special packages of insurance for them. They are going to realize: We have a lot of families out there who can afford to pay ''X'' amount of money for a family coverage plan. We should go out and create a special plan for families like them.

By the way, along the lines of this level of flexibility, you could see where small businesses all of a sudden can get together with other small businesses. As an example, a small chamber of commerce in a midsize city somewhere can decide to bring all of those companies together. Together they can buy health insurance for their employees. It is hard to buy group coverage if you only have four or five employees. But if you can get together with a bunch of other companies that have three, four, five employees, all of a sudden you have a buying pool. That buying pool gives you leverage and power to go out and create plans for all of your employees.

There is no one size fits all. We should have that kind of flexibility in our insurance marketplace. We do not. These are not going to cure everything, but these are important steps forward.

By the way, I would be remiss in talking about medicine to not talk about the malpractice insurance rates, especially for specialties. Do not underestimate what a significant impediment that is for some people to go into the medical profession or to stay in the medical profession.

Right up front, let me tell you, if a doctor is negligent, if a doctor commits malpractice, you should have a right to recover your economic damages, and there should be some level of punitive damages to encourage people not to do that in the future and to be careful. The problem is it has gone beyond that. In many States we have a crisis when it comes to litigation and medicine. People are not just suing because, unfortunately, something went wrong. They are suing on outcomes. They are not just suing because the treatment was bad. The result is that doctors practice defensive medicine.

You go to a doctor, you go to a hospital, they order a slew of tests. It is not because you need them, but because they want to make sure they are covered; that if they ever wind up in a court they can be able to say to the jury: Look at all of those tests I ordered—even though most of them might not have been necessary. Who do you think pays for that? We do.

It is worse than that. There are places like in Florida where obstetricians do not even have coverage at all. They go bare. They hire lawyers to protect their assets so they cannot be sued. I know true stories of obstetricians who will not see certain patients anymore because they are afraid of the outcome of what may happen.

So I think we need to look at, perhaps, not as a part of the insurance situation but in health care across the States, a way to incentivize States to pass medical malpractice reform that protects patients. People should always have the right to access the court system for wrongdoing, and especially to be compensated for their economic damages. If a doctor commits malpractice and you cannot work anymore, all of those lost wages that you are not going to be able to work for in the future, you should be able to be rewarded for that.

If we allow doctors to continue to be sued in this country as an industry,

which is what it has become, people are not going to go to medical school.

Here is another problem we are starting to see. A lot of young people in medical school do not want to go into the complex issues anymore. They do not want to become brain surgeons. They do not want to become OB–GYNs. They want to go into some other specialty that in addition to offering better hours—your beeper does not go off if you are a plastic surgeon at 3:00 in the morning. In addition to that, they do not have to worry about liability. Let me tell you, that is a problem. In Florida, most of our cardiologists are over the age of 50. What does that mean 10 years from now? That means we are not going to have enough cardiologists. It is discouraging people from going into very important professions in medicine because they are afraid they are going to get sued—not for doing something wrong but because things did not turn out well in treatment.

Let me put on the record that I am not against people being able to sue a negligent doctor. In fact, I think negligent doctors should not only be sued, they should lose their license. I am just saying, if we go too far, like anything else in the world, you are going to lose people from medicine. They are going to decide not to go in it.

Let's talk about this issue for a moment and the amendment that is before us. The problem with ObamaCare is that it is a one-size-fits-all approach to the entire country. The health care needs of Americans are very different. No. 1, they are very different geographically depending on where you live; No. 2, they are very different depending on your family situation, your health situation, et cetera.

Now, some people are very sick. They are chronically ill. That is where we can have a conversation about high-risk pools because these people are very difficult to insure. If someone is sure to get sick, it is hard to find an insurance for them because you are guaranteed to be sick. So we have to find a solution for that problem. That is where conversations about high-risk pools at the State level are a valid thing to talk about. But beyond that, I think people should have flexibility. That is not what ObamaCare does.

I understand that people read the newspapers and say: This is good. We are going to get a health care plan. We are going to be able to buy insurance. My boss is going to be forced to give me health insurance.

That is not how it is going to work out, guys. That is not how things work out in the real world. We are already starting to see the impacts of it. What is amazing to me is as this law begins to develop, as people start to see the true impact and the unintended or maybe even the intended consequences of this law, I predict right now that the number of people who were excited about ObamaCare is going to dwindle dramatically.

The proof is how many groups have come here already and asked to be exempted. How many unions, how many other groups have raised their hands and said: Please do not make us live under the laws that we supported. Do not make us live under their laws that we held rallies for. Do not make us live under these laws that we bragged about because it has a negative impact on us. And some of them are coming to bear right now.

No. 1 is the cost. When this bill was passed, they said it would be about $1 trillion—$940 billion to be exact. Now we know it is $1.7 trillion in gross cost over the next few years.

How about tax hikes? Absolutely, because starting in 2014, the IRS is going to create a problem for millions of Americans and small businesses. Basically, if you are not buying health insurance of the kind they want, of the kind the law requires—not just health insurance, a specific kind of health insurance—you are going to owe the IRS a fine. Think about that for a moment. If you are a small business owner or an individual, and you are not buying the health insurance the government says you must have, you now are going to have to pay a fine every year to the IRS.

Some people are going to do the math. They are going to say it is cheaper to pay the fine than it is to buy the health insurance. That is problematic, but it is a cost.

We are trying to grow our economy. That is the only solution to our problems. Over the next couple of weeks, we are going to debate budgets, we are going to debate continuing resolutions, and the word ''debt'' is going to come up. We cannot tax our way out of this debt. There is no tax increase that gets us out of this debt. To my own party, I say while we always have to have fiscal discipline, you cannot cut your way out of this debt alone either. The only real solution to our debt problems—and the debt matters because it is killing jobs in America—the only real solution to our debt problems is a combination of two things: rapid, robust economic growth.

If we can grow our economy at 4 percent a year, we could generate $3 trillion for debt reduction over the next decade, and we would create millions of jobs and pull people out of poverty and strengthen our middle class, which is the source of our exceptionalism as a country.

The second thing we need is fiscal discipline on future spending. This bill violates both. This bill violates both. It hurts economic growth because the only way you are going to grow your economy is if you make America a better place to create jobs and start businesses. That is how economic growth is created. When someone takes money they have or money they borrowed or money someone invested in them, and they use it, they risk it to open a new business or to grow an existing one, as the idea works, they start hiring people, and those people now are making a middle-class salary. Those people are now buying things and spending money, creating jobs and opportunity for others.

That is the formula for growth and prosperity. This hurts that because what you are now saying is, in addition to everything else you have to put up with in America—all the State and local regulations, all the complicated Tax Code stuff, the natural downturn in the economy, globalism and the changes that it has brought—in addition to all of that, here is one more thing you are going to have to do: You are either going to have to offer health insurance of a certain kind or you are going to owe the IRS a fine.

I promise you that is not the kind of thing chambers of commerce put on their pamphlets when they try to attract businesses to their communities or their States. This is not going to help in job creation. The tax hikes are a big problem. It is especially bad for small businesses because they have this arbitrary number of people—50 employees or more—who have to do certain things. OK. So what do you think a lot of businesses are going to do? I know people. They have already told me about this.

If you have 51 employees, this is a huge incentive to only have 49 employees. So you think about that for a moment. If you own a small road-paving company with 50 full-time employees or 51 full-time employees, you sit down with your accountant to do your math for next year. Your accountant will tell you: By the way, if you get rid of a couple of employees, this is how much money this is going to save you because of ObamaCare.

So do we want to have an incentive in our laws to have businesses get rid of workers because it helps them avoid certain costs mandated by government? This is happening. This is not pie in the sky, this is going to happen. There are people planning to do that already. It is happening right now.

Here is another thing. How about part-time workers versus full-time workers. We have already seen evidence of this across the board. But I will tell you where you are seeing it already is in people who own a bunch of franchises. So you own a chain of Kentucky Fried Chickens or a chain of McDonalds, and all of a sudden you have incentive to move as many of those people as you can to part time because they do not trigger the ObamaCare mandates either. So now you have all of these businesses across America that have an incentive that we have created in this law—I say ''we,'' the people who were here when this passed—a perverse incentive to cut people's hours so they do not trigger the mandate. These are horrible consequences that are going to have an impact on our country at a time when we should be growing our economy and creating middle-class prosperity, not working against it.

So my prediction is that when they start to fully implement this over the next 12 to 18 months, it is going to be an epic disaster. Not because it was ill-intentioned, per se. I think the goal of providing an environment where everybody can buy affordable health insurance is something we should take very seriously and something we have to work on. You cannot have a strong, stable middle class if people cannot afford the cost of living. You cannot have a strong and stable middle class if people do not have access to quality health care at an affordable price. We should work on that. We should work on that very hard. But we have to do that with balance.

This is not balanced. This is an across-the-board application to the entire country that is going to hurt a lot of people. There are people in America who are going to lose hours at work because of this bill. There are people in America who are going to lose the health insurance they have which they are happy with because of this bill. There are people in America who are going to have to lay off people, and therefore there are people in America who are going to lose their jobs because of this bill. Our debt is going to grow.

I hope we will pass this amendment. I hope we will defund this program. It was ill-designed. As the true ramifications of this bill begin to apply over the next few months and the next couple of years, we are going to be right here on this floor trying to fix it because this country cannot be what it is meant to be if it has to deal with something like this hanging around its neck.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Before the Senator from Florida leaves the floor, I just wanted to commend him for his observations. I listened carefully to what the Senator from Florida had to say. It reminds me of the prediction many of us made when it was passed: It would be the single worst piece of legislation in modern times.

Everything the President predicted would happen has not happened. Premiums have gone up; jobs have been destroyed. The single biggest step in the direction of Europeanizing our country that we could possibly have taken we took with ObamaCare.

So I just wanted to commend the Senator from Florida for his comments. They are right on the mark.

I also want to thank Senator CRUZ for offering this amendment. I offered it in the last Congress myself. There is no way to fix this thing, no way to fix it. It needs to be pulled out by its roots. The Senator from Florida pointed out it is also destroying jobs.

I was on a tele-townhall the other night. A restaurant manager called in and said exactly what the Senator from Florida just said, that they were moving to lower their employment and to have more part-time workers in order to try to deal with the impending ObamaCare explosion.

So I am sure the Senator from Florida is running into that in his State as well.

Mr. RUBIO. Let me say a couple of things—actually, a true world example. Here is the startling thing about it. A lot of people are not fully aware of what this means yet. This may surprise some of us who are here every day or the people who cover politics on a daily basis, but most Americans are not tuned into C–SPAN 24 hours a day. They get their news in tidbits in the morning when they are making their coffee. They have the radio on. They hear some stuff on the radio on the way to work. Then they go to work for 10, 12, 14 hours to run a business. They get home, they have to do homework with the kids, make dinner, put them to bed. Maybe they get to watch an hour or two of TV. They wake up tomorrow morning and they do it all over again. They are not in touch with all of this on a daily basis. They have lives to lead.

You will be surprised how many small business men and women and how many employees around the country are not even aware of this yet, do not even realize the decisions they are going to have to make next year. So if you are in a business that has anywhere between 45, 55, 60 employees, when you sit down at the end of this year with your planner—be it your accountant, your lawyer, whatever it is you use, your human resources people—and do next year's planning, they are going to tell you: OK, next year we have this new law. This new law says we have to offer this kind of insurance. Here are your choices: Option No. 1 is you can offer the insurance, and this is how much more it is going to cost than what you are paying right now. Option No. 2 is do not offer any insurance and pay a fine to the IRS every year from now on. Here is how much that is going to be. Option No. 3 is to let some people go so you do not have to do any of this.

I am telling you, a lot of these people are going to say: You know what. It breaks our heart; we do not want to do it; it is not good for our business, but of the three options, the only one that is going to allow us to survive is to let some people go. That is not good for us. That is not good for us.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Well, the Senator from Florida may have mentioned that earlier in his remarks. But so far there are 20,000 new pages of regulations—so far—a stack this high.

This is absolutely indecipherable by very intelligent people, and they are just getting started.

I want to thank the Senator from Florida for his comments. I think they are right on the mark. This is a huge mistake for our country. Hopefully, someday, maybe even beginning with this amendment, we may begin to undo this massive mistake we made a few years ago.

Madam President, we have been saying for 3 years this bill will be too expensive; it won't do what it promised. Every day we are seeing further proof of that.

The Federal Reserve said it will cost jobs—the Federal Reserve not the RNC. We predicted that. Yesterday we had a glimpse of the application process for ObamaCare. It turns out applying for it will be as difficult as doing your taxes.

Today there is another AP story saying some folks will see their insurance bill double next year as a result of this law. As I indicated, so far there are 20,000 pages of regulations and many more are expected. This bill is an unmitigated disaster for our country, an absolute disaster.

I applaud Senator CRUZ for offering this amendment. I strongly support his efforts. Not a single Member of my party in the House and the Senate voted for this bill in the first place. We need to get this bill off the books and straighten out our country. This would be a big step in the direction of achieving that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I assume a number of my colleagues have seen the movie ''Lincoln.''

One particularly brief but poignant moment of that movie showed the President's staff discouraging him from spending so much time talking to regular people, leaving the White House and inviting normal people who weren't involved in politics every day or didn't work in the White House into the White House to talk.

They were saying: Mr. President, you need to run this war. You have so much to do. You shouldn't be meeting with people as much.

President Lincoln said to his staff: I need my regular public opinion baths.

Just listening to the last few speakers, particularly the Republican leader, I think it is more important more people in this institution go out and talk to real people who are affected by this health care law. There is the 25-year-old who has already benefited from staying on her mother's health care plan, the person in the high-risk pool who has insurance now—such as a friend of mine in Port Clinton in Ottawa County, Ohio, does—because of this law. People have seen the consumer protections. They haven't lost their insurance because they were expensive for an insurance company.

My colleagues need to get a public opinion bath, walk around their States a little more and listen to people outside of the country clubs and outside of the trade associations who are charged ideologically and not really particularly open about these kinds of issues.

I rise to oppose the amendment offered by Senator CRUZ, the badly named ''Restore Growth First'' amendment, which would prohibit resources included in the continuing resolution to implement the Affordable Care Act.

Specious claims about how the health law will harm our economy have already been debunked by the hundreds of Ohioans who are able to have annual wellness visits, by the tens of thousands of young adults staying on their parents' insurance plans, by the seniors who are seeing the doughnut hole coverage gap closing with real savings on prescription costs.

It has been debunked by Americans who are no longer denied coverage because of a preexisting condition, by the Americans who are not forced to pay more for insurance because of a preexisting condition, by women who may now rely on affordable, accessible reproductive health services; and starting in 2014, Americans who have not been able to afford health insurance in the private market will be able to comparison shop, if needed, to purchase insurance.

These much needed health care reforms which will benefit Americans next year are already benefiting Americans and have been for a couple of years. Continued implementation of these reforms is crucial for improving the quality of care and bending the cost curve.

I agree with Senator CRUZ on one thing: health spending is related to the economy and to the deficit. Let's be clear. We know the health care law will reduce the deficit by over $100 billion over the next decade. These are Congressional Budget Office numbers, not Republican numbers or Democratic numbers. On the Cruz amendment, repealing the health care law would increase, not reduce, the deficit.

We know how it is helping people. There are 100,000 reasons in my own State of Ohio to stand up for this health care law and reject this amendment: Nearly 97,000 of Ohio's young adults are now able to stay on their parents' plan until age 26.

Mr. INHOFE. Would the Senator yield for a unanimous consent request?

Mr. BROWN. I yield to the Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent to be recognized at the end of the Senator's remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Almost 100,000 of Ohio's young adults are now able to stay on their parents' health plan. Seniors have saved almost $300 million in prescription drugs just since the passage of the health care law, with an average per beneficiary savings of $774. And up to 147,000 small businesses in Ohio are eligible for tax credits.

Finally, thanks to the health law, more people in my home State and across the Nation have access to free preventive services. As I said, there are 100,000 reasons for Ohioans to like this law and oppose this amendment.

There are 2 million Ohioans with private insurance who have gained preventive health services with no cost sharing. This means major illnesses may be detected earlier. It means decreasing treatment costs and human suffering over the long term.

The Affordable Care Act was the most promising initiative to control health care costs in decades. The health care law is about reducing health costs for consumers and investing in more affordable preventive care for Americans.

The health care law is about containing costs as we extend insurance. It means people, rather than going to the emergency room with a sick child, may go to the family doctor and receive preventive care prior to the child's ear infection becoming serious. Under the new medical loss ratio rules health insurance plans must spend at least 80 percent of premium dollars on health care costs, not executive bonuses, not other administrative expenses. In Ohio, 143,000 received over $11 million in rebates.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund is the part of the health care law which will give us test data about how to bend the cost curve through preventive programs. Ohioans received more than $17 million already to prevent chronic diseases and decrease smoking rates.

Mr. DURBIN. Would the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. BROWN. Certainly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I would ask of the Senator, pending before the Senate is the Cruz amendment which would literally remove any funding to implement the Affordable Care Act, as I understand; is that correct?

Mr. BROWN. That is correct.

Mr. DURBIN. We have heard from the Republicans on the other side of the aisle that they oppose this intrusion of government into health care and creating health insurance exchanges so Americans who currently don't have a choice in health insurance and want to get a different policy, if they care to get one, would have a choice through the exchanges?

Mr. BROWN. This is what they have been saying, yes.

Mr. DURBIN. The premise behind this is the government shouldn't be involved in this, as I understand the Republican argument; is that correct?

Mr. BROWN. That is what they say.

Mr. DURBIN. Did I hear the Republican leader come to the floor and speak about thousands of pages of regulations, government regulations, which will now be part of health care?

Mr. BROWN. You did.

Mr. DURBIN. I would like to ask the Senator from Ohio, is he aware of the fact every Member of the Senate has a government-administered health insurance plan?

Mr. BROWN. I am aware of it. I assume my colleagues are too.

Mr. DURBIN. Is the Senator aware of any Senator on the Republican side who has come forward—and there may be one, I don't know—who has said: I am so opposed to government-administered health care, and as a Senator I will not take advantage of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program?

Mr. BROWN. I have not heard any say that.

Mr. DURBIN. The same Senators who are critical of ObamaCare because the government is involved in health care have themselves, their families, and children protected by a government-administered health insurance plan?

Mr. BROWN. It is my understanding this has been sort of the hypocrisy we have woven through this debate over the last 3 years.

Mr. DURBIN. What is good enough for these Senators apparently is not good enough for the rest of America?

Mr. BROWN. Apparently not good enough for a senior, not good enough for somebody who is low income but working two $10-an-hour jobs, I guess it is not good enough for them.

Mr. DURBIN. Is it not true the amendment by the Senator from Texas is breathtaking because it says we eliminate all funding for the Affordable Care Act in terms of, for example, the extension of the availability of health insurance for children up to the age of 26?

As I understand the Cruz amendment, we couldn't fund that aspect of the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. BROWN. The Cruz amendment doesn't just anticipate changes in the future, it takes away all these services which have been out there that I have been talking about: the thousands of people in Illinois, Ohio, and Wisconsin who have benefited; 25-year-olds, 22-year-olds, such as somebody who graduates from Champagne, Urbana, Madison, or Columbus and don't have insurance but have a job, are 23 years old and may stay on their parents' health plan. All of the preventive care literally hundreds of thousands of seniors in Ohio now receive with no copay or no deductible would all be wiped away. All the provisions people have benefited from already would be taken away by this amendment.

Mr. DURBIN. This breath-taking Cruz amendment would actually say to these families with children who are currently on the family policy up to the age of 26: It is over. Those kids are now on their own.

Mr. BROWN. These kids would be on their own, but the Senators who are pushing this amendment would still have their health insurance, just to reiterate that.

Mr. DURBIN. The Cruz amendment does not eliminate the government——

Mr. BROWN. It doesn't take away the insurance for those people voting on this amendment; that is correct.

Mr. DURBIN. The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, which protects Senators and Congressmen, is not affected by the Cruz amendment?

Mr. BROWN. My reading of it is it is not affected.

Mr. DURBIN. They don't hate that aspect of government-administered health insurance?

Mr. BROWN. Apparently not.

Mr. DURBIN. Is it also true the seniors who would receive benefits under the Affordable Care Act, for example, annual physicals which are available, those would be eliminated as well?

Mr. BROWN. In my State and the Senator's State, since his State is slightly larger than mine—over 1 million seniors in each State and hundreds of thousands in the Presiding Officer's State of Wisconsin—millions of seniors have received some kind of preventive care, such as screenings for diabetes, screenings for osteoporosis, and not paid a copay or deductible. They have received their physicals and not had their deductibles, copayer deductibles, waived as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

The Cruz amendment would, while still protecting health insurance for Senator CRUZ and others, wipe away those benefits for seniors.

Mr. DURBIN. Is it also not true in the U.S. Capitol we have an Attending Physician's Office run by the U.S. Navy, a government entity, which makes itself available to each Senator if they care to pay a monthly fee for annual physicals—a government-administered annual physical for Senators?

Mr. BROWN. It is true. That is true. This is open to people regardless of how they vote on the Cruz amendment.

Mr. DURBIN. Does the Cruz amendment eliminate this government-administered physical exam which is available for Members of the Senate?

Mr. BROWN. It does not.

Mr. DURBIN. I am starting to note a pattern here. The Senators who wish to do away with government-administered health care for everyone else want to keep it for themselves. Does that pattern emerge from the Senator's analysis?

Mr. BROWN. We had this discussion back in 2009 and 2010 when we debated this health care law, that Members of the House and Senate continue to receive health insurance.

I recall one House Member was unhappy during campaigning against the Affordable Care Act, as he recently came to the House. He didn't get his insurance for the first month paid for by the government, as he tried to take away insurance for low-income, moderate-income people in my State, my district and the Senator's State.

Mr. DURBIN. I would say Senator CRUZ would certainly be able to offer an amendment which eliminated all government-administered health insurance as it applies to any person in the United States. If he did that, he would be consistent. Instead, what he has done is go after those today who are struggling to find their own health insurance, cannot afford it, and are simply asking for the same option as Members of Congress have today: to be able to go to an insurance exchange and choose the insurance plan that is best for them and their families. I think it would be more consistent.

I ask the Senator from Ohio if he thinks it would be more consistent?

Mr. BROWN. I would like to see Senator CRUZ or one of the supporters of the Cruz amendment offer an amendment.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. I appreciate the words of the Senator from Illinois.

To close, Senator DURBIN's comments accurately explain that there is a bias in this institution on tax policy and health policy for some Senators to take care of themselves and people like them, a little more than paying attention to the rest of the country. I think this amendment shows this and is one more good reason to vote against the Cruz amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, we have been discussing and debating ObamaCare for 3 years—several years anyway. I have not heard the argument before where they say you have the same government-run plan. That is not true. That is not true at all.

I have worked in the corporate world and been on the leadership part where we were making decisions and offered our employees the benefits of different companies. It could be Aetna, Blue Cross-Blue Shield or anybody else. We could make that determination as to what we wanted and then we paid for it.

I don't think that argument has ever been used, to my memory. I wasn't coming down to talk about that, but I will, since I am a cosponsor of the Cruz amendment. I think anything you are able to do to get rid of ObamaCare is in our interests.

Right now, the attorney general in the State of Oklahoma is Scott Pruitt. I spoke with him this morning. He has a lawsuit with an amended complaint challenging the implementation of ObamaCare. Scott Pruitt is arguing the IRS is attempting to redefine ObamaCare's mandate tax in order to hike taxes on Oklahoma employees. That is what is happening right now in my State of Oklahoma. I don't know how the polling goes. I would only say this: I sense an air of anxiety with a lot of these people trying to support ObamaCare right now, because people have caught on. People in the State of Oklahoma have caught on. In Oklahoma, we would have to spend an additional $400 million over the next 10 years on Medicaid in order to cover those who already qualify and will be forced into the program—this government program we are talking about—due to ObamaCare and the mandate. This money will be diverted from schools and from roads and other needs, public safety, in the State of Oklahoma. Our research shows that premiums in Oklahoma could increase anywhere from 65 to 100 percent due to the coverage mandates required by ObamaCare. It is as if we are having this debate all over again, but they are bringing up things now I have never heard of.

I want to mention one thing, and that is there is a friend of mine in Oklahoma whose name is David Green. David Green several years ago started with one store, a thing called Hobby Lobby—1 store in the State of Oklahoma—and now he has 500 stores in 41 States and he has, I don't know, I think it is over 50,000 employees. He is now facing a new type of intimidation he has never faced in his life, and it is the intimidation of saying because of David Green's religious convictions against providing his employees with abortion-inducing drugs his company now faces fines amounting to $1.3 million a day.

All those pro-abortionists out there like this. This is wonderful. But he is someone who has hired thousands of people in 41 States in this country and is now providing all these benefits for Americans, and all he is saying is his religious convictions don't allow him to participate in abortion-inducing drugs. So he is under the threat right now, if you do the math, of a $1.3-million-a-day fine. And I guess I am more sensitive to this than I should be because I have known him from the very beginning.

I want to speak briefly, because I know I have a couple of colleagues who wish to speak. Does the Senator wish to make a UC to get in line?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Yes, I came to the floor today to support the Cruz amendment. Does the Senator from Oklahoma still wish to speak?

Mr. INHOFE. Yes, I just wanted to ask whether the Senator wanted to lock himself in with a unanimous consent request while I finish on another subject.

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Yes. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 to 7 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I do cosponsor this amendment, and I will be voting for it at 2 p.m. today. But there is another one that will come up, amendment No. 28, and it could be coming up in a very short time this afternoon, and I was afraid I wouldn't have a chance to make a couple of comments about it.

I am cosponsoring this amendment by Senator PAUL, and it withholds funding to go to Egypt until Egypt's President Morsi declares he intends to abide by the Camp David peace accords, which have kept the peace between Egypt and Israel for over 30 years.

If you talk to any of your Israeli friends, they will tell you this is significant, and I appreciate the fact he recognizes that. In fact, the bill I had

introduced back in—well, I actually introduced it earlier, but reintroduced it on January 25 of this year—S. 207—calls for the suspension of the shipment of F–16s and other military equipment and services to Egypt until Morsi agrees to continue to uphold Egypt's commitment under the 1979 Camp David peace accords.

A lot of people don't realize they have been our friend, and if you ask any of your Israeli friends, they will tell you they are. It happens that this President is a Muslim Brotherhood president. He is not like the ones we have had in Egypt before. People who think of other countries having the same kind of system we have, they do not. Right now the military is a military we trained. There is a Major General Elkeshky, who happens to be here now and who is a friend of mine, and he was trained at Fort Sill in Oklahoma. The majority of the middle-grade officers in Egypt have been trained in the United States. They are our friends. And that is what we are getting at here.

So I made that qualification when I said we want to reduce the things we are doing, and I was talking about military equipment—the F–16s—way back in January, until they make that commitment. I think that is a very reasonable commitment.

The amendment that will be coming up, amendment No. 28, will be by Senator PAUL and myself and it will talk about support for Egypt and go into other areas of support over and above military equipment, saying that until such time as they agree with what they have agreed to over the last 30 years or so—that they will continue to be our friends—then we want to withhold this. It is the only leverage we have. I said this back in January, that the only leverage we have, in order to encourage them to come with us, is to say we are going to withhold some things, and that is what we are doing.

So when that amendment comes up—of course, I still have my bill, S. 207, and it is essentially the same as the Paul-Inhofe amendment. It is not necessary to have them both in terms of a vote, but I think on one we will have to have a vote, but it should tie in to what their behavior has been in the past, what it should be in the future, so that we don't have a Muslim Brotherhood guy running a country and we don't know how our equipment is going to be used.

Our F–16s and other equipment, our tanks, have been used to participate in the defense of our friends in the Middle East, primarily Israel and of ourselves. I am hoping we will get to that when we have a chance to have a vote on it.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Oklahoma for his comments.

I came to the floor to voice my support for the Cruz amendment. I want to concentrate on the cost of the health care law, which is why we are asking in this amendment to defund that bill because we simply can't afford it. So much of our budget already is not considered. Frequently, during negotiations on how we stabilize our deficit and our debt situation, there are many items off the table, things such as Medicare and Social Security. As unsustainable as those programs are, they are off the table in terms of negotiation. But if you want to take a look at the problem with the health care law—ObamaCare—it is the fact that it is simply not affordable. I know the name of the bill is the Affordable Care Act, but we simply can't afford it. Basic economics 101 describes the problem, because ObamaCare will dramatically increase the demand for health care. Thirty million more Americans—and let's face it, we all want those Americans to have access to affordable health care—will be accessing health care or trying to, demanding health care through some kind of program, such as Medicaid, while at the same time the supply will be dramatically reduced. That is going to be an economic disaster.

What I wish to do is put up a couple of charts and graphs showing the true cost. We don't talk about the true budget window when ObamaCare fully kicks in in the year 2016. This is based on the CBO estimate, and all we have had to do is extrapolate the final 3 years. Basically, it shows that ObamaCare won't cost the $1 trillion it was originally estimated to cost when it is fully implemented between 2016 and 2025. It will actually cost $2.4 trillion, at a minimum. And, of course, it will be paid for by these taxes, fees, and penalties, which I guess now are taxes, equaling about $1.4 trillion.

So given the $2.4 trillion worth of cost, we have $1 trillion worth of taxes—and, by the way, the majority of those or a great portion of those taxes will be indirect on middle-income Americans—that leaves about a $1 trillion hole in the current budget window. That is the $716 billion that will apparently be taken out of Medicare providers. We are not sure what will be happening in the full budget window, but that is a $1 trillion deficit risk.

Again, these are all estimates, and I would argue in general that the Federal Government is not particularly good at estimating anything. Back when they first passed Medicare in the mid 1960s, they projected out 25 years and said Medicare would cost $12 trillion in 1990. In fact, it cost $110 trillion—over nine times the original estimate. I don't believe the Federal Government has gotten better at estimating in that intervening time period.

As a matter of fact, President Obama famously repeatedly said that if we passed a health care law, by the end of his first term the cost of a family plan would actually decline by $2,500. Unfortunately, that guarantee has not come true. When President Obama took office, the average cost of a family plan was a little over $12,000. If his promise had come true, we would be looking at a family cost of $10,000. In fact, the cost of a family plan today is now $15,000. Again, that is somewhat of a broken promise.

But let's take a look at what I think is the greatest risk in terms of cost projections by the CBO in that estimate of the total cost of ObamaCare—the $2.4 trillion we are talking about in the true budget window. The CBO estimated only 1 million people net would lose their employer-sponsored care and get dumped in the exchanges with the subsidies. But it is going to be far worse than that, because 160 to 180 million Americans access their health care through their employers. I was one of those employers. I purchased health care for more than 31 years. The decision employers are going to be making in terms of whether to carry health care has dramatically changed under the health care law. Now the decision is going to be: Do I pay $15,000 for a family plan and then try to comply with the now 20,000 pages of law—rules and regulations?

Leader MCCONNELL printed out those 20,000 pages. You can see it in the hallway. It is an enormous burden for anybody trying to comply with that.

Anyway, the decision is: Do I pay $15,000 trying to comply with 20,000 pages of rules and regulations or do I pay the $2,000 to $3,000 fine—the penalty—and in so doing I am not exposing my employees to financial ruin, I am making them eligible for huge subsidies in the exchange? If an individual has a median household income of $64,000, they will be eligible for $10,000 in those exchanges—$10,000 worth of subsidies. Who isn't going to take that deal?

And that is my point. As employers, we will drop coverage. Employers are incentivized to do so. So rather than 1 million Americans losing their employer-sponsored health care and enjoying those subsidies, there will be tens of millions.

One of the amendments I will be offering in this budget process will be asking the CBO to provide the worst-case scenario: What happens if the McKinsey study is true, 30 percent of employers will drop coverage or 50 or 100 percent? It will be a simple amendment to get the worst-case scenario.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to speak in support of the Cruz amendment and I do that as a doctor, as someone who has practiced medicine for 25 years taking care of families all around the State of Wyoming.

When we entered into the discussion about health care, and then ultimately the discussion of what became the Obama health care law, I would come to the floor and say, yes, we need to do

health care reform. Patients know what they want. They want the care they need, from a doctor they choose, at lower cost. Because cost was the driver of all of this.

Then we got into the debate and into the discussions and what we ended up with was a health care law over 2,000 pages long. I said then: Does that make a lot of sense? Let's go back to what one of our Founding Fathers said. James Madison, the father of the Constitution, said: Congress shall pass no laws so voluminous they cannot be read nor so incoherent they cannot be understood. Regrettably, that is exactly what we got with this health care law—a law so voluminous it cannot be read and so incoherent it cannot be understood.

And when you say: Well, how do we know it is so long that it could not be read, how voluminous, well, NANCY PELOSI said it herself. She said: First you have to pass it before you get to find out what is in it. Well, the American people now know what is in the health care law. They know it, and they don't like it.

I have had townhall meetings all around the State of Wyoming. When you go to a community and talk about the health care law and ask the simple question, Do you believe that under the President's health care law you will be paying more for your health care, all the hands go up. And then you ask the question, Do you believe that under the President's health care law the quality of your care and the availability of your care will actually go down, and again all the hands go up. That is why as of today this health care law continues to be very unpopular. Nationwide, more people think the health care law is doing harm than believe it is doing well.

Let's take a look at what the President promised during the discussion and why some people supported it.

First of all, the President said that under the health care law, if you like the plan you have, if you like the care you have, you can keep it.

We now know from many studies and reports that is not the case. It seemed in having just read the law as it was being discussed that you weren't going to be able to keep it, but it wasn't until now that people realize more and more that they are not able to keep what they had if they liked it.

The other thing the President promised is that under his health care law, insurance premiums for a family would drop by $2,500, he said, by the end of his first term in office. The first term has come and gone, and what families around the country are seeing is that health care premiums didn't go down, they actually went up—up quite a bit, up by over $3,000 per family.

Why is it that the law is so unpopular? There are many reasons, but part of it is this so-called individual mandate—the mandate that the government can come into your home and tell you that you have to buy a government-approved product. Many people around the country believe it is unconstitutional. It actually went to the Supreme Court, and the Court ruled. The Court ruled that it was not unconstitutional. But it is still unworkable, it is still very unpopular, and it is absolutely unaffordable for us as a nation.

I talk to physicians and I talk to the nurses who take care of patients. This health care law is bad for patients, it is bad for providers—the nurses and doctors who take care of those patients—and it is terrible for the American taxpayers.

The most interesting thing to me in the last week has been the report called the ''Beige Book,'' which the Federal Reserve comes out with every month. They travel around the country and ask their Federal Reserve people what is happening in this community, that community, in this part of the country, in that region of the country. And what is happening to the economy? In this past month's report, it said that specifically as a result of the health care law, businesses aren't hiring. The Federal Reserve has called this a drag on the economy—the health care law.

How can that be? Well, there are a couple of things. One is the huge uncertainty—businesses not knowing what the impacts of the health care law specifically in terms of dollars and cents are going to be. But there are a couple of components of the health care law that are really hurting in terms of businesses hiring people. One is that things kick in for businesses once a business has 50 employees. So if a business has 49 full-time employees and they are trying to expand and they have more business and they want to hire more people, they have to decide, what is the cost of that additional 50th employee?

Well, the costs are dramatic because it then kicks that business into the huge expenses of supplying government-approved health care—not necessarily health care or insurance at a level that those employees might need or want or that business can afford, no; a government level of approved health care that may be much more than that individual needs or wants or can afford because the government is saying: We know what is best, the government knows what is best for you, the family in this community or that community and people working for that business. So that is part of it. So those folks aren't hiring.

Remember, I said full-time employees. They define full time as 30 hours or more a week. So we have the businesses known as the 29ers, where they are, for purposes of not having additional full-time employees, hiring people for 29 hours a week. There have been reports in the press of different businesses where people are working two different jobs at two different businesses because they can only get part-time work, and the reason they can only get part-time work is because when they are part-time workers, the businesses aren't mandated to pay for very expensive health care which makes it much more difficult to be successful as a business and to keep hiring more people.

There was a report of a Five Guys hamburger chain in one community. They said: We are not going to expand, we are not going to build another, we are not hiring any more full-time people, and we are going to cut the hours of the people we have. We are putting in more part-time people.

This is one of the unintended consequences of the health care law—hurting the economy directly through impacting jobs.

The President says he wants to improve the economy, get people back to work, get America on the road to recovery. Yet the health care law is—according to the Federal Reserve in this month's ''Beige Book''—hurting the economy, dragging down the economy.

So I come to the floor today to support the amendment by Senator CRUZ because the American people know what they were looking for in health care reform, which was, of course, the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower cost, and that was not at all provided under the President's health care law.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise to speak today in opposition to the Cruz amendment, which would prohibit any funding in the continuing resolution from being used to carry out the goals of the Affordable Care Act.

The broad scope of this amendment clearly indicates that anything anticipated under the Affordable Care Act would be subject to defunding, and that is a broad category of activities. In fact, we already have seen the Affordable Care Act produce demonstrable positive results in my State of Rhode Island, and those results could be eliminated or reversed.

For example, because of the Affordable Care Act, there are protections in place today for children with preexisting conditions to ensure they are no longer denied coverage. There are over 15,000 children who have a preexisting condition who could have been dropped from insurance coverage prior to the enactment of the Affordable Care Act. Their parents and other adults—approximately 200,000 Rhode Island adults also living with preexisting conditions—will gain protection from being dropped from coverage beginning in January. We began with children, and now we are expanding it to adults. If we don't do that, then we are going

to have a whole category, a huge segment of my population who may lose access to insurance, and the inevitable result will be that they will go to expensive emergency rooms, and they will cost all of us more money. Rather than saving money and dealing with the deficit in a responsible way, this will just add to our deficit problems and deny people health care.

The law, the Affordable Care Act, included new tax breaks for small businesses to make health insurance more affordable. Small businesses have been able to access a tax credit of up to 35 percent of their health care costs every year since 2010. Beginning in 2014, these businesses may receive a tax credit of up to 50 percent of their health care costs for any 2-year period. Again this support under the Affordable Care Act could be jeopardized or eliminated under the proposed amendment.

Also in jeopardy are discounts on covered brandname and generic prescription drugs for seniors who have reached the prescription drug coverage gap known as the famous or infamous doughnut hole. Already in Rhode Island, seniors have saved—individual senior citizens of Rhode Island have saved $20.5 million as a result of these discounts since the law was enacted. These discounts will continue until the coverage gap—the doughnut hole—is eliminated in 2020. The Cruz amendment will stop that. Essentially we are telling seniors go back to the time of the doughnut hole, more money out of your pocket at a time when you can afford less and less for prescription drugs.

Many of my colleagues on the Republican side say they support these aspects of the Affordable Care Act, yet this amendment would effectively do away with them or cast so much doubt or confusion that they would not be effectively implemented. We have to, I think, continue to effectively implement the Affordable Care Act, not only in terms of providing access to quality care for all of our citizens but because within the Affordable Care Act were significant efforts to improve health care efficiencies. Indeed, through these reforms, we were able to extend the Medicare Program by, I believe, 8 years, to 2024, in terms of our funding models. All of that would be jeopardized by this amendment.

There are some other examples, too. For example, the Affordable Care Act would reauthorize funding to help immunize uninsured and underinsured children and adults. Every year my State of Rhode Island receives $3 million to immunize this population. Funding for immunizations is critical for the child and the family, but it also benefits all of us, because if you can immunize 75 to 95 percent of the population, immunologists and health specialists will tell us we are all protected through something that is technically known as herd immunity. It makes sense, if you have a sufficient number of people who are vaccinated against the disease, when an outbreak occurs the likelihood of it spreading is diminished dramatically. This is another example of a public health initiative under the Affordable Care Act, which, if it is repealed or defunded, will leave us all vulnerable to diseases. That is not a benefit, that is a detriment to all of us.

We have to, again, I think, consider other aspects of the Affordable Care Act. One other aspect I wish to mention is the critical area of health care workforce programs, programs that help train doctors and nurses. Many of these programs are funded in the continuing resolution and they, too, would be either eliminated or so uncertain as to be unreliable for the institutions. In my home State, colleges and universities, such as at the University of Rhode Island, are using these programs to help train a new generation of health care professionals, not just physicians but physician's assistants and nurse-practitioners. Indeed, what we are seeing, because of the Affordable Care Act, is a refocus to more emphasis on family practitioners, primary care that is less expensive and more effective over the long term in terms of prevention—all that would be jeopardized under this proposed amendment.

There are countless other examples of not only interfering with health care access for a vast number of Americans, but actually setting back our efforts to reduce the deficit and to sustain programs such as Medicare. The burden might be particularly felt by seniors because one of the things that was most compelling in the debate about the Affordable Care Act was closing this doughnut hole. Seniors believe we have taken a positive step to do that. This would be an about-face for the seniors of America, causing them to see more and more costs in their limited budgets.

These are not the messages we want to give to seniors or families. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHANNS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JOHANNS. I ask for 3 minutes to speak on the Cruz amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JOHANNS. Madam President, today I rise to speak on behalf of the Cruz amendment. I want to spend a couple of minutes explaining my thoughts behind the amendment and why I am proud to be a cosponsor of this amendment.

All across Nebraska I do roundtable meetings, where I sit down with hospital communities, I sit down with medical professionals, I sit down with small businesses. I have done this for years and years.

Over the last couple of years since the Affordable Care Act was passed, I have had a number of opportunities to sit down with small businesses. Invariably the first issue that comes up is the crushing effect of the regulatory environment. Businesses will tell me they simply are afraid to grow or cannot grow because of what Washington is burdening them with. More specifically, they talk to me about the Affordable Care Act and the toll it is taking on their businesses.

I will give you a perfect example: a small business, a franchise business. They have a franchise in Lincoln, they have a franchise in Omaha. The owner of that business said to me: You know, my business is not too bad. We could actually grow this business. We look out there in the future and see some opportunities to grow this business.

They went on to say: We have about 48 employees now, and we are not going to grow. I said: Why would that be? Why have you decided you are not going to grow this business? Their answer was straightforward. They said: When we grow to over 50 employees, we become subject to the requirements that are impossible for a business our size to meet under the Affordable Care Act. The owner said to me: Mike, I met with the accountants and the lawyers. We have looked at this in every possible way we can, and we decided we are going to stay a business of this size.

It was not isolated to that business. I went down the interstate and sat down with another business in a different community and the story was the same. I was told business was pretty good and that business was there for them to grow. They had about 47 or 48 employees, and they made the decision they will not grow. This is at a time in our Nation's history where we are desperate for employment in the United States.

In Nebraska, we have been fortunate. We pay our bills. Our unemployment never got over 5 percent because we are a conservative State. Having said that, when we hear businesses say the greatest impediment to their growth is not the competition down the street or across the street, the greatest impediment to their growth is the Federal Government, when we hear that, we have to realize we have done something very seriously wrong.

I want to wrap up with another thought, and it is on a different area of the Affordable Care Act.

Madam President, I ask for an additional minute to finish this thought.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JOHANNS. Madam President, I met with a group of young people today. They have their whole lives in front of them. They are talking and thinking about what they are going to do in terms of going to college and what their careers might be. They

asked me about the Affordable Care Act. I said: One of the things that is important to point out is that my generation is going to do very well under this act. We have caps on how much our premiums can go up, and we have Medicare out there. Then I said: Your generation is not going to do well. Why? Because your premiums are going to go straight up and you are at a point in your lives where you are not going to use a lot of health care. I am at a point in my life where I will use a lot of health care.

This imbalance is going to be devastating to the younger generation. When they start thinking about starting their families, buying their first home and making an investment, what is the Federal Government going to do? It is going to place a crushing blow upon them in terms of higher premiums, and that is the reality of the situation.

I will wrap up with this thought; I could go on and on. As a former Governor, I can tell everyone that adding 24 million people to Medicaid is such a flawed policy approach. I could talk about the impact this is going to have on accessibility for care by people who desperately need that care, but the bottom line is this: This was a flawed policy. I was here when it was passed. It is a policy that needs to be defunded. We need to do the right thing with health care, and this is not it.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, could we just have quiet. We are going to have our first vote on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Cruz amendment.

Mr. SHELBY. 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 34 Leg.]

YEAS—45

Alexander	Enzi	McConnell
Ayotte	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Flake	Murkowski
Blunt	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Chambliss	Heller	Roberts
Coats	Hoeven	Rubio
Coburn	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johanns	Shelby
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Cornyn	Kirk	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Wicker

NAYS—52

Baldwin	Hagan	Nelson
Baucus	Harkin	Pryor
Begich	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rockefeller
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cowan	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wyden
Franken	Murphy	
Gillibrand	Murray	

NOT VOTING—3

Lautenberg	Manchin	Whitehouse

The amendment (No. 30) was rejected.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

AMENDMENT NO. 53 TO AMENDMENT NO. 26

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN], for himself, and Mr. CARDIN, proposes an amendment numbered 53 to amendment No. 26.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the spending package we are considering this week I think is a little bit unusual, to say the least. Five of the twelve Appropriations subcommittees get detailed, full-length spending bills: Defense, Military Construction, Agriculture, Homeland Security, and Commerce and Justice. The other seven appropriations bills are basically on autopilot, continuing resolutions. So with a few exceptions, whatever the government spent last year on programs in these seven subcommittees the government will spend this year.

I know for a fact this is not what the chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee wanted. She fought hard for an omnibus that would have included all 12 spending bills. I am very respectful of that. She fought hard for it, but this is where we stand right now.

I am speaking today because the programs under the jurisdiction of the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, of which I am privileged to chair, would be put on autopilot. I suppose it comes as no surprise I think that is a terrible mistake.

The Labor-HHS bill—or Labor-H, as it is known in the terminology around here—is how we fund the National Institutes of Health, the preeminent biomedical research entity in the world. This bill is how we fund the child care and development block grant, which gives working families access to high-quality childcare. It is how we provide Federal funding to teach students with disabilities—the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act—it is how we help local school jurisdictions meet their constitutional obligation to provide a free and appropriate education to all kids, even kids with disabilities.

These services are critical to this Nation. It has been said before—actually, the first person I ever heard say it was a recently departed and beloved chairman, Senator Dan Inouye, who once said: The Defense Appropriations Committee is the committee that defends America. The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Committee is the committee that defines America—who we are as a country, what we are about as a people, what we are going to do for the future of our children in America.

So we need to examine every year whether we are spending the right amounts of taxpayer money for these services. If that makes sense for the Defense appropriations bill, to take a look at it yearly, to see if we are spending the right amounts, if it is right for Homeland Security and Agriculture, why shouldn't the same level of oversight be applied to the Labor, Health and Human Services bill?

As a way of sort of describing where we are, this past December, we negotiated a fiscal 2013 spending bill with Republican and Democratic counterparts, House and Senate. So I, Senator SHELBY, Congressman Rehberg, and Congresswoman DELAURO on the House side all read this bill through in December and signed off on it.

That was going to be in the omnibus bill. Well, as we know, we did not have an omnibus spending bill. So the talks were bicameral and bipartisan. They were difficult talks and we hammered out an agreement and we had a compromise. I got some of what I wanted and I lost some of what I wanted. But that is the nature of compromise. So with an exception, which I will explain shortly, the amendment I have just offered is what was agreed upon in December. No more money, not adding any money. But we are changing some of the accounts to better represent what we decided, both bicameral and bipartisan, should be priorities. That is the amendment I am offering. Again, I repeat, it is what we decided upon in December in terms of what our priorities ought to be. If we just go with Labor-H in a CR, all of that is wiped

out. So what I am proposing to replace that is the autopilot version with a detailed bipartisan compromise.

I want to emphasize this point. This amendment is not my Labor-HHS bill. Now, obviously if I had my druthers, I would have spent dollars as I wanted them to be spent. But compromise does not work that way. This amendment includes the priorities from the other side of the aisle and from the other side of the Capitol. It was a give and take. Even though there are things in the amendment I would like to change, it is vastly superior—vastly superior—to putting all of these programs on autopilot and doing this year exactly what we did last year and the year before, because we were on autopilot last year too.

Let me point out two things that are different in this amendment than what was in December. I said it was the same but there are two things different. The agreement we hammered out in December, with Republicans and Democrats in the Senate, Republicans and Democrats in the House Appropriations Committee, included money for the Affordable Care Act, for ObamaCare. This amendment I am offering today took that out, just took it out. Even though we had agreed upon $513 million for that in December, this is not in my amendment. I want to make that clear.

The second major difference between the December bill and this amendment is the total cost. As I said, the December bill would not fit within our new budget cap. We have a new budget cap since December. So this amendment fits within that budget cap by a very small, across-the-board cut of 0.127 percent. That is one-eighth of 1 percent to every program in the bill. I did not do an across-the-board cut on some at the expense of others. No. We just did it on everything, .127 percent. So the programs that would have received increases in the December bill still get the increases, just minus .127 percent. The programs that were cut in the December cut will still get cut, they will just be cut by .127 percent more. But other than those two changes, no additional health reform money, no other kinds of cuts. The amendment is basically identical to what we agreed upon in December. So I want to take a look at it and see why it is better than what I call the autopilot version or the continuing resolution.

Let's start first with education. Title I is the cornerstone Federal program for helping all students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, helping them meet high academic standards. More than 90 percent of the school districts across America receive title I funds. My amendment, the one that is before us, has $107 million more for title I. What is in the bill before us has absolutely no increase, zero.

We were able to bump that up again by an amount equal to .127 percent, as I said. It is basically the same. That is title I. Special education, I mentioned IDEA, we have a $125 million increase in the amendment I am offering; in the CR, no increase whatsoever.

National Institutes of Health, we are especially proud of this. The omnibus, the Senate CR that is before us, has $71 million more than last year. This amendment bumps it up to $211 million. So the CR has $71 million, we have $211 million for an NIH increase.

Childcare. The underlying CR includes $50 million more than last year. My amendment would increase that to $107 million. That means the childcare subsidy for working families of 10,000 additional children, families who basically depend upon this so they are able to go to work.

AIDS drugs. The Ryan White AIDS Drug Assistance Program provides lifesaving drugs to people living with HIV. My amendment includes $29 million more for this program. The CR has no increase whatsoever.

So far I mentioned only some of the larger programs in the bill. My amendment addresses dozens of smaller priorities as well. At the full committee markup of the Labor-H bill back in July of last year, Senator Inouye, who was chairman at that time, promised Senator MURKOWSKI that the final fiscal year 2013 spending bill would include $10 million for suicide prevention among Alaska Natives and Native Americans. I did not make that promise, but it was made by the chairman of the committee. I am honoring that promise. I honored it when we negotiated this in December. We included that $10 million. That is in my amendment also.

Again, a small increase for suicide prevention is not possible in a CR. But it is in my amendment. If we approve it, that funding will become law.

TRIO Program. It is an important program to many Members on both sides of the aisle. It has had broad support. The TRIO Program makes the dream of a college education possible for low-income students. As we know, this goes basically to students who are the first in their family to go to college. So if your parents had not gone to college, they would be eligible for TRIO, based upon income levels.

The bill we negotiated in December included an increase for the TRIO Program. Again, that is not possible in a CR, the bill that is before us. But it is in my amendment. If Congress approves it, TRIO will get a $14 million increase this year. I just did not have it on my chart.

I could go on and on. There are a lot of things. Food safety, lead poisoning screening for kids in this country, lead poisoning screening, diabetes prevention, worker safety. These are important priorities. They are all addressed in my amendment, because we addressed those in December. But they are not in the bill before us.

Again, let me sort of sum up what we have here in this amendment. It is the same total cost as what is in the bill before us, no additional money. It was a bicameral, bipartisan compromise that we hammered out in December. There is more money for NIH, childcare, education, I mentioned things such as TRIO, I mentioned things such as IDEA and others. I think it fulfills our constitutional duty to be good stewards of the public's money, to do adequate oversight on appropriations, and to mold and shape, again in a bipartisan, bicameral method, to work it out.

There are some who say, gee, if we pass this, the House will not take it. I do not know why not. They agreed upon it in December. I do not mean the whole House, but the House Appropriations Committee, under the chairmanship of Chairman ROGERS, agreed on this in December. It was all signed off on. So I do not know why they would not accept it. They did not put it in their bill when they sent it over here. Okay. They did not. Well, there are some other things they did not put in the bill when they sent it over here too. So I think it is incumbent upon us to do our duty, to make sure we look at these programs and decide where we want to bump some up, maybe some we want to cut down, some we want to modify. That is what we did in December. Well, we finished in December. I think we started working on it back around July, if I am not mistaken. We finally got it worked out in December.

If we had had an omnibus, we would have had this. I would not be here today offering this amendment. Again, to those who say: Well, if we had this, the House would not accept it, is that a reason for us not to do our duty? Is that a reason for us not to do what is right and just and fair, because someone says maybe the House will not take it? I mean, the House would have some serious explaining to do on why they would not take it since it was already in the December compromise that was reached.

I would point out again that the defense bill, the Defense appropriations bill that is here is what they agreed upon in December. If that is the case, then why cannot we do Labor-H and all of the things that we fund the same as what we had in December also? That is my basic point here.

As I say, we did make a couple of changes. One change we did is we took out the funding for ObamaCare, which I think is a good deal. I mean, ObamaCare is something we have to continue to implement. It is going to save us a lot of money. It is going to make lives better for people all over America, already is making lives better for people with preexisting conditions, people with very intricate diseases and conditions that need to be managed, young people who are staying on their parents' policies until they are age 26, the elderly who get their free health screenings every year under Medicare. So it is already making a big impact. I am a big supporter of ObamaCare. I want to make sure it gets funded and implemented. But the

fact is that we could not do that. Well, that is no reason then not to increase NIH and childcare development block grants, IDEA, TRIO Programs, a host of other things. If the will of the body was that we could not do anything to implement ObamaCare, then at least let's do our duty and agree to meet the goals and meet the targets we set in December in our negotiations.

We laid the bill down earlier. As I said, it is basically what we had in December. I am hopeful that Senators and their staffs will take the time to look through it and see what is in there, because I think they will come to the same conclusion. No more money than what we have in the CR. It is basically the same with the exceptions I mentioned of what we did in December. We will have a better result, a better platform going forward the rest of this year and next year by not doing a CR but by doing this bill in a bill form, just as we have done for other bills in this appropriations measure.

Again, I want to thank Chairman MIKULSKI for fighting so hard for this. I know she has done everything possible. But, again, sometimes it falls to an amendment that we have to do to get things done. I am hopeful my friends on the other side of the aisle again will take a serious look at this and support this amendment. As I said, I see no real reason not to support it.

I mean, I am anxious to see if someone has some arguments as to why we shouldn't support this since, as I said, we had hammered out this agreement over a long period of time last fall. We always spoke about how we want to work in a bipartisan fashion, we want to accept the results of bipartisan negotiation.

That is what we did last year. I think we started probably around July, had an August break, at least by September—probably started in July, then September, October, November, December we worked it out in a very bipartisan fashion, although I didn't get everything I wanted in the bill.

If my friends on the other side of the aisle now want to say: No, we are not going to accept this, what is the use of engaging in long, hard, difficult, strenuous bipartisan negotiations where we reach an agreement and they respond: Well, we don't care. We are not going to support it anyway.

I have taken great pride in working with my colleagues in a bipartisan fashion last year on the reauthorization of the Food and Drug Administration bill, the drug user bill, the drug safety bill. We worked long and hard on these for probably almost 2 years and were able to get them through. There were other bills I have been involved in where we did good bipartisan negotiating, and that was the same as this.

This is not something I rammed through and said: This is my bill; take it or leave it. That is not the way I work. I have been the chair or ranking member of this subcommittee since 1989. It is a great subcommittee because it meets the human needs, social needs, educational needs, and, yes, biomedical research needs and disease control needs, as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is also funded under our subcommittee.

It keeps Americans safe. The Defense Committee keeps us safe from foreign entities, other entities that would want to do us harm militarily. Homeland Security does the same.

This committee keeps us safe from diseases. It keeps us safe from illnesses. It provides for the kind of research which has overcome so much in the last 20 to 30 years and the great strides we have made in cancer and other chronic diseases. We have made great strides because we have invested in them. This is what the subcommittee does.

It also provides for education, making sure kids who come from the poorest families and poor areas also receive a fair shake in education funds, programs for students who go to college, Pell grants and student loans. It is incumbent upon us, as we can't continue to have continuing resolutions on this type of bill. Times change, circumstances change, and we need to modify the bill and do things which recognize some of the new realities. This is what we have done. I am hopeful we can get support for this amendment. I don't think it is a heavy lift at all for anyone to support this.

I said, and I will repeat, repeat, repeat and keep repeating: There is no new money, no more than what is in the underlying bill. It is basically the same as we hammered out in December through long negotiations.

Hopefully, it may be a little easier for my Republican colleagues, as there is not any money in there for the implementation of ObamaCare. This is something I didn't agree with, but that is life and one of the compromises one has to make. The other items in this bill are vitally important to the health, the welfare, the education, and safety of the American people.

I hope the amendment will pass, and I ask my colleagues for their support.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an explanatory statement and a detailed funding table accompanying the amendment be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DIVISION ___—LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Following is an explanation of the effects of this division (hereafter referred to as the ''bill''). Funds for the individual programs and activities within the accounts in this act are displayed in the detailed table at the end of the explanatory statement for this act. Funding levels that are not displayed in the detailed table are identified in this explanatory statement.

In implementing this bill, the Departments and agencies should be guided by the language and instructions set forth in Senate Report 112–176 accompanying S. 3295 unless specifically addressed in this statement. In cases where the language and instructions in the Senate report specifically address the allocation of funds, those that should be implemented have been restated in this explanatory statement.

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill provides $84,291,000 for migrant and seasonal farmworker formula grants, including $5,678,222 for migrant and seasonal farmworker housing grants, of which not less than 70 percent of this amount shall be used for permanent housing grants. The Secretary of Labor shall submit annual reports documenting the use of farmworker housing funds. The reports should include information on the amount of funds used for permanent and temporary housing activities, respectively; a list of the communities served; a list of the grantees and the States in which they are located; the number of individuals or families served listed by State; and a list of allowable temporary housing activities.

OFFICE OF JOB CORPS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Department of Labor's mismanagement of Job Corps appropriations led to considerable disruptions for current and new students at the end of program year 2011. The Department delayed notification to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding the shortfall once discovered.

In October 2012 the Department began implementing several cost-cutting measures and shall provide quarterly reports detailing its cost-cutting measures and their impact on both centers and students.

The bill includes language allowing the Secretary to transfer up to $30,000,000 for Job Corps operations from unobligated balances. The bill requires the Secretary to transfer not less than $10,000,000 within 30 days of enactment of this act.

Contracts provided for the operation and maintenance of Job Corps facilities are generally let on a 2–year basis, with as many as 3 option years depending on the quality of performance. When evaluating contract renewals or re-bids, the Secretary shall provide due consideration to the Federal investment already made in high-performing incumbent contractors as a part of a full, fair, and open competitive process. As part of this process, the Department shall consider documented past performance of student outcomes and cost-effective administration as key factors in determining fair market value in Job Corps procurements.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The language in Senate Report 112–176 directing the Department to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking on silica stands as a recommendation of the Senate Committee on Appropriations. There is a need to protect workers from developing silicosis. Therefore, not later than 30 days after enactment of this bill, OSHA shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report describing its efforts in this area, including a chronology related to its silica standard-setting effort initiated in 1997 and the number of silica enforcement activities the agency has undertaken since that time.

MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In order to prepare properly for emergencies, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) should continue to devote resources toward a competitive grant activity for effective emergency response and recovery training in various types of mine conditions. The Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate also expect to be notified in advance of any reallocation of funds pursuant to new bill language included in the bill.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is directed to provide an additional analysis as a follow-up to its report (prepared in response to a request in last year's conference agreement) concerning MSHA's proposal to lower the permissible exposure limit for coal dust. The follow-up study should discuss the available data and estimates to date regarding trends in the prevalence of coal workers pneumoconiosis and other occupational respiratory diseases among coal miners over the past two decades. The study shall include including the adequacy of the data, methodologies, and conclusions that can be drawn regarding trends in prevalence both nationally and to particular regions or categories of mining. The GAO shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate an interim report not later than 90 days after enactment of this bill.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

The Bureau of Labor Statistics shall follow the language under the Bureau of Labor Statistics heading in Senate Report 112–176.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

GENERAL TRANSFER AUTHORITY

The bill includes a provision modified from last year's bill that provides transfer authority of not to exceed 1 percent of the funds appropriated for fiscal year 2013 in this Act for the Department of Labor.

TRANSFER AUTHORITY FOR EVALUATION PURPOSES

The bill modifies a provision that allows up to 0.5 percent of discretionary appropriations provided in this act for all Department of Labor agencies to be used by the Chief Evaluation Office for evaluation purposes consistent with the terms and conditions in this bill applicable to such office.

TEMPORARY NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT H–2B PROGRAM

The bill continues a provision relating to the ''Wage Methodology for the Temporary Non-Agricultural Employment H–2B Program'' regulation published by the Employment and Training Administration and includes a new provision relating to the ''Temporary Non-Agricultural Employment of H–2B Aliens in the United States'' regulation published by the Employment and Training Administration and the Wage and Hour Division.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND RESCISSION

The bill includes a new provision that rescinds $10,337,000 from ''Departmental Management, Working Capital Fund''.

EVALUATION FUNDING FOR THE TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND CAREER TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM

The bill includes a new provision that allows up to 3 percent of funds provided for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program to be used for evaluation and technical assistance purposes.

TRANSFER OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The bill includes a new provision that transfers Davis-Bacon Act claims responsibilities from the Comptroller General to the Secretary of Labor.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

This explanatory statement includes tables allocating funding for the programs, projects and activities in this Act. The agencies funded in this act are expected to fully implement these allocations in accordance with this statement, except as permitted by the reprogramming and transfer authorities provided in this act. Any action to eliminate or consolidate programs, projects and activities should be pursued through a proposal in the President's budget so it can be considered by the Committees on Appropriations.

HHS is directed to include in its fiscal year 2014 congressional budget justification the amount of expired unobligated balances available for transfer to the nonrecurring expenses fund (NEF), and the amount of any such balances transferred to the NEF. This should include actual or estimated amounts for the prior, current, and budget years.

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

Community Health Centers.—The bill includes statutory language to require all funds provided for the Community Health Centers program to be obligated prior to October 1, 2013. Bill language also provides $48,000,000 for base grant adjustments to existing health centers.

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Within the funds provided for Primary Health Care, HRSA is expected to provide not less than the fiscal year 2012 level of funding for the Native Hawaiian Health Care Program.

Within the funds provided for Training in Oral Health Care, the bill includes not less than $8,000,000 for General Dentistry programs and not less than $8,000,000 for Pediatric Dentistry programs, $12,344,000 for State Health Workforce grants, and $4,048,000 for other programs authorized under section 748 of the Public Health Services (PHS) Act, to include public health dental residencies, dental faculty loan repayment, and geriatric dental training programs.

The bill includes language prohibiting health workforce funds to be used for section 340G–1, the Alternative Dental Health Care Providers Demonstration program.

The bill moves a long-standing general provision regarding the continuation of the Council on Graduate Medical Education to this heading.

Public Health Workforce Development (formerly Public Health and Preventive Medicine).—The program line has been changed to Public Health Workforce Development to better align with the congressional budget justification, which uses this title to encompass a wide variety of training activities authorized in the PHS Act. Sufficient funding has been included to continue all activities at last year's level. In addition, increased funding over fiscal year 2012 shall be used for a center of excellence on integrative primary care for the purpose of developing and disseminating best practices for integrative medicine training for physicians and nurses.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

The bill includes a provision setting aside $78,641,000 for Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS). The bill provides $551,181,000 for State grants and includes sufficient funding to continue the set-asides for oral health, epilepsy, and sickle cell at not less than fiscal year 2012 levels. The set-aside for fetal alcohol syndrome is funded at $500,000.

The bill provides not less than the fiscal year 2012 funding level for the protection and advocacy services under the Traumatic Brain Injury program.

Within the funds provided for the Autism and Other Related Disorders program, not less than the fiscal year 2012 level shall be provided for the LEND program and for programs authorized under section 399BB of the Combating Autism Act.

The bill includes a $2,000,000 increase for the Heritable Disorders program to support wider implementation of newborn screening for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency and related disorders.

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS

The increase provided for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program is intended to be awarded according to the statutory formula.

Four transitional grant areas changed status in fiscal year 2011 and HRSA transferred funds from Part A to Part B in accordance with Section 2610(c)(2) of the PHS Act. Sufficient funding has been included for these areas within the Part B allocation and bill language ensures that no additional and redundant transfers take place with respect to these four areas. This is intended to fulfill the intent of the authorizing statute. This should in no way preclude the authorizing statute from taking effect for any transitional grant area changes that occur for the first time in fiscal year 2013.

HRSA shall allocate funds for the Minority AIDS Initiative within the Ryan White HIV programs at not less than the fiscal year 2012 funding level.

HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

The bill includes language that permits the Secretary to collect a fee from each purchase of drugs made through the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOANS PROGRAM

The bill allows for the transfer of the Health Education Assistance Loans Program to the Department of Education.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

The bill includes $5,589,285,000 in discretionary appropriations for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In addition, $386,357,000 is made available under section 241 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act and $205,925,000 in transfers from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund.

IMMUNIZATION AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES

The bill includes a total of $589,114,000 for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, which includes $525,201,000 in discretionary appropriations, $12,864,000 that is made available under section 241 of the PHS Act, and $51,049,000 that is made available from amounts in the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund.

Within this total, the bill includes the following amounts:

Budget activity	*FY 2013 level*
Section 317 Immunization Program	367,870,000
Program Implementation and Accountability	62,302,000
National Immunization Survey	12,864,000
Influenza Planning and Response	158,942,000

Section 317 Immunization Policy.—Immunizations play an important role in protecting and promoting children's health. On July 10, 2012, CDC proposed a policy that prohibits section 317 funds from being used to vaccinate insured individuals. The transition may require more time. For that reason, the bill directs CDC to delay the policy from

taking effect during fiscal year 2013 to allow CDC and States to review and adjust to the proposed change in a manner that maintains a strong vaccination program.

HIV/AIDS, VIRAL HEPATITIS, SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES AND TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTION

The bill includes $1,101,956,000 for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Tuberculosis Prevention.

Within this total, the bill includes the following amounts:

Budget activity	*FY 2013 level*
Domestic HIV/AIDS Prevention and Research	$786,176,000
HIV Prevention by Health Departments	392,636,000
Activities to Improve Program Effectiveness.	363,702,000
School Health	29,838,000
Viral Hepatitis	19,694,000
Sexually Transmitted Infections	155,788,000
Tuberculosis	140,298,000

Sexually Transmitted Infections.—The increase provided for the prevention and control of sexually transmitted infections shall be used to expand the Infertility Prevention Program.

EMERGING AND ZOONOTIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The bill includes $266,458,000 for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases. Within this total, the bill includes the following amounts:

Budget activity	*FY 2013 level*
Emerging and Zoonotic Base Activities	$19,822,000
Vector-borne Diseases	23,083,000
Lyme Disease	9,000,000
Food Safety	39,781,000
Prion Disease	6,000,000
Chronic Fatigue Syndrome	4,707,000
Emerging Infectious Diseases	123,359,000
National Healthcare Safety Network	14,840,000
Quarantine	25,866,000

Food Safety.—Within the increase provided for food safety, $4,300,000 is for a microbiological data program to be undertaken in partnership with appropriate state agencies. The remainder of the increase shall be used to support upgrades to PulseNet, enhance surveillance and response capability, and develop new laboratory tools.

Lyme Disease.—CDC is encouraged to consider expanding activities related to developing sensitive and more accurate diagnostic tools and tests for Lyme disease, including: the evaluation of emerging diagnostic methods; improving utilization of validated diagnostic testing to account for the multiple clinical manifestations of Lyme disease; epidemiological research on tick-borne diseases to include determining the frequency and nature of any long-term complications; improved surveillance and reporting to produce more accurate data on their incidence; and prevention of Lyme and tick-borne diseases through product development, community-based public education, and physician and healthcare provider programs based on the latest scientific research.

Prion Disease.—The bill includes increased support for the prion disease program targeted toward extramural activities.

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION

The bill includes $797,081,000 for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

Within this total, the bill includes the following amounts:

Budget activity	*FY 2013 level*
Tobacco	$108,077,000
Environmental Health Lab	1,963,000
Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity	48,998,000
School Health	13,522,000
Food Allergies	487,000
Health Promotion	19,984,000
Community Health Promotion	6,106,000
Glaucoma	3,319,000
Visual Screening Education	508,000
Alzheimer's Disease	4,202,000
Inflammatory Bowel Disease	677,000
Interstitial Cystitis	651,000
Excessive Alcohol Use	2,440,000
Chronic Kidney Disease	2,081,000
Prevention Research Centers	17,900,000
Heart Disease and Stroke	54,975,000
Diabetes	74,434,000
Cancer Prevention and Control	359,690,000
Breast and Cervical Cancer	211,490,000
WISEWOMAN	21,304,000
Breast Cancer Awareness for Young Women	5,040,000
Cancer Registries	51,643,000
Colorectal Cancer	44,225,000
Comprehensive Cancer	20,857,000
Johanna's Law	5,134,000
Ovarian Cancer	5,041,000
Prostate Cancer	13,541,000
Skin Cancer	2,208,000
Cancer Survivorship Resource Center	511,000
Oral Health	19,000,000
Safe Motherhood/Infant Health	43,803,000
Arthritis	13,001,000
Epilepsy	7,757,000
National Lupus Patient Registry	2,000,000
REACH	13,940,000

Consolidated Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.—The proposed consolidation of CDC chronic disease programs is rejected. CDC is expected to demonstrate that funds are spent in the exact amounts allocated and for the purposes specified in this explanatory statement. Although the bill does not provide the 5 percent flexibility included in Senate report 112–176, CDC is directed to explore ways to better achieve overlapping chronic disease goals, leverage resources, and reduce the reporting burden.

Diabetes.—Of the increase provided, $5,000,000 shall be to expand the National Diabetes Prevention Program.

Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity program.—Of the increase provided, $5,000,000 shall be for extension and outreach services at land grant schools for health education in counties that CDC determines have over 40% obesity rate.

Ovarian Cancer.—Within the funds provided for Johanna's Law, $1,500,000 shall be used for a review of the state of the science on ovarian cancer, as described in the Senate report. In addition, CDC and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are expected to conduct a joint workshop to examine the research gaps that remain in ovarian cancer science.

Oral Health.—Sufficient funding is included for an oral health literacy campaign, a conference on innovative strategies to prevent early childhood caries, and not less than $150,000 for planning and technical assistance to expand public-private media campaigns.

BIRTH DEFECTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The bill includes $132,037,000 for birth defects and developmental disabilities.

The administration's proposal to consolidate disability and health programs is rejected. This bill retains the fiscal year 2012 position that no consolidation will be considered without an assessment of the needs of the populations currently served and an analysis of the impact of a consolidation on those populations. Within the total for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, the bill includes the following amounts:

Budget activity	*FY 2013 Level*
Child Health and Development	$60,161,000
Birth Defects	18,387,000
Fetal Death	806,000
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	9,862,000
Folic Acid	2,779,000
Infant Health	7,868,000
Autism	21,265,000
Health and Development for People with Disabilities	56,585,000
Disability & Health	17,779,000
Limb Loss	2,820,000
Tourette Syndrome	1,698,000
Early Hearing Detection and Intervention	10,630,000
Muscular Dystrophy	5,828,000
Paralysis Resource Center	6,700,000
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	1,715,000
Fragile X	1,681,000
Spina Bifida	5,734,000
Congenital Heart Failure	2,000,000
Public Health Approach to Blood Disorders	7,935,000
Hemophilia Treatment Centers	5,500,000
Thallasemia	1,856,000

PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

The bill includes a total of $391,741,000 for Public Health Scientific Services, which includes $129,614,000 in discretionary appropriations and $262,127,000 made available under section 241 of the PHS Act.

Within the total for Public Health Scientific Services, the bill includes the following amounts:

Budget activity	*FY 2013 level*
Health Statistics	$138,683,000
Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Informatics	217,129,000
Public Health Workforce	35,929,000

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The bill includes $107,316,000 for Environmental Health Programs. Within this total, the bill includes the following amounts:

Budget activity	*FY 2013 level*
Environmental Health Laboratory	$42,383,000
Newborn Screening Quality Assurance Program	6,825,000
Newborn Screening/Severe Combined Immuno-deficiency Diseases	965,000
Environmental Health Activities	33,135,000
Safe Water	7,109,000
Volcanic Emissions	197,000
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Registry	5,869,000
Climate Change	4,800,000
Built Environment and Health Initiative	3,000,000
Asthma	25,298,000
Childhood Lead Poisoning	6,500,000

INJURY PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The bill includes $137,693,000 for Injury Prevention and Control activities. Within this total, the bill includes the following amounts:

Budget activity	*FY 2013 level*
Intentional Injury	$93,282,000
Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence	31,042,000
Child Maltreatment	6,959,000

Budget activity	FY 2013 level
Youth Violence Prevention	14,968,000
Domestic Violence Community Projects	5,411,000
Rape Prevention	39,389,000
Unintentional Injury	30,966,000
Traumatic Brain Injury	6,026,000
Elderly Falls	1,958,000
Injury Control Research Centers	9,974,000
National Violent Death Reporting System	3,471,000

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

The bill includes a total of $292,588,000 for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, which includes $181,222,000 in discretionary appropriations and $111,366,000 made available under section 241 of the PHS Act.

Within the total for Occupational Safety and Health, the bill includes the following amounts:

Budget activity	FY 2013 level
Education and Research Centers	$24,268,000
Personal Protective Technology	16,791,000
Healthier Workforce Centers	5,016,000
National Occupational Research Agenda	111,366,000
Ag, Forestry, Fishing	23,000,000
Mining Research	52,363,000
Other Occupational Safety and Health Research	82,784,000
Miners Choice	646,000
National Mesothelioma Registry and Tissue Bank	1,020,000

ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The bill includes $55,358,000 in mandatory funding for CDC's responsibilities with respect to the Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program. A longstanding provision, transferring funds to the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health, has been deleted without prejudice. CDC has the authority to transfer funds to the Board under the authorizing statute.

GLOBAL HEALTH

The bill includes $353,794,000 for Global Health Activities. Within this total, the bill includes the following amounts:

Budget activity	FY 2013 level
Global AIDS Program	$117,118,000
Global Immunization Program	160,287,000
Polio Eradication	111,286,000
Other Global/Measles	49,001,000
Global Disease Detection and Emergency Response	41,601,000
International Emergency	5,997,000
Global Disease Detection	35,604,000
Parasitic Diseases/Malaria	19,367,000
Global Public Health Capacity	15,421,000
National Public Health Institutes	7,000,000
Field Epidemiology and Lab Training Program	8,421,000

Global Public Health.—CDC shall provide an operating plan for all international activities funded through this and other CDC accounts to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Global Health Strategy.—CDC, FDA, and NIH are expected to develop, coordinate, and plan jointly global health research activities with specific measurable metrics that are based on sound scientific methods and to track the progress toward these agreed upon global health goals.

Global Health Capacity.—The bill reduces overall funding by $800,000 to reflect the elimination of the Sustainable Management Development Program. Funding for the Field Epidemiology and Lab Training Program shall be maintained at not less than last year's level.

National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs).—The bill includes $7,000,000 to assist other nations in setting up and strengthening NPHIs. This initiative is intended to be an organizational effort, and in no way limit capacity building work in other programs of CDC.

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The bill includes $1,380,889,000 for public health preparedness and response activities, which includes $1,226,013,000 in discretionary appropriations and $154,876,000 made available from amounts available in the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund.

Within the total for Public Health Preparedness and Response, the bill includes the following amounts:

Budget activity	FY 2013 level
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreements	$642,000,000
Academic Centers for Public Health Preparedness	8,000,000
All Other State and Local Capacity	7,767,000
CDC Preparedness and Response	128,802,000
Upgrading CDC Capacity	100,000,000
BioSense	20,727,000
Lab Reporting	8,075,000
Strategic National Stockpile	594,320,000

Preparedness Administrative Costs.—CDC's proposal to consolidate administrative costs into funding provided for Public Health Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreements is rejected. The bill includes $7,767,000 for these costs, in addition to the funds provided for the cooperative agreements.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Index.—CDC is expected to work with the States to develop a method to measure the preparedness of each State.

Strategic National Stockpile (SNS).—The bill provides $154,876,000 from the 2009 supplemental appropriations bill to support the SNS in fiscal year 2013. The Secretary is expected to pay particular attention to ensuring the needs of special populations, such as children, are met in the SNS. CDC shall submit a report within 180 days after enactment of this act on steps being taken and resources dedicated to maintain the integrity of the SNS and its effectiveness in an emergency, particularly with regard to the need to rotate old supplies and equipment, and purchase new countermeasures, devices, and equipment to ensure the preparedness level is sustained.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

The bill provides $46,000,000, which includes $6,600,000 of unobligated Individual Learning Accounts balances for Buildings and Facilities activities.

The National Institutes for Occupational Safety and Health facilities that support the underground and surface coal mining safety and health research capacity and the applied technology and occupational hazard evaluation field research capabilities may be becoming obsolete and not fully operational. The bill provides $35,000,000 for CDC to support competitive acquisition, renovation, replacement, or consolidation of these capabilities to save operational costs, improve productivity and support the capacities listed above. CDC is expected to take positive steps to ensure the capabilities are maintained to support mine safety research.

In addition, within the total provided for Buildings and Facilities, $11,000,000 is for CDC-wide repairs and improvements. CDC is expected to ensure future budget requests include resource allocation requests to support appropriate facility stewardship.

CDC-WIDE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes $591,500,000 for CDC-wide activities.

Within this total, the bill includes the following amounts:

Budget activity	FY 2013 level
Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant	$105,000,000
Business Services Support	380,000,000
Office of the Director	106,500,000

Budget Information.—CDC's value to public health and preparedness is widely recognized and budget processes that link programs and activities to measurable public health and preparedness goals are strongly supported. CDC is directed to explain in the congressional budget request how sound scientific data are linked to measurable public health and preparedness goals and objectives for each program, and how those goals directly relate to the budget request. In addition, CDC is directed to provide the following information in the fiscal year 2015 and future budget requests:

Program evaluations—an identification of the timeframes and criteria used to evaluate each program;

User fee, reimbursement, and other sources of funding—an itemization of the actual and estimated collections for each activity and the actual annual costs related to each associated user fee, reimbursement, and other funding source used to support CDC activities;

Accounting—a more detailed accounting of how funds are spent in each program. The budget justification should not only be an accounting of how funds will be spent in the coming fiscal year, but also how funds have been spent in the previous fiscal years, potentially under different budget structures or organizations;

Types of activities supported—the breakdown of intramural and extramural funding for each program; and

Working Capital Fund (WCF)—The object class breakout of annual WCF resource inputs, assets, expenditures, carry over, WCF-supported FTE, WCF-supported contract FTE, and WCF-supported overhead for the prior actual year, current year and budget year at each Center, Institute, or Office, in addition to the CDC aggregate levels. The budget justification should include the projected and actual reserve with a breakout justification to explain the projected use and identification of any reserve and residual funds for the prior actual year, current year, and budget year. Further, CDC shall brief jointly the Committees on Appropriations no later than July 15, 2013 on the WCF governance structure, rules in place to ensure appropriate activity and accounting, and hypothetical impact of the fund if it were implemented in fiscal year 2013 and funding adjustments for the expected implementation at the beginning of fiscal year 2014.

Repairs and Improvements—the categorization of the needed repairs for CDC facilities in areas such as security, life/safety repairs, condition index, and other repairs.

Data Reporting.—Significant opportunities exist to create administrative and economic efficiencies in the reporting of public health data. For that reason, the Director of CDC is directed to work with State and local health officials, to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations no later than 180 days after enactment of this act on the opportunities for consolidating the various data collection systems in CDC. The report should

include the opportunities and costs, advantages and barriers, and projected timeline to such a consolidated data reporting system, along with recommendations for adoption. The report should include full consideration of a single Web-based data collection information technology platform.

Individual Learning Accounts.—A longstanding provision extending availability of funds for the Individual Learning Account program has been deleted, as well as a longstanding general provision regarding the management of this program. The training and professional development of CDC staff shall be supported and maintained by the centers and leadership of CDC.

Office of the Director (formerly Public Health Leadership and Support).—The program line has been changed to Office of Director to better reflect the activities these funds support.

Scientific Research Coordination with NIH.—CDC programs are expected to coordinate with the Institutes and Centers of the NIH to identify scientific gaps for ready opportunities to accelerate understanding of diseases and their prevention in NIH and CDC research portfolios. Specifically, updates are requested in the fiscal year 2014 budget request on this effort as it relates to each of the CDC cancer programs.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

The bill includes $30,873,259,000 for the accounts that comprise the NIH total appropriation. This amount includes a $40,000,000 increase for Institutional Development Awards (IDeA) within the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and a $15,000,000 increase for the Cures Acceleration Network within the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). To improve transparency, the bill also includes an increase of $25,300,000 for NCATS to fully fund the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program within that Center; in fiscal year 2012, CTSAs were funded partially through contributions from other Institutes and Centers (ICs).

Other than the adjustments described above, funding for each IC is increased over the fiscal year 2012 level by an equal percentage.

In accordance with longstanding tradition, the bill does not direct funds to any specific disease research area. NIH is expected to base its funding decisions only on scientific opportunities and the peer review process.

NIH is expected to adopt a reasonable NIH-wide policy for non-competing and competing inflation rates that is consistent with the overall funding increase. Further, NIH is expected to support as many scientifically meritorious new and competing research project grants as possible, at a reasonable award level, with the funding provided in this act.

All the NIH ICs are expected to continue to support the Pathways to Independence program, which provides new investigators with mentored grants that convert into independent research project grants. In addition, New Innovator Awards, Director's Pioneer Awards, and the Transformative R01 Program are supported through the Common Fund. NIH should have a reasonable policy for inflationary increases on research training stipends that are not below the federal pay policy. The Office of the Director (OD) shall ensure, as practicable, the programs and offices within OD receive increases proportional to the overall increase, unless otherwise specified.

NIH is expected to limit funding for the Intramural Research Program to the same share of the overall NIH budget as in fiscal year 2012. The percentage of funds used to support basic research across NIH is expected to be maintained.

CTSAs.—NIH shall make no changes to the CTSA program until the Institute of Medicine (IOM) completes its evaluation of the program, due in June 2013. Following the completion of that evaluation, if NIH then determines that adjustments to the CTSA program are needed, the NCATS Director is directed to brief the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations before implementing the changes.

Clinical Trials.—GAO is requested to conduct a review of how NIH has applied the recommendations from the 2010 Institute of Medicine (IOM) recommendations on NCI's clinical trials across all ICs to improve all NIH-wide clinical trial activity. The review should examine the specific recommendations NIH can consider to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of administering, monitoring, managing, and supporting clinical trials.

Clinical Trials Patient Enrollment.—NIH is directed to host a workshop on the challenges regarding enrolling and retaining patients in clinical trials. The workshop should include public foundations that provide clinical trial navigation services, the NIH Foundation, and other appropriate organizations. Topics should include the development of ways to track, monitor, and improve participation and enrollment in NIH-funded clinical trials, particularly among underrepresented and uninsured populations. The workshop should also discuss potential public-private partnerships that could address these goals.

Common Fund.—NIH is expected to continue the longstanding policy for Common Fund projects to be short-term, high-impact awards, with no projects receiving funding for more than 10 years. NIH is directed to discontinue health economics research within the Common Fund.

Extramural and Intramural Research.—NIH plans to impose an additional level of scrutiny on extramural principal investigators with grants of $1,500,000 or more. NIH is directed to ensure that this policy, and any other new measures which are intended to improve oversight and accountability for extramural researchers, should apply equally to intramural researchers as well.

Peer reviewers for extramural research would benefit from knowing the scope of intramural activities that are related to the subjects under consideration to reduce the possibility of duplication. Therefore, NIH is directed to make such information available to extramural peer review study sections.

Improved Trans-NIH Coordination.—The Director of the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives is requested to develop a strategic plan to improve coordination and facilitation of trans-NIH research. The plan should include measurable objectives and specific steps that NIH and the ICs will take to reduce duplication and increase the effectiveness and efficiency of research activities occurring in multiple ICs. The plan should be posted on the NIH Web site within 180 days after enactment and updated routinely thereafter regarding progress made toward reaching the objectives.

Kennedy's Disease.—NINDS supports research related to spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy, also known as Kennedy's disease. NINDS is encouraged to continue research into the causes of this disease and animal testing for possible avenues for treatment.

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards.—The number of Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards has declined each year since fiscal year 2007. While there is a need to increase stipend levels, NIH should put a higher priority on maintaining the number of awards. NIH is expected to continue efforts to support new investigators.

National Children's Study (NCS).—There have been significant concerns in the scientific community about NIH's plans to change substantially the design of the NCS. Therefore, the bill requires NIH to charter a comprehensive IOM/National Research Council review to evaluate the proposal and make the results public before contracts are awarded for the NCS Main Study. Topics covered by the review should include: the representative sample size, participation of traditionally underrepresented groups, generalizability of the data, participant retention rates, statistical artifacts, required infrastructure, involvement of academia, study costs, and other factors determined relevant by the review experts.

NCATS.—NCATS should make every effort to prevent duplication, redundancy, and competition with the private sector. To that end, NCATS is directed to work with industry representatives to initiate a process that will inform the private sector on a regular basis about the Center's current and planned programs and activities. A plan and timeline to implement this process is requested within 90 days of enactment.

Opioid Drug Abuse.—The June 2011 IOM report on pain indicates that abuse and misuse of prescription opioid drugs resulted in an annual estimated cost to the Nation of $72,500,000,000. Therefore the National Institute on Drug Abuse is urged to support scientific activities that provide companies with the basic science to develop and implement innovative strategies to reduce opioid drug abuse. Such strategies may include new chemical molecule structures, coatings, agents, or other processes with a goal of preventing abuse while still providing the necessary pain relief required for patient care.

Improved Coordination and Dissemination of Research.—The OD is expected to work with the ICs and other HHS operating divisions to establish a systematic means of disseminating research results for the purposes of preventing duplication of effort across the Department and enabling NIH to target its research more effectively.

IDeA.—NIH is expected to maintain the fiscal year 2012 levels for the Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE), IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence, and the IDeA Clinical Trial and Translation Program programs. NIH is directed to divide the increase over the fiscal year 2012 level for IDeA equally between a new COBRE competition and additional awards for the IDeA Clinical Trial and Translation Program. Last year NIH was urged to give the IDeA Director the flexibility to include all States that qualify for the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) program in the IDeA program. An update on this proposal was requested in the fiscal year 2013 congressional budget justification. NIH failed to respond to either request. Therefore, NIH is directed to review whether changes to the eligibility criteria are warranted, including the possible inclusion of all EPSCoR-eligible States, and to present its recommendations in a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and the relevant authorizing committees no later than 120 days after enactment. In addition, the NIH and IC Directors are requested to work with the IDeA Director to implement a plan to improve coordination and co-funding of IDeA awards and programs to increase opportunities to improve biomedical research capacity and training.

Scientific Management and Review Board (SMRB).—The NIH Director has rejected the recommendation by the Scientific Management and Review Board to create a new Institute on substance use, abuse, and addiction-related research, and has decided that

the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism should pursue ''functional integration'' to advance this research rather than consolidation. NIH is expected to provide specific details on how the two Institutes plan to achieve such integration in the fiscal year 2014 congressional budget justification.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is expected to provide more detailed information in its annual congressional justification, including budgetary and programmatic information on programs as they existed in prior fiscal years, even if the budget request proposes a new structure or consolidation. SAMHSA shall not make changes to any program, project, or activity as outlined by the budget tables included in this explanatory statement without prior notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SAMHSA and the Department are directed to exempt the Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) and the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant from being used as a source for the PHS evaluation set-aside in fiscal year 2013, as was done prior to fiscal year 2012.

MENTAL HEALTH

Within the total provided for Mental Health Programs of Regional and National Significance, the bill includes the following amounts:

Budget activity	*FY 2013 level*
Capacity	
Seclusion & Restraint	2,444,000
Youth Violence Prevention	12,817,000
National Traumatic Stress Network	48,713,000
Children and Family Programs	6,474,000
Consumer and Family Network Grants	6,224,000
MH System Transformation and Health Reform	10,603,000
Project LAUNCH	34,640,000
Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration	30,749,000
Suicide Lifeline	5,512,000
GLS—Youth Suicide Prevention—States	29,682,000
GLS—Youth Suicide Prevention—Campus	4,966,000
AI/AN Suicide Prevention Initiative	2,938,000
Homelessness Prevention Programs	30,772,000
Minority AIDS	9,265,000
Criminal and Juvenile Justice Programs	4,281,000
Grants for Adult Trauma Screening and BI	2,896,000
Tribal Behavioral Health Grants	20,000,000
Science and Service	
GLS—Suicide Prevention Resource Center	5,550,000
Practice Improvement & Training	7,437,000
Consumer & Consumer Support T.A. Centers	1,923,000
Primary/Behavioral Health Integration T.A	1,996,000
Minority Fellowship Program	5,089,000
Disaster Response	2,950,000
Homelessness	2,302,000
HIV/AIDS Education	773,000

In order to address the high incidence of substance abuse and suicide in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations, the bill provides $20,000,000 for a new Tribal Behavioral Health Grant program within the Center for Mental Health Services. Not less than $10,000,000 shall be used for competitively awarded grants targeting tribal entities with the highest rates of suicide per capita over the past 10 years. Funds shall be used for effective and promising strategies that address the problems of substance abuse and suicide and promote mental health among AI/AN young people.

Within the funds provided for the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, the bill provides $1,500,000 for the targeted collection of new outcome data from selected centers, as well as analyses and reports related to the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress core data set.

All grants awarded for the Primary and Behavioral Health Integration program shall be funded under the authorities in section 520(K) of the PHS Act.

Funds provided to Project LAUNCH should not duplicate activities eligible for funding elsewhere in HHS and should focus on mental health promotion and promotion strategies for children aged 0 to 8.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Within the total provided for Substance Abuse Treatment Programs of Regional and National Significance, the bill includes the following amounts:

Budget Activity	*FY 2013 Level*
Capacity	
Opioid Treatment Programs/Regulatory Activities	8,886,000
Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral, and Treatment	28,187,000
TCE—General	13,256,000
Pregnant & Postpartum Women	15,970,000
Strengthening Treatment Access and Retention	1,000,000
Recovery Community Services Program	2,445,000
Access to Recovery	87,666,000
Children and Families	29,678,000
Treatment Systems for Homeless	41,571,000
Minority AIDS	65,863,000
Criminal Justice Activities	70,000,000
Science and Service	
Addiction Technology Transfer Centers	9,064,000
Minority Fellowship Program	546,000
Special Initiatives/Outreach	1,436,000

SAMHSA shall ensure that Addiction Technology Transfer Centers continue to maintain a primary focus on addiction treatment and recovery services in order to strengthen the addiction workforce.

All funding appropriated to the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment for drug treatment courts shall be allocated to serve people diagnosed with a substance use disorder as their primary condition.

SAMHSA shall ensure that funds provided for Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral, and Treatment are used for existing evidence-based models of providing early intervention and treatment services to those at risk of developing substance abuse disorders.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

Within the total provided for Substance Abuse Prevention Programs of Regional and National Significance, the bill includes the following amounts:

Budget activity	*FY 2013 level*
Capacity	
Strategic Prevention Framework/Partnerships for Success	109,754,000
Mandatory Drug Testing	4,906,000
Minority AIDS	41,307,000
Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking (STOP Act)	7,931,000
National Adult-Oriented Media Public Service Campaign	1,000,000
Community-based Coalition Enhancement Grants	5,931,000
Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking	1,000,000
Science and Service	
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	9,802,000
Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies	7,511,000
Science and Service Program Coordination	4,082,000
Minority Fellowship Program	71,000

SAMHSA shall make continuation awards for Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant/Partnerships for Success (SPFSIG/PFS) grantees at amounts not less than what grantees received in fiscal year 2012. Furthermore, SAMHSA shall use any additional funding to provide new grants under SPFSIG/PFS. These new grants shall be awarded as the program was originally designed prior to fiscal year 2011, with similar eligible applicants, a multiyear project period, and reliance on epidemiological workgroups. SAMHSA shall award these multiyear grants on an annual, incremental basis rather than fully funding them in fiscal year 2013.

HEALTH SURVEILLANCE AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

Within the total provided for health surveillance and program support, the bill includes the following amounts:

Budget activity	*FY 2013 level*
Health Surveillance	29,424
Program Management	72,229
Military Families	3,500
Public Awareness and Support	13,545
Performance and Quality Info. Systems	12,940

SAMHSA shall prioritize the award of the Military Families Initiative policy academy service grants to States with higher populations of military families not eligible for or with reduced access to the services provided through the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense.

AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

The bill provides $349,053,000 for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. These funds are made available through section 241 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act.

Within the total for the Patient Safety Research portfolio, the bill provides $4,000,000 for research grants authorized by section 933 of the PHS Act, as proposed in Senate Report 112–176.

Within the total for the Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness and Efficiency Research portfolio, the bill provides $38,555,000 for investigator-initiated research.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The bill includes $3,826,187,000 for the Program Management account. The bill moves the State Health Insurance Assistance Program from CMS Program Management to the

Administration for Community Living. The conferees recommend the following levels within the Program Management account:

Program management	*FY 2013 level*
Research, Demonstration and Evaluation	$21,160,000
Program Operations	2,608,785,000
State Survey and Certification	381,278,000
State High Risk Insurance Pools	44,000,000
Federal Administration	770,964,000

The bill includes funding for Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation activities, including the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey. CMS is requested to include in its fiscal year 2015 congressional budget justification all programs, projects, and activities authorized in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) intended to be supported, along with amounts expended in the current year and 3 prior fiscal years.

CMS Policy Guidance.—CMS uses Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) as its agents in lieu of federal employees to process reimbursement activity. The MACs may develop and implement independent policies, which can be perceived as being inconsistent with CMS guidance. CMS is requested to provide a detailed description in the fiscal year 2015 budget request of the mechanisms CMS has in place or plans to put in place to ensure its contracting agents consistently adhere to CMS policies.

Critical Access Hospitals.—The Secretary is urged to create a review process for those hospitals less than 35 miles by primary road from the nearest hospital for the purpose of improving access to essential health services, including acute medical inpatient care. If changes are required, HHS should work with Congress for approval. CMS is encouraged to work with the Office of Rural Health Policy in HRSA to ensure that rural patients maintain access to necessary health services.

Fungal Meningitis.—The 2012 outbreak of fungal meningitis remains a concern, with more than 500 illnesses and a median patient age in the late 60s. While the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety of drugs lies with other agencies of Federal and State government, CMS should consider whether there are actions it can take to ensure that the providers are operating in a manner that is consistent with State and Federal standards, and report to the Committees on Appropriations within 180 days of enactment of this act regarding its conclusions.

Fraud, Waste, and Abuse.—CMS is urged to implement a process across all operations to increase its focus on preventing improper payments and paying claims right the first time. A 2010 GAO report found that CMS had no formal process in place to ensure that vulnerabilities identified by the Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) program are addressed. CMS is directed to include in its annual report to Congress the steps it has taken to implement a systematic process across all operations to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse in both federal and contractor-operated program and administrative activities and an accounting of RAC-reported vulnerabilities. Similar language was proposed in the Senate Report 112–176.

Rural Patient Access.—The Committees on Appropriations strongly support efforts to preserve and improve rural patient access to providers and durable medical equipment (DME). CMS is requested to provide an update in the fiscal year 2015 budget request on the steps CMS is taking to ensure changes due to the competitive bidding process will not negatively impact rural patient access to quality DME.

HEALTH CARE FRAUD AND ABUSE CONTROL ACCOUNT

The bill includes $309,790,000 from the Medicare Trust Fund for the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control account.

Medicare Fraud Prevention.—CMS is expected to develop a more robust set of tools to prevent fraud, for example using the latest technology to ensure only valid beneficiaries and valid providers receive benefits and ensure that payments are for authorized benefits. GAO is directed to review the feasibility, cost, benefits, and barriers for CMS to implement a Medicare transactional system with ''smart card'' type technology. The review must examine technology related to beneficiary and provider validation and authentication at point of entry for provider care within the Medicare program and consider ease of implementation, impact on the beneficiary and provider, ease of use, cost attributes (long and short term), and other criteria relevant decision making, sourcing and implementation. GAO is expected to publish a report within 1 year after enactment of this act.

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE

The Department of HHS shall provide a briefing within 45 days of enactment for the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations regarding the rate of expenditure for all Refugee and Entrant Assistance programs, including information on the number of unaccompanied alien children placed into the Department's care, the number of arriving refugees and refugees otherwise receiving services, and how the characteristics of these populations have changed over recent years.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

The bill includes a $110,000,000 increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), including a $14,035,000 increase in existing set-asides for quality improvement activities. HHS is encouraged to continue efforts to improve the quality of child care programs, including the early childhood care and education workforce.

Under current law State child care agencies may use CCDBG funding to pay for a wide variety of initiatives, including helping providers with the cost of supplies, such as diapers for infants and toddlers.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS

Within the funds provided for Head Start, the bill includes $25,000,000 to support the transition costs associated with the Designation Renewal System and $25,000,000 for grantee cost-of-living adjustments.

The bill includes $3,000,000 within Child Abuse Discretionary for competitive grants to support the implementation of research-based court teams models that include the court system, child welfare agency, and community organizations in order to better meet the needs of infants and toddlers in foster care.

The bill includes up to $10,000,000 for the Healthy Foods Financing Initiative within the Community Economic Development Program.

The Department of HHS is encouraged to support efforts that help TANF recipients graduate high school or complete a GED, which is often critical to securing employment.

ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill transfers the State Health Insurance Assistance Program from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services to the Administration for Community Living (ACL).

Within the funding provided, the bill provides $998,000 to continue the 24-hour call center to support Alzheimer's family caregivers.

The House and Senate Committees on Appropriations received no advance notice that the Department intended to establish the ACL when the fiscal year 2013 budget was submitted to Congress. Carrying out such organizational changes without advance notice ignores the critical oversight role of the Committees on Appropriations. This is not a precedent that should occur again and the Department is urged to provide advance notice of such mergers, particularly when they have an impact on appropriations structures and funding levels. ACL shall provide the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a briefing within 30 days of enactment on how ACL is balancing the needs of the disabled and elderly communities.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

GENERAL DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The Department is directed to include in its annual budget justifications the amount of administrative and overhead costs spent by the Department for every major budget line. Beginning in fiscal year 2015, and each year thereafter, the Department shall include the amount and percentage of administrative and overhead costs spent by the Department for every program, project and activity.

The Department is directed to issue a report identifying which programs throughout HHS address teen dating violence and healthy relationship strategies as a means to prevent teen pregnancy.

The Comptroller General is directed to issue a report within 180 days of enactment on the Department's coordination of activities related to patient centered outcomes research (PCOR), whether funded in this bill or through the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund. The report should review the processes and practices used by the Department to ensure that the various operating divisions supporting patient centered outcomes research prevents duplication and is coordinated. Further, the report should review the criteria and procedures used by the Department prior to disseminating or making recommendations based on patient centered outcomes research results. The report should also include a review of the evaluation criteria used to allocate funding and determine research topics, as well as the metrics to measure effectiveness.

The bill provides $250,000 for the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care and Services, $1,000,000 for a competitive grant or contract for the principal purpose of providing assistance regarding transportation assistance for individuals with disabilities, $1,000,000 to continue the national health education program on lupus for healthcare providers, and $3,010,000 to continue the preventing violence against women initiative.

HHS is directed to include in future budget requests information on user fees, reimbursements, and other sources of funding available to HHS operating divisions that itemizes the actual and estimated collections for each activity and the actual annual costs related to each associated user fee, reimbursement, and other funding source used to support these activities.

The Department is directed to ensure that all necessary and feasible steps have been taken to ensure that Antideficiency Act violations similar to those reported on July 14, 2011 do not occur in the future. The Department is directed to ensure that future Antideficiency Act violations are submitted in a timely manner with the appropriate account adjustment or other action to remedy the violations.

HHS is urged to work with Congress to propose a special hiring authority in lieu of the

continued expanded use of title 42. The Department is requested to issue a report on the key parameters that would need to be included in a special hiring authority within 180 days of enactment to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and the relevant authorizing committees.

The Secretary is encouraged to issue the rules and regulations required by P.L. 111–353 in a timely manner.

The Department is urged to continue existing programs run by the Office of Minority Health that address health disparities in rural and disadvantaged populations.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is directed to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that provides an update on OIG activities related to the investigation of grantees' use of taxpayer resources to influence laws, regulations or policies at the State or local level. Additionally, the report should include detail as to how HHS is implementing any new policies and how the Department is tracking or monitoring grantee performance.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Department is directed to issue a report, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this act, on the implementation of a 5–year budgetary planning process for the development of medical countermeasures. The report should include end-to-end details of planned investments, including the costs associated with existing and anticipated new research and development, the costs of procuring and maintaining all materials placed in the Strategic National Stockpile, and the costs associated with distribution, dispensing and surveillance. The report should include the costs necessary to ensure sustainability of the multiple Centers for Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing. The report should also include details of the investment and progress made to date in the development of products for diagnosis, protection and treatment for the full range of radiation exposures from nuclear and radiation threats.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

EVALUATION TAP LEVEL

The bill modifies a provision establishing reprogramming requirements for evaluation tap funding.

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ACCESS REGARDING THE USE OF FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The bill includes a modified provision relating to the improvement of a more accessible Web site that details the use of funds made available under section 4002 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

PERSONNEL SUPPORT FOR THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The bill includes a new provision relating to the public disclosure of the number of full-time equivalent Federal employees or contractors assigned to activities to carry out the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EDUCATION FOR THE DISADVANTAGED

The bill includes a new provision clarifying that title I funds may be used to address the transportation needs of homeless children and youth, as well as support homeless liaisons.

The bill includes new language under the School Improvement Grant (SIG) program that allows funds to be used to implement a research-proven, whole-school reform model.

New language is also included that will allow a State educational agency, with the approval of the Secretary, to establish an alternative State-determined school improvement strategy that may be used by local educational agencies under the SIG program. The purpose of this alternative strategy is to allow State educational agencies to develop their own flexible models that can be implemented by local educational agencies that receive SIG funds.

It is expected that any approach taken with SIG funds should address school-wide factors, whole school culture, the individual needs of the students and data to inform instruction and for continuous improvement; ensure that the needs of students are addressed through the organization of the school, curriculum and instruction, and social and emotional support services; as well as address teacher and leader effectiveness, including through training and support for teachers and school leaders in school improvement efforts and in the needs of students.

The bill also includes new language to allow local educational agencies that are eligible to receive services under the Rural Education Achievement Program to modify not more than one element required under a school improvement model.

Over the past decade Bureau of Indian Education schools have received approximately 0.7 percent of each year's appropriation for ESEA Title I Grants to LEAs. The Department is urged to continue using its existing formula in allocating these funds and to follow this practice in any relevant future emergency funding that provides it the same authority and discretion.

IMPACT AID

The bill includes language providing for formula grants for Impact Aid construction grants.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

The bill allows for up to 3 percent of funds available for the State Grants for Improving Teacher Quality program to be used for competitive awards to national not-for-profit organizations for recruiting, training, or providing professional enhancement activities, including in the area of civic education, for teachers or school leaders, particularly for high-need schools most likely to face shortages in these areas. The bill allows up to 10 percent of the set-aside funds to be used for related research, development, evaluation, dissemination, and technical assistance.

The bill provides $380,000,000 for formula grants to States and $9,214,000 for competitive grants to improve the quality and reliability of assessment systems within the State Assessments and Enhanced Assessments Instruments program.

INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

The bill includes $549,284,000 for the Race to the Top program. These funds are available for obligation through December 31, 2013.

The Departments of Education and HHS are directed to use this appropriation for another competition under the Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC). In combination with additional resources allocated for the CCDBG and Head Start programs, it is expected that these investments will help improve early learning and development systems and opportunities for young children.

The bill includes $149,417,000 for the Investing in Innovation program, as described in Senate Report 112–176. The bill does not include the new authority and funding proposed in the Senate bill regarding ARPA-ED.

An opportunity to review the results from the significant investment made in both the RTT and Investing in Innovation programs is expected. The Secretary is directed to continue to provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate the findings from evaluations, including impact evaluations and interim progress evaluations, of activities conducted using these funds.

The bill includes $14,097,000 for continuation costs for the School Leadership program.

Within FIE, the bill includes funding for the following activities in the following amounts:

Budget activity	*FY 2013 level*
Arts in Education	$26,500,000
Data Quality and Evaluation	1,276,000
Full Service Community Schools	11,094,000
National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities	1,000,000
Peer Review	350,000
Child Literacy Initiative	29,000,000

The bill also includes $10,000,000 for a new STEM initiative, as described in Senate Report 112–176.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The bill includes new language clarifying provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The first provision clarifies that penalties paid by States for violating maintenance of effort under part B of the IDEA shall be reallocated to States by formula to those States that did not violate those requirements. The language further clarifies that both the reduced State allocations due to penalties paid and increased amounts under the reallocation shall not be considered in fiscal year 2013 or future years for allocations under the statutory formula. The bill also includes new language clarifying that the level of effort under part B that a LEA must meet in the year after it fails to maintain its fiscal effort is the level that it should have met in the prior year. This language clarifies congressional intent and is consistent with the Office of Special Education Program's (OSEP's) April 4, 2012, informal guidance letter on the issue.

Additionally, the bill includes language clarifying that funds reserved under section 611(c) of the IDEA may be used to help improve State capacity to meet data collection requirements under the IDEA and improve data collection, quality, and use under the act.

The bill includes new language allowing the Department to use up to $2,710,000 for incentive grants to States that choose to serve children 3 years old until entrance into elementary school, as described in Senate report 112–176.

Within this account, the bill includes $1,996,000 to remain available through September 30, 2014, for the Promoting Readiness of Minors in SSI (PROMISE) program. The bill includes language that slightly modifies the program as it was initially created in last year's bill. The bill also includes new language that allows a portion of the funds provided to be used for Pay for Success awards, as described in Senate Report 112–176. The Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate expect to be notified prior to the issuance of any notice related to the Pay for Success activity.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

The bill includes $3,624,226,000 for Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research.

The bill includes $6,075,000 for Demonstration and Training Programs. Within this amount, the bill includes $750,000 to support a new competition for parent training and

information centers. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) shall coordinate with OSEP in carrying out this activity. The bill does not include funding for new technical assistance activities at RSA.

The bill continues language allowing unmatched funds in excess of any funds requested during the reallotment process to be available for the PROMISE program referenced under the Special Education account. Such funds used for the PROMISE program will remain available for obligation through September 30, 2014.

The bill allows up to $20,000,000 made available to PROMISE after reallotment to be used for Pay for Success, as described in Senate Report 112–176. The Federal Government will use funds to pay for defined outcomes, such as employment or graduation. Philanthropic groups and social impact investors will finance the services and would earn payments if those services lead to the agreed-upon outcomes. Any funds deobligated from Pay for Success projects will be immediately available for programs authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The bill includes $37,771,000 for the Assistive Technology program. This includes $30,492,000 for State grant activities authorized under section 4 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; $4,283,000 for protection and advocacy systems authorized under section 5; $996,000 for technical assistance activities authorized under section 6; and $2,000,000 to support alternative financing programs (AFPs) that provide financing mechanisms for loans.

AFPs have had success in providing low-interest loan funds, interest buy-down programs, revolving loan funds, and loan guarantees, and in emphasizing consumer choice and control and other partnerships that help people with disabilities acquire assistive technology devices through loans. Such devices and services enable people with disabilities to live independently and often are the means that enable them to become or remain employed. While many State programs have developed equipment demonstration projects, lending libraries and reuse programs, these do not cover certain types of higher-cost expenses that promote independence, such as adapting vehicles and modifying home entrances and showers to enable people to remain in their homes.

SPECIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

The bill includes $65,422,000 for the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. Funding for construction will be considered in the future as needs may warrant.

STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Department shall provide the same funding in fiscal year 2013 as in fiscal year 2012 for the Work Colleges program authorized under section 448 of the Higher Education Act (HEA) from the Federal Work-Study Program appropriation.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The bill includes $67,432,000 for International Education and Foreign Language Studies—Domestic programs. The increase in funds over the fiscal year 2012 level will support new awards in the Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language programs and expand access to study abroad, as authorized by section 604(b) of the HEA.

The bill includes language allowing funds awarded under the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program to be used to fund continuation costs for the Javits Fellowship program.

The bill includes $29,494,000 for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). Within the amount for FIPSE, the bill includes $25,000,000 for the First in the World initiative, with up to $9,000,000 set aside for minority-serving institutions; $1,128,000 for the Training for Realtime Writers program; $2,366,000 for continuations for international consortia projects; and $1,000,000 for the Secretary to enter into an agreement with the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study on the impact of Federal regulations and reporting requirements on institutions of higher education as authorized under section 1106 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008.

The bill includes $854,932,000 for TRIO. The last Upward Bound grant competition may have disadvantaged applicants in rural areas. Many of the rural programs that were not renewed in the last round are located in areas of extreme poverty that would appear to be prime targets for Upward Bound grants. The Department shall provide an analysis within 60 days of enactment of this act of how selection criteria and outcomes changed in the past Upward Bound grant cycle, in order to determine whether applicants from rural areas were put at a disadvantage compared to other applicants.

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAPITAL FINANCING PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The bill includes language allowing funds for the HBCU Capital Financing Program to remain available through September 30, 2014.

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

The bill includes $38,077,000 for Statewide Data Systems. The bill allows up to $10,000,000 to be used for awards to public or private agencies or organizations to support activities to improve data coordination, quality, and use at the local, State, and national levels. Prior to obligating any funds for this purpose, an operating plan describing the proposed purpose and use of such funds shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate.

IES is directed to continue support for research and development activities related to gifted and talented education that directly support learning and improve the academic achievement of gifted and talented students, including those who may not be formally identified as gifted and those who are from underrepresented populations, as called for in Senate Report 112–176.

IES also is directed to support a National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented and to ensure that gifted and talented education is reported in national reports produced by IES, as called for in Senate Report 112–176.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

OFFICE OF CAREER, TECHNICAL, AND ADULT EDUCATION

The bill includes a general provision renaming the Office of Vocational and Adult Education as the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education.

EVALUATION AUTHORITY

The bill includes a new provision related to the evaluation authority established under section 9601 of the ESEA. Not later than 45 days prior to the submission of the operating plan required under this provision, the Department is directed to brief the Senate Committees on Appropriations and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and House Committees on Appropriations and Education and Workforce on the programs being considered for inclusion in the plan. Further, the conferees expect the Department to include in future congressional budget justifications a discussion of its planned use of this new authority.

NOT-FOR-PROFIT LOAN SERVICERS AND STUDENT AID ELIGIBILITY

The bill includes a new provision that clarifies eligibility for funding for not-for-profit loan servicers and allows students enrolled in ''career pathways'' programs who do not have a high school diploma or GED to become eligible for student aid if they have passed an ability to benefit test, completed a process designed by the State, or successfully completed six credit hours.

HBCU GULF HURRICANE DISASTER LOANS

The bill continues a provision that authorizes the Secretary to modify terms of Gulf hurricane disaster loans to HBCUs if such modifications result in no net cost to the government and if such modifications are approved by the Departments of Education and Treasury and the Office of Management and Budget.

TITLE IV

RELATED AGENCIES

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

OPERATING EXPENSES

The funding included in the bill for the State Commission grants reflects a consolidation with Training and Technical Assistance.

Within the total provided for Innovation, Assistance, and Other Activities, the bill includes $44,815,000 for the Social Innovation Fund, $3,992,000 for the Volunteer Generation Fund, and $992,000 for the Martin Luther King Day of Service.

The bill includes $207,491,000 for the National Senior Volunteer Corps programs. Sufficient funding is provided to maintain all programs at the fiscal year 2012 level.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

OFFICE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES: GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Within the total for IMLS, the bill includes funds for the following activities in the following amounts:

Budget activity	*FY 2013 level*
Library Services Technology Act:	
Grants to States	156,365
Native American Library Services	3,869
National Leadership: Libraries	12,000
Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian	12,470
Museum Services Act:	
Museums for America	20,643
Native American/Hawaiian Museum Services	926
National Leadership: Museums	7,880
African American History and Culture Act:	
Museum Grants for African American History & Culture	1,410
Program Administration	16,391

Within the amount provided for Program Administration, the bill includes $1,886,000 for research and data collection activities.

IMLS is encouraged to maintain current staffing levels and continue to work toward improving efficiency to decrease or eliminate requirements for FTE growth in future years.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

Research and Demonstration.—Within the Research and Demonstration activity conducted under sections 1110, 1115, and 1144 of the Social Security Act, the bill includes $7,200,000 for the Promoting Readiness of Minors in SSI (PROMISE) program and up to $3,000,000 for a demonstration program to test the impact of providing financial literacy information on the Old Age and Survivors Insurance, Disability Insurance and SSI programs to high-school aged youth.

SSA shall provide a briefing within 45 days of enactment for the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the factors SSA considers in the review and graduation process for research and demonstration projects. SSA shall continue to describe the specific section 1110 research graduation process in the fiscal year 2014 budget request and include the year each project or consortium was initiated.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance [WIPA] and Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security [PABSS].—The bill includes not less than $23,000,000 for the WIPA program and not less than $7,000,000 for the PABSS program. Because these programs were not funded in fiscal year 2012, SSA shall make these funds available as soon as possible to eligible organizations to minimize any disruption in services.

Representative Payee Oversight.—SSA is strongly encouraged to continue efforts to improve representative payee oversight through partnerships with outside organizations.

Social Security Annual Statements.—The bill includes not less than $20,000,000 for the mailing of annual Social Security Account Statements. SSA shall provide statements in a manner that maximizes their effectiveness, including leveraging online resources, to inform individuals about their contributions and benefits under Social Security programs and to provide individuals an opportunity to review their earnings record. Further, SSA shall brief the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 45 days of enactment on their plan for mailing statements in fiscal year 2013.

Information Technology Investments.—SSA shall provide a quarterly accounting of the Limitation on Administrative Expenses (LAE) expired unobligated balances and the amount made available from these balances without fiscal year limitation for information technology investments. This should include the total amount of Information Technology (IT) expenses and the actual or estimated amount paid for with LAE funds and no-year IT funds.

Long-range Strategic Plan.—The production of a strategic plan for SSA requires the input of an external body that is competent in addressing complex management challenges within the public sphere. Therefore, SSA shall provide the final draft of the strategic plan currently under development to the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) for its review and comment. SSA is also directed to incorporate NAPA's views into the final document. Such incorporation may be accomplished by including comments noting instances where SSA does not concur with NAPA's views. The bill includes $500,000 within SSA's LAE account to cover any expenses NAPA incurs to complete this review. The final version of the strategic plan shall be submitted within 180 days of enactment to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance. SSA and NAPA shall jointly report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 30 days of enactment on the plan for producing the document.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

PORNOGRAPHY RESTRICTIONS

The bill includes a new general provision that prohibits the use of government-provided information technology resources to view, download, or exchange pornography.

REPORTING ON BALANCES OF APPROPRIATIONS

The bill includes a new general provision modifying the application of requirements for reporting on balances of appropriations to the Indian Health Service.

HEAL PROGRAM TRANSFER

The bill includes a new general provision that permanently transfers the Health Education Assistance Loan program from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Education.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

The bill includes a new general provision that limits the attendance of Federal employees at international conferences.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The bill includes a new general provision related to the explanatory statement accompanying the bill.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS

The bill includes a new general provision that makes ineffective certain provisions from the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act related to this bill.

FY 2013 LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

[$ in 000s]

		FY 2012 Comparable	Harkin Aendment	Harkin Amendment versus FY12*
Department of Labor				
Employment and Training Administration				
Training and Employment Services				
Grants to States:				
Adult Training, current year	D	58,811	57,465	−1,346
Advance from prior year	NA	(710,654)	(712,000)	(1,346)
FY14	D	712,000	712,000	0
Adult Training	.....	770,811	769,465	−1,346
Youth Training	D	824,353	824,353	0
Dislocated Worker Assistance, current year	D	148,151	146,526	−1,625
Advance from prior year	NA	(858,375)	(860,000)	(1,625)
FY14	D	860,000	860,000	0
Dislocated Worker Assistance	.....	1,008,151	1,006,526	−1,625
Subtotal: Grants to States	.....	2,603,315	2,600,344	−2,971
Current Year	.....	1,031,315	1,028,344	−2,971
FY14	.....	1,572,000	1,572,000	0
Federally Administered Programs:				
Dislocated Worker Assistance Nat'l Reserve, current year	D	24,066	23,688	−378
Advance from prior year	NA	(199,622)	(200,000)	(378)
FY14	D	200,000	200,000	0
Subtotal: Dislocated Worker Assistance Nat'l Reserve	.....	224,066	223,688	−378
Total, Dislocated Worker Assistance	.....	1,232,217	1,230,214	−2,003
Native American Programs	D	47,562	47,562	0
Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Programs	D	84,291	84,291	0
Women in Apprenticeship	D	996	996	0
Youthbuild	D	79,689	79,689	0
Workforce Innovation Fund	D	49,906	40,000	−9,906
Subtotal: Federally Administered Programs	.....	486,510	476,226	−10,284
Current Year	.....	286,510	276,226	−10,284
FY14	.....	200,000	200,000	0
National Activities:				
Pilots, Demonstrations and Research	D	6,603	0	−6,603
Reintegration of Ex-Offenders	D	80,238	80,238	0
Evaluation	D	9,563	0	−9,563
Workforce Data Quality Initiative	D	6,463	5,000	−1,463
Subtotal: National Activities	.....	102,867	85,238	−17,629
Total: Training and Employment Services	.....	3,192,692	3,161,808	−30,884
Current Year	.....	1,420,692	1,389,808	−30,884
FY14	.....	1,772,000	1,772,000	0
Office of Job Corps				
Administration	D	29,077	29,132	55
Operations	D	1,569,078	1,574,000	4,922
Advance from prior year	NA	(589,883)	0	(−589,883)
FY14	D	0	0	0

FY 2013 LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

[$ in 000s]

		FY 2012 Comparable	Harkin Aendment	Harkin Amendment versus FY12*
Construction and Renovation	D	104,792	80,000	−24,792
Advance from prior year	NA	(99,811)	0	(−99,811)
FY14	D	0	0	0
Total: Job Corps	.....	1,702,947	1,683,132	−19,815
Current Year	.....	1,702,947	1,683,132	−19,815
FY14	.....	0	0	0
Community Serv. Employment Older Americans	D	448,251	448,251	0
Federal Unemployment Benefits and Allowances	M	1,100,100	1,421,000	320,900
State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations				
Unemployment Insurance				
State Operations	TF	3,225,047	2,994,912	−230,135
National Activities	TF	11,266	11,297	31
Subtotal: Unemployment Insurance	.....	3,236,313	3,006,209	−230,104
Employment Service:				
Allotments to States:				
Federal Funds	D	22,595	22,595	0
Trust Funds	TF	678,247	693,204	14,957
Subtotal: Employment Service Allotments to States	.....	700,842	715,799	14,957
ES National Activities	TF	20,912	20,912	0
Subtotal: Employment Service	.....	721,754	736,711	14,957
Federal Funds	.....	22,595	22,595	0
Trust Funds	.....	699,159	714,116	14,957
Foreign Labor Certification				
Program Administration	TF	50,323	50,323	0
State Grants	TF	15,070	15,070	0
Subtotal: Foreign Labor Certification	.....	65,393	65,393	0
One-Stop Career Centers/Labor Market Information	D	63,473	63,473	0
Total: State UI and ES	.....	4,086,933	3,871,786	−215,147
Federal Funds	.....	86,068	86,068	0
Trust Funds	.....	4,000,865	3,785,718	−215,147
Advances to the UI and Other Trust Funds [1]	M	171,000	0	−171,000
Program Administration				
Adult Employment and Training	D	46,677	46,677	0
Trust Funds	TF	8,518	8,518	0
Youth Employment and Training	D	12,260	12,260	0
Employment Security	D	3,476	3,476	0
Trust Funds	TF	39,343	39,343	0
Apprenticeship Services	D	27,676	27,676	0
Executive Direction	D	7,048	7,048	0
Trust Funds	TF	2,083	2,083	0
Subtotal: Program Administration	.....	147,081	147,081	0
Federal Funds	.....	97,137	97,137	0
Trust Funds	.....	49,944	49,944	0
Total: Employment and Training Administration	.....	10,849,004	10,733,058	−115,946
Federal Funds	.....	6,798,195	6,897,396	99,201
Current Year	.....	5,026,195	5,125,396	99,201
FY14	.....	1,772,000	1,772,000	0
Trust Funds	.....	4,050,809	3,835,662	−215,147
Employee Benefits Security Administration S&E				
Enforcement and Participant Assistance	D	145,243	145,243	0
Policy and Compliance Assistance	D	31,205	31,205	0
Executive Leadership, Program Oversight and Administration	D	6,705	6,705	0
Total: EBSA	.....	183,153	183,153	0
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation				
Pension Insurance Activities	NA	(86,023)	(75,943)	(−10,080)
Pension Plan Termination	NA	(243,372)	(240,611)	(−2,761)
Operational Support	NA	(147,506)	(162,459)	(14,953)
Total: PBGC, program level	.....	(476,901)	(479,013)	(2,112)
Enforcement of Wage and Hour Standards	D	227,061	235,730	8,669
Office of Labor-Management Standards	D	41,289	41,289	0
Federal Contractor EEO Standards Enforcement	D	105,187	105,187	0
Federal Programs for Workers' Compensation	D	115,720	115,720	0
Trust Funds	TF	2,120	2,120	0
Total: Federal Programs for Workers' Compensation		117,840	117,840	0
Federal Funds	.....	115,720	115,720	0
Trust Funds	.....	2,120	2,120	0
Special Benefits				
Federal employees compensation benefits	M	347,000	393,000	46,000
Longshore and harbor workers' benefits	M	3,000	3,000	0
Subtotal: Special Benefits	.....	350,000	396,000	46,000
Special Benefits for Disabled Coal Miners				
Benefit payments	M	177,000	158,000	−19,000
Administration	M	5,227	5,220	−7

FY 2013 LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

[$ in 000s]

		FY 2012 Comparable	Harkin Aendment	Harkin Amendment versus FY12*
Subtotal: Spec. Bens. for Disabled Coal Miners, program level	.....	182,227	163,220	−19,007
Less funds advanced in prior year	M	−41,000	−40,000	1,000
Total, Spec. Bens. for Disabled Coal Miners, current request	.....	141,227	123,220	−18,007
New advances, 1st quarter FY14	M	40,000	35,000	−5,000
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation	M	52,147	54,962	2,815
Black Lung Disability Trust Fund				
Benefit payments and interest on advances	M	242,609	250,043	7,434
Office of Workers' Compensation, S&E	M	32,906	32,906	0
Departmental Management S&E	M	25,217	25,217	0
Departmental Management, Inspector General	M	327	327	0
Subtotal: Black Lung Disability	.....	301,059	308,493	7,434
Treasury Adm. Costs	M	356	356	0
Total: Black Lung Disability Trust Fund	.....	301,415	308,849	7,434
Total: Office of Workers' Compensation Programs	.....	1,002,629	1,035,871	33,242
Federal Funds	.....	1,000,509	1,033,751	33,242
Current Year	.....	960,509	998,751	38,242
FY14	.....	40,000	35,000	−5,000
Trust Funds	.....	2,120	2,120	0
Occupational Safety and Health Administration S&E				
Safety and Health Standards	D	19,962	20,463	501
Federal Enforcement	D	207,753	207,075	−678
Whistleblower Enforcement	D	15,873	18,445	2,572
State Programs	D	104,196	104,196	0
Technical Support	D	25,819	24,880	−939
Compliance Assistance:				
Federal Assistance	D	76,355	76,355	0
State Consultation Grants	D	57,890	61,844	3,954
Training Grants	D	10,709	10,709	0
Subtotal: Compliance Assistance	D	144,954	148,908	3,954
Safety and Health Statistics	D	34,739	34,313	−426
Executive Direction and Administration	D	11,491	11,491	0
Total: OSHA	.....	564,787	569,771	4,984
Mine Safety and Health Administration S&E				
Coal Enforcement	D	164,500	166,180	1,680
Metal/Non-Metal Enforcement	D	89,063	90,380	1,317
Standards Development	D	4,765	5,090	325
Assessments/Accountability & Special Enforcement	D	7,103	6,732	−371
Educational Policy and Development	D	38,325	34,745	−3,580
Technical Support	D	33,613	33,613	0
Program Evaluation and Information Resources (PEIR)	D	18,157	17,990	−167
Program Administration	D	17,768	18,962	1,194
Total: MSHA	.....	373,294	373,692	398
Bureau of Labor Statistics S&E				
Employment and Unemployment Statistics	D	209,367	214,367	5,000
Labor Market Information	TF	67,176	67,176	0
Prices and Cost of Living	D	205,888	210,860	4,972
Compensation and Working Conditions	D	80,391	80,391	0
Productivity and Technology	D	12,013	12,013	0
Executive Direction and Staff Services	D	34,236	34,236	0
Total: Bureau of Labor Statistics	.....	609,071	619,043	9,972
Federal Funds	.....	541,895	551,867	9,972
Trust Funds	.....	67,176	67,176	0
Office of Disability Employment Policy S&E	D	38,879	38,953	74
Departmental Management				
Salaries and Expenses				
Executive Direction	D	33,220	32,722	−498
Departmental Program Evaluation	D	8,484	8,484	0
Legal Services	D	128,877	130,938	2,061
Trust Funds	TF	325	326	1
International Labor Affairs	D	92,309	92,309	0
Administration and Management	D	30,282	29,614	−668
Adjudication	D	29,172	29,496	324
Women's Bureau	D	11,559	11,559	0
Civil Rights Activities	D	6,785	7,273	488
Chief Financial Officer	D	5,340	5,340	0
Total: DM S&E	.....	346,353	348,061	1,708
Federal Funds	.....	346,028	347,735	1,707
Trust Funds	.....	325	326	1
Veterans Employment and Training				
State Administration, Grants	TF	165,081	172,000	6,919
Transition Assistance Program	TF	8,983	14,000	5,017
Federal Administration	TF	35,155	35,155	0
National Veterans Training Institute	TF	2,439	3,414	975
Homeless Veterans Program	D	38,185	38,185	0
Veterans Workforce Investment Programs	D	14,594	0	−14,594
Total: Veterans Employment and Training	.....	264,437	262,754	−1,683
Federal Funds	.....	52,779	38,185	−14,594
Trust Funds	.....	211,658	224,569	12,911

FY 2013 LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

[$ in 000s]

		FY 2012 Comparable	Harkin Aendment	Harkin Amendment versus FY12*
IT Modernization				
Departmental Support Systems	D	11,830	7,985	−3,845
IT Infrastructure Modernization	D	7,985	11,830	3,845
Total: IT Modernization	.....	19,815	19,815	0
Office of the Inspector General				
Program Activities	D	77,790	77,790	0
Trust Funds	TF	5,898	5,898	0
Total: Office of the Inspector General	.....	83,688	83,688	0
Total: Departmental Management	.....	714,293	714,318	25
Federal Funds	.....	496,412	483,525	−12,887
Current Year	.....	496,412	483,525	−12,887
Current Year (emergency)	.....	0	0	0
FY14	.....	0	0	0
Trust Funds	.....	217,881	230,793	12,912
Total: Department of Labor	.....	14,708,647	14,650,065	−58,582
Federal Funds	.....	10,370,661	10,514,314	143,653
Current Year	.....	8,558,661	8,707,314	148,653
FY14	.....	1,812,000	1,807,000	−5,000
Trust Funds	.....	4,337,986	4,135,751	−202,235
Two year availability.				
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES				
Health Resources and Services Administration	.....	.....	.....	.....
Health Resources and Services	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bureau of Primary Health Care.				
Community health centers	D	1,566,892	1,566,892	0
Free Clinics Medical Malpractice	D	40	40	0
Hansen's Disease Services	D	16,045	16,045	0
Buildings and Facilities	D	128	127	−1
Payment to Hawaii, treatment of Hansen's	D	1,960	1,960	0
Subtotal: Bureau of Primary Health Care	.....	1,585,065	1,585,064	−1
Health Professions				
Training for Diversity				
Centers of excellence	D	22,909	22,909	0
Health careers opportunity program	D	14,822	14,822	0
Faculty loan repayment	D	1,243	1,243	0
Scholarships for disadvantaged students	D	47,452	47,452	0
Subtotal: Training for Diversity	.....	86,426	86,426	0
Training in Primary Care Medicine	D	38,962	44,481	5,519
Oral Health Training	D	32,392	32,392	0
Interdisciplinary Community-Based Linkages				
Area health education centers	D	27,220	27,220	0
Geriatric education	D	30,629	30,629	0
Mental and Behavioral Health	D	2,892	4,000	1,108
Subtotal: Interdisciplinary Comm. Linkages	.....	60,741	61,849	1,108
Workforce information and analysis	D	2,782	5,000	2,218
Public health and preventive medicine training	D	8,111	10,111	2,000
Nursing programs				
Advanced Education Nursing	D	63,925	63,925	0
Nurse education, practice and retention	D	39,182	39,182	0
Nursing workforce diversity	D	15,819	15,819	0
Loan repayment and scholarship program	D	83,135	83,135	0
Comprehensive geriatric education	D	4,485	4,485	0
Nursing faculty loan program	D	24,553	24,553	0
Subtotal: Nursing programs	.....	231,099	231,099	0
Subtotal: Health Professions	.....	460,513	471,358	10,845
Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education	D	265,171	275,171	10,000
National Practitioner Data Bank	D	27,963	28,016	53
User Fees	D	−27,963	−28,016	−53
Subtotal: Bureau of Health Professions	.....	725,684	746,529	20,845
Maternal and Child Health Bureau				
Maternal & Child Health Block Grant	D	638,646	640,098	1,452
Sickle Cell Anemia Demonstration Program	D	4,665	4,665	0
Traumatic Brain Injury	D	9,760	9,760	0
Autism and Other Developmental Disorders	D	47,142	47,142	0
Heritable Disorders	D	9,834	11,834	2,000
Healthy Start	D	103,532	103,532	0
Universal Newborn Hearing	D	18,660	18,660	0
Emergency medical services for children	D	21,116	21,116	0
Subtotal: Maternal and Child Health Bureau	.....	853,355	856,807	3,452
HIV/AIDS Bureau				
Ryan White AIDS Programs				
Emergency Assistance	D	671,258	666,071	−5,187
Comprehensive Care Programs	D	1,355,640	1,390,827	35,187
AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)	NA	(933,299)	(963,299)	(30,000)
Early Intervention Program	D	215,086	215,086	0
Children, Youth, Women & Families—Part D	D	77,167	77,167	0
AIDS Dental Services	D	13,485	13,485	0
Education and Training Centers	D	34,542	34,542	0
Subtotal: Ryan White AIDS programs, appropriation	.....	2,367,178	2,397,178	30,000
Evaluation Tap Funding	NA	(25,000)	(25,000)	0
Subtotal: Ryan White AIDS programs, program level	.....	2,392,178	2,422,178	30,000
Subtotal: HIV/AIDS Bureau	.....	2,367,178	2,397,178	30,000

FY 2013 LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

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		FY 2012 Comparable	Harkin Aendment	Harkin Amendment versus FY12*
Healthcare Systems Bureau				
Organ Transplantation	D	24,015	24,015	0
National Cord Blood Inventory	D	11,887	11,887	0
Bone Marrow Program	D	23,330	23,330	0
Office of Pharmacy Affairs	D	4,472	4,472	0
340B Drug Pricing User Fees	D	0	6,000	6,000
User Fees	D	0	−6,000	−6,000
Poison control	D	18,830	18,830	0
Subtotal: Healthcare Systems Bureau	.....	82,534	82,534	0
Rural Health Programs.				
Rural outreach grants	D	55,553	55,553	0
Rural Health Research	D	9,866	9,866	0
Rural Hospital Flexibility Grants	D	41,040	41,040	0
Rural and Community Access to Emergency Devices	D	1,100	3,000	1,900
State Offices of Rural Health	D	10,036	10,036	0
Black lung clinics	D	7,140	7,140	0
Radiation Exposure Screening Education Program	D	1,935	1,935	0
Telehealth	D	11,502	11,502	0
Subtotal: Rural Health Programs	.....	138,172	140,072	1,900
Family Planning	D	293,870	293,870	0
Program Management	D	159,894	162,517	2,623
Total: Health resources and services, appropriation	.....	6,205,752	6,264,571	58,819
Evaluation Tap Funding (NA)	.....	(25,000)	(25,000)	0
Total: Health resources and services, program level	.....	6,230,752	6,289,571	58,819
Health Education Assistance Loans Program				
Liquidating account	NA	(1,000)	(1,000)	0
Program management	D	2,807	2,807	0
Total: HEAL	.....	2,807	2,807	0
Vaccine Injury Compensation Program TF				
Post-FY88 claims	M	235,000	235,000	0
HRSA administration	D	6,477	6,477	0
Total: Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund	.....	241,477	241,477	0
Total: HRSA, appropriation	.....	6,450,036	6,508,855	58,819
Evaluation Tap Funding (NA)	.....	(25,000)	(25,000)	0
HRSA, funded in this bill	.....	6,475,036	6,533,855	58,819
Prevention and Public Health Fund	.....	0	0	0
Total: HRSA, program level	.....	6,475,036	6,533,855	58,819
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention				
Immunization and Respiratory Diseases	D	576,083	525,201	−50,882
Balances from P.L. 111−32 Pandemic Flu	NA	0	(51,049)	51,049
Evaluation Tap Funding	NA	(12,864)	(12,864)	0
Subtotal: Immunization and Respiratory Disease	.....	588,947	589,114	167
HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention	D	1,099,934	1,101,956	2,022
Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases	D	252,476	266,458	13,982
Chronic Disease Prevention, Health Promotion and Genomics	D	756,377	797,081	40,704
Birth Defects, Developmental Disabilities, Disability and Health	D	137,287	132,037	−5,250
Public Health Scientific Services	D	143,972	129,614	−14,358
Evaluation Tap Funding	NA	(247,769)	(262,127)	(14,358)
Health Information and Service, program level	.....	391,741	391,741	0
Environmental Health	D	104,998	107,316	2,318
Injury Prevention and Control	D	137,693	137,693	0
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health[1]	D	181,864	181,222	−642
Evaluation Tap Funding	NA	(110,724)	(111,366)	(642)
Occupational Safety and Health, program level [1]	.....	292,588	292,588	0
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program	M	(55,358)	(55,358)	0
Global Health	D	347,594	353,794	6,200
Public Health Preparedness and Response	D	1,299,479	1,226,013	−73,466
Balances from P.L. 111–32 Pandemic Flu	NA	(30,000)	(154,876)	(124,876)
Public Health Preparedness and Response, Program Level	.....	1,329,479	1,380,889	51,410
Buildings and Facilities	.....	24,946	39,400	14,454
CDC-Wide Activities	D	592,967	591,500	−1,467
Total: Centers for Disease Control, appropriation	.....	5,711,028	5,644,643	−66,385
Mandatory Funding	.....	55,358	55,358	0
Discretionary Appropriation	.....	5,655,670	5,589,285	−66,385
Evaluation Tap Funding (NA)	.....	(371,357)	(386,357)	(15,000)
Balances from P.L. 111–32 Pandemic Flu	.....	(30,000)	(205,925)	(175,925)
Total: CDC, program level	.....	6,112,385	6,236,925	124,540
National Institutes of Health				
National Cancer Institute	D	5,062,805	5,090,976	28,171
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	D	3,073,329	3,090,430	17,101
National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research	D	409,951	412,232	2,281
Nat. Inst. of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases	D	1,793,721	1,803,702	9,981
Juvenile Diabetes (Mandatory)	NA	(150,000)	(150,000)	0
NIDDK, program level	.....	(1,943,721)	(1,953,702)	(9,981)
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke	D	1,623,357	1,632,390	9,033
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	D	4,482,138	4,507,078	24,940
National Institute of General Medical Sciences	D	2,425,588	2,479,085	53,497
Nat. Inst. of Child Health and Human Development	D	1,318,954	1,326,293	7,339
National Eye Institute	D	701,413	705,316	3,903

FY 2013 LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

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		FY 2012 Comparable	Harkin Aendment	Harkin Amendment versus FY12*
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	D	684,303	688,111	3,808
National Institute on Aging	D	1,120,401	1,126,636	6,235
Nat. Inst. Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases	D	534,795	537,771	2,976
Nat. Inst. on Deafness & Other Communication Disorders	D	415,504	417,816	2,312
National Institute of Nursing Research	D	144,502	145,306	804
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	D	458,669	461,221	2,552
National Institute on Drug Abuse	D	1,051,420	1,057,270	5,850
National Institute of Mental Health	D	1,477,528	1,485,749	8,221
National Human Genome Research Institute	D	512,263	515,113	2,850
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering	D	337,731	339,610	1,879
National Center for Research Resources	D	0	0	0
National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine	D	127,820	128,531	711
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities	D	275,929	277,464	1,535
John E. Fogarty International Center	D	69,493	69,880	387
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences	D	574,334	617,830	43,496
National Library of Medicine	D	364,822	366,852	2,030
Evaluation Tap Funding	NA	(8,200)	(8,200)	0
NLM, program level	.....	(373,022)	(375,052)	(2,030)
Office of the Director	D	1,457,181	1,465,289	8,108
Common Fund (NA)	NA	(544,930)	(547,962)	(3,032)
Buildings and Facilities	D	125,308	125,308	0
Total: National Institutes of Health, appropriation	.....	30,623,259	30,873,259	250,000
Evaluation Tap funding (NA)	.....	(8,200)	(8,200)	0
Total: National Institutes of Health, Program Level	.....	30,631,459	30,881,459	250,000
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Adm.				
Mental Health:				
Programs of Regional and National Significance	D	275,757	290,996	15,239
Mental Health Block Grant	D	438,717	448,717	10,000
Evaluation Tap Funding	NA	(21,039)	(21,039)	0
Mental Health Block Grant, program level	.....	459,756	469,756	10,000
State Prevention Grants	D	0	0	0
Children's Mental Health	D	117,314	117,315	1
Grants to States for the Homeless (PATH)	D	64,794	64,794	0
Protection and Advocacy	D	36,238	36,238	0
Subtotal: Mental Health, appropriation	.....	932,820	958,060	25,240
Subtotal: Mental Health, program level	.....	953,859	979,099	25,240
Substance Abuse Treatment:				
Programs of Regional and National Significance	D	398,243	373,568	−24,675
Evaluation Tap Funding	NA	(2,000)	(2,000)	0
Programs of Regional and National Significance, program level	.....	400,243	375,568	−24,675
Substance Abuse Prevention Grants	D	0	0	0
Substance Abuse Block Grant	D	1,721,132	1,741,132	20,000
Evaluation Tap Funding	NA	(79,200)	(79,200)	0
Substance Abuse Block Grant, program level	.....	1,800,332	1,820,332	20,000
Subtotal: Substance Abuse Treatment, appropriation	.....	2,119,375	2,114,700	−4,675
Subtotal: Substance Abuse Treatment, program level	.....	2,200,575	2,195,900	−4,675
Substance Abuse Prevention:				
Programs of Regional and National Significance	D	185,956	185,364	−592
Health Surveillance, Crosscutting Issues & Support				
Program Management	D	76,894	72,229	−4,665
Health Surveillance	D	1,996	1,996	0
Evaluation Tap Funding	NA	(27,428)	(27,428)	0
Surveillance, program level	.....	29,424	29,424	0
Military Families	D	3,493	3,500	7
Data Requests & Publications	D	0	1,500	1,500
User Fees	D	0	−1,500	−1,500
Public Awareness and Support	D	13,545	13,545	0
Performance and Quality Information Systems	D	12,940	12,940	0
Subtotal: Health Surveillance & Support appropriation	.....	108,868	104,210	−4,658
Subtotal: Health Surveillance & Support program level	.....	136,296	131,638	−4,658
Total: SAMHSA, appropriation	.....	3,347,019	3,362,334	15,315
Evaluation Tap Funding (NA)	.....	(129,667)	(129,667)	0
Total: SAMHSA, program level	.....	3,476,686	3,492,001	15,315
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality				
Research on Health Costs, Quality, and Outcomes (HCQO):				
HCQO, Federal Funds	D	0	0	0
HCQO, Evaluation Tap funding	NA	(235,768)	(219,931)	(−15,837)
Subtotal: Research on Health Costs, Quality, and Outcomes	.....	(235,768)	(219,931)	(−15,837)
Medical Expenditure Surveys, Federal Funds	D	0	0	0
Medical Expenditure Surveys, Evaluation Tap Funding	NA	(59,300)	(60,700)	(1,400)
Program Support, Federal Funds	D	0	0	0
Program Support, Evaluation Tap Funding	NA	(73,985)	(68,422)	(−5,563)
Total: AHRQ, appropriation	.....	0	0	0
Evaluation Tap Funding	.....	369,053	349,053	−20,000
Total: AHRQ, program level	.....	369,053	349,053	−20,000
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services				
Grants to States for Medicaid				
Medicaid current law benefits	M	253,884,907	250,398,918	−3,485,989
State and local administration	M	12,808,496	14,735,346	1,926,850
Vaccines for Children	M	4,030,996	4,271,015	240,019
Subtotal: Medicaid program level	.....	270,724,399	269,405,279	−1,319,120
Less funds advanced in prior year	M	−86,445,289	−90,614,082	−4,168,793
Total: Grants to States for Medicaid	.....	184,279,110	178,791,197	−5,487,913
New advance, 1st quarter	M	90,614,082	106,335,631	15,721,549

FY 2013 LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

[$ in 000s]

		FY 2012 Comparable	Harkin Aendment	Harkin Amendment versus FY12*
Payments to Health Care Trust Funds				
Supplemental medical insurance	M	178,041,000	189,520,000	11,479,000
Hospital insurance for the uninsured	M	0	0	0
Federal uninsured payment	M	262,000	228,000	−34,000
Program management	M	222,000	192,000	−30,000
General revenue for Part D benefit	M	51,431,000	60,744,000	9,313,000
General revenue for Part D federal administration	M	475,000	424,000	−51,000
Reimbursement for HCFAC	M	310,378	309,790	−588
Subtotal: Payments to trust funds, program level	.....	230,741,378	251,417,790	20,676,412
Less funds advanced in prior year	.....	0	0	0
Total: Payments to trust funds, current law	.....	230,741,378	251,417,790	20,676,412
Program Management				
Research, Demonstration and Evaluation	TF	21,160	21,160	0
Program Operations	TF	2,608,785	2,608,785	0
State Survey and Certification	TF	375,203	381,278	6,075
High Risk Insurance Pools	TF	44,000	44,000	0
Federal Administration	TF	770,963	770,964	1
				0
Total: Program Management lim. on new BA	.....	3,820,111	3,826,187	6,076
Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control				
Discretionary MIP	TF	219,463	219,463	0
Office of Inspector General	TF	29,674	29,674	0
Department of Justice	TF	29,674	29,674	0
Medicaid/SCHIP PERM	TF	30,979	30,979	0
Total: Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control	.....	309,790	309,790	0
Total: Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	.....	509,764,471	540,680,595	30,916,124
Federal Funds	.....	505,634,570	536,544,618	30,910,048
Current year	.....	415,020,488	430,208,987	15,188,499
New advance, FY14	.....	90,614,082	106,335,631	15,721,549
Trust Funds	.....	4,129,901	4,135,977	6,076
Administration for Children and Families				
Family Support Payments to States				
Payments to territories	M	33,000	33,000	0
Repatriation	M	1,000	1,000	0
Subtotal: Welfare payments	.....	34,000	34,000	0
Child Support Enforcement:				
State and local administration	M	3,780,819	3,272,647	−508,172
Federal incentive payments	M	526,158	539,838	13,680
Access and visitation	M	10,000	10,000	0
Subtotal: Child Support Enforcement	.....	4,316,977	3,822,485	−494,492
Total: Family support payments, program level	.....	4,350,977	3,856,485	−494,492
Less funds advanced in previous years	M	−1,200,000	−1,100,000	100,000
Total: Family support payments, current year	.....	3,150,977	2,756,485	−394,492
New advance, 1st quarter, FY14	M	1,100,000	1,100,000	0
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program				
Formula grants (non-emergency)	D	3,471,672	3,471,672	0
Refugee and Entrant Assistance				
Transitional and Medical Services	D	323,195	412,875	89,680
Victims of Trafficking	D	9,775	9,775	0
Social Services	D	124,305	153,407	29,102
Preventive Health	D	4,730	4,730	0
Targeted Assistance	D	28,073	48,401	20,328
Unaccompanied Alien Children	D	267,211	363,767	96,556
Victims of Torture	D	11,045	11,045	0
Total: Refugee and Entrant Assistance	.....	768,334	1,004,000	235,666
Child Care and Development Block Grant	D	2,278,313	2,388,313	110,000
Social Services Block Grant (Title XX)	M	1,700,000	1,700,000	0
Children and Family Services Programs				
Programs for Children, Youth and Families:				
Head Start, current funded	D	7,968,544	8,018,544	50,000
Consolidated Runaway, Homeless Youth Prog.	D	97,355	97,355	0
Prevention Grants to Reduce Abuse of Runaway Youth	D	17,901	17,901	0
Child Abuse State Grants	D	26,432	26,432	0
Child Abuse Discretionary Activities	D	25,744	28,744	3,000
Community Based Child Abuse Prevention	D	41,527	41,527	0
Abandoned Infants Assistance	D	11,553	11,553	0
Child Welfare Services	D	280,650	280,650	0
Child Welfare Training	D	26,092	26,092	0
Adoption Opportunities	D	39,179	39,179	0
Adoption Incentives	D	39,346	39,346	0
Social Services and Income Maintenance Research	D	0	0	0
Evaluation Tap Funding	NA	(5,762)	5,762	0
Native American Programs	D	48,583	48,583	0
Community Services:				
Community Services Block Grant Act:				
Grants to States for Community Services	D	677,358	677,358	0
Economic Development	D	29,943	34,943	5,000
Rural Community Facilities	D	4,981	5,981	1,000
Subtotal: CSBG Act	.....	712,282	718,282	6,000
Individual Development Account Initiative	D	19,869	17,000	−2,869
Subtotal: Community Services	.....	732,151	735,282	3,131
Domestic Violence Hotline	D	3,197	4,500	1,303
Family Violence/Battered Women's Shelters	D	129,547	135,000	5,453
Independent Living Training Vouchers	D	45,174	45,174	0
Faith-Based Center	D	1,370	1,370	0
Disaster Human Services Case Management	D	1,992	1,992	0

FY 2013 LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

[$ in 000s]

		FY 2012 Comparable	Harkin Aendment	Harkin Amendment versus FY12*
Program Direction	D	198,645	201,645	3,000
Total: Children and Family Services Programs, appropriation	.....	9,734,982	9,800,869	65,887
Current Year	.....	9,734,982	9,800,869	65,887
Evaluation Tap Funding (NA)	.....	(5,762)	(5,762)	0
Total: Children and Family Services Programs, program level	.....	9,740,744	9,806,631	65,887
Promoting Safe and Stable Families	M	345,000	345,000	0
Discretionary Funds	D	63,065	63,065	0
Payments for Foster Care and Permanency.				
Foster Care	M	4,288,000	4,143,000	−145,000
Adoption Assistance	M	2,495,000	2,537,000	42,000
Independent living	M	140,000	140,000	0
Kinship Guardianship	M	80,000	90,000	10,000
Total: Payments to States	.....	7,003,000	6,910,000	−93,000
Less Advances from Prior Year	M	−1,850,000	−2,100,000	−250,000
Total: Current year	.....	5,153,000	4,810,000	−343,000
New Advance, 1st quarter	M	2,100,000	2,200,000	100,000
Total: Administration for Children and Families, appropriation	.....	29,865,343	29,639,404	−225,939
Current Year	.....	26,665,343	26,339,404	−325,939
Evaluation Tap Funding (NA)	.....	(5,762)	(5,762)	0
Total: Administration for Children and Families, program level	.....	29,871,105	29,645,166	−225,939
Total: Administration for Children and Families, discretionary	.....	16,316,366	16,727,919	411,553
Administration for Community Living				
Aging and Disability Services Programs				
Grants to States:				
Supportive Services and Centers	D	366,916	366,916	0
Preventive Health	D	20,944	20,944	0
Protection of Vulnerable Older Americans—Title VII	D	21,798	21,798	0
Family Caregivers	D	153,621	153,621	0
Native American Caregivers Support	D	6,376	6,364	−12
Subtotal: Caregivers	.....	159,997	159,985	−12
Nutrition:				
Congregate Meals	D	439,070	439,070	0
Home Delivered Meals	D	216,830	216,830	0
Nutrition Services Incentive program	D	160,389	160,389	0
Subtotal: Nutrition	.....	816,289	816,289	0
Grants for Native Americans	D	27,601	27,601	0
Aging Network Support Activities	D	7,873	7,873	0
Alzheimer's Disease Demonstrations	D	4,010	4,010	0
Lifespan Respite Care	D	2,490	2,490	0
Adult Protective Services Demonstrations	D	0	5,000	5,000
Senior Medicare Patrol Program	D	9,402	9,402	0
Elder Rights Support Activities	D	4,088	4,088	0
Aging & Disability Resource Centers	D	6,457	6,457	0
State Health Insurance Program (SHIPs)	TF	52,115	52,115	0
Developmental Disabilities Programs:				
State Councils	D	74,774	74,774	0
Protection and Advocacy	D	40,865	40,865	0
Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities	D	5,235	5,235	0
Developmental Disabilities Projects of National Significance	D	8,317	8,317	0
University Ctrs. for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities	D	38,792	38,792	0
Subtotal: Developmental Disabilities Programs	.....	167,983	167,983	0
Program Adminstration	D	29,311	29,652	341
Total: Administration for Community Living	.....	1,697,274	1,702,603	5,329
Federal Funds	.....	1,645,159	1,650,488	5,329
Trust Funds	.....	52,115	52,115	0
Administration for Community Living Program Level	.....	1,697,274	1,702,603	5,329
Office of the Secretary				
General Departmental Management				
Federal Funds	D	218,262	223,253	4,991
Trust Funds	TF	0	0	0
Subtotal	.....	218,262	223,253	4,991
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	D	104,592	104,592	0
Eval Tap	NA	(8,455)	(8,455)	0
Subtotal	.....	113,047	113,047	0
Minority Health	D	55,782	55,782	0
Abstinence Education	D	4,991	5,000	9
Office of Women's Health	D	33,682	29,120	−4,562
Minority HIV/AIDS	D	53,681	53,681	0
Embryo Adoption Awareness Campaign	D	1,996	1,996	0
Planning and Evaluation (Eval Tap)	NA	(60,756)	(60,756)	0
Total: General Department Management	.....	542,197	542,635	438
Federal Funds	.....	472,986	473,424	438
Evaluation Tap	.....	(69,211)	(69,211)	0
Trust Funds	.....	0	0	0
Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals	TF	72,011	79,908	7,897
Office of the Nat'l Coord. for Health IT	D	16,415	16,415	0
Evaluation Tap Funding	NA	(44,811)	(49,842)	(5,031)

FY 2013 LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

[$ in 000s]

		FY 2012 Comparable	Harkin Aendment	Harkin Amendment versus FY12*
Health Information Technology, program level	.....	(61,226)	(66,257)	(5,031)
Office of the Inspector General				
Federal Funds	D	50,083	55,483	5,400
HIPAA funding (NA)	NA	(196,090)	(196,669)	(579)
Evaluation Tap Funding	NA	0	0	0
Total: Office of the Inspector General, appropriation	.....	50,083	55,483	5,400
Total: Office of the Inspector General, program level	.....	(246,173)	(252,152)	(5,979)
Office for Civil Rights				
Federal Funds	D	40,938	38,966	−1,972
Trust Funds	TF	0	0	0
Total: Office for Civil Rights	.....	40,938	38,966	−1,972
Trust Funds	.....	0	0	0
Federal Funds	.....	40,938	38,966	−1,972
Medical Benefits for Commissioned Officers				
Retirement payments	M	375,016	395,452	20,436
Survivors benefits	M	28,350	31,043	2,693
Dependents' medical care	M	93,984	100,656	6,672
Total: Medical benefits for commissioned officers	.....	497,350	527,151	29,801
Public Health and Social Service Emergency Fund				
Asst. Sec. for Preparedness & Response:				
Operations	D	32,982	32,982	0
Preparedness & Emergency Operations	D	29,583	24,647	−4,936
National Disaster Medical System	D	52,735	52,390	−345
Hospital Preparedness	D	374,650	323,004	−51,646
ESAR–VHP	D	4,989	4,990	1
Biomedical Advanced Research & Development	D	415,000	445,000	30,000
Medical Countermeasure Strategic Investor	D	0	15,000	15,000
Medical Countermeasure Dispensing	D	0	5,000	5,000
Policy, Strategic Planning & Communications	D	15,674	15,164	−510
Subtotal: ASPR	.....	925,613	918,177	−7,436
Assistant Sec. for Administration/Cyber-Security	D	39,924	40,000	76
Assistant Secretary for Health/Medical Reserve Corps	D	11,247	10,971	−276
Office of the Secretary:				
HHS Lease Replacement	D	0	17,000	17,000
Office of Security & Strategic Information	D	6,448	7,428	980
Subtotal: OS appropriation	.....	6,448	24,428	17,980
Total: PHSSEF appropriation	.....	983,232	993,576	10,344
Total: Office of the Secretary	.....	2,133,015	2,184,923	51,908
Federal Funds	.....	2,061,004	2,105,015	44,011
Trust Funds	.....	72,011	79,908	7,897
Total: Department of Health and Human Services	.....	589,591,445	620,596,616	31,005,171
Federal Funds	.....	585,337,418	616,328,616	30,991,198
Current year	.....	491,523,336	506,692,985	15,169,649
FY14 advance	.....	93,814,082	109,635,631	15,821,549
Trust Funds	.....	4,254,027	4,268,000	13,973
Includes Mine Safety and Health				
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION				
Education for the Disadvantaged				
Grants to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)				
Basic Grants				
Advance from prior year	NA	(2,956,911)	(2,962,510)	(5,599)
Forward funded	D	3,611,410	3,611,410	0
Current funded	D	3,984	3,984	0
Subtotal: Basic Grants, current year approp.	.....	3,615,394	3,615,394	0
Subtotal: Basic Grants, total	.....	(6,572,305)	(6,577,904)	(5,599)
Basic Grants FY14 Advance	D	2,962,510	2,962,510	0
Subtotal: Basic Grants, program level	.....	6,577,904	6,577,904	0
Concentration Grants				
Advance from prior year	NA	(1,359,726)	(1,362,301)	(2,575)
FY14 Advance	D	1,362,301	1,362,301	0
Subtotal: Concentration Grants, program level	.....	1,362,301	1,362,301	0
Targeted Grants				
Advance from prior year	NA	(3,252,025)	(3,258,183)	(6,158)
Forward Funded	D	29,943	92,443	62,500
FY14 Advance	D	3,258,183	3,258,183	0
Subtotal: Targeted Grants, program level	.....	3,288,126	3,350,626	62,500
Education Finance Incentive Grants				
Advance from prior year	NA	(3,252,025)	(3,258,183)	(6,158)
Forward Funded	D	29,943	92,443	62,500
FY14 Advance	D	3,258,183	3,258,183	0
Subtotal: Education Finance Incentive Grants, program level	.....	3,288,126	3,350,626	62,500
Subtotal: Grants to LEAs (program level)	.....	14,516,457	14,641,457	125,000
School Improvement Grants	D	533,552	533,552	0
Striving Readers	D	159,698	159,698	0
State Agency Programs:.				
Migrant	D	393,236	393,236	0
Neglected and Delinquent/High Risk Youth	D	50,231	50,231	0
Evaluation	D	3,194	3,100	−94
High School Graduation Initiative	D	48,809	48,809	0
Special Programs for Migrant Students	D	36,526	36,526	0

FY 2013 LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

[$ in 000s]

		FY 2012 Comparable	Harkin Aendment	Harkin Amendment versus FY12*
Total: Education for the Disadvantaged	.....	15,741,703	15,866,609	124,906
Current Year	.....	4,900,526	5,025,432	124,906
FY14	.....	10,841,177	10,841,177	0
Subtotal: Forward Funded	.....	4,808,013	4,933,013	125,000
Impact Aid				
Basic Support Payments	D	1,153,540	1,173,540	20,000
Payments for Children with Disabilities	D	48,413	48,413	0
Facilities Maintenance (Sec. 8008)	D	4,845	4,845	0
Construction (Sec. 8007)	D	17,441	17,441	0
Payments for Federal Property (Sec. 8002)	D	66,947	66,947	0
Total: Impact Aid	.....	1,291,186	1,311,186	20,000
School Improvement Programs				
State Grants for Improving Teacher Quality	D	785,126	785,126	0
Advance from prior year	NA	(1,678,263)	(1,681,441)	(3,178)
FY14	D	1,681,441	1,681,441	0
State Grants for Improving Teacher Quality, program level	.....	2,466,567	2,466,567	0
Mathematics and Science Partnerships	D	149,716	149,716	0
Supplemental Education Grants	D	17,619	17,619	0
21st Century Community Learning Centers	D	1,151,673	1,151,673	0
State Assessments/Enhanced Assessment Instruments	D	389,214	389,214	0
Education for Homeless Children & Youth	D	65,173	65,173	0
Training and Advisory Services (Civil Rights)	D	6,962	6,962	0
Education for Native Hawaiians	D	34,181	34,181	0
Alaska Native Education Equity	D	33,185	33,185	0
Rural Education	D	179,193	188,693	9,500
Comprehensive Centers	D	51,113	51,113	0
Total: School improvement programs	.....	4,544,596	4,554,096	9,500
Current Year	.....	2,863,155	2,872,655	9,500
FY14	.....	1,681,441	1,681,441	0
Subtotal: Forward funded	.....	2,720,095	2,729,595	9,500
Indian Education				
Grants to Local Educational Agencies	D	105,921	105,921	0
Federal Programs:	.....	.....	0	0
Special Programs for Indian Children	D	18,986	18,986	0
National Activities	D	5,872	5,872	0
Subtotal: Federal Programs	.....	24,858	24,858	0
Total: Indian Education	.....	130,779	130,779	0
Innovation and Improvement				
Race to the Top	D	548,960	549,284	324
Investing in Innovation	D	149,417	149,417	0
Transition to Teaching	D	26,054	18,200	−7,854
School Leadership	D	29,107	14,097	−15,010
Charter Schools Grants	D	254,836	254,836	0
Magnet Schools Assistance	D	96,733	96,733	0
Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE)	D	65,776	79,220	13,444
Teacher Incentive Fund, current funded	D	299,433	299,433	0
Ready-to-Learn Television	D	27,194	27,194	0
Advanced Placement	D	30,027	36,027	6,000
Total: Innovation and Improvement	.....	1,527,537	1,524,441	−3,096
Safe Schools and Citizenship Education				
Promise Neighborhoods	D	59,887	80,000	20,113
National Activities	D	64,877	48,600	−16,277
Elementary and Secondary School Counseling	D	52,296	52,296	0
Carol M. White Physical Education Program	D	78,693	78,693	0
Total: Safe Schools and Citizenship Education	.....	255,753	259,589	3,836
English Language Acquisition				
Current funded	D	47,589	47,589	0
Forward funded	D	684,555	684,555	0
Total: English Language Acquisition	.....	732,144	732,144	0
Special Education				
State Grants				
Grants to States Part B	D	2,294,472	2,434,472	140,000
Advance from prior year	NA	(8,576,143)	(9,283,383)	(707,240)
FY14	D	9,283,383	9,283,383	0
Grants to States, program level	.....	11,577,855	11,717,855	140,000
Preschool Grants	D	372,646	372,646	0
Grants for Infants and Families	D	442,710	452,710	10,000
Subtotal: State grants, program level	.....	12,393,211	12,543,211	150,000
IDEA National Activities (current funded):				
State Personnel Development	D	43,917	45,011	1,094
Technical Assistance and Dissemination	D	54,781	54,781	0
Personnel Preparation	D	88,299	86,205	−2,094
Parent Information Centers	D	28,917	29,917	1,000
Technology and Media Services	D	29,588	29,588	0
Subtotal: IDEA National Activities	.....	245,502	245,502	0
Special Olympics Education Programs	D	0	.....	.....
Promoting Readiness of Minors in SSI (PROMISE)	D	1,996	1,996	0
Total: Special Education	.....	12,640,709	12,790,709	150,000
Current Year	.....	3,357,326	3,507,326	150,000

FY 2013 LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

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		FY 2012 Comparable	Harkin Aendment	Harkin Amendment versus FY12*
FY14	.....	9,283,383	9,283,383	0
Subtotal: Forward funded	.....	3,109,828	3,259,828	150,000
Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research				
Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants	M	3,121,712	3,230,972	109,260
Discretionary modification	NA	0	0	0
Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants, Program Level	.....	3,121,712	3,230,972	109,260
Client Assistance State grants	D	12,240	12,240	0
Training	D	35,515	35,515	0
Demonstration and training programs	D	5,325	6,075	750
Migrant and seasonal farmworkers	D	1,262	1,262	0
Protection and advocacy of individual rights (PAIR)	D	18,031	18,031	0
Supported employment State grants	D	29,068	29,068	0
Independent living:				
State grants	D	23,359	23,359	0
Centers	D	79,953	79,953	0
Services for older blind individuals	D	34,018	34,018	0
Subtotal: Independent living	.....	137,330	137,330	0
Helen Keller National Center for Deaf/Blind Youth and Adults	D	9,145	9,145	0
National Institute on Disability and Rehab. Research (NIDRR)	D	108,817	106,817	−2,000
Assistive Technology	D	32,836	37,771	4,935
Subtotal: Discretionary Programs	.....	389,569	393,254	3,685
Total: Rehabilitation Services	.....	3,511,281	3,624,226	112,945
Special Institutions for Persons with Disabilities				
American Printing House for the Blind	D	24,505	24,505	0
National Technical Institute for the Deaf				
Operations	D	65,422	65,422	0
Construction	D	0	0	0
Subtotal: NTID	.....	65,422	65,422	0
Gallaudet University				
Operations	D	117,541	117,541	0
Construction	D	7,975	7,000	−975
Subtotal, Gallaudet	.....	125,516	124,541	−975
Total: Special Institutions for Persons with Disabilities	.....	215,443	214,468	−975
Career, Technical and Adult Education				
Career and Technical Education				
State Grants:				
State grants, current funded	D	332,030	332,030	0
Advance from prior year	NA	(789,505)	(791,000)	(1,495)
FY14	D	791,000	791,000	0
State Grants, program level	.....	1,123,030	1,123,030	0
National Programs	D	7,829	7,829	0
Subtotal: Career and Technical Education	.....	1,130,859	1,130,859	0
Adult Education:				
State Grants/Adult basic and literacy education				
State Grants	D	594,993	594,993	0
National Programs				
National Leadership Activities	D	11,302	11,302	0
Subtotal: National programs	.....	11,302	11,302	0
Subtotal: Adult Education	.....	606,295	606,295	0
Total: Career, Technical and Adult education	.....	1,737,154	1,737,154	0
Current Year	.....	946,154	946,154	0
FY14	.....	791,000	791,000	0
Subtotal: Forward funded	.....	946,154	946,154	0
Student Financial Assistance				
Pell Grants—maximum grant	NA	(4,860)	(4,860)	0
Pell Grants	D	22,824,000	22,824,000	0
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants	D	734,599	734,599	0
Federal Work Study	D	976,682	976,682	0
Total: Student Financial Assistance	.....	24,535,281	24,535,281	0
Student Aid Administration				
Administrative Costs	D	675,750	711,618	35,868
Servicing activities	D	367,637	393,745	26,108
Total: Student Aid Administration	.....	1,043,387	1,105,363	61,976
Higher Education				
Aid for Institutional Development:				
Strengthening Institutions	D	80,623	80,623	0
Hispanic Serving Institutions	D	100,432	100,432	0
Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opp. For Hispanic Americans	D	9,011	9,011	0
Strengthening Historically Black Colleges (HBCUs)	D	227,980	227,980	0
Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Insts.	D	58,958	58,958	0
Strengthening Predominately Black Insts.	D	9,262	9,262	0
Asian American Pacific Islander	D	3,119	3,119	0
Strengthening Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian-Serving Insts.	D	12,859	12,859	0
Strengthening Native American Non-tribal Colleges	D	3,119	3,119	0
Strengthening Tribal Colleges	D	25,713	25,713	0
Subtotal: Aid for Institutional development	.....	531,076	531,076	0
International Education and Foreign Language:				
Domestic Programs	D	66,586	67,432	846
Overseas Programs	D	7,451	7,451	0
Subtotal: International Ed and Foreign Language	.....	74,037	74,883	846
Fund for the Improvement of Postsec. Ed. (FIPSE)	D	3,494	29,494	26,000

FY 2013 LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

[$ in 000s]

		FY 2012 Comparable	Harkin Aendment	Harkin Amendment versus FY12*
Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities	D	10,957	10,957	0
Minority Science and Engineering Improvement	D	9,466	9,466	0
Tribally Controlled Postsec Vocational and Technical Institutions	D	8,131	8,131	0
Federal TRIO Programs	D	839,932	854,932	15,000
GEAR UP	D	302,244	302,244	0
Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need	D	30,909	30,909	0
Teacher Quality Partnership	D	42,833	42,833	0
Child Care Access Means Parents in School	D	15,970	15,970	0
GPRA data/HEA program evaluation	D	607	607	0
Total: Higher Education	.....	1,869,656	1,911,502	41,846
Howard University				
Academic Program	D	201,637	201,637	0
Endowment Program	D	3,593	3,593	0
Howard University Hospital	D	28,834	28,834	0
Total: Howard University	.....	234,064	234,064	0
College Housing and Acad. Facilities Loans (CHAFL)	D	459	459	0
HBCU Capital Financing Program				
Federal Admin	D	352	352	0
Loan Subsidies	D	20,150	20,150	0
Total: HBCU Capital Financing Program	.....	20,502	20,502	0
Institute of Education Sciences				
Research, development and dissemination	D	189,787	189,787	0
Statistics	D	108,748	112,748	4,000
Regional Educational Laboratories	D	57,426	57,426	0
Research in Special Education	D	49,905	49,905	0
Special Education Studies and Evaluations	D	11,415	11,415	0
Statewide Data Systems	D	38,077	38,077	0
Assessment:	.....	.....	.....	0
National Assessment	D	129,616	124,616	−5,000
National Assessment Governing Board	D	8,690	7,690	−1,000
Subtotal: Assessment	.....	138,306	132,306	−6,000
Total: IES	.....	593,664	591,664	−2,000
Departmental Management				
Program Administration				
Salaries and Expenses	D	446,259	446,259	0
Building Modernization	D	0	2,211	2,211
Subtotal: Program Administration	.....	446,259	448,470	2,211
Office for Civil Rights	D	102,624	102,624	0
Office of the Inspector General	D	59,820	59,820	0
Total: Departmental Management	.....	608,703	610,914	2,211
Total: Department of Education	.....	71,234,001	71,755,150	521,149
Current Year	.....	48,637,000	49,158,149	521,149
FY14	.....	22,597,001	22,597,001	0
RELATED AGENCIES				
Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled	D	5,375	5,375	0
Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)				
Domestic Volunteer Service Programs				
Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)	D	94,820	94,820	0
National Senior Volunteer Corps:				
Foster Grandparents Program	D	110,565	110,565	0
Senior Companion Program	D	46,722	46,722	0
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	D	50,204	50,204	0
Subtotal: Senior Volunteers	.....	207,491	207,491	0
Subtotal: Domestic Volunteer Service Programs	.....	302,311	302,311	0
National and Community Service Programs				
AmeriCorps Grants	D	344,348	344,348	0
Disability Placement Funds	D	0	0	0
Innovation, Assistance, and Other Activities	D	53,280	53,014	−266
Evaluation	D	2,994	3,994	1,000
National Civilian Community Corps	D	31,882	30,742	−1,140
State Commission Grants	D	15,437	15,437	0
Subtotal: National and Community Service Programs	.....	447,941	447,535	−406
Total, Operating Expenses	.....	750,252	749,846	−406
Payment to the National Service Trust	D	211,797	208,744	−3,053
CNCS, Salaries and Expenses	D	82,843	85,886	3,043
Office of the Inspector General	D	3,992	5,400	1,408
Total: Corporation for National and Community Service	.....	1,048,884	1,049,876	992
Corporation for Public Broadcasting				
Budget Year +2 (Current Request)	D	445,000	445,000	0
Budget Year +1	NA	(445,000)	(445,000)	0
Budget Year	NA	(444,159)	(445,000)	(841)
Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service	D	46,163	46,163	0
Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission	D	17,604	17,000	−604
Institute of Museum and Library Services	D	231,954	231,954	0
Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission	D	5,989	7,500	1,511
Medicare Payment Advisory Commission	TF	11,778	11,778	0
National Council on Disability	D	3,258	3,258	0
National Health Care Workforce Commission	D	0	0	0
National Labor Relations Board	D	278,306	278,306	0
National Mediation Board	D	13,411	13,411	0
Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission	D	11,667	11,667	0
Railroad Retirement Board				
Dual Benefits Payments Account	D	50,904	45,000	−5,904
Less Income Tax Receipts on Dual Benefits	D	−2,000	−3,000	−1,000

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[$ in 000s]

		FY 2012 Comparable	Harkin Aendment	Harkin Amendment versus FY12*
Subtotal: Dual Benefits	.....	48,904	42,000	−6,904
Federal Payment to the RR Retirement Account	M	150	150	0
Limitation on Administration	TF	108,649	111,149	2,500
Inspector General	TF	8,155	8,155	0
Social Security Administration				
Payments to Social Security Trust Funds	M	20,404	20,402	−2
Supplemental Security Income				
Federal benefit payments	M	47,557,000	54,245,000	6,688,000
Beneficiary services	M	47,000	0	−47,000
Research and demonstration	M	7,998	17,000	9,002
Administration	D	3,611,552	4,061,552	450,000
Subtotal: SSI program level	.....	51,223,550	58,323,552	7,100,002
Less funds advanced in prior year	M	−13,400,000	−18,200,000	−4,800,000
Total: SSI, current request	.....	37,823,550	40,123,552	2,300,002
New advance, 1st quarter, FY12	M	18,200,000	19,300,000	1,100,000
Limitation on Administrative Expenses				
OASDI Trust Funds	TF	5,320,028	4,870,028	−450,000
HI/SMI Trust Funds	TF	2,089,794	2,089,794	0
Social Security Advisory Board	TF	2,146	2,146	0
Acquisition Workforce Capacity & Capabilities	D	0	0	0
SSI	TF	3,123,576	3,573,576	450,000
Subtotal: Regular LAE	.....	10,535,544	10,535,544	0
Program Integrity Funding:				
OASDI Trust Funds	TF	268,076	268,076	0
SSI	TF	487,976	487,976	0
Subtotal: Program Integrity Funding	.....	756,052	756,052	0
SSI User Fee Activities	D	153,596	170,000	16,404
SSPA User Fee Activities	D	998	1,000	2
Total: LAE	.....	11,446,190	11,462,596	16,406
Office of Inspector General				
Federal Funds	D	28,887	28,887	0
Trust Funds	TF	73,396	75,396	2,000
Total: Office of Inspector General	.....	102,283	104,283	2,000
Federal Funds	.....	28,887	28,887	0
Trust Funds	.....	73,396	75,396	2,000
Adjustment: Trust fund transfers from general revenues	TF	−3,611,552	−4,061,552	−450,000
Total: Social Security Administration	.....	63,980,875	66,949,281	2,968,406
Federal funds	.....	56,227,435	59,643,841	3,416,406
Current year	.....	38,027,435	40,343,841	2,316,406
New advances, 1st quarter	.....	18,200,000	19,300,000	1,100,000
Trust funds	.....	7,753,440	7,305,440	−448,000
Total: Related agencies	.....	66,266,122	69,232,023	2,965,901
Federal Funds	.....	58,384,100	61,795,501	3,411,401
Current Year	.....	39,739,100	42,050,501	2,311,401
2013 Advance	.....	18,200,000	19,300,000	1,100,000
2014 Advance	.....	445,000	445,000	0
Trust Funds	.....	7,882,022	7,436,522	−445,500
Emergency Appropriations	.....	0	0	0

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I wish to speak on the bill and comment on the amendment.

First of all, I want to say to the Senator from Iowa how much I admire him and the fantastic job he has done on behalf of the poor, people who didn't have health care, and the disabled people who had no voice in Washington. I want the Senator to know I am so sorry he is retiring. I really am. The Senator is neither shy nor retiring in the leadership role he played and the very pragmatic solutions he came up with over the years.

If I may ask, how long has the Senator chaired the subcommittee on Labor-HHS?

Mr. HARKIN. Before I respond specifically to the question, let me also state how proud I am of the Senator from Maryland and her long service, now the longest serving woman in the history of the Senate, and her devotion to the underprivileged, to those who lack a voice and a vote in the Senate. There is no one stronger for them than the Senator from Maryland.

It has been a pleasure of mine to work with the Senator through all these years. I can honestly say I don't remember any time we have ever disagreed on anything.

Ms. MIKULSKI. The Senator is correct. If I might comment back, we sound like two war horses at the VFW Hall. The next thing, if it wasn't prohibited, we would be doing shooters on the Senate floor.

Mr. HARKIN. I appreciate the Senator's sentiments. One of the things which makes me feel comfortable about retiring is knowing this committee is left in good hands, and I mean that, really good hands.

To answer the Senator's question, I have been either chair or ranking member of this subcommittee since 1989. When the Democrats were in charge I was chair up until 1995, and then Senator Specter was chair from then until 2001. Following that, I became chair for about a year and a half or two. It went back to Republicans, and I picked it back up again in 2007. Since 1989, I was chairman or ranking member of the subcommittee.

Ms. MIKULSKI. This would be, in 2014, essentially the Senator's diamond jubilee, 25 years.

Mr. HARKIN. Yes.

Ms. MIKULSKI. We could exchange a lot of things about diamonds, but that would be quite a benchmark.

This is what I am going to say: What we would like to do is return to regular order where the Senator could have brought his bill to the floor all by itself—not in the midst of a threat of a showdown, shutdown, lockdown. He could have brought it up with his ranking member. Now you have the Senator from Kansas, Mr. MORAN, and we have open, public debate, transparent, going through category after category: education, special education, funding for the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Labor, all of those things.

The Senator's subcommittee is one of the most robust, other than defense, and second in size in expenditure. It funds the entire Department of Labor, the entire Department of Education, and the entire Department of Health and Human Services. Under that, there are spectacular agencies and independent agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, which is literally headquartered in my hometown of Baltimore.

It has, I would say, 40 percent of the domestic expenditures which meet compelling human need. It also funds the kinds of programs we need for the workforce of the future and our research of the future.

The Senator deserves to have his day. Anyone who wishes to analyze it, scrutinize it, amend it, improve it from both sides of the aisle should do this.

I say to my colleague, what I want to do is get this bill through this Senate, working with my colleague Senator SHELBY, who has been my ranking member over the years and who is so well versed on the agreement. Essentially, the ideal situation would have been regular order where we would have passed our bills before October 1. You could have been on the Senate floor.

Now we are in something called a continuing resolution where the entire Federal Government is in one package. Everybody is trying to parse it, understand it, and they should. This is not the way to govern. We shouldn't be threatened with these deadlines and kind of an ultimatum-type situation.

We are going to try to do the best we can. The Senator has made his point and done it robustly. He produced a great bill, along with Senator SHELBY, in terms of coming out of the subcommittee, and then fashioned it. It is not only great on content, policy, but it has the sense of receiving value for the dollar as well and keeps an eye on that.

At the same time, we were able to fashion a bipartisan agreement, but you couldn't move the bill. Here we are now into this larger issue. My job is to get this bill through the Senate, working with Senator SHELBY. This is our job.

I am going to say to Senator HARKIN and to all Members on both sides of the aisle, we need to get back to regular order. We can't be doing big bills nobody understands, that everybody is suspicious of. We need to be able to do this the way the founders of the Appropriations Committee wanted us to, committee by committee, out in the open, with full and open debate where we could focus on the content. When we bring Commerce-Justice-Science, we can focus on the Justice Department, focus on Federal law enforcement, and focus on science programs.

We can look at Labor-HHS, which has such an enormous labor impact on our economy and an impact on the future of our economy. Remember, research and development, the workforce of the future, through education, Pell Grants, are all of the great things on this bill.

As the Senator proposes this amendment and the Senate works its will on this amendment, I want to say get the job done. Let's get the bill passed and then let's solve the sequester problem, which has a Draconian shield hold over us. Let's get rid of brinkmanship, shutdown, showdown politics.

Let's return to our regular order where we may produce bills, debate them in the full sunshine of the Senate—and not only do a good job, but the American people can understand what we are doing. There aren't just views on policy. This is America. That is what a democracy is and what a parliamentary body is. We should be able to bring process and procedure. This means following a regular order with our legislation.

I thank the subcommittee chairman, Senator HARKIN, for his advocacy in the last 2 years. He and Senator SHELBY worked together to produce a great bill. We are where we are, and I hope we do all we can to pass the bill and return to regular order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, I would be remiss, while we are on the Senate floor, as I was thinking about Senator HARKIN, Senator MIKULSKI, both senior Members—she is the chairperson of the Senate Appropriations Committee where I have had the privilege to serve a number of years. We all go back to our House days. That is where I first met Senator HARKIN. He was a couple of years younger then, and so was I. Senator MIKULSKI and I were on the same committees over there. Senator HARKIN came to the Senate a couple of years before we did. We have been involved together on the issues and against each other and so forth, but we stayed friends. And I think Senator HARKIN is absolutely right. Senator MIKULSKI is very on point on regular order; that what we are trying to do on the Appropriations Committee—and this is a big start here—is to go back to the way we used to do things—regular order. We would have our spirited debates—and they were spirited—in the subcommittees of Appropriations, the full committee would come to the floor, and we would debate it, vote on it, and go to a conference with the House, work it out, come back, and live with it. We haven't done that in a long time. What we are trying to do now is get back on that track, and this is a big first step.

Having said that, I would like to take just a few minutes to speak on Chairman HARKIN's amendment. I believe there are three critical points my colleagues should understand about this amendment. First, the draft omnibus that has been talked about was never finalized. There were more than a dozen significant items not agreed to at the time negotiations ended in December. A lot of those negotiations were done at the staff level. Critical decisions regarding health care, education, and labor policies and billions of dollars in funding decisions at that point remained undecided. They were never finalized.

I think these provisions have been decided and put in this amendment without consultation by Senator HARKIN. These items included such critical issues as conscience protections for health care providers and provisions limiting the job-killing rules by the National Labor Relations Board. Those were critical issues for us.

Second, the Harkin amendment replaces a bipartisan continuing resolution which the distinguished chairperson has been talking about here for 2 days which includes key provisions in this bill we filed which would support research at the National Institutes of Health and emergency operations at the Centers for Disease Control with a 160-page bill that no Republican has approved. I believe the Harkin amendment both begins new programs and makes authorization changes to programs.

In addition, any program that did not receive an increase in funding during negotiation on the draft omnibus that he has talked about is cut in an across-the-board cut. These reductions hit critical job-training programs and funding for hospital preparedness.

Finally, if the Harkin amendment is agreed to, it will undo a very fragile consensus and poison the entire continuing resolution we have put before us, putting our government at the risk of a shutdown. None of us want that. House leadership has already stated they cannot and will not support the inclusion of the Harkin amendment, and I don't believe we should risk funding the entire Federal Government to do so.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I want to respond to my friend from Alabama, and he is my friend, and he knows that very well. We have traveled

together. Our spouses are friends, and he is a dear friend of mine. We have worked together, as he said, going clear back to our House days. But I am disappointed that my friend opposes this amendment. If there is one thing that has been clear in my association with the Senator from Alabama through all these years, I think it is that he has been an unrelenting champion of NIH research. I am told the University of Alabama at Birmingham ranks 11th in terms of NIH funding. That is even higher than the University of Iowa, by the way.

So my amendment, as my friend knows, would put in a $211 million increase for NIH funding that goes around the country. It doesn't just go to Maryland, although some goes to Maryland, but a lot goes around the country. So this does that.

Then I would say to my friend from Alabama, during the negotiations from last year, the Senator from Alabama offered an amendment during our full committee markup—that was last July—that would require the Department of Labor to delay both the wage rule and the comprehensive rule regarding H–2B visas. I opposed the amendment, but I included it because it was, again, part of a bipartisan, bicameral agreement.

The Senator is right that this agreement was never signed off on high—I guess by the Speaker of the House or the majority or minority leader here in the Senate—but usually they have been very accommodating if the Appropriations Committee agrees and we all agree on what is called the four corners: the Republican House, the Democratic House, the Republican Senate, and the Democratic Senate. Basically, we would move those bills.

So, again, this amendment that was offered by my friend from Alabama that would require the Department of Labor to delay both the wage rule and the comprehensive rule regarding H–2B visas is in this amendment, even though I oppose it, because it was part of a bipartisan agreement. The only way this provision can take effect is by approving my amendment because it is not in the CR. Since my friend from Alabama offered this amendment, I think he considered it to be important, he fought for it, but it won't take effect in a CR.

I would also remind my friend and others that the cost of this amendment is the same as in the underlying substitute.

My friend said there were other things in the bill in December that were not finalized. That is true, I say to my friend. That is very true, there were other things. But these were called riders. Some were Republican riders, some were Democratic riders. Are they in this bill? No, because they weren't agreed to. They were there, but they were never agreed to—and for good reason. Some of them were, obviously, very closely held by Democrats and some very closely held by Republicans, so there just wasn't agreement.

I am just saying that in the amendment now before us are the things on which we did agree. So the Senator is right. Some of the things that were out there on the riders we didn't include because they simply were not agreed to in December. I am just saying that what is in this bill is what we did agree to in December.

With that, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EPA

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, this week, March 10 to 16, has been designated Sunshine Week. What better time for it this year since President Obama has a brandnew nominee to head the Environmental Protection Agency, and that agency is in desperate need of sunshine and transparency. In the midst of Sunshine Week, I wanted to talk about these very serious issues.

First of all, let's go back a little bit. The first day President Obama took office in 2009, the White House Web site declared that his administration would become ''the most open and transparent in history.'' The President issued high-profile orders pledging ''a new era'' and ''an unprecedented level of openness'' across the Federal Government. Those are great goals and great aspirations. Unfortunately, the record—particularly, as I said, at the EPA—is a lot different.

President Obama's EPA has earned a reputation for ignoring congressional information requests, ignoring and frustrating FOIA—the Freedom of Information Act—hiding elite e-mails, which is completely contrary to EPA policy, and hiding other important information from the public. Is it in desperate need of a new leader who will reverse these antisunshine, antitransparency practices and build a true culture of transparency and openness. Unfortunately, President Obama's nominee, Gina McCarthy, comes from inside the very troubled agency and she has been directly involved in many of these problem areas. That is why I think we need to talk about these concerns.

I wish to go through four important categories where the EPA—including during Gina McCarthy's service—has exhibited a complete lack of transparency. It has been exactly the opposite of sunshine, openness, and transparency.

First of all, e-mails and the growing e-mail scandal. A lot of the EPA's troubles have surfaced through their dubious e-mail practices, e-mail practices that have been used, in my opinion, clearly to circumvent transparency laws such as FOIA and to circumvent congressional oversight. We have uncovered the use of alias e-mail accounts and private e-mail accounts to conduct official agency business.

What is the issue there? The issue is that clearly this is a way to avoid transparency, avoid these being produced through FOIA requests, and try to avoid producing these important e-mails when Congress has asked for them and to keep the public and Congress in the dark.

The most infamous example of this is Lisa Jackson, the former EPA Administrator's complete disregard for transparency through her Richard Windsor e-mails. Richard Windsor was an alias. I think, clearly in my opinion, she used this alias when it came to openness and producing documents, et cetera, that this was not necessarily her.

As it turns out, multiple EPA officials have been conducting business through aliases or through private e-mail accounts, and these private e-mail accounts are absolutely prohibited by the EPA. In spite of that, we have uncovered a pattern. This is not an isolated incident. It is not just Richard Windsor who has been used as an alias, but there is a pattern. The Acting Administrator, Bob Perciasepe, has used an alias private account. Region 8 Administrator Martin used me.com, a private account; Region 9 Administrator Blumenfeld used comcast.net, a former account; former Deputy General Counsel Yang, a lawyer for the EPA, used a gmail.com account. That is completely contrary to the clear rules of the EPA.

It doesn't stop with the use of these completely improper private e-mail accounts for official business. We have also uncovered high-level officials collaborating with environmental groups to push their biased agenda. Administrator Martin—since he resigned over all this when we had this come out—regularly communicated with far-left environmental groups such as the Environmental Defense Fund on his personal e-mail account to circumvent Federal transparency laws. His personal e-mails, which we have since gotten, exposed the EPA's efforts to further bury coal plants under crushing regulations.

Again, this is not just some technicality. These private accounts and aliases were clearly used to hide stuff from Congress, hide stuff from the public, and to try not to disclose all this collusion with outside environmental groups and what—in my opinion—is a far-left agenda.

Another very important category is FOIA. FOIA is the Freedom of Information Act. It was passed into law by Congress in 1966. It was passed for a very simple purpose: to direct sunshine onto the Federal Government. Here we

are in the middle of Sunshine Week, and FOIA is a classic example of an important tool to direct sunshine onto the Federal Government.

Under former Administrator Jackson's leadership, FOIA has become a joke at the EPA. Al Armendariz, the former EPA Administrator, had to resign after claiming it was EPA's policy to ''crucify'' domestic businesses. He actually called FOIA ''nonsense.'' As others at the EPA would try to have others think, Al Armendariz was not some rogue EPA official. In fact, this is the general attitude of the EPA.

The Obama administration again has tried to get away with the claim that they are ''the most transparent in history.'' Yet as the Associated Press has reported, they sometimes produce a lot of pieces of paper under FOIA, but ''more often than it ever has, it cited legal exceptions to censor or withhold the material, according to a new analysis.''

This is a perfect example. This is a document produced under a FOIA request. It is one of the infamous Richard Windsor e-mails. Guess what is produced. Nothing. It is one thing to redact a few words or a particularly sensitive sentence. They have produced absolutely nothing. There is not a single word from the body of the e-mail. This is routine. The EPA has regularly mismanaged FOIA requests. It is clearly in the business to frustrate these sorts of requests and not to follow the law.

I would like to show some other examples. Again, these are produced e-mails. Most of them are from the infamous Richard Windsor e-mails. Again, not a word in the body of any of these e-mails is produced. There is not a single word. This is another good example. There is not a single word produced. So we get plenty of paper, but what information do we have for the public? Nothing.

There is something else that is particularly outrageous. We have an e-mail that was produced from the Office of General Counsel to Region 6 officials. That e-mail talks about standard EPA protocol regarding FOIA requests. It is not about a particular FOIA request, which might be overbroad, inappropriate, and might have arguments against it. Again, this e-mail is from the EPA lawyers to an EPA region, and it is about how to deal with FOIA in general. That standard EPA protocol—according to this e-mail—is ''to alert the requestor that they need to narrow their request because it is overbroad, and secondarily that it will probably cost more than the amount of money they agreed to pay.'' Then when the requestor doesn't immediately respond to that, they just shut down any EPA response.

Again, this is outrageous. This was not a response to a particular request. This was the advice from EPA lawyers about how they should always consider responding. Just always say it is overbroad, just always say it is going to cost more money, and then shut things down, foot drag, and obstruct. That is absolutely ridiculous.

A third important category in this pattern of activity is EPA's use of secret data. This EPA, more than any other in history, has been promulgating rules and regulations which have a dramatic effect on major sectors of our economy. Obviously, this is a big deal and big concern, particularly when it costs us jobs or potentially shuts down businesses. Yet the EPA has been completely opposed to releasing any of the numbers, the science—the alleged science—and the data behind these decisions.

Again, many of EPA's regulations have big pricetags. Yet EPA refuses to publicize the basic scientific data underlying virtually all of what they have done. The new Clean Air Act rules are the biggest example. Implementing the Clean Air Act happens to be the responsibility, by the way, that Gina McCarthy has been directly overseeing since June of 2009.

The National Ambient Air Quality Standards, for example, are complex and sweeping in their nature. The law requires, as it should, that they be based on sound scientific data and that it be implemented through a robust decisionmaking process. Unfortunately, that has not been the case and recent standards have suffered from a rushed process, reliance on secret data, and biased scientific review.

The only way we can fully know what is going on and have a discussion about this is if EPA releases the underlying scientific data—the underlying numbers. I have personally asked for this. In fact, this request is 20 months outstanding. I asked for it almost 2 full years ago. Yet EPA has adamantly refused.

Recently, it has come to light that EPA fails to complete comprehensive economic analyses of a majority of its rules. A February 2013 study reveals that the Agency's disregard for economywide impacts, as well as any other discrete negative impacts, renders their cost-benefit analyses to be misleading and based on manipulated data. Again, this is a very important category.

If sunshine is to mean anything, if it is to have any real meaning as we stand here in the midst of Sunshine Week, we need to see the data behind these enormously important decisions. EPA cannot use secret data. That is contrary to the letter and spirit of the law. It is certainly contrary to the public having access to important information and to our responsibility in Congress on oversight.

The final category I wish to mention is the so-called unified agenda. Under Federal law, every agency is required to produce their regulatory agenda. In fact, they are required to produce it under law twice a year—once in the spring and once in the fall, and that is called the unified agenda. Again, every agency is required to produce that to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

The problem is this requirement is observed sort of like the requirement to pass the budget is observed in the Senate. In 2012, the EPA was 8 months late producing their spring 2012 regulatory agenda, and they have yet to submit their fall 2012 regulatory agenda. Again, I have asked EPA directly about this. More than 6 weeks after the deadline passed, EPA has yet to respond to the simple question of when they will submit their spring and fall regulatory agendas. We have not seen a bit of either of them yet.

This is important because it is about sunshine, openness, and transparency. It is about being fair and open to the American people and giving the American people—including through its representatives in Congress—full information. This is an important area that the nominee to head the EPA, Gina McCarthy, has to address. It is awfully basic and legitimate to say to Gina McCarthy: If you want to become the new EPA Administrator, you will need to answer these big, obvious, and pertinent questions. It is particularly important since you come from inside this very troubled, completely nontransparent agency and have been at the heart of many of these troubling areas.

One thing I will question her directly on is her active coordination with Al Armendariz, whom I mentioned earlier, in shutting down key energy projects. That direct coordination was highlighted in an e-mail we did get from Armendariz celebrating the death of a petroleum coke plant in Texas. Armendariz wrote in that e-mail: ''Gina's new air rules will soon be the icing on the cake.'' Shutting down jobs, shutting down American businesses is going to be the icing on the cake.

In conclusion, I want to underscore that President Obama's EPA, unfortunately, has been the worst example of how hollow his promise is of being the most open and transparent administration in history. As we begin to consider the confirmation of a new EPA Administrator, this needs to be a big focus of our attention. Surely she needs to commit in very concrete and specific ways to change this culture. I am concerned that she has been part of this culture. She comes from inside the agency. She is directly involved in many of these very troubling areas. So we need to hear how she is going to reverse this culture and usher in a new era of openness and transparency. I will have specific requests for her that will allow her to prove that commitment, and I know many other Members of the Senate have similar concerns.

I look forward to that discussion with Gina McCarthy. I look forward to continuing this discussion with the entire U.S. Senate. Transparency Week is an important time and an appropriate time to start that important discussion and to end these abusive practices by the current EPA.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the continuing resolution before the Senate to fund the government and keep this country moving forward. This is a very difficult assignment that they have been handed, especially as we have a brandnew chair and ranking member.

The bill increases support for firefighters battling blazes out West. That is very good. It maintains a critical safety net for women and children. That is very good. It returns full funding to several critical conservation programs and reaffirms our commitment to veterans, especially rural veterans—all very good. I thank Senator JACK REED and Senator TIM JOHNSON in particular for their efforts in those areas.

But while no bill is perfect, I am deeply—deeply—disappointed by two provisions that were slipped into this bill by the House of Representatives when this deal was being cooked up in December.

This is Sunshine Week for the Federal Government. It is a time to highlight the need for greater transparency and openness so voters can hold their elected leaders accountable and for what happens here in Washington, DC, and to just know what is going on.

I take transparency seriously. When I first ran for the Senate 7 years ago, I campaigned on the need to bring more accountability and honest leadership to Washington, DC. My first vote in this body was for a sweeping ethics bill that, among other provisions, improved disclosure rules and reformed the earmark process so that everybody would know which Member or Members of Congress requested an earmark, and it required Members to certify that they and their families had no financial interest in that earmark.

Under regular order, folks had a chance to come down to the floor and try to remove earmarks they did not like. In fact, a few years ago I remember former Senator Jon Kyl and I had a pretty good debate on this floor about an important project for the city of Whitefish, MT. So we debated it, and we took a vote on it in the Senate.

That is why I am so upset by two agriculture-related provisions that someone from the House of Representatives put into this bill—and that the Senate seems willing to accept. I do not know who authored this provision. Maybe someone in Washington knows, but no one is willing to put their name on it, and that is a shame. It is a shame that folks who get so bent out of shape about earmarks do not seem to be troubled by these provisions.

Montana is home to thousands of working families who make a living off the land. Like my wife and me, they are family farmers and ranchers. The House of Representatives is prepared to toss those working families aside in favor of the Nation's large meatpacking corporations. The House inserted a provision in the bill that gives enormous marketing power to America's three largest meatpacking corporations while stiffing family farmers and ranchers.

Family-run production agriculture faces tremendous market manipulation. Chicken farmers, hog farmers, and cattle ranchers all struggle to get a fair price from the meatpackers, and if they fight back, they risk angering corporate representatives and being shut out of the market. Thanks to this provision, the Agriculture Department will not be able to ensure a fair, open market that puts the brakes on the worst abuses by the meatpacking industry.

What is worse is that the USDA took congressionally mandated steps to protect ranchers from market manipulation over the last few years. That is what we told them to do in the 2008 farm bill. This provision will actually overturn rules the USDA has already put into place. But apparently intense, behind-the-scenes lobbying won out in the House of Representatives, and now we are back to square one with the big meatpackers calling the shots.

The second provision sent over from the House tells the USDA to ignore any judicial ruling regarding the planting of genetically modified crops. Its supporters are calling it the ''farmer assurance'' provision, but all it really ensures is a lack of corporate liability.

The provision says that when a judge finds that the USDA approved a crop illegally, the Department must reapprove the crop and allow it to continue to be planted—regardless of what the judge says.

Let's think about that. The U.S. Congress is telling the Agriculture Department: Even if a court tells you that you failed to follow the right process and tells you to start over, you must disregard the court's ruling and allow the crop to be planted anyway.

Not only does this ignore the Constitution's idea of separation of powers, but it also lets genetically modified crops take hold across this country even when a judge finds it violates the law. Once again, agribusiness, multinational corporations are putting farmers as serfs. It is a dangerous precedent. It will paralyze the USDA by putting the Department in the middle of a battle between Congress and the courts.

The ultimate loser will be our family farmers going about their business in feeding America in the right way. Sunshine Week should not be show and tell. Slipping corporate giveaways into a bill at the same time that we call for more open government is doubling down on the same policies that created the need for Sunshine Week. That is why we need to remove those corporate welfare provisions from the bill.

Montanans elected me to go to the Senate to do away with these shady backroom deals, to get rid of handouts to big corporations, to make government work better. We still have many challenges in front of us. I commend the leaders of the Appropriations Committee for their commitment to working together to bring us a plan on which we can vote.

These two provisions undermine our good work to support family farm agriculture. These provisions are giveaways, pure and simple, and will be a boon worth millions of dollars to a handful of the biggest corporations in this country. They deserve no place in this bill. We simply have to do a better job on both policy and process.

I know Chairwoman MIKULSKI is committed to doing better. I strongly support her efforts. I wanted to thank her for that commitment. But we ought to start right here and now by striking those corporate giveaways.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up amendment No. 33.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Would the Senator withhold?

Mr. MCCAIN. I yield to the chairwoman.

Ms. MIKULSKI. First of all, I know the Senator has been waiting patiently to file his amendment. I have been waiting patiently for him to be able to do it. As I understand it, we are trying to negotiate a sequence to vote on the Harkin amendment and for the Senator to be able to offer his amendment as promptly as swiftly as we can.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum without violating the Senator's rights.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 33 TO AMENDMENT NO. 26

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up amendment No. 33.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona [Mr. MCCAIN] proposes an amendment numbered 33.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be disposed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To strike certain authorities relating to the use for grants of funds of the Office of Economic Assistance of the Department of Defense)

Strike section 8039, relating to the use for grants of funds of the Office of Economic Assistance of the Department of Defense.

Strike section 8104, relating to the use of funds of the Office of Economic Assistance of the Department of Defense for grants for Guam.

Mr. MCCAIN. I come to the floor to talk about amendment No. 33, which would strike sections 8104 and 8039 of the bill. It is a pair of Guam earmarks that directly contravene the explicit directions provided by the Armed Services Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives in the conference report on the fiscal year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act.

Congress has not yet received a sufficient cost analysis of the proposed movement of the troops from Okinawa to Guam. Because of that, and the whole operation of these troops from Okinawa to Guam has still not been decided, the Armed Services Committees of the House and Senate explicitly prohibited this type of premature investment in civilian infrastructure.

At a time when the Department of Defense is facing the impact of sequester, on top of the $487 billion in cuts directed by the President, it is appalling and disgraceful that the authorizing language would be directly circumvented by the authorizers.

I want to read the language for my colleagues' benefit. After hours and hours of hearings, of amendments, of markup, of 3 weeks on the floor of the Senate, the product stated:

Restriction on development of public infrastructure. If the Secretary of Defense determines that any grant, cooperative agreement, transfer of funds to another Federal agency, or supplement of funds available in fiscal year 2012 or fiscal year 2013 under Federal programs administered by agencies other than the Department of Defense will result in the development (including repair, replacement, renovation, conversion, improvement, expansion, acquisition, or construction) of public infrastructure on Guam, the Secretary of Defense may not carry out such grant, transfer, cooperative agreement, or supplemental funding unless specifically authorized by law.

So here is clear language of the National Defense Authorization Act directly contradicted by this continuing resolution. What in the world is the job of the authorizers if it is not to have the language adhered to? At a time when the Department of Defense is facing the impact of sequestration, on top of $487 billion in cuts already directed by the President, the appropriators decided that we would spend $140 million on Guam. It is absolutely unbelievable, I say to my colleagues.

Now, let me tell my colleagues about the effect of the sequester that has happened now. According to this line item in the appropriations bill, it will spend $140 million on a wastewater treatment plant on Guam and another project. So we are going to spend $140 million on that.

Meanwhile, I say to my colleagues, here is what has already happened, with the sequester to the Armed Forces. The Army: Cancels four brigade exercises at the National Training Center or Joint Readiness Training Center. The Army: Reduced base operations by 30 percent; cancels half the year of helicopters and ground vehicle depot maintenance; stops post-war repair of 1,300 vehicles and 17,000 weapons; reduces readiness of 80 percent of the Army's nondeploying brigades; stops tuition assistance for all Active and Reserve soldiers.

Navy: Cancels several submarine deployments; reduces flying hours on deployed carriers in the Middle East by 55 percent; steaming days by 22 percent; reduces Western Pacific deployed operations by 35 percent; nondeployed Pacific ships lose 40 percent of steaming days; reduces Middle East Atlantic MED ballistic missile defense patrols; shuts down all flying for four of nine carrier air wings 9 to 12 months to restore normal readiness at two to three times the cost; cuts all major naval exercises; defers emergent repairs; cancels Blue Angels shows in third and fourth quarter; USS Truman carrier deployment delayed indefinitely.

I might say that deployment was to the Middle East where the centrifuges are spinning. The USS Eisenhower career deployment extended indefinitely; USS Nimitz and USS Bush carrier strike groups will not be fully ready for scheduled fiscal year 2013 deployments.

Air Force: Likely prevent Air Force's ability to achieve the 2017 goal of being fully auditable; defer nonemergency facility requirements; reduce repairs by 50 percent over 420 projects at over 140 installations across the Air Force; affects runway repairs and critical sustainment projects; delays planned acquisition of satellites and aircraft, including JSF and AC–130J, which will increase the future cost of these systems; reduces flying hours for cargo, fighter and bomber aircraft; stops tuition assistance for all Active and Reserve airmen.

Marine Corps: I hope my colleagues will listen to this. The Commandant of the Marine Corps says:

By the end of this year, more than 50 percent of my combat units will be below minimal acceptable levels of readiness for deployment to combat.

I repeat. The Commandant of the Marine Corps says:

By the end of this year, more than 50 percent of my combat units will be below minimal acceptable levels of readiness for deployment to combat.

Unable to complete rebalancing of Marine Corps forces into the Asia Pacific region; will cause 55 percent of the U.S. Marine Corps forces to have unsatisfactory readiness ratings; 50 percent of the U.S. Marine Corps aviation squadrons will fall below ready-to-deploy status; U.S. Marine Corps will not be able to accomplish planned reset of equipment returning from overseas expeditionary forces; depot level maintenance will be reduced, delaying resettability by 18 months and reducing nondeployed forces; facilities sustainment will be funded at 71 percent of requirement, reducing effectiveness of home station training and quality of life.

These are the effects of sequestration. So what do they do? What do they do in the continuing resolution? They add $140 million for Guam for a wastewater treatment plant. Talk about divorced from reality. Talk about insensitivity to the men and women who are serving this country. I am already beginning to hear from them, I will tell you that.

There are a lot of bright young men and women who are serving this country, are serving it with courage and skill and are the best probably we have ever seen. I am hearing from their leaders. They are making decisions about whether to stay in the military. It is an All-Volunteer Force. I can tell you what a lot of them are deciding when they see something as ridiculous as this, and there are other outrageous and stupid things in this bill.

While all of the things are taking place in the Air Force, the Army, and the Marine Corps, we are now on this list—we have $5 million—they are adding money, adding money, adding millions. In fact, it comes up to billions—$5 million for the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, $5 million for the Department of Defense Star Base Youth Program, $154 million for an Army, Navy, and Air Force ''alternative energy resource initiative,'' $18 million for unspecified ''industrial preparedness,'' $16 million for Parkinson's disease research—there is a whole bunch in here for medical research. They are taking it out of defense. I am for research in all of these programs, whether it be Parkinson's or neurofibromatosis or HIV/AIDS research, but they are taking it out of defense.

They are adding $9 million for unspecified radar research, $20 million for university research initiatives, $7 million for a Civil Air Patrol Program increase, $45 million for Impact Aid. The list goes on and on and on.

While the Air Force is unable to fly, the Civil Air Patrol will get an additional $15 million. I am a great admirer of the Civil Air Patrol.

The fact is that what we are doing is we are cutting the flying hours and affecting the readiness of the men and women who are serving in the military

in this country. I repeat a statement of the Commandant of the Marine Corps: By the end of this year, ''more than 50 percent of my combat units will be below minimal acceptable levels of readiness for deployment to combat.'' What did these appropriators do? They put in $140 million for wastewater treatment on Guam, which is expressly prohibited by the National Defense Authorization Act.

I have been on this floor for many years fighting against what I believe is encroachment by appropriators on the authorizers' business. I have never, in 26 years as a member of the defense appropriations committee and the Armed Forces committee, seen anything quite as egregious as this.

I say to my colleagues, who are authorizers and not appropriators, if you let them get away with directly violating and contradicting the express language of the National Defense Authorization Act, you are next. You are next. This is unacceptable. I hope my colleagues will vote on the issue of whether we need to spend this money, particularly at this moment, with the condition of our military.

Many of our constituents say: Why is this being so hard hit? Why is the military being so hard hit?

They don't quite understand sequester—this thing the President said won't happen. This sequester affects 19 percent of what we call the discretionary spending. They exempted about two-thirds of all of the discretionary spending and then took 50 percent of what was left of 19 percent of the spending. This has a dramatically increased effect on what we need most; that is, our national security. It is shameful.

I hope my colleagues and friends know that this Guam provision would provide, which is expressly prohibited, $120 million for a public regional health laboratory and civilian wastewater improvements. The Department of Defense wants to move marines to Guam but does not know how much military infrastructure will be needed—military infrastructure will be needed to support the move—what the implications will be to operational responsiveness in the Pacific theater or how much any of it will cost.

Over the last 2 years, the Armed Services Committee received many hours of testimony, briefings, and meetings on the troop realignment in the Pacific and directed the Center for Strategic and International Studies to conduct an independent assessment on U.S. force strategy in the region. The assessment—delivered in August 2012—recommended a better alignment of engagement strategies between the U.S. Pacific Command and the Department of Defense in order to improve our capabilities in the region and respond to a range of contingencies. The CSIS was clear in the appraisal that the Department of Defense had not adequately articulated the strategy behind its future posture planning nor aligned the strategy with resources in a way that reflects current budget realities.

After more testimony, briefings, and meetings, the Armed Services Committee acted and, through the vehicle of the fiscal year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, prohibited the use of funds for any military realignment to Guam until the Department of Defense and the U.S. Pacific Command provided a detailed set of reports. These reports will address the plan for ensuring that any proposed force realignments in the Pacific region to include moving U.S. marines from Japan to Guam and Hawaii are supported by resources that will allow our forces to meet operational requirements. Admiral Locklear, commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, told me yesterday that these reports would be ready this summer.

The Department of Defense has planning left to do. While Congress may someday authorize some number of marines to be realigned to Guam, it will only be after we have a clear understanding of the clear implications and costs. In this context, the Appropriations Committee would fund unrequested civilian infrastructure—not military infrastructure, civilian infrastructure—far greater in scope than would be required in the event the most extreme estimates of troop realignment occurred. There is absolutely no justification for it.

This is why the Armed Services Committee expressly prohibited such funding, because we don't know how much military or civilian infrastructure we may need, if any. Has one single marine, sailor, or airman been assigned to Guam as part of the intended buildup that would justify using DOD money to rebuild Guam civilian wastewater facilities or build a new civilian health laboratory? The answer is obviously no. The support payoff to Guam to solve an already existing problem has nothing to do with any future military realignment to Guam. This is no better than last year's set of earmarks for a cultural artifacts repository.

It should be very clear by now that these expenditures pushed through in direct contravention of the bipartisan, bicameral decisions of the Armed Services Committee are a shameful waste of taxpayers' money. In my view, this is a clear example of political abuse of the appropriations process.

I could go on for a long time. In fact, instead of doing a continuing resolution, we should be doing everything we can to avoid the sequester, which has such a disastrous effect on our military.

I am sure my colleagues are aware that in Tehran the centrifuges are spinning. North Korea just had another nuclear test. They threatened to cancel the cease-fire of 1953. They are making very aggressive noises toward South Korea and, I believe, our 30,000 men and women who are stationed there. Tension between Japan and China is very high. For my colleagues' information, I am sure they know that the Chinese have increased, doubled, and redoubled their spending on their military. The Middle East is in a state of turmoil, which could lead to an international crisis almost at any moment. Seventy thousand Syrians have been slaughtered by Bashar al-Asad. There are over 1 million refugees, as that conflict shows all possibility of spreading to Lebanon and to Jordan.

What are we doing? We are imposing Draconian cuts on the U.S. military, which caused the Commandant of the Marine Corps to say 50 percent of all his combat units will be below minimal acceptable levels of readiness for deployment to combat.

I have been around this body and this Nation for a long time. I have seen this movie before. Everybody talks about war weariness. Everybody talks about how weary we are of Iraq and Afghanistan, and indeed we are. We were war weary after Vietnam. We cut the military, cut the military, and we cut the military as we are doing today. The Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army in the late 1970s came before the Armed Services Committee and said we have a hollow army. Do you know what we are doing right now with sequestration? We are hollowing out our military. To add insult to injury, we are putting on a long list of wasteful, unnecessary programs, many of which have nothing to do with defending this Nation. Some are outright pork-barrel spending.

I hope my colleagues, particularly those on authorizing committees, will understand that if the appropriators are able to directly contradict language in authorizations that are passed by both Houses of Congress and signed by the President of the United States, then you become irrelevant to the process. I don't think the 80-so of us who are not members of the Appropriations Committee should be subjected to irrelevance.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish to say the Senator who currently now chairs the Subcommittee on Defense will speak on the amendment of the Senator from Arizona. I wish to speak about the process and about sequester.

First, the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense finished its work before the August recess. The authorizers didn't get it done until December 20. There is a gap here because Senator Inouye—a very happy, blessed, and beloved memory—moved his committee in an expeditious way, which appropriators are supposed to do.

Remember, appropriations are supposed to be done before October 1. Senator Inouye chaired the committee, chaired the full committee and then chaired this Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. Senator Inouye did his job under the authorization that was present before him.

The authorizers didn't pass their bill until December 20. We want to respect the authorizers not only on defense but on every committee. They need to pass their bills before we pass ours. We work on our bills by holding our hearings under regular order beginning when we get the President's budget, which we wish would be up-tempo a bit. Then we start our hearings, mark up our bills in May and June, and begin to move them through the process.

Before we attack the Appropriations Committee, we should attack the process and get back to regular order, where authorizing and appropriating are in sync.

The second thing I wish to comment on is sequester. I want to acknowledge what the Senator from Arizona said about the impact of sequester. Sequester is an awful, awful, awful thing. That is not on this bill. When the Budget Committee comes up, along with the negotiations by the President with the leadership of the House, I absolutely agree with him, we must cancel sequester and ensure that not only our Defense Department but others who defend America, such as our Border Patrol guards, are not unduly harmed. And we are hollowing out, to use the quote from General Amos, an extraordinary Commandant.

What we need to do is get a process in order to have the proper policy debates.

I note that the subcommittee chairman will now comment on the specifics.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Senate majority leader is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Let me thank the chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator MIKULSKI. This is her first major assignment on the floor of the Senate. It is an awesome responsibility. I note that she was not only up for this job, she was made for this job. She has the knowledge, skill, and drive we need to make sure the Appropriations Committee is playing its important historic role in the Senate.

I commend the Senator from Alabama, my friend Senator RICHARD SHELBY too. Senator SHELBY and Senator MIKULSKI have been close partners in developing a very complicated bill. This bill we are considering is going to fund the Federal Government for the remaining 7 months; otherwise, when we run out of money March 24, literally, the government will close. They are working and have worked hard for the last several weeks to get this bill ready.

A version of the bill passed the House. Now it is being considered on the floor of the Senate and Senators are being allowed to offer amendments, which is their right.

One of the Senators who just offered an amendment is Senator JOHN MCCAIN of Arizona, who is well known to virtually everyone in America as a former candidate for President and by virtue of his service to our Nation. I would say I count JOHN MCCAIN as a real friend. We came to the House of Representatives the same year. We have maintained that friendship here in the Senate. We have worked closely together on immigration reform and many other issues. I can't think of a finer Senator on the other side of the aisle.

I don't need to speak to JOHN MCCAIN's reputation when it comes to military service. We know the story: a Navy pilot shot down over Vietnam, captured and held captive, subjected to torture for more than 5 years. John's body still bears the scars of that terrible experience. Thank God he survived and continues to serve in the Senate representing the people of Arizona and the Nation in his capacity as a Senator. He has been the ranking Republican on the Armed Services Committee, so he knows those issues not only as a veteran, a man who served in the Vietnam war, but also as a Senator who has looked closely at each of the issues that affects the Department of Defense. He doesn't hold a candle to anyone, take a step back to anyone when it comes to his commitment to our military and our Nation's defense. But now it is my responsibility to come to the floor of the Senate and argue against an amendment Senator MCCAIN is offering on the Department of Defense bill. You might think to yourself: DURBIN, how did you get this assignment? The fact is, as chairman of this particular subcommittee, it is my responsibility to argue the other side of the issue that Senator MCCAIN has brought to the floor.

I come to this assignment brandnew, just a few weeks now, since the untimely passing of our great friend and national hero, Dan Inouye of Hawaii. Because of his passing, there were vacancies created, and I ended up in this position as chairman of the Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations in the Senate. It is a job I am learning, and I confess there are many here who know it better than I do. But I will do my best because I know the awesome responsibility attached to it.

I stand today to urge my colleagues to vote against the amendment JOHN MCCAIN has offered to this continuing resolution as it relates to the Department of Defense. There are basically four provisions in this—three or four provisions in the McCain amendment—and I wish to address each of them.

One of the provisions allows the Department of Defense to give grants to organizations. That sounds like a very easy thing to explain, and it is. The three organizations that receive the grants from the Department of Defense are well-known to most Americans; certainly two are—the USO is one.

The USO for decades has been an organization which has tried to provide help to our veterans, usually stationed overseas, and to give them things as basic as entertainment, to counseling, or when they go through airports to make sure they have a place to stop by and get a cup of coffee and a doughnut. That is the USO. I have understated their mission, but we are all familiar with it.

The other organization is one known to every American, I am sure, the Red Cross. The third is an organization new, but important, called Fisher House. Fisher House. Let me tell you about Fisher House.

Two years ago, I was invited to the grand opening of a Fisher House facility near the Hines VA Hospital in Chicago. Fisher House is to military and veterans hospitals what Ronald McDonald houses are to children's hospitals. What we are saying here in the underlying bill is that the Department of Defense can provide grants to these organizations—Fisher House, Red Cross, and USO. The McCain amendment says no, they can't. The McCain amendment strikes the authority of the Department of Defense to give them these grants. I think that is a mistake. And for that reason alone, I hope my colleagues will vote against the McCain amendment.

The services being provided through these organizations and at these facilities are nothing short of remarkable. Fisher House, right in the city of Chicago, near Hines VA Hospital, is a beautiful home—a place where families who have a loved one who is going through surgery or rehabilitation at the Hines VA Hospital are given a chance to stay overnight. They do not have to pay for a hotel room and they are treated like royalty, as they should be. These are military families—mothers and fathers, spouses and children, who are treated like royalty at Fisher House while they are waiting for their loved one to finish the treatment or surgery they need to come back home.

Why wouldn't we do that? Why wouldn't we provide that kind of service? The Fisher House facilities are largely built by charitable contributions, donations from everybody. So to give to the Department of Defense the ability to transfer up to $4 million a year—$4 million—to the Fisher House, why, of course, we want to do that. Across America they do such extraordinary things.

In terms of the Red Cross grants, here is what the Red Cross does, and every Member of Congress knows this. A family will call a Senator and say: Senator SHELBY, we live in Mobile, AL, and I wanted you to know the mother of a soldier overseas has just passed away and we have to get the word to him right away. What Senator SHELBY or what Senator DURBIN would do is to call the Red Cross and say: You have to help us. We have to get in touch with this service man or woman overseas somewhere. So it is an opportunity for them to use their network of volunteers and communications to reach out to that soldier, that sailor, that airman, or marine. That is what they do. They spend about $10 million in emergency communication services to keep

a hotline running connecting servicemembers, veterans, and their families with the services they offer. There is $2 million for theater support of deployed troops—emergency communication services between deployed servicemembers and their families back home.

They provide lounges, the Red Cross does, in these theaters of operation, war settings, for troops to have access to computers so they can be in touch with their families back home.

One of the big surprises I ran into as I visited our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq was to find many of them Skyping away with their families while they are far away. Some of these facilities are being provided by the Red Cross.

The list goes on and on of all that the Red Cross does to support and help our troops. But the list can't tell you in specifics what Red Cross volunteers do. These men and women—and you see them everywhere under the flag of the Red Cross—show up when a tornado hits, when a flood hits, and they always show up when our troops need a helping hand.

When our troops get off the plane in Landstuhl, Germany, after being grievously wounded or injured overseas and are about to be hospitalized—maybe facing their first surgery—one of the first smiling faces they will see will be a Red Cross volunteer, there to say: What can I do for you; can I get in touch with your family; is there something you need? The stories are legendary about soldiers who land at these bases and a Red Cross volunteer walks up to them.

I recall one story in particular about one of the soldiers who volunteered at the Red Cross who said: What do you want? And the soldier said: I need a rootbeer float. Imagine, a rootbeer float. And in a matter of 15 minutes, up pops the Red Cross volunteer with a rootbeer float. It was a small thing for that soldier, but it was an important thing.

So to say we are not going to allow the Department of Defense to provide grants to the Red Cross, the USO, or to Fisher House I think is a mistake. These are great organizations with great volunteers and they do a wonderful job day in and day out to help our troops overseas. If it were my son or daughter overseas, I would like to know the Red Cross is going to be there. I would like to know the USO is going to be there. And God forbid that we would ever need some work at a military hospital; I would like to know there is a Fisher House nearby in case a family needs it because they can't otherwise afford to stay at a hotel for a number of nights.

The McCain amendment would stop the grants by the Department of Defense to these three organizations. If it were not for the fact that such a fine man, a veteran, offered this amendment, some people might say: Why would you do that to our military servicemembers? I don't think we should.

There is also a situation that has been going on for some time regarding Guam. Guam is an important place for stationing some 16,000 marines—16,000 men and women who volunteered to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps and are stationed on Guam. It is a challenge. I have been there. It is a remote location, but important for our national security, particularly in the Pacific theater. Wouldn't we want to say to the men and women who are there in uniform that they are going to have the basics taken care of? And wouldn't we want to say that one of the basics is to make sure they have safe drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities?

Here is what we found out. We found out that on the island of Guam our 16,000 marines are in a facility that has reached the absolute limit in terms of wastewater treatment. The Department of Defense came to us and said: For these troops, we have got to build a new wastewater treatment facility. Well, of course, we do. We don't want to shortchange them or jeopardize public health in any way.

The McCain amendment would eliminate this money, $106 million in funding, for a wastewater treatment plant on Guam. This is not some frill, this is a basic. Everyone wants to believe their son or daughter, volunteering for the Marine Corps and stationed somewhere overseas, is being taken care of by our government—that the government is doing everything we can to make sure they have the basics they need to stay healthy. Well, this is one of those basics—$106 million for a wastewater treatment plant in Guam.

There is also a $13 million ask here that I think makes sense when it comes to the safety of these troops. We want to make sure there is a public health lab in Guam. God forbid these men and women in uniform, or anyone who represents the United States, is facing some biological terrorist. God forbid there is some substance being used that could endanger their lives, and God forbid we would have to rely on laboratory facilities in Atlanta, GA, if you are halfway around the world. That is where the most professional facilities are. So the Department of Defense said: Let's put a $13 million investment in a basic public health lab in Guam to protect the safety of Americans and our troops.

Look at these things. Look at what I am asking for—not for museums, not for things that may be considered frivolous and unnecessary in a given context but, rather, for the basics to support our troops in the field and to provide those who are stationed on Guam some of the most fundamental and basic public health facilities.

So it pains me to come to the floor and to resist an amendment offered by my friend Senator MCCAIN, but I do it in memory of Senator Dan Inouye, who helped write this bill, who himself was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor and had a distinguished career of service in the military.

I hope my colleagues will listen carefully to this debate, and though they feel the strong positive feelings I do toward Senator MCCAIN, they will go to the merits of the issue and defeat the McCain amendment. Make sure the ability of the Department of Defense to continue to work with Fisher House, the Red Cross, and the USO is authorized in law. Let's make sure the 16,000 marines on Guam have the most basic things they need to be safe and healthy and come home just as we want them to. That is what this is all about.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the McCain amendment.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the time until 5:30 p.m., for debate on the McCain amendment, be equally divided between Senators MCCAIN and myself or our designees; that at 5:30 p.m. the Senate proceed to a vote in relation to the McCain amendment and that there be no amendments in order to the amendment prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I don't know if Senator MCCAIN is nearby, but if he is, I want to give him a chance to come over and use the few minutes remaining before the rollcall vote.

But for those Members of the Senate who did not listen to the earlier statements by Senator MCCAIN and myself, this amendment is very basic and very straightforward: Senator MCCAIN would cut or eliminate the ability of the Department of Defense to give grants to three organizations: Fisher House, Red Cross, and USO.

Fisher House is the Ronald McDonald House of military and veterans hospitals. I have visited the one in Chicago. I have talked to my colleagues about other Fisher House facilities around America. They are remarkable and amazing places.

Fisher House is where a family who may not be wealthy has a chance to stay and be treated like royalty while their son, their daughter, their husband, their mother is being operated on in a military hospital. That is what Fisher House is all about. I have seen it. The volunteers who man these houses make sure people are treated in the way they should be and make us proud as Americans. The McCain amendment would eliminate the authority of the Department of Defense to give money to the Fisher House to continue their operations.

The McCain amendment would also eliminate funding grants that are given to the Red Cross and the USO. The Red Cross is an extraordinary organization,

and every American knows what they are about. But in the fiscal year 2010, the Red Cross provided more than 597,000 emergency communications services for nearly 150,000 military families, and they provided nearly $6 million in financial aid to 5,000 military families, not to mention thousands of Red Cross volunteers—including servicemembers, veterans, and military spouses—offered comfort and support to our wounded troops and their families at hospitals around the world.

The USO is another great organization which has provided assistance and entertainment to our troops, many of them stationed far away from home and far away from their family.

In addition, the McCain amendment would eliminate the construction of a wastewater treatment facility in Guam. We have 16,000 marines stationed in Guam. The administration—the President has asked for this money because the wastewater treatment facility in Guam is inadequate. It is not safe. It is a public health hazard. An environmental impact statement prepared for the realignment of marines from Okinawa to Guam clearly finds that the current system is near capacity and needs upgrading.

So whether you argue that Guam is going to have a large future, a small future, the current allocation of marines in Guam deserves the most basic sanitary wastewater treatment facility. You would expect it, would you not, for your son or daughter serving in our Marine Corps? We should expect no less, and the McCain amendment would eliminate the funding necessary for this wastewater treatment facility, as well as a public health laboratory to test samples of suspected toxic substances in a timely manner to protect Americans and our troops in that theater of the world.

I don't know why Senator MCCAIN has picked out these elements. I think they are all positive elements. I hope my colleagues will join me in defeating the McCain amendment. It is an amendment which would take needed resources away from the USO, Red Cross, and Fisher House and deny this wastewater treatment facility in Guam. I hope my colleagues will join me in opposing the McCain amendment.

At this point I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum, in the hopes that Senator MCCAIN can return before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded. I wish to give my friend, Senator MCCAIN, the author of this amendment, the opportunity to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I guess the time here is short. Sometimes when you can't argue the merits of an issue you just make up something. Senator DURBIN claims this amendment would cut funding for the Fisher House, Red Cross, and the USO. If you read the bill, the Fisher House is covered in the CR in section 8070. The Red Cross and USO are covered in section 8078. This amendment strikes section 8039, which pertains to the Office of Economic Adjustment fund, the OEA fund. It has nothing to do with Fisher Houses, the Red Cross, mothers of America, apple pie, or the flag—nothing to do with those except that it strikes legislation which is expressly prohibited in the Defense authorization bill. It strikes language which is directly prohibited by the National Defense Authorization Act.

If the Senator wants to claim that Fisher House, Red Cross, USO, small animals, children, the United Way, whatever else he wants to, they are covered in other parts of the bill. I suggest to the Senator from Illinois reread the bill which says—section 8070 talks about Fisher Houses; section 8078 talks about the Red Cross and the USO. Our amendment strikes 8039, which is the Office of Economic Adjustment, that funding.

I thank the Senator for recognizing that. It is already part of the record. It is very clear this has nothing to do with the Fisher House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we have been assured by the House in the construction of this bill that this provision was added explicitly to make certain that there be no question that the grants that are given to these organizations would be authorized and included in this appropriations process. That is their belief. With an abundance of caution, we support their belief because we know of the importance of these organizations.

I now move to table the McCain amendment No. 33, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 35 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Baldwin	Brown	Cowan
Baucus	Cantwell	Durbin
Begich	Cardin	Feinstein
Bennet	Carper	Franken
Blumenthal	Casey	Gillibrand
Boxer	Coons	Hagan
Harkin	Merkley	Schatz
Heinrich	Mikulski	Schumer
Heitkamp	Murphy	Shaheen
Hirono	Murray	Stabenow
Johnson (SD)	Nelson	Tester
Kaine	Pryor	Udall (CO)
Klobuchar	Reed	Udall (NM)
Landrieu	Reid	Warner
Leahy	Rockefeller	Warren
Menendez	Sanders	Wyden

NAYS—50

Alexander	Fischer	McCaskill
Ayotte	Flake	McConnell
Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Blunt	Grassley	Murkowski
Boozman	Hatch	Paul
Burr	Heller	Portman
Chambliss	Hoeven	Risch
Coats	Inhofe	Roberts
Coburn	Isakson	Rubio
Cochran	Johanns	Scott
Collins	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Corker	King	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	Levin	Vitter
Donnelly	Manchin	Wicker
Enzi	McCain	

NOT VOTING—2

Lautenberg	Whitehouse

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate? If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 33) was agreed to.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set the pending amendment aside to consider——

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, the Senate is not in order. I know there is a lot of gloating over this amendment—I don't mean yours. Could we kind of keep it quiet so Senator INHOFE can offer his amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, first, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment for consideration of my amendment.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I just 2 minutes ago got a copy of what my dear friend is going to offer, and here we go again with a series of environmental riders that have nothing to do with this bill, that would change laws that protect our rivers and our streams, and involve the EPA making sure we prevent oilspills.

Frankly, I am objecting to this at this time unless I know we are going to have a 60-vote threshold; otherwise, I will put us in a quorum call at this time.

Mr. INHOFE addressed the Chair.

Mrs. BOXER. I have the floor because I am reserving the right to object.

Mr. INHOFE. No, I have the floor.

Mrs. BOXER. All right. Go ahead.

Mr. INHOFE. First of all, I would not object to a 60-vote threshold in order to get things to move along. I would say my good friend from California has seen this bill several times before, and several months ago we actually had a vote on it, but I have no objection.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you so much.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 TO AMENDMENT NO. 26

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. This is something we are all familiar with. There is a spill prevention or an SPCC——

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will suspend.

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE] proposes an amendment numbered 29 to amendment No. 26.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the expenditure of Federal funds to enforce the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure rule of the Environmental Protection Agency against farmers)

At the end of title VII of division C, insert the following:

SEC. 17_____. No funds made available under this Act shall be used to implement or enforce with respect to any farm (as that term is defined in section 112.2 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)) the Spill, Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure rule, including amendments to that rule, promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under part 112 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

Mr. INHOFE. This is a bill that for years and years has come up. It was originally designed for refineries that have very large amounts of storage, of oil, of propane, of all that type of material, and it was designed for them to have the necessary safeguards in place. Then, later on, there became a gray area. I ask the question because it has never been answered: Should they now be able to apply this to farms? Farms may have perhaps a little bit of propane over here and over here, someplace else, something else. It might add up to the 1,320 gallons at one time. If that is the case, then they would be under the same requirements as we currently have for refiners. I am talking about them having to do volumes and volumes of paperwork. They would have to purchase new double-lined containers and build berms around their storage facilities. We are talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars, and this could be an average-sized farm.

The EPA has not done enough outreach to farmers to help them get into compliance. When this came up before, we introduced this same amendment that would give them time, with the assurance at that time that they would do this. In fact, I recall personally visiting with Lisa Jackson and she had every intention to go ahead and make these notifications.

So the EPA shouldn't be allowed to enforce the rule against farmers at this time. What this amendment does is asks for an extension to give them time. I plan on talking to the new Director of the EPA about this very issue. This is not just exempting farmers. This is giving more time, in this case, until the end of this fiscal year.

So I would like to be able to pass this. I do urge its adoption and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, if we are still on the Inhofe amendment, is there still an opportunity to speak on the amendment before a vote is called or is the Senator asking for a vote immediately?

Mr. INHOFE. I am sorry, I could not hear the Senator.

Mr. REED. Is the Senator asking for a vote immediately or is there still an opportunity to speak?

Mr. INHOFE. No. We are asking for a vote sometime tomorrow.

Mrs. BOXER. Does the Senator wish to have time?

Mr. REED. I would like to, at the appropriate moment, be recognized to speak, respectfully, against the Senator's amendment.

Mrs. BOXER. Well, now is the time.

Mr. REED. Now is the time? Well, in that case, let me go ahead and speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, Senator INHOFE is proposing a very sweeping amendment that would affect a rule the EPA has developed over the normal rulemaking process, with notice and comments over many, many, many months. It is scheduled to go into effect in May of this year. The amendment the Senator is offering, as I understand it, exempts all farms from this EPA oilspill regulation. Again, this rule is designed to prevent or significantly prevent the pollution of navigable waters by oilspills coming from agricultural operations.

One of the issues here is the definition of what appropriate farm should be exempt. As I understand the amendment, it is all farms. That includes large agribusinesses that have the capability not only of mitigating these hazards but also the resources to do so and, collectively, would contribute to environmental quality.

I know the agricultural community is concerned. And I know also this the type of very complicated legislation that is best resolved at the authorization level. The Senator from Oklahoma, I think, has already indicated there are bills pending, and these bills are much more finely attuned in nuance to address more specifically the problem rather than a total effective preemption from the rule for all farms.

So I would urge very strenuously that—and I know the intentions of the Senator from Oklahoma are to assist the agricultural community, but I do not think this is the place or the time, as we try very seriously to get a bill through by the end of the week, essentially, that will keep the government operating, to decide on these complicated authorization issues, effectively cutting out completely a very serious and detailed rulemaking process that the EPA has undertaken.

So I will urge my colleagues at the appropriate time to resist the amendment.

Mr. INHOFE. Will the Senator yield?

Mrs. BOXER. Will the Senator yield? Go ahead.

Mr. REED. I will certainly yield.

Mr. INHOFE. I want to correct and make sure it is clear the understanding of what this is. This is something that is in existence today, and it is going to be temporarily holding this until the EPA will study to see what kind of hardship this is going to be to all the Senator's farmers and my farmers. This is not the bill that—I actually have a bill that would exclude farmers from this. This is not that bill. This merely extends that deadline to give them time to do what they had agreed they were going to do in terms of the EPA studying this issue.

I wanted to make sure that clarification was on the Record.

Mr. REED. I appreciate very much that clarification. But let me retain my time and then yield to the Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. If I could ask my colleague a couple questions, if he would engage in a colloquy with me.

Mr. REED. I will yield.

Mrs. BOXER. I know the Senator from Rhode Island—and I appreciate what he said about how sweeping this is. The Senator has the amendment in front of him, does he not?

Mr. REED. I have the amendment, yes.

Mrs. BOXER. I need to say here, please, colleagues, this is not any kind of an extension of time. This says:

No funds made available under this Act shall be used to implement or enforce with respect to any farm. . . .

And it goes through the Spill, Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure rule.

Does my colleague read it the way I do? This is not an extension of time. This is a prohibition on EPA implementing the rule. Am I correct?

Mr. REED. I believe the Senator is absolutely correct. There is no time extension. One could argue that as this CR runs out maybe this provision would run out. But the intent of the bill is clearly that there is no money to be expended for any implementation against any farm.

Mrs. BOXER. Exactly.

Mr. REED. That is the language of the bill.

Mrs. BOXER. I want to ask my colleague a couple other questions.

Farmers are exempted if they store less than 1,320 gallons of oil aboveground or less than 42,000 gallons underground. That is the rule.

Is my colleague aware of that?

Mr. REED. Well, I thank the Senator for bringing that to my attention because one point I would make—and I think Senator INHOFE does want to engage also—but one point I would make is that in this EPA rulemaking process there is a requirement to evaluate the cost and benefits with respect to the rule. In that sense, many of these issues have been addressed, and they have been done so in a very careful way.

Two, it has been done by listening to—in fact, requiring legally to take the opinions, the comments of many people, stakeholders from all sides. And then, frankly, the other cost and the traditional cost to protest a rule is not to legislatively eliminate it, particularly in an appropriations bill, but to contest the rule in court based upon the facts.

Mrs. BOXER. Will my colleague yield for one more question? I know my colleague, Senator INHOFE, wants to speak. By the way, we have a deep friendship. But this is something we have never agreed on.

I want to make a point about the EPA rule. Farmers storing any amount of oil, I say to my colleague, are exempted if an oilspill could not reasonably be expected to reach rivers and streams.

My colleague was talking about this as some Draconian rule. The fact is, even one quart of oil, used oil, can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of drinking water.

I am a little blindsided on this, I have to say to my friend. If he is going to keep on doing these riders on here that threaten the health of the American people, I wish he would take it to me and at least give me a personal heads up because this is something that is very serious, and I will be speaking more on it tomorrow.

I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. REED. I believe I still have the time.

Let me make one point. This is a complicated rule that has tried to balance various equities—environmental protection, protecting the navigable waters of the United States, recognizing small farms or farms where in no way their oil could reach down to where it should be exempt.

Here, on the other side, is an amendment that is very broad, open ended—no funds, all farms. I think in this context, I would urge my colleagues to resist the amendment.

I think the Senator from Oklahoma wants to speak.

Mr. INHOFE. Yes. Let me make one comment for clarification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. We will have the opportunity to look at this closer, as the Senator from California suggests, tomorrow. We have talked about this in the past. This is extending that May 30 date to the end of the fiscal year. As you know, everything that would be an amendment adopted on this would expire at the end of the fiscal year. So it is just an extension of that time. Because by their own admission, the EPA has not had time to listen to the concerns of the farmers. And I am talking about farmers in both of your States there as well as my State of Oklahoma.

As far as making the determination as to where the oil might go, I think we all know that would be a very difficult thing to do. There has been an effort for quite some time to take the word ''navigable'' out, which would open it to anywhere.

So I think perhaps tomorrow we will have time to get into this. I really wanted to get it in the queue. I have done that, and we will have a chance tomorrow.

I thank the Senator.

Mr. REED. If I could reclaim the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Let me say, I think the Senator's comments are accurate in that because the CR terminates on September 30, then because it terminates, the CR, this language might go away. But the clear language here is not a—and I think that is the point the Senator from California made—is not a time-certain extension for the EPA to do something. It is: No funds, no farms. And I think there is a reasonable concern—that certainly I have—that this will not just be a deliberate delay of several months, but this is the intent to stop this law indefinitely, as this language was drafted.

Mr. INHOFE. Look, I would conclude by saying, yes, that would be my intent, but not with this legislation. This amendment does not do that. I actually do have a bill that I have up that would permanently exempt farmers in certain categories from being under the jurisdiction of these limitations. But that is not what this is at this time.

I thank the Senator very much.

Mr. REED. I thank the Senator from Oklahoma, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BUDGET

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, here in Washington, DC, the budget debate is often discussed in terms of abstract numbers and political winners and losers. But the truth is that budgets are about far more than that. They are about our values and our priorities, and they are about the people across the country whose lives are impacted by the decisions we make.

Today the Senate Budget Committee discussed one approach to tackling our budget challenges, an approach that, while getting our debt and deficits under control, will also create jobs and build a foundation for prosperity from the middle out.

Tomorrow we will continue this discussion and vote on a plan. Then we will move this debate here to the Senate floor, and then, hopefully, work toward a balanced and bipartisan agreement with the House of Representatives, while the American people have a chance to weigh in.

I believe our budget must meet not just one but many pressing challenges of our time. We have come a long way since early 2009 when President Obama entered office facing massive deficits and an economy that was shedding hundreds of thousands of jobs per month.

We have made progress toward getting our debt and deficits under control, and we have added back jobs, but the recovery is not as strong or as fast as it needs to be. Millions of workers continue struggling to get back to work, and we still have some very serious challenges when it comes to our medium and long-term deficit and debt challenges.

In the coming weeks and months, we will be asked to make tough choices as we work to tackle these challenges responsibly. This process is not going to be easy. There is a serious difference of opinion about what our government should be doing to keep our economy and our national finances moving in the right direction.

One approach is to follow a path back to the economic policies of the last administration. This is the path to more tax cuts for the rich but less opportunity for the middle class to get ahead. It is a path not to prosperity, which can only truly be built from the middle out, but to the deterioration of our national infrastructure and the decline of our schools and the dismantling of the Medicare promise we have made to our seniors. This approach, in fact, was on the ballot last November. Voters around the country rejected it. Instead, they want an approach that puts the middle class first, that returns our Nation to the fiscal and economic policies that have worked for this country before, by focusing on jobs and the economy, cutting spending responsibly, and calling on the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share.

The Senate budget—which we put out today—reflects the progrowth, pro-middle class agenda that the American people went to the polls and supported in November.

Our budget is really built on three principles: No. 1, we need to protect our fragile economic recovery, create jobs, and invest in long-term growth. No. 2, we need to tackle our deficit and debt fairly and responsibly. And, No. 3, we need to keep the promises we made to our Nation's seniors and families and our communities.

We believe with an unemployment rate that remains stubbornly high and a middle class that has seen their wages stagnate for far too long, we simply cannot afford any threats to our fragile recovery.

That is why this budget uses equal amounts of responsible spending cuts and new revenue from the wealthiest Americans to fully replace the cuts from sequestration—cuts that, by the way, threaten hundreds of thousands of jobs this year, and cuts that endanger economic growth for years to come, and cuts that are being felt in States such as mine, where military families are losing services, local housing officials are being forced to cut housing vouchers for the homeless, and furloughs are being handed out to those

who are cleaning up nuclear waste that threatens our environment.

The budget we are offering invests in infrastructure and job training to get Americans back to work now. It prioritizes education, as well as research and development, so that our workforce of today and tomorrow has the skills to compete in the 21st century global economy.

Our budget puts jobs and the economy first and foremost. But it also builds on the work we have done over the last 2 years to tackle our deficit and debt responsibly.

Since 2010, Congress and the administration have worked together to reduce the deficit by $2.4 trillion—$1.8 trillion coming from spending cuts, $600 billion coming from allowing tax rates to rise on the wealthiest Americans, which we voted on in the year-end deal.

The Senate budget takes us the rest of the way to that $4 trillion goal and beyond. It builds on the $2.4 trillion in deficit reduction already done with an additional $1.85 trillion in new deficit reduction, for a total of $4.25 trillion in deficit reduction since the Simpson-Bowles report.

Our budget reduces the deficit to below 3 percent of GDP by 2015 and keeps it well below that level for the rest of the 10-year window in a responsible way. It pushes down our debt, as a percentage of the economy, moving in the right direction. Our budget tackles the deficit the way the American people have consistently said they want it done, with an equal mix of responsible spending cuts made across the Federal budget and new revenue raised by closing loopholes and cutting wasteful breaks that primarily benefit the rich.

This budget cuts spending responsibly by $975 billion, finding savings across the budget, including health and defense. It matches those responsible spending cuts with $975 billion in new revenue, which is raised by closing loopholes and cutting unfair spending in the Tax Code for those who need it the least, while locking in tax cuts for the middle class and low-income working families and protecting them from having to pay a penny more.

Since we have so far been unable to get a deal because Republicans reject using new revenue from the wealthiest to help us reduce the deficit, I want to emphasize that there is bipartisan support for deficit reduction through making the Tax Code more fair and efficient. During the recent fiscal cliff negotiations Speaker BOEHNER proposed that we reduce the deficit by $800 billion by closing what he called special interest loopholes and deductions. This budget takes him up on that.

In addition to investing in jobs and economic growth and tackling our deficit and debt responsibly, this budget also keeps the promises we have made to our seniors, our families, our veterans, and our communities. We strongly reject the call to dismantle Medicare by voucherizing it because this critical program that seniors and families support, paid into, and depend on should be protected. This budget takes a responsible, fair approach. It is the one endorsed by bipartisan groups and experts. It is the one supported by the vast majority of the American people.

The House of Representatives is also working on their budget resolution today. I know there are going to be serious differences between the visions and values and priorities within the budgets which will emerge from our Chamber and theirs. But the American people are going to have an opportunity now to examine these budgets side by side. They are going to be able to decide which approach is best for our economy, best for our jobs, and best for the middle class. They will let us know whether they want to go back down the path of the trickle-down policies that decimated the middle class and threw our economy into a tailspin or if they would prefer the approach we have seen work before: to tackle our deficit responsibly, to reinvest in the middle class, to build a strong foundation for growth, and to restore the promise of American opportunity.

The Senate budget is a balanced and responsible approach to taking us down that second path. I am hopeful the House of Representatives will join us at the bargaining table so we can end this gridlock and work together toward a responsible and bipartisan budget deal that the American people expect and deserve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, before the Senator leaves the floor, the chair of the Budget Committee—first of all, I want to compliment her on the work she has done on the Budget Committee. It is indeed impressive. I want to compliment her because she is headed for a balanced approach, really. Increased revenue. We are not talking about rates, we are talking about getting rid of tax break earmarks, earmarks that go on not for one group for 1 year but go on indefinitely, such as subsidies for corporate jets and sending jobs overseas.

But the other areas she is looking at are how we can be more frugal in our spending, and then a rigorous review of mandatory spending. We have to review it to see how we can get more value for our dollar.

The Senator has championed veteran's health care. She and I know we can get more value there. I compliment the Senator on that.

I am going to ask the Senator a question about timing and process. Does the Senator have a time mandate that has been assigned to her to complete her bill?

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Maryland. First of all, let me just say it is truly a pleasure to be on the floor with the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. I just remember when the Senator and I were here back in 1992, the Year of the Woman, and now here we are managing these critical financial bills.

Ms. MIKULSKI. It is the economic framework for the United States of America.

Mrs. MURRAY. Exactly. Families across the country should be grateful for the work the Senator is doing on the appropriations side of the committee, which focuses on making sure their kids can go to school, that they have the research and investment they need for their health care, and so many transportation infrastructure projects that allow them to go to work and raise their families in a responsible way.

I respect and admire the work the Senator is doing right now on a very difficult and challenging budget CR that no one wishes looked like it does, but we recognize the reality of the task the Senator has been given. She is managing it in the best way possible.

To answer the question, I would tell the Senator that we are in a very short timeframe. Our Budget Committee will proceed through the amendment process, and tomorrow night pass out our budget after many amendments. At that time, our staff will work over the few short days they have to have the paperwork ready to lay down our bill on the floor of the Senate, hopefully, Monday night. We are under a very constricted timeframe. It is the one piece of legislation that comes before this body like that with 50 hours of debate and multiple amendments. We need to finish that before we can leave for the April break.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Well, I want to share the Senator's sense of urgency to get her bill done. In order for her to get her bill done, I need to get my bill done. I want to pledge my cooperation, and I believe that of my vice chairman, Senator SHELBY. We have a sense of urgency to move our bill because we must take it over to the House. There, we have a deadline that is a Draconian one: If we do not have a continuing funding resolution passed before the Easter-Passover break, we will face a government shutdown. That is horrific in terms of our economy and the people who want the U.S. Government to govern itself. It is also one more sign that we have a problem governing. I say that because, while the Senator is marking up her bill tomorrow, we want to move through here so that we are done.

I would like to have this bill done tomorrow. There are those who have obligations in their States and even at an international conference. I would like to support that, but Senator SHELBY and I need support too. So we do not doubt people offering amendments, we do not question their content or their policy, but we have timing and process.

Our bill is not meant to be ''pin the tail on the donkey.'' It is not meant to

solve every problem the U.S. Government has. Our job is to keep the continuing resolution.

I want to say to the Senator, while, speaking to a much larger audience, I know there is pent frustration not to be able to offer amendments and debate. We are doing that. You win some, you lose some. That is called the Senate. I want the Senator to know we want to work with her so that we do not interfere in her work. But I believe one of the ways we can get to the budget, which is the real framework for how we can even vitiate sequester, is to get out our bill, meaning the continuing funding resolution.

So I want to compliment the Senator on her work. I pledge to support it, but I ask the support of all of the other 98 of our colleagues. Let's look at what we need to get done on the continuing funding resolution, not what we would like to get done.

Mrs. MURRAY. If the Senator from Maryland, the chairman of our Appropriations Committee, would yield for a minute, I want to back her up on that. I know there are probably 8,000 amendments that can be offered to this because nobody is happy with the fact that we are faced with a continuing resolution that does not reflect the needs of all of our communities. I know she did not come here to debate process or to be the mother of Senators and get them over here to offer amendments. I know where her passion is. It is fitting for her kids and families and communities in Maryland. That is what she wants to get back to.

If we can get past this and put the CR in place, swallow hard and then get our budget done and work toward a process of a bipartisan budget, we need to do that so we can then give the Senator the ability to put the Appropriations Committee bills together. They will come out here and we will be able to offer amendments and people will have their say about the spending of the future. We cannot get to that unless we get that work done.

Ms. MIKULSKI. That is right. An open and transparent process in that legislation that we put together over a weekend, 571 pages. Senators McCain and Coburn were right, but I could not do any more because I did not get it from the House until Thursday. So, again, I am not here to debate process, but I am the prodder of the process. So I am out here prodding and pleading: Please, let's get a simple, contained order of amendments. We thank the other side of the aisle. They are working with us.

In terms of the floor staff who is working on this, we need the cooperation of the Senators.

Mrs. MURRAY. I would back up the Senator and urge Senators to, please, finish this product, move on to our budget next week, and get that done. Then we can get to the point that America will respect the work of this body and not lurch from crisis to crisis as the Senator has outlined and get back to focusing on the policies those families she cares about and represents so well want her here for.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Absolutely. I see my colleague from Maryland, such an able and active Member, a member of the Finance Committee that is known to make a contribution. We want him to make a couple of trillion dollars' worth of contributions, as a matter of fact.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, let me thank my colleague from Maryland, Senator MIKULSKI. I was listening to the exchange between Senator MURRAY and Senator MIKULSKI. I just want to concur in their comments. We need to act on H.R. 933, the amendments offered by Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY. It is important for us to move forward on this for several reasons.

First, we are over 5 months into the fiscal year. We need to enact the fiscal year 2013 budget. If we are going to the fiscal year 2014 budget, we have to get past the fiscal year 2013 budget. So it is critically important that we pass the continuing resolution omnibus bill, send it back to the House, and, hopefully, reconcile those differences very quickly because we only have a few more days to get this enacted in order to make sure government continues, but just as importantly to give predictability to our agencies for the next 7 months.

We are very close to getting that done. I urge my colleagues to cooperate as the chairperson of the Appropriations Committee, Senator MIKULSKI, has said. I certainly strongly support the work that has been done. I thank Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY for bringing us together in a way that I would hope the Senate would operate, that we work together, Democrats and Republicans, come together on a bill, and move that legislation.

Having said that, I must tell you I share the frustration that Senator MIKULSKI talked about. There are provisions that are not included in this legislation that I would like to see included, and there are some provisions that are included that I would like to see not included. Let me talk about one of the provisions that is included that I regret is there. That is the provision that would extend the pay freeze for our Federal workforce through the remainder of the current budget year, fiscal year 2013.

I am proud to represent the people of Maryland in the Senate, along with my colleague Senator MIKULSKI. We represent 130,000 Federal workers. That is about 5.6 percent of the Maryland workforce who are Federal workers. These are public servants. These are people who are on the frontline. These are people who are providing critical services every day to the people of this country.

A couple of weeks ago, I was at the National Institutes of Health. I had a chance to talk to the workforce there. What they are doing is critically important to the people of this country. I could tell you that the basic research they do is critically important to a lot of companies in the creation of jobs. That is absolutely true.

I will tell you the story of one individual I happened to meet. One of the scientists there took me to the program on which they are working. The work they are doing is in the field of research on renal cancer. The reason I say this is I had a chance to meet with one of the individuals who is in the program. He comes from a different State and was diagnosed a while ago with having a form of renal cancer with no cure. He was told by his doctor that he had basically two choices: We can treat you with the only technology we know here or at any facility in the country—and you have 6 months to live—or you may participate in an NIH program where they are looking at alternative ways to treat this form of renal cancer. This person chose the latter course, traveled to Bethesda, MD, and participated in the program. They discovered for this form of cancer a drug therapy that will stop the growth of the cancer cells. He is now living a somewhat more normal life with hope of survival. He didn't have that just a few months ago.

When I spoke with this person about what he felt about sequestration or about government shutdowns, do you know what he told me? He said: I never thought I would need government. I was working. I never thought I would need government. NIH needs the money we give them. It helped save my life, and it helped develop the type of scientific base we need in this country.

This story could be told many times over. They need the predictability of a budget. They need the legislation Senator MIKULSKI is promoting, which will give them funding for the remainder of this year so they can continue their critically important work.

I visited the Social Security Administration a week ago and met a lot of hard-working Federal workers who were trying to send Social Security benefits to those who need them. We have people with disabilities trying to get a disability determination to receive a check. There is a delay in getting this done—a delay that will only become longer if the Social Security Administration doesn't have the people it needs in order to process those claims.

I could mention many other agencies—NSA and the critical work they do in cyber security. These are the best mathematicians in the world who are Federal workers serving in the most noble of public service. This includes Departments such as NIST, National Institute of Standards and Technology, which develops technology needs for our future, and the work done at FDA, the Food and Drug Administration, on food safety.

These are all people working in my State of Maryland for a Federal agency

as Federal workers. They are getting the job done for the people of this country and deserve our support. They have already sacrificed and have seen budgets that have shrunk. There are fewer people working, and their mission has increased—more work, fewer workers. They have now been through 2 years—which will now increase to 3—of a pay freeze. This translates into a $90 billion contribution to the deficit problems of this country. This is what the Federal workers have done.

Quite frankly, I find it disappointing that a very modest pay adjustment for a 7-month period—a .5 percent, one-half of 1 percent increase, which was in the President's budget—was held off for the first 5 months and will now be held off for the remainder of this year. I think this is wrong. That pay adjustment should have gone forward. I regret that it is not included in the legislation we will act on.

The Federal workforce will have additional sacrifices because this continuing resolution on the omnibus bill incorporates the lower numbers caused by these across-the-board cuts by sequestration. As a result of that, many of our Federal workers will be getting furlough notices. What does a furlough notice mean? That means as many as 1 day out of 5 they will be asked to not show up for work, which translates into a 20-percent pay cut, and some possibly 1 out of every 10 days, which is a 10-percent pay cut. If you have a mortgage payment to make or your utility bills to pay, creditors are not going to accept the fact that it can be 10 percent less because you have been furloughed 1 day out of every 10 days.

Our Federal workers will even do more, and I think we need to acknowledge that not by just saying ''you are doing a great job at public service'' but by giving them the support they need. I hope that as we move forward on the budget considerations for fiscal year 2014, we will take into consideration the sacrifices already made by our Federal workforce and give them the support they need to get the job done for the people of this country.

There are provisions which were left out of this continuing resolution omnibus bill which I think should have been included. Let me support Senator HARKIN and the amendment he has pending, which would basically put into the continuing resolution the work that was done during regular order by the Appropriations Committee on the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. It really accepts regular order. It doesn't increase the total at all; it just adjusts the money that was spent in fiscal year 2012 to the committee priorities established in fiscal year 2013. In other words, it establishes regular order with the same appropriation dollars in order to update the spending in the agencies under the committee's jurisdiction. This makes sense.

Let me give you one example, and I could give you many others. I spoke about the National Institutes of Health. I spoke about how valuable the work is that they accomplish. Well, as a result of budget reductions, they may now only approve about one out of every seven grants. They make grants to our universities and to groups who work to find answers for these diseases. They only now may do one out of every seven. As was explained to me by Dr. Collins, they must choose between the really great grants that are submitted and the great, great grants that are submitted. They can take only a few of the really great projects that are out there.

We need to do better. Senator HARKIN's amendment would increase the amount of money going to NIH by about $140 million. Once again, it doesn't change the overall totals; it adjusts the priorities from fiscal year 2013 to fiscal year 2014. I urge my colleagues to support the Harkin amendment to enable an agency such as NIH to receive the help needed without affecting the overall spending of this Nation.

I really do look forward to us working together, Democrats and Republicans, in the national interest to compromise in a bipartisan manner. This is what we need to do. This is exactly what Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY have done in bringing forward this legislation. It deserves our support.

I listened to Senator MURRAY, as I know we will be voting on a budget next week for fiscal year 2014. What we need to do is work together, Democrats and Republicans, let these bills go to conference, work together and bring out a budget that represents the best for our Nation to move forward.

What I hear most from the people of Maryland is that they want us to make decisions. They need the predictability of a budget. We can give them that for our current year by the enactment of the bill that is currently before us, and then we could give them the predictability they need for the future decisions of our Nation by approving in a bipartisan manner the budget for fiscal year 2014. I would hope we could do that also as this would clearly be in the best interests of our Nation.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, we began a markup on the budget today. It is the first time in 3 years the Budget Committee has actually met to begin to mark up a bill. We had opening statements today. We made opening statements before we saw the chairman's mark, and the mark was produced later after the opening statements were completed.

Tomorrow we will have a markup on the budget and it will be 1 day, and amendments will all be completed tomorrow. There will be several interruptions, but the determination is to finish, which, of course, is contrary to what we would like to have happen. The Republican members of the committee asked that we have a week set aside and we do opening statements beginning Monday or Tuesday and that we actually have amendments up during a normal process and be able to actually engage in the kind of debate I think would be helpful for the financial future of our country. The chair and the Democratic majority decided we would just do opening statements this afternoon and we would do all the amendments tomorrow and we will complete tomorrow regardless. So that is where we are.

I am glad we do have a budget being brought forward. If it is brought to the floor, it will be the first time in 4 years the Democratic majority has brought a budget to the floor. This is in violation of plain law, statutory code of the United States, 1974, requiring a budget be passed every year and brought forward. They refused to do so. The majority leader said it was foolish to bring a budget. What he meant was it was foolish politically. Surely he wouldn't contend it is foolish for America that the Democratic leadership in the Senate bring up a budget. Surely it would be good for the country to do this every year, as the law requires. But that is where we have been. So we are glad.

The House passed earlier this year a bill that said no budget, then no pay. It said, Congress, if you don't pass a budget, at least out of your own House, then you don't get paid. So that picked up the pace, apparently, and we have a budget, although the President has not submitted his budget. Amazingly, I think it is the first time in 90 years, somebody said—the first time certainly in my memory—the President of the United States, who is required by law to have the budget in by February 4, has waited for the House, which is marking up a budget today, and the Senate to do their budget first. That goes against what mayors and city councils do and Governors do. But that is where we are.

I will tell you one thing that we have learned in the short time we have had the budget that I think defines a lot about where our majority wants the country to go. Over 10 years, this budget—at a time of a dangerous fiscal crisis—spends more—$640-some-odd billion more—than the current law we passed about 20 months ago in August of 2011. We agreed to the Budget Control Act. We agreed to a certain amount of money that we would spend and no more. The President signed it and both parties in the House and Senate agreed to it. But what happens? Here we are with their proposing a budget that will spend more money than we agreed to spend just a few months ago.

The worst thing about this is that the Budget Control Act did not go far

enough. We should have reduced spending more. In addition to that, it looks as though there will be about $1 trillion in new taxes in this budget. So it is tax more and spend more. It is the wrong direction for America.

People say: Well, that is just politics; what is the matter with you guys. Why can't you reach an agreement? It is hard to reach an agreement when the country is on an unsustainable debt path that puts us in danger of financial crisis; a path that is already slowing growth down in our country. Agreeing to a budget that continues down this path is not the right thing to do. So I am deeply disappointed that we are in this fix.

I wish we had had an opportunity in committee to really have a lot of discussion about it back and forth, because there are good Democratic members of our committee, talented members, good Republican members, talented members, who bring so much to the discussion. But it was just both sides talking today. Some good statements were made but not the kind of engagement we would like to have had. So that is a disappointment.

Under the current baseline we are on, according to the Congressional Budget Office, in the tenth year of this budget we are dealing with right now—the Budget Control Act—interest on our debt will be $850 billion—$850 billion in interest payments for 1 year on the money we have borrowed—the almost $17 trillion we have borrowed. This is why it is such a dangerous thing. The highway bill is $40 billion or $50 billion a year, aid to education may be $100 billion.

I am saying that in just a few years, because we have run up unnecessarily so much debt, that interest will be $900 billion. That will be more than the Defense Department by far. The Defense Department's base budget is about $540 billion, and it is actually being cut. Interest will be the largest growing item in the budget.

Food stamps went from $20 billion a decade ago to $80 billion. I just left my farmers, who came up from Alabama, and we were talking about that. The farm bill is about $100 billion a year. Of that farm bill, $80 billion of it is the food stamp budget. It has gone up four times. The $20 billion that goes to farmers, in aid and insurance, actually was cut this year, but nothing was cut out of food stamps. They resisted that, and rejected even a modest amendment I offered to end a clear abuse which wouldn't have hurt anybody. I guess what I am saying is we are in serious business here and we have to get off the debt course we are on.

Erskine Bowles, who was appointed by President Obama to head the fiscal commission, along with Alan Simpson—the Simpson-Bowles Commission—said this Nation has never faced a more predictable financial crisis. What he was saying was, if we don't get off the debt path we are on, we are going to have a financial collapse. They didn't say exactly what, but something like Greece, something like we had in 2007, throwing our country back into a recession, which would be a very dangerous thing. It was a bipartisan warning to us that we needed to act, and we haven't acted since then, and that was over 2 years ago.

We haven't done anything. So a lot of people are saying and you have heard it said that we have to act because we are worried about our children and our grandchildren. And we should be worried about the debt that is out there for our children and grandchildren.

Senator KELLY AYOTTE from New Hampshire put a picture up in our Budget Committee today of her two children, ages 5 and 8, and she had one with $1,100,000 on that child's picture, and the younger one had $1,300,000 on her picture. That is what was calculated will be the share of the Nation's debt that they will carry when they are adults. This is wrong. We should not—must not—do this to our children and grandchildren. It was not done to us. Our parents left us with a country much more responsibly managed than this.

We have never, ever had a situation in which we have had four consecutive years of deficits amounting to $1.2 trillion a year. Never. Oh, President Bush spent too much. Yes, he did. He deserves some criticism. I think he does deserve some criticism. The year before he left office, his deficit was $161 billion; his last year was $470 billion. For the last 4 years, we have averaged $1.2 trillion, and it is systemic and it is deep and it has to be changed.

Now, there is one more thing I really would like for my colleagues to focus on, and I will wrap up with this point, but it is really important. The question is: When you have debt equal to $17 trillion, does it impact the economy now? Yes. It puts us at risk for some sort of fiscal crisis. If there is a collapse in Europe, a collapse in Japan, a collapse in China, it could kick us off into a major financial disaster in the United States. It is a very fragile situation.

But the question is: Does the debt we have now slow growth today? I think that is a really important issue, and so we have done the research.

The issue was originally raised by Rogoff and Reinhart. They have done a number of studies and wrote a big book about all the nations that have gone into default and have had a debt crisis over the last 200 years. It is a thoroughly respected work of two highly competent and proven, respected economists. What they concluded was that when debt reaches 90 percent of the size of your economy, you slow economic growth by 1 to 2 percent.

Where are we now? A lot of people have been using the ''public debt of the United States.'' That is one way to calculate it, and our public debt represents about 76 percent of our gross domestic product. But the other debt that we use, the one you have seen most often, is the $16 trillion figure that has the numbers spinning on it—$16 trillion is what is called the gross debt. A lot of people seem to think we are not in danger because Rogoff and Reinhart were talking about the public debt. That is not so. We have examined their work, and we have examined their footnotes and their reports and analysis. It is the gross debt. That is what they were using; that is what they calculated. We are at 104 percent gross debt, so we are well over the 90.

I would contend that the reason our economy has failed to meet, for the last 3 years, the growth expectations that were out there is because our debt is dragging us down now. And there are hundreds of thousands—millions of Americans who are probably out of work today because of the debt drag.

We need to get off this path, and the budget the majority moves in our committee gets us nowhere off this path. It never brings our gross debt below 90 percent or 94 percent of GDP, and we haven't finished the analysis of it.

In addition, the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank, the International Settlements Bank—all three have done similar studies with a little different approach, and they all reach the same conclusion. What they have concluded is that however you calculate the debt, the United States is already above the line where growth is slowed.

I think it was 2 years ago that the Congressional Budget Office—our nonpartisan group who makes projections for our debt and finances in the future—calculated that this year, 2013, we would have 4.6 percent growth. They predicted a much higher growth last year than the 2.2 percent we got the year before that, and they missed the previous year. They missed 3 consecutive years, predicting higher growth than occurred. And growth means a lot.

White House economic expert Christina Romer has estimated that a 1-percent growth in the economy—a difference between 2 and 3 percent—means you would create 1 million jobs to have 3 percent growth rather than 2 percent growth. That is what growth does to job creation, to wages, the possibility of getting raises, getting more wages, more overtime, perhaps, more bonuses, because the economy is growing. And if it is not growing, our workers are hurting.

So in our vision—I think the members of the Republican side of this Budget Committee—we are united in the belief that we can bring this budget under control and we can balance it.

Now, I have to tell you, the budget Chairman MURRAY produced tonight does not balance ever. It never balances. They say it is a balanced approach. They even said a couple times that it is a balanced budget, in our hearing. All they were trying to do was use the word ''balance,'' I think maybe—surely not but perhaps—they were hoping people would hear them

say they have a balanced budget, which comes nowhere close to balance. With $500 billion, $600 billion, $700 billion of deficit out there for years and years, it never balances. Congressman RYAN made his budget public, openly, a day before he commenced his hearing, and it balances in 10 years.

This is the deal. There is good and bad news in what I am saying. The good news is that we can increase spending every year by 3.4 percent and the budget will balance. The path we are on, the CBO current baseline projects us increasing spending each year at 5.4 or 5.6 percent. So if you reduce that growth instead of growing at that level, you grow at 3.4 percent, the budget will balance. And 3.4 percent is higher than what the Congressional Budget Office says inflation will be. They say it is about 2.2 percent; it will be about 25 percent over 10 years. So you can increase spending over 10 years by 40 percent above the inflation rate, and the budget will balance. You just can't keep increasing it by 5.4 or 5.6 percent.

It is critical for America that we get on the right course. So this is deeply troubling to me. I know we can do this. It is not that hard.

But here is the bad news and why it is painful a bit to get there; that is, because more than half of our budget now is the entitlement programs and interest. As I said, interest on the debt—you have to pay it. You really can't cut the interest except by reducing your debt. And there is no balanced budget in the short-term future, so the interest is going up at a solid rate.

Then you have our big entitlement programs. You have Medicare, you have Social Security, and then you have some large ones—Medicaid, which is a surging program growing at 8 percent a year, projected to increase by 117 percent over 10 years, and then food stamps is considered to be an entitlement. You put all those entitlements together and you have a problem. Those are in law. And ''entitlement'' means that if your income is at a certain level, your age is a certain age, you are entitled to the benefit that the law gives you whether the government has any money or not. Congress doesn't have to appropriate it. The government has to go out and borrow the money if they don't change the law.

So we need a plan to change Medicare, Social Security, food stamps, and some of the other entitlement programs in a way that saves them from the financial disaster they are headed toward, puts them on a sound path, and actually begin to restore the finances of America.

There is still waste, fraud, and abuse in the remaining part of the government. There are still programs that don't do any good for the money they get. There is still money spent on projects that should never have money spent on them from Washington, DC, and they ought to be eliminated. But to slow growth from 5.4 percent a year to 3.4 percent a year, we need to touch a little bit of everything. And spending will still go up. That is the good news. We can still spend more, but we just can't spend it quite at the increased rate we are on.

Some people say: Why don't you balance it now? Why are you talking about waiting 10 years?

We probably should do it sooner than 10 years. But I think it is a realistic appeal to Democrats and Republicans alike—let's get on this path, this path that is not too hard to achieve what would be fabulous for America.

Two things. First, I believe that if we were to pass a budget that would be on the path to balance in 10 years, we would feel some economic growth that we have never felt before. Investors worldwide, investors in the United States, and businesses would feel so much better about our country. I really think that is true. Second, we would reduce the huge debt hanging over us that is already slowing down growth. Those two things we can accomplish.

I don't know where we will go. We will pass a budget out of committee, I am sure, on a party-line vote. Maybe it will pass here on the Senate floor by a party-line vote, and then it will go to conference. I don't know, maybe Speaker BOEHNER or Chairman RYAN's budget will match up with the Democratic budget out of the Senate, and maybe something good will happen for America and we can reach some sort of agreement. But we cannot tax our way out of this. We can't keep increasing spending, for heaven's sake. We need to reduce the growth of spending to a level that is reasonable and can put us on a path to balance.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of an amendment that I have filed, along with Vice Chairman CHAMBLISS, to the appropriations bill now on the floor, which will address a unique problem the intelligence community faces in applying the sequester reductions to the National Intelligence Program, NIP, budget.

In short, this amendment would ensure that the intelligence community—which has to be as predictive and agile as possible—will have the same level of flexibility in implementing budget cuts as the Department of Defense, where most of its budget is located. Without this relief, the intelligence community will be far less discriminating in how it adjusts personnel and financial resources to address the dynamic and unforeseen threats our Nation will face in the upcoming months.

This is a commonsense amendment. It does not cost a dime, and it will likely avoid a great deal of harm to our intelligence capabilities.

Let me briefly describe the background and how the amendment would work.

As has been described many times, the terms of the sequestration require that the same level of budget cuts apply across the board. That is, departments and agencies have to apply the same percentage cut across each account.

It therefore becomes very important how those accounts are defined. If the account is very large, a manager has more leeway to prioritize funding and cut the least important, or the least urgent, needs. By contrast, if the account is defined as being smaller, there is less flexibility to cut funding responsibly, and more important programs will suffer.

Because of language included in the Fiscal Year 2012 Defense Appropriations Act, however, the intelligence community must apply the sequester in a highly restrictive way. That legislation required that the definition of an account for sequestration in the intelligence community is at something known as the Programs, Projects, and Activities—known as PPA—level. The intelligence community's budget has 685 PPAs, and each will need to be cut equally. The most problematic of these PPAs for the intelligence agencies are the 354 PPAs within the intelligence agencies' Operations and Maintenance, O&M, accounts. These are the accounts which fund current operations and salaries.

The overall Department of Defense budget is roughly 10 times that of the intelligence community, but it has only 3 times more PPAs—in other words, it has relatively fewer accounts that are affected by sequestration, and thus greater flexibility to absorb the sequester cuts, since they can be applied within larger budget accounts.

This amendment would help alleviate this problem by permitting the agencies in the intelligence community that are funded by the Defense Appropriations bill to use the same definition of what constitutes a Program, Project, and Activity Account as the Defense Department when applying sequestration reductions to its O&M accounts. This specific change will reduce the number of these PPAs from 354 to 5 and will not affect other PPAs. No budget outside of the intelligence community is affected—we simply provide these intelligence agencies with the same level of flexibility as the Pentagon.

In times like today, where the threats are neither static nor predictable, I ask that my colleagues approve this amendment so that the intelligence community may be nimble and responsive to the dangers our Nation faces.

This is not a simple budgetary matter. How the cuts of sequestration are applied makes a great deal of difference in practical terms.

Just yesterday, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper and other intelligence agency heads testified at the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's hearing on Current and Projected National Security Threats to the United States. They described the numerous, complex, and interrelated threats we face. Director Clapper noted

''how quickly and radically the world—and our threat environment—are changing.'' He stated there is an increasing risk to U.S. critical infrastructure from cyber attacks, in particular from isolated state or non-state actors using less sophisticated but still effective techniques that are more prevalent today. I ask unanimous consent that an excerpt from this transcript be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The terrorist threat continues to become more diffuse since the al-Qa'ida core leadership has been degraded and its affiliates in the Arabian Peninsula and Africa look to fill that void and strike against the United States. Countries like Iran and North Korea continue their efforts to develop ever more deadly weapons of mass destruction, and look to market them to counter their failing economies. And, the instability in the Middle East and North Africa that has grown since the Arab spring continues to create more dangers and potential flashpoints in countries that 3 years ago were not assessed to have such risks.

In the past 6 months, it has been clear that the intelligence community needs to surge additional resources to collect and analyze intelligence on Northern Africa. Our policymakers need more and better information to deal with instability and terrorist activities in Libya, Mali, and Algeria. Under sequestration, however, agencies would be limited to do so. The same needs apply to address threats that emanate from Iran, North Korea, Syria, and cyberspace, to name just a few.

There is no doubt that the intelligence community can reduce spending and contribute to the Government-wide reductions. But to strip it of all flexibility to cut programs and personnel across the board makes no sense.

If our intelligence agencies are to absorb the cuts required by sequestration, our Nation's security would be better served by providing the intelligence community with the flexibility it needs to implement cuts in as responsible and thoughtful way under these circumstances.

The changes my amendment seeks are necessary to help the intelligence community adapt to a changing world as the sequestration reductions are implemented. I understand there may be concerns with how the other chamber will view this amendment, but I believe that our counterparts on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—Chairman MIKE ROGERS and Ranking Member DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER—support making these changes to help intelligence agencies succeed in their mission.

Finally, Mr. President, let me make clear that this amendment is intended, and I believe does, have no effect on the visibility that Congress has in how the intelligence community will make budget reductions due to sequestration or with how these agencies reprogram funds. The only thing affected by the amendment is the size of the accounts from which sequestered funds must be taken.

On behalf of myself and Vice Chairman CHAMBLISS, I urge adoption of the amendment.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EXCERPTS FROM THE TESTIMONY OF DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE JAMES CLAPPER, BEFORE THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, MARCH 12, 2013

In my considered judgment as the nation's senior intelligence officer, sequestration jeopardizes our nation's safety and security. And this jeopardy will increase over time. The National Intelligence Program, or NIP as it's called, which I manage is spread across six cabinet departments, and two independent agencies. Much of it is included in the DOD budget. For that portion of the NIP, the Congress directed that the National Intelligence Program use an even more onerous set of rules to carry out these cuts than that imposed on the Defense Department.

This restrictive Program Project and Activity, or PPA, structure as it's known, compounds the damage because it restricts our ability to manage where to take deductions in a balanced, and rational way. Accordingly the sheer size of the budget cut, well over $4 billion, or about 7 percent of the NIP will directly compel us to do less, with less. Some examples, and I'll have to be circumspect here, in a—in an open, unclassified setting, and we're prepared to speak more specifically in a classified setting, of the impacts of sequestration.

We'll reduce human technical, and counter intelligence operations resulting in fewer collection opportunities while increasing the risk of strategic surprise. This includes for example, possibly furloughing thousands of FBI employees funded in the National Intelligence Program. Our cyber efforts will be impacted. This is an area where, as you all know, we must—we need to keep ahead of rapid technology advances to maintain and increase access to adversaries as well as provide warning of a cyber attack against the U.S.

Critical analysis and tools will be cut back. So we'll reduce global coverage, and may risk missing the early signs of a threat. Our response to customers will suffer as well. We'll let go over five thousand contractors, and that number may grow, who are an integral part of the intelligence community, and this is on top of the thousands of contractors we've let go in previous years. We'll delay major systems acquisitions, and decommission older, but still productive overhead reconnaissance capabilities, thus reducing coverage. Virtually all of the 39 major systems acquisitions across the intelligence community would be wounded.

We'll have to re-negotiate contracts and slip schedules to the right, which in the long run, will cost us more. And we'll scale back cutting edge research that helps us maintain a strategic advantage. Since we're already halfway through the fiscal year, the mandate of across the board cuts are equivalent to 13 percent, because we'll be forced to take them in just seven months. These condensed timelines magnify the impact these cuts will have on the I.C. So in response, our approach starts with the premise that mission comes first. Therefore, our two highest priorities are: One, to protect our most valuable resource, our civilian workforce so we can focus on the threats we face. And two to support overseas operations.

Our civilian workforce works 24/7 around the world and is crucial to performing that mission. It is our civilian professionals who will provide the resilience and ingenuity to help compensate for the other cuts we'll incur. I am resolutely committed to minimizing the number, and lengths of furloughs that would be required, not only because of the direct impact on our mission because of the severe impact on the morale of the people who do it. I plan to follow Deputy Secretary of Defense, Ash Carter's sterling example, and have my pay reduced as well in solidarity with any I.C. employees that have to be furloughed.

Now let me emphasize here that we are not arguing against taking our share of the budget reductions. What I am saying is we must manage this budget crisis, and continue our vital missions. And in so doing, we'll minimize the impact on our nation,and on our employees. Therefore, I plan to submit a reprogramming action that mitigates some of the most egregious cuts to help us cut in a more rational mission focused manner. And in this, I'm asking for your support, and the other intelligence oversight committees for expedited management and consideration.

And Madam Chairman I want to on behalf of the entire intelligence community, thank you for your leadership and your care for the mission of the intelligence community, and introducing a bill that would give us that flexibility. Now I must tell you that, unfortunately, I've seen this movie before. 20 years ago I served as director of Defense Intelligence Agency, the job that Lieutenant General Mike Flynn has right now. We were then enjoying to reap the peace dividend occasioned by the end of the Cold War.

We reduced the intelligence community by 23 percent. During the mid to late '90s, we closed many CIA stations, reduced human collectors, cut analysts, allowed our overhead architecture to atrophy, and we neglected basic infrastructure needs, such as power, space, and cooling. And we let our facilities decay. And most damaging, most devastatingly we badly distorted the workforce. All of that of course was—was reversed in the wake of 9/11, and thanks to the support of the Congress over the last decade, we rebuilt the intelligence community into the premier in such capability on the planet.

And now if we're not careful, we risk another damaging downward spiral. So I'm going to do all I can to prevent history from repeating that cycle. But to be clear, the—the scope and magnitude of the cuts already underway will be long lasting. Unlike more directly observable sequestration impacts, like shorter hours of public parks, or longer security lines at airports, the degradation to intelligence will be insidious. It will be gradual and almost invisible, unless and until, of course we have an intelligence failure.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to speak on an amendment I have offered with my colleague from Colorado, Senator UDALL, but before I do so, I want to commend the senior Senators from Maryland and Alabama, Senators MIKULSKI and SHELBY, for putting forth a bipartisan proposal to prevent a government shutdown, and to congratulate them both on their new roles as Chairwoman and Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. I look forward to working with both of them as we complete work on the fiscal year 2013 funding bills and begin the fiscal year 2014 budget process.

I also want to thank my friend from Colorado, Senator UDALL, for working with me to develop this bipartisan amendment, which is based on a stand-

alone bill that we introduced last week.

Our amendment would help mitigate the harmful effects of the indiscriminate across-the-board cuts, known as sequestration, which took effect on March 1.

Our amendment would not reverse the automatic spending reductions, but would empower the heads of Federal agencies and departments to set priorities and implement the cuts in a smarter way.

Without this amendment, sequestration will be applied without distinction between high and low priority programs, programs that have a proven track record of success and those that should be reduced or eliminated.

To ensure appropriate Congressional oversight, the amendment requires agency heads to submit their spending proposals to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for approval.

This Congressional oversight is an important step in the process because the Appropriations Committees know the budget of each agency inside and out. This review process also provides a strong incentive for each department or agency to put forth a serious plan if it wants to avoid the across-the-board cuts that would otherwise take effect.

Mr. President, this is an approach that our intelligence community has requested. The Nation's senior intelligence officer, Director Clapper, testified yesterday before the Intelligence Committee that sequestration jeopardizes our Nation's safety and security and that the across-the-board nature of the cuts compounds the damage by limiting ''our ability to manage where to take deductions in a balanced, and rational way.'' His plea was for flexibility, saying ''All we're asking for is the latitude on how to take them to minimize the damage.''

The Udall-Collins amendment would provide that needed flexibility to the intelligence community and other areas of our government, and I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Finally, I would like to note how pleased I am that the legislation currently before the Senate includes full-year funding bills for a number of departments and agencies, including the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Justice, Veterans Affairs, Commerce, and Agriculture. While I wish we had been able to move all of the annual appropriations bills, at a minimum, we appear on the verge of passing full-year funding bills for the departments I just mentioned, which is particularly improrrtant for the Department of Defense.

Military leaders have repeatedly warned that failure to enact a full-year defense funding bill would have dire consequences for our military. Military readiness would suffer, and the military would not be fully ready to respond to crises because DOD could not transfer funds from investment accounts into readiness accounts.

A year-long CR for the Defense Department would have resulted in a hollow force because the Pentagon would not have been able to increase production rates for existing weapons, start new programs, or sign multiyear procurement contracts that will provide significant savings for taxpayers.

When I questioned Deputy Defense Secretary Ash Carter on February 14, 2013, at a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing about what the continuing resolution means for the Navy and our domestic shipbuilding capability, he testified that:

> We're in the absurd position where we're five months into the fiscal year and we have the authority to build the ships that we built last year and no authority to build the ships that we plan to build this year. That's crazy . . . and that has nothing to do with sequester, by the way, that's the C.R.

The full-year funding bills that are included in the continuing resolution offered by Senators MIKULSKI and SHELBY will help alleviate some of the impacts of sequestration on the departments and agencies funded through those bills.

Unfortunately, the departments and agencies that find themselves funded under a continuing resolution, operating under a budget based on last year's needs, are not as lucky. It is all the more important for these departments and agencies that we provide additional flexibility, as the Udall-Collins amendment would do, in carrying out the cuts mandated by the Budget Control Act.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment so that the cuts that are taking place now can be targeted at programs that do not work while sparing those programs that do.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following leader remarks tomorrow, March 14, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 933; that there be up to 1 hour of debate equally divided in the usual form on the Harkin amendment; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Harkin amendment; that there be no amendments in order to the amendment prior to the vote, and the amendment be subject to a 60-affirmative-vote threshold.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion on the Mikulski-Shelby substitute amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Mikulski-Shelby substitute amendment No. 26, as modified, to H.R. 933 a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Barbara A. Mikulski, Sherrod Brown, Barbara Boxer, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar, Debbie Stabenow, Max Baucus, Tim Johnson, Benjamin L. Cardin, John D. Rockefeller IV, Charles E. Schumer, Carl Levin, Thomas R. Carper, Richard J. Durbin, Maria Cantwell.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have another cloture motion to the underlying bill at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 933 a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Barbara A. Mikulski, Sherrod Brown, Barbara Boxer, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar, Debbie Stabenow, Max Baucus, Tim Johnson, Benjamin L. Cardin, John D. Rockefeller IV, Charles E. Schumer, Carl Levin, Thomas R. Carper, Richard J. Durbin, Maria Cantwell.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived with respect to both cloture motions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MYRON FLEMING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have been waiting today to take just a moment to honor Myron Fleming, Director of Doorkeepers, who is retiring after 40 years of working on Capitol Hill.

Myron began his work in the Capitol with the office of Senator Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio. He has worked in the Senate for 33, 34 years, and prior to that he worked in the House of Representatives for 7 years. He is someone

whom I have watched over the many years I have been here. He has a wonderful personality. He is someone who helps keep order in this institution, and his presence in the Senate is one that is calming. Everyone who knows him likes him. It just will not be the same without him.

While I will miss him, I know he will be glad to spend more time with his wife Jean Carolyn, as well as his children Mark and Mitchell and their granddaughter Nila.

We talked earlier in the day when I learned he was retiring, and I have already spoken about what a fine gentleman he is. But here is one thing he and I joked about today. I was here handling the floor as I did for Senator Daschle for many years, and there was this big crash. Everyone said: What has happened? What happened was Myron was rushing around doing the work he did, and he could not have done a better pirouette if he been a ballerina. He flipped in the air and came crashing down. Everybody thought something bad had happened, and Myron just got up, smiled, and walked away. He and I joked about that earlier today. I will always remember that. I asked Gary to find somebody on the staff who was there when Myron fell, and no one remembered, but Myron and I remembered. So I went and talked to him myself.

Myron is leaving next week to go on a cruise to Cancun, Mexico, with his wife and his granddaughter. I thank him on behalf of the entire Senate for his faithful service to our country and to the U.S. Senate. I wish him well in the future.

TRIBUTE TO JANICE MILLER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize one of my longest-serving and loyal staffers, Janice Miller. After more than a quarter of a century in my Las Vegas office, Janice retired on February 22, 2013. She has earned a happy and restful retirement from public service, but she will be deeply missed.

Just six months after I had been elected to serve my first term in the U.S. Senate, Janice joined my staff. A self-described cat lover, Janice soon came to be known for her laughter and her sharp wit. Along with her no-nonsense attitude, she showed true compassion for the countless Medicare and Social Security recipients she assisted throughout her career.

Janice is a true Nevadan. She attended the Western High School in Las Vegas, and then went to the University of Nevada, Reno. Although Las Vegas is her home, she continues to be an avid Wolf Pack supporter. In her youth, Janice had a tremendous activist spirit. That was tapped into by one of her mentors, my good friend and former chief of staff, Rey Martinez. Rey taught Janice at Western High School, and he also introduced her to politics, where she stayed until her recent retirement. Janice has always cared deeply about women's issues, ranging from women's health care to access to education and equality in the workplace.

Janice Miller, during the time she worked on my campaigns, was an all-star. Janice also had tremendous compassion for senior citizens who were often struggling with Social Security issues. In the more than 25 years that Janice was with me, she never lost her concern for the seniors who needed her help. She always went above and beyond, helping to develop invaluable resources for Nevada's seniors in need. She helped to write the first ''Retiree Guide'' for my office. Thousands of copies of this guide are still used as a catalog of information and resources for seniors in southern Nevada.

Janice developed a deep understanding of the medical field through her work and her continued outreach to the community. Cindy Lubiarz, vice president of business development at Care Meridian, credits Janice with helping to facilitate the development of the CareMeridian Pediatric Facility, the only free-standing, post-acute inpatient pediatric facility in Nevada, which is set to open its doors later this year.

While fighting to ensure that Nevadans in need got the benefits they deserved, Janice also battled breast cancer. As a survivor, she serves as a source of strength for so many women who are facing the same challenge. She took this role in her personal life as well as in her professional life. Her support has meant so much to Mary Liveratti, retired administrator for the Nevada Division of Aging and Disability Services, who is a breast cancer survivor herself. When Janice first learned of Mary's diagnosis, she pulled her aside at a meeting to tell Mary that she had also battled breast cancer and to offer Mary support and encouragement. When Mary talks about this incident, it brings her to tears because she knew she was not alone in her fight.

Janice's kind spirit, in-depth knowledge of Medicare and Social Security, and commitment to public service will be truly missed. I thank her for her tireless service, and wish her well in her retirement.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT VALERIE DELANEY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I want to express my deep condolences to the family of LT Valerie Delaney who was a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in 2009, whose life was cut short by jet crash in Washington State.

Lieutenant Delaney graduated from the Naval Academy and was a wonderful young lady. She was not my appointment but appointed to the Academy by Congressman ELIJAH CUMMINGS. She was a great naval officer who married 1 year ago. She had a promising life and a promising career ahead of her.

To her family who resides in Howard County in the wonderful community of Ellicott City, I, Senator CARDIN, and the other Senators wish to extend our heartfelt condolences.

Valerie did everything well. She was popular with other officers and well regarded. When she sought nomination, she needed to take 1 year off for prep school, which she did. She was diligent, persistent and terrific.

We deeply regret this tragic accident which occurred. I wanted to inform the Senate of this accident and let her family know we extend our sympathy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DR. DONALD ZACHARIAS

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, Mississippi State University and my State of Mississippi lost one of its most outstanding leaders with the passing of Dr. Donald Zacharias on March 3 at the age of 77. Dr. Zacharias served as the president of Mississippi State University from 1985–1997. His name became synonymous with the highest qualities of leadership, vision, and humanity. He was blessed with gifts that enabled him to make important contributions to higher education throughout the country.

I ask that a March 3, 2013 article from the Clarion-Ledger newspaper titled ''Former MSU president Donald Zacharias' legacy one of transformation,'' be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows.

[From the Clarion-Ledger, Mar. 3, 2013]

FORMER MSU PRESIDENT DONALD ZACHARIAS' LEGACY ONE OF TRANSFORMATION

(By Therese Apel)

Former Mississippi State University President Donald Zacharias is being remembered among friends, family and MSU faithful as a man with a vision for the university—and a man who left a legacy of growth and progress at the school he loved.

Zacharias, who led the Starkville university from 1985–97, died Sunday of complications from multiple sclerosis after an extended illness. He was 77.

''He had an influence not just on MSU but on higher education at large in Mississippi,'' said Sid Salter, director of University Relations. ''He had some rather tumultuous battles with the Legislature over funding higher education. I think that's really where he could shine in his ability and his willingness to fight for what he believed in.''

Roy Ruby was vice president for student affairs when Zacharias joined the MSU family and later was dean of the College of Education and interim president of the university. Until a year ago, when Zacharias was admitted to a nursing home, the two were neighbors.

''He was a man of solid integrity, and he was a man of his word,'' said Ruby. ''He was a man who, in all aspects of his life, tried to do right. He was a good family man, a good citizen of the state, and an exemplary college administrator.''

Current MSU President Mark Keenum said Zacharias was someone he looked up to.

''I counted him as a friend, a mentor and an inspiration. Don Zacharias was a man of

great courage and dignity—and he was one of the most influential leaders in the history of Mississippi higher education,'' Keenum said.

Salter said he and his late wife, Paula, who also had multiple sclerosis, were friends with Zacharias and his wife of 53 years, Tommie.

''They took an interest in Paula, and, ironically, he would later be diagnosed with MS,'' Salter said. ''He had a tremendous impact on me. He was a solid guy and a man of great integrity.''

Zacharias brought Mississippi State to a new level of prominence during his 12½ years of service.

He raised MSU's visibility and reputation nationally, and enrollment climbed to the largest in the state at almost 16,000. African-American enrollment more than doubled to 2,200, 15 percent of the student body and the highest percentage among SEC schools, according to a Sunday news release from the university.

Enrollment, private contributions, research and athletic achievement all grew significantly as part of Zacharias' legacy.

''Dr. Donald Zacharias was a transformative figure at Mississippi State University,'' Keenum said. ''He really helped bring MSU into the modern era, and he did so by developing a broad vision for the leadership that Mississippi needed from a land grant university.''

Zacharias, upon his retirement from MSU, said: ''I saw things in Mississippi State University that others might not have seen. I felt that I had made the right decision to be at this university because I liked both what it stood for and its overall character. I liked its mission, and I liked the students and alumni. I saw the potential.''

Gary Harris, a coach and educator at Heritage Academy in Columbus who graduated from MSU in the early 1990s, said he remembers Zacharias as someone who was able to connect with everyone, regardless of their backgrounds.

''Because of my involvement in several campus organizations, I was around Dr. Z many times,'' he said. ''He was a very kind, knowledgeable man who always seemed to know how to make everyone in the room seem important. He was a tremendous leader for our campus during some very difficult financial times.''

Salter said many of Zacharias' dreams for the university continue to be fulfilled.

''He had a long reach, and his influence extended past his own tenure as president.''

Funeral arrangements are incomplete, but the Zacharias family will communicate details through the university. A public memorial service is tentatively planned for Thursday on the Starkville campus of MSU.●

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE STEVEN ELLIOT

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Judge Elliot as he retires from the bench having honorably served on Nevada's Second Judicial District Court for 16 years. Judge Elliot's wisdom and temperance has made him an extremely effective and admirable judge. His distinguished career as an attorney, judge, and public servant in Nevada is worthy of our appreciation.

After graduating from Stanford University and earning his juris doctor from the University of Denver, Judge Elliot was first elected Sparks City Attorney in 1979 and held that position until his election to the district court. While working as city attorney for Sparks, he founded the Washoe County Domestic Violence Task Force and supported the Washoe County DUI Task Force. Judge Elliot also crafted legislation requiring land developers to dedicate water rights to local governments, saving taxpayer dollars.

In 1997, Judge Elliott assumed his position as district judge where he was assigned in the family division and general jurisdiction dockets working on civil and criminal cases. As chairman of the Employee Relations Committee, he led a year-long task force to revise the employee manual. He also served on the Nevada Statewide Court Security Task Force to improve security for judges and the public in courthouses throughout Nevada.

In addition to his responsibilities in the court, he has also been very active in many community organizations. He has tirelessly worked to improve the life of Nevada's young people and abused and battered women, as well as promoted clean and safe communities in Nevada. I applaud Judge Elliot's commitment to upholding the law of the land as well as the betterment of his community. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Judge Elliot for his accomplishments and contributions to Nevada and his retirement from the Second Judicial District Court of Nevada. He is a truly exceptional Nevadan.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:59 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 749. An act to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual privacy notice requirement.

H.R. 1035. An act to require a study of voluntary community-based flood insurance options and how such options could be incorporated into the national flood insurance program, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 592. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to clarify that houses of worship are eligible for certain disaster relief and emergency assistance on terms equal to other eligible private nonprofit facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs .

H.R. 749. An act to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual privacy notice requirement; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1035. An act to require a study of voluntary community-based flood insurance options and how such options could be incorporated into the national flood insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 558. A bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from awarding any grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or other financial assistance under section 103 of the Clean Air Act for any program, project, or activity outside the United States.

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–796. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Maximum Interest Rates on Guaranteed Farm Loans'' (RIN0560–AH66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–797. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Selection and Functions of Farm Service Agency State and County Committees'' (RIN0560–AG90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–798. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Child Nutrition Programs: Nondiscretionary Amendments Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010'' (RIN0584–AE14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–799. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Updated Trafficking Definition and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Dual Participation'' (RIN0584–AD97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–800. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch,

Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National School Lunch Program; Direct Certification Continuous Improvement Plans Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010'' (RIN0584–AE10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–801. A communication from the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Office of the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation's fiscal year 2012 annual report; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–802. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Repeal of Disclosure Regulations'' (RIN2590–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–803. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regional Reliability Standard PRC–006-NPCC–01—Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding'' (RIN1902–AE54) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–804. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; New Source Review (NSR) Preconstruction Permitting Program; Clarification of EPA's Approval of the Sunland Park Section 110(a) (1) Maintenance Plan for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard'' (FRL No. 9788–8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–805. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''New York: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions'' (FRL No. 9693–2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–806. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Federal Implementation Plan for Oil and Natural Gas Well Production Facilities; Fort Berthold Indian Reservation (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation), North Dakota'' (FRL No. 9789–3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–807. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revise Shutdown Margin Definition to Address Advance Fuel Designs'' (NUREG–1433 and 1434) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–808. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the transfer of jurisdictional control of certain classes of items currently on the United States Munitions List (USML) to the Commerce Control List (CCL); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–809. A communication from the Acting Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a claim for equitable relief under the Meritorious Claims Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–810. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Board's compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during calendar year 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–811. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Board's compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during calendar year 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MIKULSKI, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled ''Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2013'' (Rept. No. 113–3).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 542. A bill to provide limitations on maritime liens on fishing licenses and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 543. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reorganize the Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 544. A bill to require the President to develop a comprehensive national manufacturing strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 545. A bill to improve hydropower, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 546. A bill to amend entrance counseling and exit counseling for borrowers under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. VITTER, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 547. A bill to prevent a fiscal crisis by enacting legislation to balance the Federal budget through reductions of discretionary and mandatory spending; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 548. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve and enhance the capabilities of the Armed Forces to prevent and respond to sexual assault and sexual harassment in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 549. A bill to establish an advisory committee to issue nonbinding governmentwide guidelines on making public information available on the Internet, to require publicly available Government information held by the executive branch to be made available on the Internet, to express the sense of Congress that publicly available information held by the legislative and judicial branches should be available on the Internet, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 550. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide for increased limitations on leverage for multiple licenses under common control, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 551. A bill to provide an election to terminate certain capital construction funds without penalties; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 552. A bill to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to replace the current requirement for biennial energy policy plan with a Quadrennial Energy Review, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 553. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. KING):

S. 554. A bill to provide for a biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 555. A bill to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to require captioning and video description at certain movie theaters; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 556. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve the accessibility of entertainment programming provided by air carriers on passenger flights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. HAGAN (for herself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR,

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 557. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to medication therapy management under part D of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 558. A bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from awarding any grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or other financial assistance under section 103 of the Clean Air Act for any program, project, or activity outside the United States; read the first time.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 559. A bill to establish a fund to make payments to the Americans held hostage in Iran, and to members of their families, who are identified as members of the proposed class in case number 1:08–CV–00487 (EGS) of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S.J. Res. 11. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to restore the rights of the American people that were taken away by the Supreme Court's decision in the Citizens United case and related decisions, to protect the integrity of our elections, and to limit the corrosive influence of money in our democratic process; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. Res. 76. A resolution designating room S–126 of the United States Capitol as the ''Senator Daniel K. Inouye Room'' in recognition of his service to the Senate and the people of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Con. Res. 7. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding conditions for the United States becoming a signatory to the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, or to any similar agreement on the arms trade; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 19

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 19, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements.

S. 54

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 54, a bill to increase public safety by punishing and deterring firearms trafficking.

S. 195

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 195, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and violence to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

S. 218

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 218, a bill to ensure that amounts credited to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are used for harbor maintenance.

S. 230

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 230, a bill to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 330

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 330, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish safeguards and standards of quality for research and transplantation of organs infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

S. 344

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from approving the introduction into commerce of gasoline that contains greater than 10-volume-percent ethanol, and for other purposes.

S. 346

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 346, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel.

S. 367

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 367, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 401

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 401, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an investment tax credit related to the production of electricity from offshore wind.

S. 470

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 470, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require that the Purple Heart occupy a position of precedence above the new Distinguished Warfare Medal.

S. 475

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 475, a bill to reauthorize the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004, to provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes.

S. 501

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 501, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and increase the exclusion for benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.

S. 517

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 517, a bill to promote consumer choice and wireless competition by permitting consumers to unlock mobile wireless devices, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 10, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for men and women.

S. RES. 65

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 65, a resolution strongly supporting the full implementation of United States and international sanctions on Iran and urging the President to continue to strengthen enforcement of sanctions legislation.

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 65, supra.

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 65, supra.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 65, supra.

S. RES. 75

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 75, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

AMENDMENT NO. 28

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 28 intended to be proposed to H.R. 933, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 29

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 29 proposed to H.R. 933, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 30

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 30 proposed to H.R. 933, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 31

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 31 intended to be proposed to H.R. 933, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 545. A bill to improve hydropower, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation aimed at increasing the production of our hardest working renewable resource, one that often gets overlooked in the clean energy debate—hydropower. The Hydropower Improvement Act of 2013 is a bipartisan bill co-sponsored by my colleagues Senators WYDEN, RISCH, CANTWELL, CRAPO, MURRAY, and BEGICH, true hydropower advocates. The Hydropower Improvement Act of 2013 seeks to increase substantially the capacity and generation of our clean, renewable hydropower resources that will improve environmental quality and support local job creation and economic investment across the nation.

There is no question that hydropower is, and must continue to be, part of our energy solution. It is the largest source of renewable electricity in the United States. The approximately 100,000 megawatts of hydroelectric capacity we now have today provide about seven percent of the Nation's electricity needs. Hydro-electric generation is carbon-free baseload power that allows us to avoid over 200 million metric tons of carbon emissions each year. Hydropower is clean, efficient, and inexpensive. Yet, despite its tremendous benefits I am constantly amazed at how some undervalue this important resource.

Perhaps it's because conventional wisdom dismisses our Nation's hydropower capacity as tapped out. That is simply not the case. If anything, hydropower is really an underdeveloped resource—something we certainly understand in my home State of Alaska where hydro already supplies 24 percent of the State's electricity needs and over 200 promising sites for further hydropower development have been identified. There is great potential for additional hydropower development in every state, not just Alaska.

According to the Department of Energy, conventional hydropower facilities have the capacity to generate an additional 75,000 megawatts of power—a staggering amount of clean, inexpensive power. Now, that doesn't seem possible until you realize that only three percent of the country's 80,000 existing dams are even electrified. Significant amounts of new capacity—anywhere between 20,000 and 60,000 megawatts—can be derived from simple efficiency improvements or capacity additions at existing facilities. Additional hydropower can be captured in existing man-made conduits and hydroelectric pumped storage projects can help reliably integrate other renewable resources that are intermittent, such as wind, onto our grid.

The Hydropower Improvement Act of 2013 seeks to multiply our nation's hydropower capacity in an effort to expand clean power generation and create domestic jobs. The bill provides the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission with the authority to extend preliminary permit terms and to explore a possible 2-year licensing process for hydropower development at non-powered dams and closed loop pumped storage projects. The bill establishes an expedited process for FERC to consider ''qualifying conduit'' hydropower facilities and increases the rated capacity for small hydro projects to 10 megawatts. The act also calls for the Department of Energy to conduct studies of the technical flexibility and grid reliability benefits that pumped storage facilities can provide to support intermittent renewable energy, as well as on the range of opportunities for conduit hydropower potential. Importantly, the Hydropower Improvement Act of 2013 does not contain any spending authorizations and therefore does not represent any new funding.

It is my hope that as the Senate considers our Nation's long-term energy policy, we can finally recognize the important contribution the renewable resource of hydropower makes, and will continue to make, toward our clean energy goals. Our colleagues in the House have already done so. The Hydropower Improve Act of 2013 is a companion piece to H.R. 267, the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013 sponsored by Representatives MCMORRIS-ROGERS and DEGETTE. H.R. 267 recently passed the House by a stunning 422-0 vote and is supported by both the National Hydropower Association and American Rivers. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this hydropower legislation to promote the further development of our most cost-effective, clean energy option.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BEGICH, Ms.

CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 551. A bill to provide an election to terminate certain capital construction funds without penalties; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing a bill to reform the Capital Construction Fund. This legislation would allow fishers to withdraw monies from their CCF accounts without penalty or interest, preventing overfishing and overcapitalization.

The Capital Construction Fund, CCF, program was developed at a time when American fishers were having a hard time competing with highly efficient foreign fishing vessels. The program was designed to enable fishers to deposit a portion of their fishing-related earnings into a CCF account on a tax-deferred basis. Fishers then make withdrawals from their CCF account to construct, reconstruct, or under limited circumstances, acquire fishing vessels. However, any unauthorized withdrawal from CCF account is subject to severe interest and other penalties.

The program was a success. The CCF program helped U.S. fishers build a modern state-of-the-art fleet. Unfortunately, that U.S. fleet is now overcapitalized. This problem is exacerbated by concerns surrounding overfishing. Fisheries managers have begun to implement catch-share limits to reduce the number of fish that they allow fishers to catch each year. Now, the U.S. commercial fishing fleet has more harvesting capacity than our fisheries can sustainably support. However, the monies fishers put into CCF accounts remain and represent a potential for further overcapitalization. Yet, current CCF regulations penalize withdrawals made for anything other than authorized expenditures.

The resulting situation is problematic for the fishers, the industry and the resource. That is why I am reintroducing legislation today, along with my colleague Senator MURKOWSKI, to address this problem and relieve the pressure to increase further capitalization of the fishing fleet. My legislation will enable CCF accountholders to make a one-time withdrawal from their CCF accounts. Accountholders would be required to pay the taxes due on the monies withdrawn, but without having to pay tax penalties. An income-averaging formula would be applied to the withdrawals in an effort to avoid assessing an excessive tax rate on the one-time withdrawal. Any fisher taking advantage of one-time withdrawal would then be required to close their CCF accounts and would be prohibited from further participation in the program.

This is a win-win-win situation. The fisher gets to take the money out of his CCF without having to pay penalties and interest, but still pays the taxes when due; the government gets taxes on the withdrawals; and the resource and the fishers who remain in the fishery avoid further capitalization of an already over-capitalized industry.

I look forward to working with Senators Murkowski, Murray, Cantwell, Begich and Merkley, the fishing community, and the bill's other supporters to advance this legislation to the President's desk.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 551

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 ''Capital Construction Fund Penalty Relief Act''.

SEC. 2. ELECTION TO TERMINATE CERTAIN CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUNDS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 535 OF TITLE 46, UNITED STATES CODE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 535 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 53518. Election to terminate

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) ELECTION.—Any person who has entered into an agreement under this chapter with respect to a vessel operated in the fisheries of the United States may make an election under this paragraph to terminate the capital construction fund established under such agreement.

''(2) EFFECT OF ELECTION ON INDIVIDUALS.—In the case of an individual who makes an election under paragraph (1) with respect to a capital construction fund—

''(A) any amount remaining in such capital construction fund on the date of such election shall be distributed to such individual as a nonqualified withdrawal, except that—

''(i) in computing the tax on such withdrawal, except as provided in paragraph (4), subsections (c)(3)(B) and (f) of section 53511 shall not apply; and

''(ii) the taxpayer may elect to average the income from such withdrawal as provided in subsection (b); and

''(B) such individual shall not be eligible to enter into, directly or indirectly, any future agreement to establish a capital construction fund under this chapter with respect to a vessel operated in the fisheries of the United States.

''(3) EFFECT OF ELECTION FOR ENTITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a person (other than an individual) who makes an election under paragraph (1)—

''(i) the total amount in the capital construction fund on the date of such election shall be distributed to the shareholders, partners, or members of such person in accordance with the terms of the instruments setting forth the ownership interests of such shareholders, partners, or members;

''(ii) each shareholder, partner, or member shall be treated as having established a special temporary capital construction fund and having deposited amounts received in the distribution into such special temporary capital construction fund;

''(iii) no gain or loss shall be recognized with respect to such distribution;

''(iv) the basis of any shareholder, partner, or member in the person shall not be reduced as a result of such distribution;

''(v) any amounts not distributed pursuant to clause (i) shall be distributed in a nonqualified withdrawal; and

''(vi) such person shall not be eligible to enter into, directly or indirectly, any future agreement to establish a capital construction fund under this chapter with respect to a vessel operated in the fisheries of the United States.

''(B) SPECIAL TEMPORARY CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUNDS.—For purposes of this chapter, a special temporary capital construction fund shall be treated in the same manner as a capital construction fund established under section 53503, except that the following rules shall apply:

''(i) A special temporary capital construction fund shall be established without regard to any agreement under section 53503 and without regard to any eligible or qualified vessel.

''(ii) Section 53505 shall not apply and no amounts may be deposited into a special temporary capital construction fund other than amounts received pursuant to a distribution described in subparagraph (A)(i).

''(iii) In the case of any amounts distributed from a special temporary capital construction fund directly to a capital construction fund of the taxpayer established under section 53505—

''(I) no gain or loss shall be recognized;

''(II) the limitation under section 53505 shall not apply with respect to any amount so transferred;

''(III) such amounts shall not reduce taxable income under section 53507(a)(1); and

''(IV) for purposes of section 53511(e), such amounts shall be treated as deposited in the capital construction fund on the date that such funds were deposited in the capital construction fund with respect to which the election under paragraph (1) was made.

''(iv) In the case of any amounts distributed from a special temporary capital construction fund pursuant to an election under paragraph (1), clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (2)(A) shall not apply to so much of such amounts as are attributable to earnings accrued after the date of the establishment of such special temporary capital construction fund.

''(v) Any amount not distributed from a special temporary capital construction fund before the due date of the tax return (including extension) for the last taxable year of the individual ending before January 1, 2019, shall be treated as distributed to the taxpayer on the day before such due date as if an election under paragraph (1) were made by the taxpayer on such day.

''(C) REGULATIONS.—The joint regulations shall provide rules for—

''(i) assigning the amounts received by the shareholders, partners, or members in a distribution described in subparagraph (A)(i) to the accounts described in section 53508(a) in special temporary capital construction funds; and

''(ii) preventing the abuse of the purposes of this section.

''(4) TAX BENEFIT RULE.—Rules similar to the rules under section 53511(f)(3) shall apply for purposes of determining tax liability on any nonqualified withdrawal under paragraph (2)(A), (3)(A)(v), or (3)(B)(v).

''(5) ELECTION.—Any election under paragraph (1)—

''(A) may only be made—

''(i) by a person who maintains a capital construction fund with respect to a vessel operated in the fisheries of the United States on the date of the enactment of this section; or

''(ii) by a person who maintains a capital construction fund which was established pursuant to paragraph (3)(A)(ii) as a result of an election made by an entity in which such person was a shareholder, partner, or member;

''(B) shall be made not later than the due date of the tax return (including extensions) for the person's last taxable year ending on or before December 31, 2018; and

''(C) shall apply to all amounts in the capital construction fund with respect to which the election is made.

''(b) ELECTION TO AVERAGE INCOME.—At the election of an individual who has received a distribution described in subsection (a), for purposes of section 1301 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986—

''(1) such individual shall be treated as engaged in a fishing business, and

''(2) such distribution shall be treated as income attributable to a fishing business for such taxable year.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 53511 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 53513'' and inserting ''sections 53513 and 53518''.

(B) The table of sections for chapter 535 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 53517 the following new item:

''53518. Election to terminate.''.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7518 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(j) ELECTION TO TERMINATE CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person who has entered into an agreement under chapter 535 of title 46 of the United States Code, with respect to a vessel operated in the fisheries of the United States may make an election under this paragraph to terminate the capital construction fund established under such agreement.

''(2) EFFECT OF ELECTION ON INDIVIDUALS.—In the case of an individual who makes an election under paragraph (1) with respect to a capital construction fund, any amount remaining in such capital construction fund on the date of such election shall be distributed to such individual as a nonqualified withdrawal, except that—

''(A) in computing the tax on such withdrawal, except as provided in paragraph (4), paragraphs (3)(C)(ii) and (6) of subsection (g) shall not apply, and

''(B) the taxpayer may elect to average the income from such withdrawal as provided in paragraph (6).

''(3) EFFECT OF ELECTION FOR ENTITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a person (other than an individual) who makes an election under paragraph (1)—

''(i) the total amount in the capital construction fund on the date of such election shall be distributed to the shareholders, partners, or members of such person in accordance with the terms of the instruments setting forth the ownership interests of such shareholders, partners, or members,

''(ii) each shareholder, partner, or member shall be treated as having established a special temporary capital construction fund and having deposited amounts received in the distribution into such special temporary capital construction fund,

''(iii) no gain or loss shall be recognized with respect to such distribution,

''(iv) the basis of any shareholder, partner, or member in the person shall not be reduced as a result of such distribution, and

''(v) any amounts not distributed pursuant to clause (i) shall be distributed as a nonqualified withdrawal.

''(B) SPECIAL TEMPORARY CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUNDS.—For purposes of this section, a special temporary capital construction fund shall be treated in the same manner as a capital construction fund established under section 53503 of title 46, United States Code, except that the following rules shall apply:

''(i) Subsection (a) shall not apply and no amounts may be deposited into a special temporary capital construction fund other than amounts received pursuant to a distribution described in subparagraph (A)(i).

''(ii) In the case of any amounts distributed from a special temporary capital construction fund directly to a capital construction fund of the taxpayer established under section 53505 of title 46, United States Code—

''(I) no gain or loss shall be recognized;

''(II) the limitation under subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to any amount so transferred;

''(III) such amounts shall not reduce taxable income under subsection (c)(1)(A); and

''(IV) for purposes of subsection (g)(5), such amounts shall be treated as deposited in the capital construction fund on the date that such funds were deposited in the capital construction fund with respect to which the election under paragraph (1) was made.

''(iii) In the case of any amounts distributed from a special temporary capital construction fund pursuant to an election under paragraph (1), subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) shall not apply to so much of such amounts as are attributable to earnings accrued after the date of the establishment of such special temporary capital construction fund.

''(iv) Any amount not distributed from a special temporary capital construction fund before the due date of the tax return (including extension) for the last taxable year of the individual ending before January 1, 2019, shall be treated as distributed to the taxpayer on the day before such due date as if an election under paragraph (1) were made by the taxpayer on such day.

''(C) REGULATIONS.—The joint regulations shall provide rules for—

''(i) assigning the amounts received by the shareholders, partners, or members in a distribution described in subparagraph (A)(i) to the accounts described in subsection (d)(1) in special temporary capital construction funds; and

''(ii) preventing the abuse of the purposes of this section.

''(4) TAX BENEFIT RULE.—Rules similar to the rules under subsection (g)(6)(B) shall apply for purposes of determining tax liability on any nonqualified withdrawal under paragraph (2), (3)(A)(v), or (3)(B)(iv).

''(5) ELECTION.—Any election under paragraph (1)—

''(A) may only be made—

''(i) by a person who maintains a capital construction fund with respect to a vessel operated in the fisheries of the United States on the date of the enactment of this subsection, or

''(ii) by a person who maintains a capital construction fund which was established pursuant to subparagraph (3)(A)(ii) as a result of an election made by an entity in which such person was a shareholder, partner, or member,

''(B) shall be made not later than the due date of the tax return (including extensions) for the person's last taxable year ending on or before December 31, 2018, and

''(C) shall apply to all amounts in the capital construction fund with respect to which the election is made.

''(6) ELECTION TO AVERAGE INCOME.—At the election of an individual who has received a distribution described in paragraph (2), for purposes of section 1301—

''(A) such individual shall be treated as engaged in a fishing business, and

''(B) such distribution shall be treated as income attributable to a fishing business for such taxable year.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7518(g)(1) of such Code is amended by striking ''subsection (h)'' and inserting ''subsections (h) and (j)''.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 553. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I rise today to reintroduce the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act with my friend, Senator MIKE CRAPO of Idaho. This bipartisan bill would exempt Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program, VMLRP, awards from federal income taxation in order to increase veterinary services in areas around the country that lack adequate veterinary expertise.

Authorized in 2003 by the National Veterinary Medical Services Act, NVMSA, the United States Department of Agriculture's, USDA, Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program serves a dual purpose in assisting qualified veterinarians in reducing their student debt while also alleviating veterinarian shortages in rural areas. Specifically, the program authorizes the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, NIFA, to repay up to $25,000 of a veterinarian's debt per year if they agree to serve in high-priority veterinary shortage areas for at least 3 years. However, awards under the program continue to be taxed at a rate of 39 percent, effectively limiting the number of awards that can be provided and delaying veterinary services to areas in desperate need. The awards are taxed with the tax payments paid under the program by the federal government, and the tax payments themselves are also taxed.

The Department of Agriculture determines whether an area is eligible for assistance under the VMLRP through a ''shortage situation'' declaration process. Currently, two circumstances lead to such a designation. A geographic designation is made when a given geographic area suffers from a shortage of veterinarians overall and an area can also be designated as a shortage area when it suffers from a shortage of veterinarians who practice in a particular field of veterinary specialty. Currently, my home state of South Dakota has 6 designated shortage situations; three of them are statewide designations noting a shortage of practitioners in veterinary specialties. Moreover, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that employment of veterinarians will grow by 36 percent by 2020, creating a need for 22,000 additional veterinarians. The future growth and increased demand for veterinarians becomes even more pressing when considered in combination with national statistics that show

dozens of counties across the country that have more than 25,000 food animals but zero veterinarians.

Attaining a professional degree in a specialized and advanced field like veterinary medicine takes more than academic fortitude and personal dedication. According to the American Veterinary Medicine Association, the average VMLRP award recipient in Fiscal Year 2011 had an average eligible debt of over $100,000. Given the financial resources necessary to pursue a degree in higher education, I have long fought for this legislation to make it easier for students to pay off their loans. While South Dakota is truly a wonderful place to call home, it is a difficult place for a young veterinarian to earn a living when saddled with 6 figures of school debt. My legislation will help by enhancing the assistance veterinary graduates receive in exchange for meaningful public service while also providing important services to underserved rural areas.

With an economic impact of $21.4 billion each year, according to the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, the importance of agriculture to the South Dakota economy cannot be understated. Our ranchers, many of whom operate in very rural areas, rely on the access they have to qualified veterinarians to care for their livestock and many of them must drive long distances to access the nearest veterinarian that works with their specific type of livestock. This lack of adequate access to veterinary services could have ramifications for both human and animal health, as well as animal welfare, disease surveillance, public safety and economic development. Farmers and ranchers make their living in agriculture but food security is fundamentally in all of our interests. Everyone in America benefits from the veterinary services provided in even the most remote areas of the country. As such, I am committed to doing all I can to help bring veterinarians to underserved parts of our state.

I am proud to have fought for the establishment of the VMLRP program and for securing funding for the program through my seat on the Senate Appropriations Committee. Unfortunately, the 39 percent tax that is assessed on these benefits continues diminish the full benefits of the program. With enactment of this legislation, for every three veterinarians selected for the loan repayment awards, an additional veterinarian could also be selected to serve in an underserved shortage area. Moreover, such an exemption is not without precedent. In 2004, Congress exempted from taxation the assistance received by participants in the National Health Services Corps, NHSC.

It should be noted that nearly 140 organizations from across the nation have announced their support for a tax exemption for VMLRP, including the South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association, South Dakota Farmers Union, South Dakota Farm Bureau, South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, South Dakota Pork Producers Council, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the American Sheep Industry Association, the National Farmers Union, and many, many others.

The VMLRP has had proven success in providing our agricultural producers with access to the veterinary services that they need to be effective. In fiscal year 2011, the program filled at least one shortage area in 35 States. Through the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act, we can ensure that the program, and the awards offered through it, is continued and strengthened for the benefit of our students, rural communities, and family farms and ranches.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE VETERINARY MEDICINE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2013

The undersigned organizations offer our strongest support for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act of 2013 championed by Senator Tim Johnson (D–SD), Senator Michael Crapo (R–ID), and Representative Kurt Schrader (D–OR–5).

Our organizations represent a broad spectrum of animal agriculture from all across our great country. We are concerned about the continued economic viability of America's farmers, ranchers, and the businesses they own. We support public policy that promotes vibrant rural communities. We are livestock producers; processors; animal health and research organizations; veterinary medical associations; and livestock feed, pet food and animal drug companies. We represent businesses that care deeply about animal health and animal agriculture. Together we urge Congress to pass the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act without delay.

The legislation provides a federal income tax exemption for awards received under the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) and similar state programs. The awards are presently taxed at 39 percent.

Veterinary medicine loan repayment awards help qualified veterinarians offset a portion of the educational debt in return for practicing food animal medicine or veterinary public health in federally designated high-priority veterinary shortage situations. Congress set a precedent for tax exemption in 2004 when it passed ''The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004'' (H.R. 4520, P.L. 108–357) making the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) loan repayment program awards tax exempt. Prior to P.L. 108–357 the NHSC awards were taxed at 39 percent.

VMLRP participants provide a wide array of veterinary services for rancher's livestock (beef, dairy cows, turkeys, chicken, swine, goats, sheep, farmed deer and elk, camelids, and working farm horses) including accredited medical procedures including vaccinations (i.e., Brucellosis official calf-hood vaccination/RB51), castration and dehorning, pregnancy detections, breeding soundness exams, and services for acute illness, trauma, dystocia or obstetrical difficulties. They provide required services for interstate movement of livestock, including commuter agreements, animal health testing requirements needed to ship livestock, tuberculosis checks and blood sample services for Brucellosis, Bluetongue, and Bovine Viral Diarrhea. They perform duties for state and federal disease control and eradication programs and play a role in a state's veterinary emergency response teams. Veterinarians practicing in public health provide regulatory oversight for critical programs and activities protecting livestock and poultry populations from catastrophic diseases of animal and public health importance. They perform domestic and foreign animal disease surveillance activities, epidemiological investigations, institute mitigation measures for disease control and are active first responders in the event of an animal disease outbreak or incident that threatens animal or human health. Also, they perform outreach and education contributing to animal disease awareness for producers, veterinary practitioners and the public.

By passing the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act, Congress will bolster animal health and welfare, protect the nation's food supply and ensure that ranchers and farmers will have access to veterinary services they need for their livestock.

Sincerely,

LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS, PROCESSORS, PACKERS AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

American Horse Council; American Meat Institute; American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc.; American Sheep Industry Association; American Veal Association; Fur Commission USA; International Llama Registry; Michigan Pork Producers Association; National Aquaculture Association; National Cattlemen's Beef Association; National Chicken Council; National Livestock Producers Association; National Milk Producers Federation; National Pork Producers Council; National Renderers Association; National Turkey Federation; Nebraska Poultry Industries; North American Deer Farmers Association; North American Meat Association; North Dakota Stockmen's Association; Ohio Poultry Association; South Dakota Cattlemen's Association; South Dakota Pork Producers Council; South Dakota Stockgrowers Association; Texas Association of Dairymen; United Egg Producers; U.S. Cattlemen's Association.

ANIMAL AGRICULTURE AND RURAL-FOCUSED ORGANIZATIONS

American Farm Bureau Federation®; Center for Rural Affairs; Kansas City Animal Health Corridor; Kansas City Area Development Council; Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute; Livestock Marketing Association; National Farmers Union; National Grange; National Association of State Departments of Agriculture; National Council of Farmer Cooperatives; National Dairy Herd Information Association; National Institute for Animal Agriculture; Northeast States Association for Agriculture Stewardship; Rocky Mountain Farmers Union; South Dakota Farmers Union; State Agriculture and Rural Leaders.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND RESEARCH-FOCUSED ORGANIZATIONS;

American Dairy Science Association; American Society of Animal Science;

American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners; Federation of Animal Science Societies; Kansas Bioscience Authority; Poultry Science Association; Silliker, Inc.; Society for Theriogenology; United States Animal Health Association.

LIVESTOCK FEED, PET FOOD, ANIMAL DRUG COMPANIES

American Feed Industry Association; Animal Health Institute; Bayer Animal Health; Boehringer Ingelhelm Vetmedica, Inc.; Ceva Animal Health; Elanco Animal Health (A Division of Eli Lilly & Company); Pet Food Institute; Zoetis.

VETERINARY TRADE AND ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS

American Veterinary Medical Association; American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians; Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges; Academy of Rural Veterinarians; Alabama Veterinary Medical Association; Alaska Veterinary Medical Association; American Animal Hospital Association; American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition; American Association for Laboratory Animal Science; American Association of Avian Pathologists; American Association of Bovine Practitioners; American Association of Corporate and Public Practice Veterinarians; American Association of Equine Practitioners; American Association of Feline Practitioners; American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians; American Association of Public Health Veterinarians; American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners; American Association of Swine Veterinarians; American Association of Veterinary Clinicians; American Association of Zoo Veterinarians; American Board of Veterinary Practitioners; American Board of Veterinary Toxicology; American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine; American College of Poultry Veterinarians; American College of Theriogenologists; American College of Veterinary Dermatology; American College of Veterinary Pathologists; American College of Veterinary Radiology; American Veterinary Medical Foundation; Arizona Veterinary Medical Association; Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association; Association for Women Veterinarians Foundation; Association of Avian Veterinarians; Association of Veterinary Biologics Companies; Association of Zoos & Aquariums; California Veterinary Medical Association; Colorado Veterinary Medical Association; Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association; Delaware Veterinary Medical Association; District of Columbia Veterinary Medical Association; Florida Veterinary Medical Association; Georgia Veterinary Medical Association; Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association; Idaho Veterinary Medical Association; Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association; Indiana Veterinary Medical Association; Iowa Veterinary Medical Association; Kansas Veterinary Medical Association; Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association; Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association; Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association; Maine Veterinary Medical Association; Maryland Veterinary Medical Association; Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association; Michigan Veterinary Medical Association; Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association; Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association; Missouri Veterinary Medical Association; Montana Veterinary Medical Association; National Association of Federal Veterinarians; National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians; National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America; National Food Animal Veterinary Institute; Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association; Nevada Veterinary Medical Association; New Hampshire Veterinary Medical Association; New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association; New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association; New York State Veterinary Medical Society; North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association; North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association; Ohio Veterinary Medical Association; Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association; Oregon Veterinary Medical Association; Puerto Rico Veterinary Medical Association (Colegio de Medicos Veterinarios de Puerto Rico); Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association; Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association; South Carolina Association of Veterinarians; South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association; Student American Veterinary Medical Association; Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association; Texas Veterinary Medical Association; Utah Veterinary Medical Association; Vermont Veterinary Medical Association; Virginia Veterinary Medical Association; Washington State Veterinary Medical Association; Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association; Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 555. A bill to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to require captioning and video description at certain movie theaters; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today marks the 25th anniversary of the appointment of Gallaudet University's first Deaf president, Dr. I. King Jordan. This historic appointment, the product of the ''Deaf President Now'' student protests, was truly a catalyzing moment—a moment to establish dignity—for the Deaf community. As President Jordan stated in his acceptance speech, the Deaf community would ''no longer accept limits on what we can achieve.''

Deaf President Now was significant not only for the Deaf community, but it also showed other Americans what Deaf individuals are capable of. We saw the rights of the Deaf community brought to the forefront. And the Deaf President Now movement, with the active involvement of the Deaf community, helped lead to passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act 2 years later, in 1990.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is one of the landmark civil rights laws of the 20th century—a long-overdue emancipation proclamation for Americans with disabilities. The ADA has played a huge role in making our country more accessible, in raising the expectations of people with disabilities about what they can hope to achieve at work and in life, and in inspiring all of us to view disability issues through the lens of equality and opportunity.

Before the ADA, life was very different for folks with disabilities. Being an American with a disability meant not being able to ride on a bus because there was no lift, not being able to attend a concert or ballgame because there was no accessible seating, and not being able to cross the street in a wheelchair because there were no curb cuts. In short, it meant not being able to work or participate in community life. Discrimination was both commonplace and accepted.

Since then, we have seen amazing progress. The ADA literally transformed the American landscape by requiring that architectural barriers be removed and replaced with accessible features such as ramps, lifts, curb cuts, widening doorways, and closed captioning. More importantly, the ADA gave millions of Americans the opportunity to participate in their communities. We have made substantial progress in advancing the four goals of the ADA—equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

But despite this progress, we still have more work to do. Although most television and home videos contain captioning for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing—or the rest of us—most movie theaters do not. Thus millions of Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing are not able to attend a movie with their families or friends, at a time and location that they want, simply because captioning is not available. The same is true for individuals who are blind or visually impaired; most movie theaters do not provide access to video description technology, which would allow these individuals to have access to the key elements of a motion picture by contemporaneous audio narrated descriptions during the natural pauses in the audio portion of the programming, usually through headphones.

A similar problem occurs in airplanes, with respect to in-flight entertainment. Many airlines are now providing in-flight entertainment for their passengers—but individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing cannot access it, because the overwhelming majority of this programming does not have captioning. Individuals who are blind or visually impaired are similarly excluded, since video description is not provided for such programming either.

So we have a situation where an individual, in his own home, can usually access captioning or similar technology on his television when watching live television, or a television show, or a movie. Such captioning is often available in other venues, such as restaurants and sports bars. I do not believe that it would be difficult to provide the same technology access for individuals with disabilities in movie theaters or on airplanes. This would allow these Americans with disabilities

to have the same access as everyone else.

Today I am introducing two bills. These bills will allow Americans with visual or hearing impairments to enjoy going to the movies and watching in-flight entertainment, through captioning and video description, just as they can at home.

The first S. 555, entitled the Captioning and Image Narration to Enhance Movie Accessibility, CINEMA, Act, would amend Title III of the ADA to require movie theater complexes of two or more theaters to make captioning and video description available for all films at all showings.

The second, S. 556, entitled the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act, would require air carriers to make captioning and video description available for visually-displayed entertainment programming—live televised events, recorded programming, and motion pictures—that is available in-flight for passengers. In instances where the programming is only available through the use of an individual touchscreen or other contact-sensitive controls, the bill would authorize the U.S. Access Board to develop accessibility standards so that individuals with disabilities can operate the displays independently.

I look forward to working with my fellow members to pass these two bills and ensure that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, or who are blind or visually impaired, can have the same access to movies and in-flight entertainment as other Americans.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 555

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 ''Captioning and Image Narration to Enhance Movie Accessibility Act'' or the ''CINEMA Act''.

SEC. 2. MOVIE THEATER ACCESSIBILITY.

Section 302(b) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12182(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

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

''(3) MOVIE THEATER ACCESSIBILITY.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) CLOSED CAPTIONING.—The term 'closed captioning' means a method, process, or mechanism, which may include a device, that—

''(I) allows an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing to have access to the content of a motion picture; and

''(II) allows that access by displaying, through an individual device or individually used technology, all of the audio portion of the motion picture (including displaying the dialogue and any narration, as well as descriptions of on- and off-screen sounds such as sound effects, music, or lyrics for music, and information identifying the character who is speaking) as text that can be effectively viewed and controlled by that individual while the individual simultaneously watches the motion picture.

''(ii) COVERED ENTITY.—The term 'covered entity' means an entity—

''(I) that operates a complex of 2 or more movie theaters, screening rooms, or similar venues, at a single location, that are used for the exhibition of copyrighted motion pictures, if such exhibition is open to the public; and

''(II) whose operations affect commerce.

''(iii) OPEN CAPTIONING.—The term 'open captioning' means a method, process, or mechanism that—

''(I) allows an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing to have access to the content of a motion picture; and

''(II) allows that access by openly displaying on the movie screen involved all of the audio portion of the motion picture (including displaying the dialogue and any narration, as well as descriptions of on- and off-screen sounds such as sound effects, music, or lyrics for music, and information identifying the character who is speaking) as text that can be effectively viewed by that individual and other members of the audience while the individual and members simultaneously watch the motion picture.

''(iv) VIDEO DESCRIPTION.—The term 'video description' means a method, process, or mechanism, including a device, that—

''(I) allows an individual who is blind or visually impaired to have access to the key visual elements of a motion picture (such as actions, settings, facial expressions, costumes, and scene changes); and

''(II) allows that access through the provision of contemporaneous audio narrated descriptions of those elements during the natural pauses in the audio portion of the motion picture, or during the audio portion if necessary.

''(B) ACCESSIBILITY.—It shall be discriminatory for any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a covered entity to fail to ensure that all motion pictures shown at the complex involved are accessible to individuals with disabilities, including—

''(i) providing, or making available, open captioning for individuals with disabilities, including individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing;

''(ii) providing, or making available, closed captioning for individuals with disabilities, including individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing; and

''(iii) providing, or making available, video description for individuals with disabilities, including individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit or prohibit an individual with a disability from utilizing technology in connection with a personal device in a manner that may provide the individual with access to closed captioning, open captioning, or video description that is equivalent to or greater than the corresponding access required under subparagraph (B).''.

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

Section 308(a)(2) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12188(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''and section 303(a)'' and inserting '', 302(b)(3), and 303(a)''.

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act takes effect 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 556. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve the accessibility of entertainment programming provided by air carriers on passenger flights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 556

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 ''Air Carrier Access Amendments Act''.

SEC. 2. ACCESSIBILITY OF IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 417 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 41705 the following:

''§ 41705a. Accessibility of in-flight entertainment programming

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In providing air transportation, an air carrier, including (subject to section 40105(b)) any foreign air carrier, shall ensure that—

''(1) on and after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act, all visually displayed entertainment programming available to passengers on a flight is accessible to individuals with disabilities, including by—

''(A) providing, or making available, open captioning for individuals with disabilities, including individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, when such programming is available to passengers through shared video displays, such as a monitor located in a passenger access aisle;

''(B) providing, or making available, closed captioning for individuals with disabilities, including individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, when such programming is available to passengers through individual video displays; and

''(C) providing, or making available, video description for individuals with disabilities, including individuals who are blind or visually impaired, when such programming is available to passengers through individual video displays or shared video displays; and

''(2) not later than the effective date of the regulations prescribed under subsection (c)(2), all individual video displays that display entertainment programming or information to passengers on a flight that are operated primarily by using touchscreens or other contact-sensitive controls include a mechanism that allows individuals with disabilities, including individuals who are blind or visually impaired, to independently operate the displays in accordance with the standards prescribed under subsection (c).

''(b) ENFORCEMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The remedies and procedures set forth in section 308(a) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12188(a)), including the injunctive relief described in paragraph (2) of that section, shall be available to any person aggrieved by the failure of an air carrier to comply with subsection (a).

''(2) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The provisions of section 308(b) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12188(b)) shall apply with respect to the compliance of air carriers with subsection (a) to the same extent that those provisions apply with respect to the compliance of covered entities with title III of that Act (42 U.S.C. 12181 et seq.).

''(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS FOR OPERATION OF INDIVIDUAL VIDEO DISPLAYS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of the Air

Carrier Access Amendments Act, the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, prescribe standards in accordance with chapter 5 of title 5 (commonly known as the 'Administrative Procedure Act') setting forth the minimum technical criteria for individual video displays described in subsection (a)(2) to ensure that such video displays include a mechanism that allows individuals with disabilities to operate the displays independently.

''(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board issues standards under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as are necessary to implement those standards and shall publish those regulations in an accessible format.

''(3) REVIEW AND AMENDMENT.—The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, in consultation with the Secretary, shall periodically review and, as appropriate, amend the standards prescribed under paragraph (1) in accordance with chapter 5 of title 5. Not later than 180 days after the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board issues amended standards under this paragraph, the Secretary shall make such revisions to the regulations prescribed under paragraph (2) as are necessary to implement the amended standards.

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CLOSED CAPTIONING.—The term 'closed captioning' means a method, process, or mechanism, which may include a device, that—

''(A) allows an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing to have access to the content of visually displayed entertainment programming; and

''(B) allows that access by displaying, through an individual device or individually used technology, all of the audio portion of the programming (including displaying the dialogue and any narration, as well as descriptions of on- and off-screen sounds such as sound effects, music, or lyrics for music, and information identifying the character who is speaking) as text that can be effectively viewed and controlled by that individual while the individual simultaneously watches the programming.

''(2) INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.—The term 'individual with a disability' means any person who has a disability as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).

''(3) OPEN CAPTIONING.—The term 'open captioning' means a method, process, or mechanism that—

''(A) allows an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing to have access to the content of visually displayed entertainment programming; and

''(B) allows that access by openly displaying on the video display on which the programming is displayed all of the audio portion of the programming (including displaying the dialogue and any narration, as well as descriptions of on- and off-screen sounds such as sound effects, music, or lyrics for music, and information identifying the character who is speaking) as text that can be effectively viewed by that individual and other passengers while the individual and passengers simultaneously watch the programming.

''(4) VIDEO DESCRIPTION.—The term 'video description' means a method, process, or mechanism, including a device, that—

''(A) allows an individual who is blind or visually impaired to have access to the key visual elements of visually displayed entertainment programming (such as actions, settings, facial expressions, costumes, and scene changes); and

''(B) allows that access through the provision of contemporaneous audio narrated descriptions of those elements during the natural pauses in the audio portion of the programming, or during the audio portion if necessary.

''(5) VISUALLY DISPLAYED ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMING.—The term 'visually displayed entertainment programming' means live televised events, recorded programming (including television programs), or motion pictures that are available to passengers, for a fee or without cost, on a flight in air transportation.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 417 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 41705 the following:

''41705a. Accessibility of in-flight entertainment programming.''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 76—DESIGNATING ROOM S–126 OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL AS THE ''SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUYE ROOM'' IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SERVICE TO THE SENATE AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 76

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye served the people of Hawaii for more than 58 years as a member of the Territorial House of Representatives, the Territorial Senate, the United States House of Representatives, and the United States Senate;

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye became the first Japanese American to serve in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate;

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye represented Hawaii in Congress from before the time that Hawaii became a State in 1959 until 2012;

Whereas, during his tenure in the Senate, Senator Daniel K. Inouye served as the President pro tempore, the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations, the first Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, the Chairman of the Democratic Steering Committee, the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration, the Chairman of the Select Committee on Secret Military Assistance to Iran and the Nicaraguan Opposition, and the Secretary of the Democratic Conference;

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye enlisted in the Army after the attacks on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and fought heroically in the Italian theater even after being wounded; and

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye received a Distinguished Service Cross, a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart with cluster, and 12 other medals and citations before receiving the Medal of Honor from President William J. Clinton in June 2000: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates room S–126 of the United States Capitol as the ''Senator Daniel K. Inouye Room'', in recognition of his service to the Senate and the people of the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 7—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING CONDITIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES BECOMING A SIGNATORY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ARMS TRADE TREATY, OR TO ANY SIMILAR AGREEMENT ON THE ARMS TRADE

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 7

Whereas in October 2009, the United States voted in the United Nations General Assembly to participate in the negotiation of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty;

Whereas in July 2012, the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty convened to negotiate the text of the Arms Trade Treaty;

Whereas in December 2012, the United Nations General Assembly voted to hold a final negotiating conference on the Arms Trade Treaty in March 2013, on the basis of the text of July 2012;

Whereas the Arms Trade Treaty poses significant risks to the national security, foreign policy, and economic interests of the United States as well as to the constitutional rights of United States citizens and United States sovereignty;

Whereas the Arms Trade Treaty fails to expressly recognize the fundamental, individual right to keep and to bear arms and the individual right of personal self-defense, as well as the legitimacy of hunting, sports shooting, and other lawful activities pertaining to the private ownership of firearms and related materials, and thus risks infringing on freedoms protected by the Second Amendment;

Whereas the Arms Trade Treaty places free democracies and totalitarian regimes on a basis of equality, recognizing their equal right to transfer arms, and is thereby dangerous to the security of the United States;

Whereas the Arms Trade Treaty's criteria for assessing the potential consequences of arms transfers are vague, easily politicized, and readily manipulated;

Whereas the Arms Trade Treaty's model for using these criteria is incompatible with the decision-making model for arms transfers employed by the United States under Presidential Decision Directive 34, which dates from 1995;

Whereas the Arms Trade Treaty will create opportunities to engage in ''lawfare'' against the United States via the misuse of the treaty's criteria in foreign tribunals and international fora;

Whereas the Arms Trade Treaty could hinder the United States from fulfilling its strategic, legal, and moral commitments to provide arms to allies such as the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the State of Israel;

Whereas the creation of an international secretariat to administer and assist in the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty risks the delegation of authority to a bureaucracy that is not accountable to the people of the United States;

Whereas the Arms Trade Treaty urges the provision of capacity building assistance from signatory nations to implement the Arms Trade Treaty, which could create a source of permanent funding to a new international organization that would be susceptible to waste, fraud, and abuse;

Whereas the Arms Trade Treaty risks imposing costly regulatory burdens on United States businesses, for example, by creating onerous reporting requirements that could damage the domestic defense manufacturing base and related firms;

Whereas an Arms Trade Treaty that has not been signed by the President and received the advice and consent of the Senate should not bind the United States in any respect as customary international law, jus cogens, or any other principle of international law that bypasses the treaty power in article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution;

Whereas an Arms Trade Treaty that has merely been signed by the President but has not received the advice and consent of the Senate should not bind the United States in any respect, including any obligation to refrain from defeating the object and purpose of the Arms Trade Treaty, under any provision of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, to which the United States is not a party;

Whereas an Arms Trade Treaty that has merely been signed by the President but has not received the advice and consent of the Senate should not bind the United States in any respect, as an international agreement other than a treaty, as a sole executive agreement, or in any other way; and

Whereas an Arms Trade Treaty that has been signed by the President and has received the advice and consent of the Senate, is a non-self-executing treaty that has no domestic legal effect within the United States, unless and until it has been adopted by the enactment of implementing legislation by the Congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should not sign the Arms Trade Treaty, and that, if he transmits the treaty with his signature to the Senate, the Senate should not ratify the Arms Trade Treaty; and

(2) until the Arms Trade Treaty has been signed by the President, received the advice and consent of the Senate, and has been the subject of implementing legislation by Congress, no Federal funds should be appropriated or authorized to implement the Arms Trade Treaty, or any similar agreement, or to conduct activities relevant to the Arms Trade Treaty, or any similar agreement.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 32. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 33. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra.

SA 34. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 35. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 36. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 37. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 38. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 39. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 40. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 41. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 42. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 43. Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 44. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 45. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 46. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 47. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 48. Mr. REID (for Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 49. Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 50. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 51. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 52. Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. JOHANNS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 53. Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra.

SA 54. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 55. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 56. Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 57. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 58. Mr. JOHNSON, of South Dakota (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 59. Mr. JOHNSON, of South Dakota (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 60. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 61. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 62. Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 63. Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 64. Mr. UDALL, of Colorado (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 65. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 66. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 67. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY)

to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 68. Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BURR, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 69. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 70. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 71. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 72. Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mrs. HAGAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 73. Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 74. Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BEGICH, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 75. Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 76. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. COATS, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 77. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 78. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 79. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 80. Mr. ROCKEFELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 81. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 82. Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 83. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 84. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 85. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 86. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 87. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 32. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. RESTORATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES IMPACTED BY NATURAL DISASTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) PILOT PROGRAM.—Hereafter, in administering the funds made available to address any major disaster declared on or after August 27, 2011, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (in this section referred to as the ''Administrator'') shall establish a pilot program for the relocation of State facilities under section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172).

(2) AUTHORITY.—

(A) WAIVER AUTHORIZED.—Subject to subparagraph (B), under the pilot program established under paragraph (1), the Administrator may waive, or specify alternative requirements for, any regulation that the Administrator administers to provide assistance, consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), for the permanent relocation of State facilities described in subparagraph (C) that—

(i) were significantly damaged as a result of the major disaster;

(ii) are subject to flood risk; and

(iii) are otherwise eligible for repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement under section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

(B) CONDITIONS.—The Administrator may take actions authorized under subparagraph (A) only if the Administrator determines that the relocation—

(i) is practicable;

(ii) will be cost effective, or more appropriate than repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing the facility in its predisaster location; and

(iii) will effectively mitigate the flood risk to the facility.

(C) FACILITIES COVERED.—This paragraph shall apply with respect to State facilities including administrative office buildings, medical facilities, laboratories, and related operating infrastructure (including heat, sewage, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing).

(b) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN COSTS.—Hereafter, for determinations regarding compliance with codes and standards under the Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance program authorized under section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5172), the Administrator shall, for major disasters declared on or after August 27, 2011, consider eligible the costs required to comply with a State's Stream Alteration General Permit process, including any design standards required to be met as a condition of permit issuance.

SA 33. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike section 8039, relating to the use for grants of funds of the Office of Economic Assistance of the Department of Defense.

Strike section 8104, relating to the use of funds of the Office of Economic Assistance of the Department of Defense for grants for Guam.

SA 34. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 8040(b)(1), strike subparagraph (C).

SA 35. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 8019, relating to incentive payments authorized by the Indian Financing Act of 1974.

SA 36. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 84, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

SEC. 74____. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds made

available under this Act may be used to provide economic impact initiative grants under the rural community facilities program account of the Department of Agriculture.

SA 37. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 8122, relating to a prohibition on the retirement of C–23 Sherpa aircraft.

SA 38. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 98, strike line 22 and all the follows through page 99, line 18.

SA 39. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 84, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

SEC. 74____. None of the funds made available under this Act for the Agricultural Research Service may be used to continue to carry out extramural research projects, or to operate research laboratories, that have been identified for termination by the Secretary of Agriculture.

SA 40. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 46, lines 9 through 14, strike ''*Provided further*, That $10,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be transferred to, and merged with, the Rural Utilities Service, High Energy Cost Grants Account to provide grants authorized under section 19 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 918a):''

SA 41. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 455, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 574. Of the amounts appropriated under title II to the Transportation Security Administration for civil aviation security services, $2,500,000 shall be transferred to the United States Secret Service for salaries and expenses to permit the resumption of self-guided tours of the White House.

SA 42. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title IX of division C, insert the following:

SEC. 9015. (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) It remains the goal of the United States to enhance the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in all areas of its government.

(2) The United States' continuing mission in Afghanistan requires effective cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan to ensure that law of war detainees captured on the battlefield do not present an undue danger to members of the armed forces or civilians of either nation.

(3) A cooperative, humanitarian, and flexible system of detainment in Afghanistan is a critical element of ensuring the safety of our troops as long as the United States' mission continues in Afghanistan.

(b) LIMITATION.—No funds appropriated or otherwise made available by title IX of this division under the heading ''AFGHANISTAN INFRASTRUCTURE FUND'' may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Defense submits to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth the certifications as follows:

(1) That transfers to the Government of Afghanistan of Afghan nationals detained by United States Armed Forces in Afghanistan territory do not present a significant threat to United States or coalition forces based upon the likelihood that the detainee to be transferred will engage in continuing hostile acts against the United States or its coalition allies.

(2) That the Government of Afghanistan is in compliance with international humanitarian law, including Additional Protocol II of 1977 to the Geneva Convention of 1949, with respect to preventing detainee abuse.

(3) That the Government of Afghanistan has implemented an administrative detention regime under its domestic law as an alternative to criminal prosecution, which regime is—

(A) consistent with international humanitarian law, including the Additional Protocol II of 1977 to the Geneva Convention of 1949, Afghanistan domestic law, and all of the international obligations of Afghanistan;

(B) in compliance with the international obligations of Afghanistan with respect to humane treatment and applicable due process; and

(C) based on sustainable arrangements, including housing.

(4) That there exists a continuing capability of both the United States and Afghanistan to gather intelligence from detainees transferred to the Government of Afghanistan for the mutual benefit of both nations.

(5) That, as part of the intelligence gathering described in paragraph (4), the United States is granted regular, direct access to detainees held by the Government of Afghanistan for the purpose of interrogation or any other lawful purpose.

(6) That the Government of Afghanistan is consulting, and will continue to consult, the United States before the release, including release prior to indictment, of any detainee transferred to the Government of Afghanistan, and, if the United States provides its assessment that continued detention is necessary to prevent such a detainee from engaging in or facilitating terrorist activity, the Government of Afghanistan will consider favorably such assessment.

(7) That additional processes will be in place in any case where the United States considers a detainee held by Afghanistan an enduring security threat (or its equivalent) to ensure that the detainee will not present a security threat once released.

(c) CONTINGENT REQUIREMENT FOR EXPLANATORY REPORT.—If the report described by subsection (b) has not been submitted to Congress by 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress on such date a report setting forth an explanation why the report described by subsection (b) has not been so submitted.

(d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth an assessment by the Comptroller General of the the ability of the Government of Afghanistan to sustain costs associated with securing detainees in Afghanistan.

(e) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SA 43. Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division G, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ESSENTIAL SERVICES ACT OF 2013.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Essential Services Act of 2013''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''agency'' means an Executive agency (as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code); and

(2) the term ''essential employee'' means an employee that performs work involving the safety of human life or the protection of property, as determined by the head of the agency.

(c) FURLOUGH FLEXIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In implementing the sequester required by section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as ordered on March 1, 2013, the head of an agency may furlough such employees of the agency as are required to achieve the funding reduction required by the sequester for the agency, but shall exempt essential employees.

(2) TRANSFER OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES.—The head of an agency may transfer budgetary resources within their agency to carry out paragraph (1), subject to the limitation that transfers may only be made to maintain essential employees.

SA 44. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a)(1)(A) Except as provided under paragraph (3), none of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any prior Act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for bilateral economic assistance under the heading ''ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND'' may be made available to the Government of Egypt unless a certification under subsection (c)(2) is in effect.

(B) Except as provided under paragraph (3), none of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any prior Act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for assistance for Egypt under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763; relating to the Foreign Military Financing program) may be obligated or expended for contracts with the Government of Egypt entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act unless a certification under subsection (c)(1) is in effect.

(2) Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary of State transmits to the appropriate congressional committees an initial certification under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (c), and every 6 months thereafter, the Secretary shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees—

(A) a recertification that the requirements contained in such paragraph are continuing to be met; or

(B) a statement that the Secretary is unable to make such a recertification and that the certification is no longer in effect.

(3) The Secretary of State may waive the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) for one or more 180-periods if, for each such 180-day period, the Secretary determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that it is in the national security interests of the United States to do so and submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report with detailed reasoning for the determination and certification.

(b) During a period in which a certification described in subsection (c)(2) is not in effect, amounts that may not be made available for Economic Support Fund assistance to the Government of Egypt pursuant to the limitation under subsection (a) shall be reallocated for democracy and governance programs for Egypt, including direct support for secular, democratic nongovernmental organizations, as well as programming and support for rule of law and human rights, good governance, political competition and consensus-building, and civil society.

(c)(1) A certification described in this paragraph is a certification submitted by the Secretary of State to the appropriate congressional committees that the following conditions have been met:

(A) The Government of Egypt has adopted and implemented legal reforms to protect the political, economic, and religious freedoms and human rights of all citizens and residents of Egypt.

(B) The Government of Egypt is not acting to restrict the political, economic, or religious freedoms and human rights of the citizens and residents of Egypt.

(C) The Government of Egypt is continuing to demonstrate a commitment to free and fair elections and is not taking any steps to interfere with or undermine the credibility of such elections.

(D) Egypt is implementing the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty.

(E) The Government of Egypt is taking all necessary action to eliminate smuggling networks and to detect and destroy tunnels between Egypt and the Gaza Strip.

(F) The Government of Egypt is taking all necessary action to combat terrorism in the Sinai, and the Department of Defense has allocated a portion of Egypt's Foreign Military Financing (FMF) assistance, not less than $100,000,000, toward counterterrorism tools, including equipment and training related to border security, to address this problem.

(G) The Department of Defense has consulted with the Government of Egypt and produced an analysis of Egypt's current security needs, and the analysis has been shared with the relevant congressional committees.

(H) The Government of Egypt has lifted restrictions in law and practice on the work and funding of Egyptian and international nongovernmental organizations, comprising those in the human rights and democracy field, including the International Republican Institute, the National Democratic Institute, and Freedom House.

(2) A certification described in this paragraph is a certification submitted by the Secretary of State to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(A) the conditions set forth in paragraph (1) have been met; and

(B) the Government of Egypt has signed and submitted to the International Monetary Fund a Letter of Intent and Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies designed to achieve such actions as reducing and streamlining energy subsidies, improving the government financial management, and increasing taxation revenues through a broadened tax base and reducing tax exemptions and has begun to implement such measures.

(d) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the results of a policy review on Egypt conducted after a dialogue with the Government of Egypt and civil society on how to rebalance United States military and economic assistance to Egypt.

(e) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report listing all of the Foreign Military Financing contracts for the Government of Egypt carried out over the previous 10 years and describing plans for such contracts over the next 10 years.

(f) In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SA 45. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VIII of division F, add the following:

SEC. 1811. (a) Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for ''Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Operations'' shall be $9,703,395,000: *Provided*, That the amounts specified in the matter under the heading ''OPERATIONS'' under the heading ''FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION'' in title I of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (division C of Public Law 112–55; 125 Stat. 645) shall be applied to funds appropriated by this division—

(1) by substituting ''$7,492,738,000'' for ''$7,442,738,000''; and

(2) by substituting ''$10,350,000 shall be for the contract tower cost-sharing program and not less than $130,500,000 shall be for the contract tower program'' for ''$10,350,000 shall be for the contract tower cost-sharing program''.

(b) Of amounts appropriated for fiscal years before fiscal year 2013 that remain available for obligation as of the date of the enactment of this Act and that are not designated an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the following amounts are rescinded from the following accounts:

(1) ''Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Facilities and Equipment'', $23,861,002.

(2) ''Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Research, Engineering, and Development'', $26,183,998.

SA 46. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VIII of division C, insert the following:

SEC. 8131. (a) REDUCTION IN AMOUNT FOR ARMY RDTE FOR MEADS.—The amount appropriated or otherwise made available by title IV of this division under the heading ''RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION, ARMY'' is hereby decreased by $380,861,000, with the amount of the reduction to be allocated from amounts available under that heading for the Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS).

(b) INCREASE IN AMOUNT FOR O&M.—The aggregate amount appropriated by title II of this division for Operation and Maintenance is increased by $380,861,000, with the amount to be allocated among accounts funded by that title in a manner determined appropriate by the Secretary of Defense.

SA 47. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense,

the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 232, line 10, strike ''$4,000,000,000'' and insert ''$8,000,000,000''.

SA 48. Mr. REID (for Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. Chapter 9 of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (division A of Public Law 113–2) is amended, under the heading ''GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION'', by striking ''or any other Act''.

SA 49. Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page __, between lines __ and __, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), no funds made available under this Act or any other Act to the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall be used to take any action to establish a restricted area prohibiting public access to waters downstream of a dam owned by the Corps of Engineers.

(b) For purposes of this Act, installing and maintaining sirens, strobe lights, and signage for alerting the public of hazardous water conditions shall not be considered to be an action to establish a restricted area under subsection (a).

(c)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), this section shall apply to an action described in subsection (a) on or after August 1, 2012.

(2) If the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, has taken an action described in subsection (a) during the period beginning on August 1, 2012, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) cease implementing the restricted area resulting from the action; and

(B) remove any barriers constructed in connection with the restricted area.

SA 50. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VIII of division C, insert the following:

SEC. 8131. (a) REDUCTION IN ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR CIVIL AIR PATROL CORPORATION.—Notwithstanding section 8022—

(1) the total amount available under that section shall be $27,334,000; and

(2) the amount of funds provided to that total from ''OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE'' shall be $23,904,000; and

(3) the amount of funds provided to that total from ''AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE'' shall be $2,498,000.

(b) TERMINATION OF ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR STARBASE PROGRAM.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by title II of this division under the heading ''OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE'' may be used for the STARBASE program.

SA 51. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 315, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

SEC. 8131. In fiscal year 2013, for purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–177; 99 Stat. 1038) and for purposes of applying general reductions by ''program, project, and activity'', the term ''program, project, and activity'' for the operations and maintenance accounts of the National Intelligence Program appropriated as part of this Act for the Department of Defense shall have the same meaning as that term as applied to the Department of Defense.

SA 52. Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. JOHANNS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title I of division F, insert after section 1114 the following:

SEC. 1115. The United States Government may not allow the sale, lease, transfer, retransfer, or delivery of F–16 aircraft, M1 tanks, or certain other defense articles or services to the Government of Egypt until the President certifies to Congress that the Government of Egypt has agreed—

(1) to continue to uphold its commitments under the Camp David Peace Accords;

(2) to provide proper security at United States embassies and consulates pursuant to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963; and

(3) to bring stability to Egypt by ending its systematic exclusion and silencing of all official minority political opposition and taking concrete steps to engage in dialogue with such opposition parties and consider a coalition, power-sharing government with such opposition parties.

SA 53. Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

DIVISION ____—DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (referred to in this Act as ''WIA''), the Second Chance Act of 2007, and the Women in Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Occupations Act of 1992 (''WANTO Act''), $3,161,808,000, plus reimbursements, shall be available. Of the amounts provided:

(1) for grants to States for adult employment and training activities, youth activities, and dislocated worker employment and training activities, $2,600,344,000 as follows:

(A) $769,465,000 for adult employment and training activities, of which $57,465,000 shall be available for the period July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, and of which $712,000,000 shall be available for the period October 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014;

(B) $824,353,000 for youth activities, which shall be available for the period April 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014; and

(C) $1,006,526,000 for dislocated worker employment and training activities, of which $146,526,000 shall be available for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, and of which $860,000,000 shall be available for the period October 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014:

Provided, That notwithstanding the transfer limitation under section 133(b)(4) of the WIA, up to 30 percent of such funds may be transferred by a local board if approved by the Governor: *Provided further*, That a local board may award a contract to an institution of higher education or other eligible training provider if the local board determines that it would facilitate the training of multiple individuals in high-demand occupations, if such contract does not limit customer choice: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 128(a)(1) of the WIA, the amount available to the Governor for statewide workforce investment activities shall not exceed 10 percent of the amount allotted to the State from each of the appropriations under the preceding subparagraphs;

(2) for federally administered programs, $476,226,000 as follows:

(A) $223,688,000 for the dislocated workers assistance national reserve, of which $23,688,000 shall be available for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, and of which $200,000,000 shall be available for the

period October 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014: *Provided*, That funds provided to carry out section 132(a)(2)(A) of the WIA may be used to provide assistance to a State for statewide or local use in order to address cases where there have been worker dislocations across multiple sectors or across multiple local areas and such workers remain dislocated; coordinate the State workforce development plan with emerging economic development needs; and train such eligible dislocated workers: *Provided further*, That funds provided to carry out section 171(d) of the WIA may be used for demonstration projects that provide assistance to new entrants in the workforce and incumbent workers: *Provided further*, That none of the funds shall be obligated to carry out section 173(e) of the WIA;

(B) $47,562,000 for Native American programs, which shall be available for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014;

(C) $84,291,000 for migrant and seasonal farmworker programs under section 167 of the WIA, including $78,104,742 for formula grants (of which not less than 70 percent shall be for employment and training services), $5,678,222 for migrant and seasonal housing (of which not less than 70 percent shall be for permanent housing), and $508,036 for other discretionary purposes, which shall be available for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law or related regulation, the Department of Labor shall take no action limiting the number or proportion of eligible participants receiving related assistance services or discouraging grantees from providing such services;

(D) $996,000 for carrying out the WANTO Act, which shall be available for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014;

(E) $79,689,000 for YouthBuild activities as described in section 173A of the WIA, which shall be available for the period April 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014; and

(F) $40,000,000 to be available to the Secretary of Labor (referred to in this title as ''Secretary'') for the Workforce Innovation Fund to carry out projects that demonstrate innovative strategies or replicate effective evidence-based strategies that align and strengthen the workforce investment system in order to improve program delivery and education and employment outcomes for beneficiaries, which shall be for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014: *Provided*, That amounts shall be available for awards to States or State agencies that are eligible for assistance under any program authorized under the WIA, consortia of States, or partnerships, including regional partnerships: *Provided further*, That not more than 5 percent of the funds available for workforce innovation activities shall be for technical assistance and evaluations related to the projects carried out with these funds: *Provided further*, That not more than $10,000,000 of the funds provided for the Workforce Innovation Fund may be used for performance-based awards or other agreements under the Pay for Success program: *Provided further*, That, with respect to the previous proviso, any funds obligated for such projects or agreements shall remain available for disbursement until expended, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1552(a), and that any funds deobligated from such projects or agreements shall immediately be available for Workforce Innovation Fund activities;

(3) for national activities, $85,238,000, as follows:

(A) $80,238,000 for ex-offender activities, under the authority of section 171 of the WIA and section 212 of the Second Chance Act of 2007, which shall be available for the period April 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, notwithstanding the requirements of section 171(b)(2)(B) or 171(c)(4)(D) of the WIA: *Provided*, That of this amount, $20,000,000 shall be for competitive grants to national and regional intermediaries for activities that prepare young ex-offenders and school dropouts for employment, with a priority for projects serving high-crime, high-poverty areas; and

(B) $5,000,000 for the Workforce Data Quality Initiative, under the authority of section 171(c)(2) of the WIA, which shall be available for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, and which shall not be subject to the requirements of section 171(c)(4)(D).

OFFICE OF JOB CORPS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

To carry out subtitle C of title I of the WIA, including Federal administrative expenses, the purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles, the construction, alteration, and repairs of buildings and other facilities, and the purchase of real property for training centers as authorized by the WIA, $1,683,132,000, plus reimbursements, as follows:

(1) $1,574,000,000 for Job Corps Operations, which shall be available for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014: *Provided*, That of the funds available to the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration in this Act or any other Act making appropriations that remain unobligated as of the date of enactment of this Act, up to $30,000,000 may be transferred to ''Office of Job Corps'' for Job Corps operations for program years 2012 and 2013 and shall be in addition to any other amounts available to the Office of Job Corps for such purposes: *Provided further*, That not less than $10,000,000 shall be transferred within 30 days of enactment of this Act to support Job Corps operations for the program year ending June 30, 2013: *Provided further*, That, not later than 15 days after any transfer has been made under the authority of the two preceding provisos, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that details the source of the transferred funds, the specific programs, projects, or activities for which such funds will be used, provides a detailed explanation of the need for such transfer, and itemizes the cost saving measures implemented by the Office of Job Corps during program years 2012 and 2013 and the savings gained by implementing each initiative;

(2) $80,000,000 for construction, rehabilitation and acquisition of Job Corps Centers, which shall be available for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016: *Provided*, That the Secretary may transfer up to 15 percent of such funds to meet the operational needs of such centers or to achieve administrative efficiencies: *Provided further*, That any funds transferred pursuant to the preceding proviso shall not be available for obligation after June 30, 2014; and

(3) $29,132,000 for necessary expenses of the Office of Job Corps, which shall be available for obligation for the period October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013:

Provided further, That no funds from any other appropriation shall be used to provide meal services at or for Job Corps centers.

COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT FOR OLDER AMERICANS

To carry out title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (referred to in this Act as ''OAA''), $448,251,000, which shall be available for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, and may be recaptured and reobligated in accordance with section 517(c) of the OAA.

FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES

For payments during fiscal year 2013 of trade adjustment benefit payments and allowances under part I of subchapter B of chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, and section 246 of that Act; and for training, employment and case management services, allowances for job search and relocation, and related State administrative expenses under part II of subchapter B of chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, including benefit payments, allowances, training, employment and case management services, and related State administration provided pursuant to section 231(a) of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011, $1,421,000,000, together with such amounts as may be necessary to be charged to the subsequent appropriation for payments for any period subsequent to September 15, 2013.

STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OPERATIONS

For authorized administrative expenses, $86,068,000, together with not to exceed $3,770,718,000 which may be expended from the Employment Security Administration Account in the Unemployment Trust Fund (''the Trust Fund''), of which:

(1) $2,979,912,000 from the Trust Fund is for grants to States for the administration of State unemployment insurance laws as authorized under title III of the Social Security Act (including not less than $60,000,000 to conduct in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews), the administration of unemployment insurance for Federal employees and for ex-service members as authorized under 5 U.S.C. 8501–8523, and the administration of trade readjustment allowances, reemployment trade adjustment assistance, and alternative trade adjustment assistance under the Trade Act of 1974 and under section 231(a) of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011, and shall be available for obligation by the States through December 31, 2013, except that funds used for automation acquisitions or competitive grants awarded to States for improved operations, reemployment and eligibility assessments and improper payments, or activities to address misclassification of workers shall be available for obligation by the States through September 30, 2015, and funds used for unemployment insurance workloads experienced by the States through September 30, 2013 shall be available for Federal obligation through December 31, 2013;

(2) $11,297,000 from the Trust Fund is for national activities necessary to support the administration of the Federal-State unemployment insurance system;

(3) $693,204,000 from the Trust Fund, together with $22,595,000 from the General Fund of the Treasury, is for grants to States in accordance with section 6 of the Wagner-Peyser Act, of which not less than $15,000,000 shall be used to provide reemployment services to beneficiaries of unemployment insurance, and shall be available for Federal obligation for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014;

(4) $20,912,000 from the Trust Fund is for national activities of the Employment Service, including administration of the work opportunity tax credit under section 51 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the provision of technical assistance and staff training under the Wagner-Peyser Act, including not to exceed $1,228,000 that may be used for amortization payments to States which had independent retirement plans in their State employment service agencies prior to 1980;

(5) $65,393,000 from the Trust Fund is for the administration of foreign labor certifications and related activities under the Immigration and Nationality Act and related laws, of which $50,323,000 shall be available for the Federal administration of such activities, and $15,070,000 shall be available for grants to States for the administration of such activities; and

(6) $63,473,000 from the General Fund is to provide workforce information, national electronic tools, and one-stop system building under the Wagner-Peyser Act and section 171(e)(2)(C) of the WIA and shall be available for Federal obligation for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014:

Provided, That to the extent that the Average Weekly Insured Unemployment (''AWIU'') for fiscal year 2013 is projected by the Department of Labor to exceed 3,908,000, an additional $28,600,000 from the Trust Fund shall be available for obligation for every 100,000 increase in the AWIU level (including a pro rata amount for any increment less than 100,000) to carry out title III of the Social Security Act: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this Act that are allotted to a State to carry out activities under title III of the Social Security Act may be used by such State to assist other States in carrying out activities under such title III if the other States include areas that have suffered a major disaster declared by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may use funds appropriated for grants to States under title III of the Social Security Act to make payments on behalf of States for the use of the National Directory of New Hires under section 453(j)(8) of such Act: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this Act which are used to establish a national one-stop career center system, or which are used to support the national activities of the Federal-State unemployment insurance or immigration programs, may be obligated in contracts, grants, or agreements with non-State entities: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this Act for activities authorized under title III of the Social Security Act and the Wagner-Peyser Act may be used by States to fund integrated Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service automation efforts, notwithstanding cost allocation principles prescribed under the Office of Management and Budget Circular A–87: *Provided further*, That the Secretary, at the request of a State participating in a consortium with other States, may reallot funds allotted to such State under title III of the Social Security Act to other States participating in the consortium in order to carry out activities that benefit the administration of the unemployment compensation law of the State making the request: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may, during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, collect and retain fees for the costs associated with additional data collection, analyses, and reporting services relating to the National Agricultural Workers Survey requested by State and local governments, public and private institutions of higher education, and non-profit organizations and may utilize such sums, in accordance with the provisions of 29 U.S.C. 9a, for the National Agricultural Workers Survey infrastructure, methodology, and data to meet the information collection and reporting needs of such entities and shall credit such fees to this account, which shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2014, for such purposes.

In addition, $15,000,000 from the Employment Security Administration Account of the Unemployment Trust Fund shall be available to conduct in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews.

ADVANCES TO THE UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST FUND AND OTHER FUNDS

For repayable advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund as authorized by sections 905(d) and 1203 of the Social Security Act, and to the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund as authorized by section 9501(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and for non-repayable advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 8509, and to the ''Federal Unemployment Benefits and Allowances'' account, such sums as may be necessary, which shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2014.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

For expenses of administering employment and training programs, $97,137,000, together with not to exceed $49,944,000 which may be expended from the Employment Security Administration Account in the Unemployment Trust Fund.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Employee Benefits Security Administration, $183,153,000.

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION FUND

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (''Corporation'') is authorized to make such expenditures, including financial assistance authorized by subtitle E of title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, within limits of funds and borrowing authority available to the Corporation, and in accord with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations, as provided by 31 U.S.C. 9104, as may be necessary in carrying out the program, including associated administrative expenses, through September 30, 2013, for the Corporation: *Provided*, That none of the funds available to the Corporation for fiscal year 2013 shall be available for obligations for administrative expenses in excess of $479,013,000: *Provided further*, That to the extent that the number of new plan participants in plans terminated by the Corporation exceeds 100,000 in fiscal year 2013, an amount not to exceed an additional $9,200,000 shall be available through September 30, 2014, for obligation for administrative expenses for every 20,000 additional terminated participants: *Provided further*, That an additional $50,000 shall be made available through September 30, 2014, for obligation for investment management fees for every $25,000,000 in assets received by the Corporation as a result of new plan terminations or asset growth, after approval by the Office of Management and Budget and notification of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided further*, That obligations in excess of the amounts provided in this paragraph may be incurred for unforeseen and extraordinary pretermination expenses or extraordinary multiemployer program related expenses after approval by the Office of Management and Budget and notification of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Wage and Hour Division, including reimbursement to State, Federal, and local agencies and their employees for inspection services rendered, $235,730,000.

OFFICE OF LABOR-MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Office of Labor-Management Standards, $41,289,000.

OFFICE OF FEDERAL CONTRACT COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, $105,187,000.

OFFICE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, $115,720,000, together with $2,120,000 which may be expended from the Special Fund in accordance with sections 39(c), 44(d), and 44(j) of the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act.

SPECIAL BENEFITS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation, benefits, and expenses (except administrative expenses) accruing during the current or any prior fiscal year authorized by 5 U.S.C. 81; continuation of benefits as provided for under the heading ''Civilian War Benefits'' in the Federal Security Agency Appropriation Act, 1947; the Employees' Compensation Commission Appropriation Act, 1944; sections 4(c) and 5(f) of the War Claims Act of 1948; and 50 percent of the additional compensation and benefits required by section 10(h) of the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, $396,000,000, together with such amounts as may be necessary to be charged to the subsequent year appropriation for the payment of compensation and other benefits for any period subsequent to August 15 of the current year: *Provided*, That amounts appropriated may be used under 5 U.S.C. 8104 by the Secretary to reimburse an employer, who is not the employer at the time of injury, for portions of the salary of a re-employed, disabled beneficiary: *Provided further*, That balances of reimbursements unobligated on September 30, 2012, shall remain available until expended for the payment of compensation, benefits, and expenses: *Provided further*, That in addition there shall be transferred to this appropriation from the Postal Service and from any other corporation or instrumentality required under 5 U.S.C. 8147(c) to pay an amount for its fair share of the cost of administration, such sums as the Secretary determines to be the cost of administration for employees of such fair share entities through September 30, 2013: *Provided further*, That of those funds transferred to this account from the fair share entities to pay the cost of administration of the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, $58,544,000 shall be made available to the Secretary as follows:

(1) For enhancement and maintenance of automated data processing systems and telecommunications systems, $23,166,000;

(2) For automated workload processing operations, including document imaging, centralized mail intake, and medical bill processing, $20,517,000;

(3) For periodic roll management and medical review, $14,861,000; and

(4) The remaining funds shall be paid into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts:

Provided further, That the Secretary may require that any person filing a notice of injury or a claim for benefits under 5 U.S.C. 81, or the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, provide as part of such notice and claim, such identifying information (including Social Security account number) as such regulations may prescribe.

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

For carrying out title IV of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, as amended by Public Law 107–275, $123,220,000, to remain available until expended.

For making after July 31 of the current fiscal year, benefit payments to individuals under title IV of such Act, for costs incurred in the current fiscal year, such amounts as may be necessary.

For making benefit payments under title IV for the first quarter of fiscal year 2014, $35,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION FUND

For necessary expenses to administer the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act, $54,962,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may require that any person filing a claim for benefits under the Act provide as part of such claim such identifying information (including Social Security account number) as may be prescribed.

BLACK LUNG DISABILITY TRUST FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Such sums as may be necessary from the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund (''Fund''), to remain available until expended, for payment of all benefits authorized by section 9501(d)(1), (2), (6), and (7) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and repayment of, and payment of interest on advances, as authorized by section 9501(d)(4) of that Act. In addition, the following amounts may be expended from the Fund for fiscal year 2013 for expenses of operation and administration of the Black Lung Benefits program, as authorized by section 9501(d)(5): not to exceed $32,906,000 for transfer to the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, ''Salaries and Expenses''; not to exceed $25,217,000 for transfer to Departmental Management, ''Salaries and Expenses''; not to exceed $327,000 for transfer to Departmental Management, ''Office of Inspector General''; and not to exceed $356,000 for payments into miscellaneous receipts for the expenses of the Department of the Treasury.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, $569,771,000, including not to exceed $104,196,000 which shall be the maximum amount available for grants to States under section 23(g) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (''Act''), which grants shall be no less than 50 percent of the costs of State occupational safety and health programs required to be incurred under plans approved by the Secretary under section 18 of the Act; and, in addition, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration may retain up to $200,000 per fiscal year of training institute course tuition fees, otherwise authorized by law to be collected, and may utilize such sums for occupational safety and health training and education: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, the Secretary is authorized, during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, to collect and retain fees for services provided to Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories, and may utilize such sums, in accordance with the provisions of 29 U.S.C. 9a, to administer national and international laboratory recognition programs that ensure the safety of equipment and products used by workers in the workplace: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated under this paragraph shall be obligated or expended to prescribe, issue, administer, or enforce any standard, rule, regulation, or order under the Act which is applicable to any person who is engaged in a farming operation which does not maintain a temporary labor camp and employs 10 or fewer employees: *Provided further*, That no funds appropriated under this paragraph shall be obligated or expended to administer or enforce any standard, rule, regulation, or order under the Act with respect to any employer of 10 or fewer employees who is included within a category having a Days Away, Restricted, or Transferred (DART) occupational injury and illness rate, at the most precise industrial classification code for which such data are published, less than the national average rate as such rates are most recently published by the Secretary, acting through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in accordance with section 24 of the Act, except—

(1) to provide, as authorized by the Act, consultation, technical assistance, educational and training services, and to conduct surveys and studies;

(2) to conduct an inspection or investigation in response to an employee complaint, to issue a citation for violations found during such inspection, and to assess a penalty for violations which are not corrected within a reasonable abatement period and for any willful violations found;

(3) to take any action authorized by the Act with respect to imminent dangers;

(4) to take any action authorized by the Act with respect to health hazards;

(5) to take any action authorized by the Act with respect to a report of an employment accident which is fatal to one or more employees or which results in hospitalization of two or more employees, and to take any action pursuant to such investigation authorized by the Act; and

(6) to take any action authorized by the Act with respect to complaints of discrimination against employees for exercising rights under the Act:

Provided further, That the foregoing proviso shall not apply to any person who is engaged in a farming operation which does not maintain a temporary labor camp and employs 10 or fewer employees: *Provided further*, That $10,709,000 shall be available for Susan Harwood training grants.

MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for the Mine Safety and Health Administration, $373,692,000, including purchase and bestowal of certificates and trophies in connection with mine rescue and first-aid work, and the hire of passenger motor vehicles, including up to $2,000,000 for mine rescue and recovery activities; in addition, not to exceed $750,000 may be collected by the National Mine Health and Safety Academy for room, board, tuition, and the sale of training materials, otherwise authorized by law to be collected, to be available for mine safety and health education and training activities, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302; in addition, the Mine Safety and Health Administration is authorized to collect and retain up to $2,499,000 from fees collected for the approval and certification of equipment, materials, and explosives for use in mines, and may utilize such sums for such activities, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302; in addition, the Mine Safety and Health Administration is authorized to collect and retain fees for services related to the analysis of rock dust samples, and may utilize such sums to administer such activities, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302; the Secretary may transfer from amounts provided under this heading up to $2,000,000 to ''Departmental Management'' for activities related to the Office of the Solicitor's caseload before the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission; the Secretary is authorized to accept lands, buildings, equipment, and other contributions from public and private sources and to prosecute projects in cooperation with other agencies, Federal, State, or private; the Mine Safety and Health Administration is authorized to promote health and safety education and training in the mining community through cooperative programs with States, industry, and safety associations; the Secretary is authorized to recognize the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association as a principal safety association and, notwithstanding any other provision of law, may provide funds and, with or without reimbursement, personnel, including service of Mine Safety and Health Administration officials as officers in local chapters or in the national organization; any funds available to the Department of Labor may be used, with the approval of the Secretary, to provide for the costs of mine rescue and survival operations in the event of a major disaster; and the Secretary may reallocate among the items funded under this heading up to $3,000,000 to support inspections or investigations pursuant to section 103 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, including advances or reimbursements to State, Federal, and local agencies and their employees for services rendered, $551,867,000, together with not to exceed $67,176,000 which may be expended from the Employment Security Administration Account in the Unemployment Trust Fund, of which $1,500,000 may be used to fund the mass layoff statistics program under section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Office of Disability Employment Policy to provide leadership, develop policy and initiatives, and award grants furthering the objective of eliminating barriers to the training and employment of people with disabilities, $38,953,000.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for Departmental Management, including the hire of three passenger motor vehicles, $347,735,000, together with not to exceed $326,000, which may be expended from the Employment Security Administration Account in the Unemployment Trust Fund: *Provided*, That $66,500,000 for the Bureau of International Labor Affairs shall be available for obligation through December 31, 2013: *Provided further*, That funds available to the Bureau of International Labor Affairs may be used to administer or operate international labor activities, bilateral and multilateral technical assistance, and microfinance programs, by or through contracts, grants, subgrants and other arrangements: *Provided further*, That not less than $40,000,000 shall be for programs to combat exploitative child labor internationally: *Provided further*, That not less than $6,500,000 shall be used to implement model programs that address worker rights issues through technical assistance in countries with which the United States has free trade agreements or trade preference programs: *Provided further*, That $8,484,000 shall be used for program evaluation and shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2014: *Provided further*, That funds available for program evaluation may be transferred to any other appropriate account in the Department for such purpose: *Provided further*, That the funds available to the Women's Bureau may be used for grants to serve and promote the interests of women in the workforce.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Not to exceed $224,569,000 may be derived from the Employment Security Administration Account in the Unemployment Trust Fund to carry out the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 4100–4113, 4211–4215, and 4321–4327, and Public Law 103–353, and which shall be available for obligation by the States through December 31, 2013, of which $3,414,000 is for the National Veterans' Employment and Training Services Institute.

In addition, to carry out Department of Labor programs under section 5(a)(1) of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001, $38,185,000.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION

For necessary expenses for Department of Labor centralized infrastructure technology investment activities related to support systems and modernization, $19,815,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, $77,790,000, together with not to exceed $5,898,000 which may be expended from the Employment Security Administration Account in the Unemployment Trust Fund.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds appropriated by this Act for the Job Corps shall be used to pay the salary and bonuses of an individual, either as direct costs or any proration as an indirect cost, at a rate in excess of Executive Level II.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 102. Not to exceed 1 percent of any discretionary funds (pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985) which are appropriated for the current fiscal year for the Department of Labor in this Act may be transferred between a program, project, or activity, but no such program, project, or activity shall be increased by more than 3 percent by any such transfer: *Provided*, That the transfer authority granted by this section shall not be used to create any new program or to fund any project or activity for which no funds are provided in this Act: *Provided further*, That the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

SEC. 103. In accordance with Executive Order No. 13126, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to this Act shall be obligated or expended for the procurement of goods mined, produced, manufactured, or harvested or services rendered, in whole or in part, by forced or indentured child labor in industries and host countries already identified by the United States Department of Labor prior to enactment of this Act.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available to the Department of Labor for grants under section 414(c) of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 may be used for any purpose other than competitive grants for training in the occupations and industries for which employers are using H–1B visas to hire foreign workers, and the related activities necessary to support such training.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading ''Employment and Training Administration'' shall be used by a recipient or subrecipient of such funds to pay the salary and bonuses of an individual, either as direct costs or indirect costs, at a rate in excess of Executive Level II. This limitation shall not apply to vendors providing goods and services as defined in Office of Management and Budget Circular A–133. Where States are recipients of such funds, States may establish a lower limit for salaries and bonuses of those receiving salaries and bonuses from subrecipients of such funds, taking into account factors including the relative cost-of-living in the State, the compensation levels for comparable State or local government employees, and the size of the organizations that administer Federal programs involved including Employment and Training Administration programs. Notwithstanding this section, the limitation on salaries for the Job Corps shall continue to be governed by section 101.

SEC. 106. The Secretary shall take no action to amend, through regulatory or administration action, the definition established in section 667.220 of title 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations for functions and activities under title I of WIA, or to modify, through regulatory or administrative action, the procedure for redesignation of local areas as specified in subtitle B of title I of that Act (including applying the standards specified in section 116(a)(3)(B) of that Act, but notwithstanding the time limits specified in section 116(a)(3)(B) of that Act), until such time as legislation reauthorizing the Act is enacted. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall permit or require the Secretary to withdraw approval for such redesignation from a State that received the approval not later than October 12, 2005, or to revise action taken or modify the redesignation procedure being used by the Secretary in order to complete such redesignation for a State that initiated the process of such redesignation by submitting any request for such redesignation not later than October 26, 2005.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 107. Notwithstanding section 102, the Secretary may transfer funds made available to the Employment and Training Administration by this Act, either directly or through a set-aside, for technical assistance services to grantees to ''Program Administration'' when it is determined that those services will be more efficiently performed by Federal employees.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 108. (a) The Secretary may reserve not more than 0.5 percent from each appropriation made available in this Act identified in subsection (b) in order to carry out evaluations of any of the programs or activities that are funded under such accounts. Any funds reserved under this section shall be transferred to ''Departmental Management'' for use by the Office of the Chief Evaluation Officer within the Department of Labor, and shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2014: *Provided*, That such funds shall only be available if the Chief Evaluation Officer of the Department of Labor submits a plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate describing the evaluations to be carried out 15 days in advance of any transfer.

(b) The accounts referred to in subsection (a) are: ''Training and Employment Services'', ''Office of Job Corps'', ''State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations'', ''Employee Benefits Security Administration'', ''Office of Workers' Compensation Programs'', ''Wage and Hour Division'', ''Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs'', ''Office of Labor-Management Standards'', ''Occupational Safety and Health Administration'', ''Mine Safety and Health Administration'', and ''Veterans Employment and Training''.

SEC. 109. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to promulgate the Definition of ''Fiduciary'' regulation (Regulatory Identification Number 1210–AB32) published by the Employee Benefits Security Administration of the Department of Labor on October 22, 2010 (75 Fed. Reg. 65263).

SEC. 110. (a) None of the amounts made available under this Act may be used to promulgate, administer, enforce, or otherwise implement the final rule entitled ''Temporary Non-Agricultural Employment of H–2B Aliens in the United States'' published by the Department of Labor on February 21, 2012 (77 Fed. Reg. 10038).

(b) None of the amounts made available under this Act may be used to promulgate, administer, enforce, or otherwise implement the final rule entitled ''Wage Methodology for the Temporary Non-Agricultural Employment H–2B Program'' published by the Department of Labor on January 19, 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 3452).

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary to administer or enforce 29 CFR 779.372(c)(4).

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 112. Of the unobligated balances available under the heading ''Departmental Management, Working Capital Fund'', $10,337,000 is rescinded: *Provided*, That no funds may be rescinded from amounts previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 113. Of the funds appropriated under section 272(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 for each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014, the Secretary may not reserve more than 3 percent of such funds to conduct evaluations and provide technical assistance relating to the activities carried out under section 271 of such Act, including activities carried out under such section supported by the appropriations provided for fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

TRANSFER OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL AUTHORITIES

SEC. 114. (a) AUTHORITY OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL TO PAY WAGES AND LIST CONTRACTORS VIOLATING CONTRACTS.—40 U.S.C. 3144, is amended—

(1) in the title, by striking ''of Comptroller General''; and

(2) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''The Comptroller General'' and inserting ''The Secretary of Labor''.

(b) REPORT OF VIOLATIONS AND WITHHOLDING OF AMOUNTS FOR UNPAID WAGES AND LIQUIDATED DAMAGES.—40 U.S.C. 3703, is amended in subsection (b)(3), by—

(1) striking ''The Comptroller General'' in the first sentence and inserting ''The Secretary of Labor''; and

(2) striking ''the Comptroller General'' in the second sentence and inserting ''the Secretary of Labor''.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Labor Appropriations Act, 2013''.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

For carrying out titles II and III of the Public Health Service Act (referred to in this Act as the ''PHS Act'') with respect to primary health care and the Native Hawaiian Health Care Act of 1988, $1,585,064,000, of which $127,000 shall be available until expended for facilities renovations at the Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center: *Provided*, That no more than $40,000 shall be available until expended for carrying out the provisions of section 224(o) of the PHS Act, including associated administrative expenses and relevant evaluations: *Provided further*, That no more than $95,073,000 shall be available until expended for carrying out the provisions of Public Law 104–73 and for expenses

incurred by the Department of Health and Human Services (referred to in this Act as ''HHS'') pertaining to administrative claims made under such law: *Provided further*, That all funds provided for the Health Centers program, as defined by section 330 of the PHS Act, by this Act or any other Act for fiscal year 2013 shall be obligated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this title as ''Secretary'') by September 30, 2013, of which $48,000,000 shall be awarded for base grant adjustments to address the increased costs of care and implement quality improvement activities.

HEALTH WORKFORCE

For carrying out titles III, VII, and VIII of the PHS Act with respect to the health workforce, section 1128E of the Social Security Act, section 301 of the Health Professions Education Extension Amendments of 1992, and the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986, $746,529,000: *Provided*, That section 301(k) of Public Law 102–408, sections 747(c)(2), 751(j)(2), and the proportional funding amounts in paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 756(e) of the PHS Act shall not apply to funds made available under this heading: *Provided further*, That for any program operating under section 751 of the PHS Act on or before January 1, 2009, the Secretary may waive any of the requirements contained in sections 751(d)(2)(A) and 751(d)(2)(B) of such Act for fiscal year 2013 and fiscal years thereafter: *Provided further*, That no funds shall be available for section 340G–1 of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That in addition to fees authorized by section 427(b) of the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986, fees shall be collected for the full disclosure of information under such Act sufficient to recover the full costs of operating the National Practitioner Data Bank and shall remain available until expended to carry out that Act: *Provided further*, That fees collected for the full disclosure of information under the ''Health Care Fraud and Abuse Data Collection Program'', authorized by section 1128E(d)(2) of the Social Security Act, shall be sufficient to recover the full costs of operating the program, and shall remain available until expended to carry out that Act: *Provided further*, That fees collected for the disclosure of information under the information reporting requirement program authorized by section 1921 of the Social Security Act shall be sufficient to recover the full costs of operating the program and shall remain available until expended to carry out that Act: *Provided further*, That funds transferred to this account to carry out section 846 and subpart 3 of part D of title III of the PHS Act may be used to make prior year adjustments to awards made under such sections.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

For carrying out titles III, XI, XII, and XIX of the PHS Act with respect to maternal and child health, title V of the Social Security Act, and section 712 of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, $856,807,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding sections 502(a)(1) and 502(b)(1) of the Social Security Act, not more than $78,641,000 shall be available for carrying out special projects of regional and national significance pursuant to section 501(a)(2) of such Act and $10,276,000 shall be available for projects described in paragraphs (A) through (F) of section 501(a)(3) of such Act.

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS PROGRAM

For carrying out title XXVI of the PHS Act with respect to the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program, $2,397,178,000, of which $2,056,898,000 shall remain available to the Secretary through September 30, 2015, for parts A and B of title XXVI of the PHS Act, and of which not less than $963,299,000 shall be for State AIDS Drug Assistance Programs under the authority of section 2616 or 311(c) of such Act: *Provided*, That in addition to amounts provided herein, $25,000,000 shall be available from amounts available under section 241 of the PHS Act to carry out parts A, B, C, and D of title XXVI of the PHS Act to fund Special Projects of National Significance under section 2691: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 2610(c) of the PHS Act, no funds shall be transferred or reprogrammed from part A to part B of title XXVI of the PHS Act as a result of an entity having lost transitional grant area status in any fiscal year prior to fiscal year 2013: *Provided further*, That within the funds provided for part B, the amount required by section 2610(c)(2)(B)(ii)(I)(cc) shall be awarded to each State containing a metropolitan area that lost transitional status in a fiscal year prior to fiscal year 2013.

HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

For carrying out titles III and XII of the PHS Act with respect to health care systems, and the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, $82,534,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary may collect a fee of 0.1 percent of each purchase of 340B drugs from entities participating in the Drug Pricing Program pursuant to section 340B of the PHS Act to pay for the operating costs of such program: *Provided further*, That fees pursuant to the 340B Drug Pricing Program shall be collected by manufacturers at the time of sale, and shall be credited to this account, to remain available until expended.

RURAL HEALTH

For carrying out titles III and IV of the PHS Act with respect to rural health, section 427(a) of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act, the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act of 2000, and sections 711 and 1820 of the Social Security Act, $140,072,000, of which $41,040,000 from general revenues, notwithstanding section 1820(j) of the Social Security Act, shall be available for carrying out the Medicare rural hospital flexibility grants program: *Provided*, That of the funds made available under this heading for Medicare rural hospital flexibility grants, $15,000,000 shall be available for the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Grant Program for quality improvement and adoption of health information technology and up to $1,000,000 shall be to carry out section 1820(g)(6) of the Social Security Act, with funds provided for grants under section 1820(g)(6) available for the purchase and implementation of telehealth services, including pilots and demonstrations on the use of electronic health records to coordinate rural veterans care between rural providers and the Department of Veterans Affairs electronic health record system: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 338J(k) of the PHS Act, $10,036,000 shall be available for State Offices of Rural Health.

FAMILY PLANNING

For carrying out the program under title X of the PHS Act to provide for voluntary family planning projects, $293,870,000: *Provided*, That amounts provided to said projects under such title shall not be expended for abortions, that all pregnancy counseling shall be nondirective, and that such amounts shall not be expended for any activity (including the publication or distribution of literature) that in any way tends to promote public support or opposition to any legislative proposal or candidate for public office.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

For program support in the Health Resources and Services Administration, $162,517,000: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading may be used to supplement program support funding provided under the headings ''Primary Health Care'', ''Health Workforce'', ''Maternal and Child Health'', ''Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program'', ''Health Care Systems'', and ''Rural Health''.

HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the program, as authorized by title VII of the PHS Act.

For administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, including section 709 of the PHS Act, $2,807,000.

VACCINE INJURY COMPENSATION PROGRAM TRUST FUND

For payments from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program Trust Fund (''Trust Fund''), such sums as may be necessary for claims associated with vaccine-related injury or death with respect to vaccines administered after September 30, 1988, pursuant to subtitle 2 of title XXI of the PHS Act, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That for necessary administrative expenses, not to exceed $6,477,000 shall be available from the Trust Fund to the Secretary.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

IMMUNIZATION AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES

For carrying out titles II, III, VII, XVII, and XXI, and section 2821 of the PHS Act, titles II and IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act, with respect to immunization and respiratory diseases, $525,201,000: *Provided*, That in addition to amounts provided herein, $12,864,000 shall be available from amounts available under section 241 of the PHS Act to carry out the National Immunization Surveys: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used to require recipients of funding under section 317 of the PHS Act to comply with the policy issued on July 10, 2012 titled ''Use of Vaccine Purchased with 317 Funds''.

HIV/AIDS, VIRAL HEPATITIS, SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES, AND TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTION

For carrying out titles II, III, VII, XVII, XXIII, and XXVI of the PHS Act with respect to HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, and tuberculosis prevention, $1,101,956,000.

EMERGING AND ZOONOTIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES

For carrying out titles II, III, VII, and XVII, and section 2821 of the PHS Act, titles II and IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act, with respect to emerging and zoonotic infectious diseases, $266,458,000.

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION

For carrying out titles II, III, VII, XI, XV, XVII, and XIX of the PHS Act, with respect to chronic disease prevention and health promotion, $797,081,000: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this account may be available for making grants under section 1509 of the PHS Act for not less than 21 States, tribes, or tribal organizations.

BIRTH DEFECTS, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, DISABILITIES AND HEALTH

For carrying out titles II, III, VII, XI, and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to birth defects, developmental disabilities, and disabilities and health, $132,037,000.

PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

For carrying out titles II and III of the PHS Act with respect to health statistics, surveillance, informatics, and workforce development, $129,614,000: *Provided*, That in addition to amounts provided herein,

$262,127,000 shall be available from amounts available under section 241 of the PHS Act to carry out public health scientific services.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

For carrying out titles II, III, VII, and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to environmental health, $107,316,000.

INJURY PREVENTION AND CONTROL

For carrying out titles II, III, VII, and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to injury prevention and control, $137,693,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

For carrying out titles II, III, VII, and XVII of the PHS Act, sections 101, 102, 103, 201, 202, 203, 301, 501, and 514 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act, section 13 of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act, and sections 20, 21, and 22 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, with respect to occupational safety and health, $181,222,000: *Provided*, That in addition to amounts provided herein, $111,366,000 shall be available from amounts available under section 241 of the PHS Act.

ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to administer the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act, $55,358,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That this amount shall be available consistent with the provision regarding administrative expenses in section 151(b) of division B, title I of Public Law 106–554.

GLOBAL HEALTH

For carrying out titles II, III, VII and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to global health, $353,794,000, of which $117,118,000 for international HIV/AIDS shall remain available through September 30, 2014, and of which $7,000,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2014, to support national public health institutes: *Provided*, That funds may be used for purchase and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries.

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

For carrying out titles II, III, VII, and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to public health preparedness and response, and for expenses necessary to support activities related to countering potential biological, nuclear, radiological, and chemical threats to civilian populations, $1,226,013,000, of which $439,444,000 shall remain available until expended for the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F–2 of the PHS Act: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be used to support the hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft for use and support of the activities of CDC: *Provided further*, That in the event the Director of the CDC activates the Emergency Operations Center, the Director of the CDC may detail CDC staff without reimbursement for up to 30 days to support the work of the CDC Emergency Operations Center, so long as the Director provides a notice to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 15 days of the use of this authority and a full report within 30 days after use of this authority which includes the number of staff and funding level broken down by the originating center and number of days detailed: *Provided further*, That in the previous proviso the annual reimbursement cannot exceed $3,000,000 across CDC.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For acquisition of real property, equipment, construction, and renovation of facilities, $35,000,000, which shall remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading shall only be used to support competitive acquisition, renovation, or replacement, of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's underground and surface coal mining safety and health research capacity and the applied technology and occupational hazard evaluation field research capabilities.

In addition, $11,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2014, for repairs and improvements of real property, equipment, construction and facilities, of which $6,600,000 shall be derived from prior year unobligated balances of any amounts available for Individual Learning Accounts.

CDC-WIDE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For carrying out titles II, III, VII, XVII and XIX, and section 2821 of the PHS Act and for cross-cutting activities and program support that supplement activities funded under the headings ''Immunization and Respiratory Diseases'', ''HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Tuberculosis Prevention'', ''Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases'', ''Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion'', ''Birth Defects, Developmental Disabilities, Disabilities and Health'', ''Environmental Health'', ''Injury Prevention and Control'', ''National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health'', ''Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program'', ''Global Health'', ''Public Health Preparedness and Response'', ''Public Health Scientific Services'', and ''Buildings and Facilities'', $591,500,000, of which $380,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2014, for business services, and of which $105,000,000 shall be for the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Program: *Provided*, That paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (b) of section 2821 of the PHS Act shall not apply to funds appropriated under this heading and in all other accounts of the CDC: *Provided further*, That employees of CDC or the Public Health Service, both civilian and commissioned officers, detailed to States, municipalities, or other organizations under authority of section 214 of the PHS Act, or in overseas assignments, shall not be included within any personnel ceiling applicable to the Agency, Service, or HHS during the period of detail or assignment: *Provided further*, That CDC may use up to $10,000 from amounts appropriated to CDC in this Act for official reception and representation expenses when specifically approved by the Director of CDC: *Provided further*, That in addition, such sums as may be derived from authorized user fees, which shall be credited to the appropriation charged with the cost thereof: *Provided further*, That with respect to the previous proviso, authorized user fees from the Vessel Sanitation Program shall be available through September 30, 2014: *Provided further*, That to facilitate the implementation of the permanent Working Capital Fund (''WCF'') authorized under this heading in division F of Public Law 112–74, on or after October 1, 2013, unobligated balances of amounts appropriated for business services for fiscal year 2013 shall be transferred to the WCF: *Provided further*, That on or after October 1, 2013, CDC shall transfer other amounts available for business services to other CDC appropriations consistent with the benefit each appropriation received from the business services appropriation in fiscal year 2013: *Provided further*, That once the WCF is implemented in fiscal year 2014, assets purchased with funds appropriated for or reimbursed to business services may be transferred to the WCF and customers billed for depreciation of those assets: *Provided further*, That CDC shall, consistent with the authorities provided in 42 U.S.C. 231, ensure that the WCF is used only for administrative support services and not for programmatic activities, and that WCF funds are not co-mingled with programmatic activity funding: *Provided further*, That CDC shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 15 days prior to any transfers made with funds provided under this heading.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to cancer, $5,090,976,000, of which up to $8,000,000 may be used for facilities repairs and improvements at the National Cancer Institute—Frederick Federally Funded Research and Development Center in Frederick, Maryland.

NATIONAL HEART, LUNG, AND BLOOD INSTITUTE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to cardiovascular, lung, and blood diseases, and blood and blood products, $3,090,430,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL AND CRANIOFACIAL RESEARCH

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to dental and craniofacial diseases, $412,232,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DIABETES AND DIGESTIVE AND KIDNEY DISEASES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to diabetes and digestive and kidney disease, $1,803,702,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS AND STROKE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to neurological disorders and stroke, $1,632,390,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to allergy and infectious diseases, $4,507,078,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GENERAL MEDICAL SCIENCES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to general medical sciences, $2,479,085,000: *Provided*, That not less than $316,480,000 is provided for the Institutional Development Awards program.

EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to child health and human development, $1,326,293,000.

NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to eye diseases and visual disorders, $705,316,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to environmental health sciences, $688,111,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to aging, $1,126,636,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ARTHRITIS AND MUSCULOSKELETAL AND SKIN DISEASES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to arthritis and musculoskeletal and skin diseases, $537,771,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DEAFNESS AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to deafness and other communication disorders, $417,816,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NURSING RESEARCH

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to nursing research, $145,306,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to alcohol abuse and alcoholism, $461,221,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to drug abuse, $1,057,270,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to mental health, $1,485,749,000.

NATIONAL HUMAN GENOME RESEARCH INSTITUTE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to human genome research, $515,113,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BIOMEDICAL IMAGING AND BIOENGINEERING

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to biomedical imaging and bioengineering research, $339,610,000.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to complementary and alternative medicine, $128,531,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to minority health and health disparities research, $277,464,000.

JOHN E. FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CENTER

For carrying out the activities of the John E. Fogarty International Center (described in subpart 2 of part E of title IV of the PHS Act), $69,880,000.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR ADVANCING TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to translational sciences, $617,830,000: *Provided*, That up to $25,000,000 shall be available to implement section 480 of the PHS Act (relating to the Cures Acceleration Network): *Provided further*, That at least $487,767,000 is provided to the Clinical and Translational Sciences Awards program.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to health information communications, $366,852,000, of which $2,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2014, for improvement of information systems: *Provided*, That in fiscal year 2013, the National Library of Medicine may enter into personal services contracts for the provision of services in facilities owned, operated, or constructed under the jurisdiction of the National Institutes of Health (referred to in this title as ''NIH''): *Provided further*, That in addition to amounts provided herein, $8,200,000 shall be available from amounts available under section 241 of the PHS Act to carry out the purposes of the National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology established under section 478A of the PHS Act and related health services.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For carrying out the responsibilities of the Office of the Director, NIH, $1,465,289,000, of which up to $25,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 213 of this Act: *Provided*, That funding shall be available for the purchase of not to exceed 29 passenger motor vehicles for replacement only: *Provided further*, That NIH is authorized to collect third-party payments for the cost of clinical services that are incurred in NIH research facilities and that such payments shall be credited to the NIH Management Fund: *Provided further*, That all funds credited to the NIH Management Fund shall remain available for 1 fiscal year after the fiscal year in which they are deposited: *Provided further*, That $165,000,000 shall be for the National Children's Study (''NCS''), except that not later than July 15, 2013, the Director shall estimate the amount needed for the NCS during fiscal year 2013, taking into account the succeeding proviso, and any funds in excess of the estimated need shall be transferred to and merged with the accounts for the various Institutes and Centers of NIH in proportion to their shares of total NIH appropriations made by this Act: *Provided further*, That the Director shall contract with the National Academy of Sciences within 60 days of enactment of this Act to appoint an expert Institute of Medicine/National Research Council (''IOM/NRC'') panel to conduct a comprehensive review and issue a report regarding proposed methodologies for the NCS Main Study, including whether such methodologies are likely to produce scientifically sound results that are generalizable to the United States population and appropriate sub-populations, and no contracts shall be awarded for conducting the Main Study until at least 60 days after the IOM/NRC report has been available to the public: *Provided further*, That $547,962,000 shall be available for the Common Fund established under section 402A(c)(1) of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided $10,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses when specifically approved by the Director of the NIH: *Provided further*, That the Office of AIDS Research within the Office of the Director of the NIH may spend up to $8,000,000 to make grants for construction or renovation of facilities as provided for in section 2354(a)(5)(B) of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading in this Act may be used to support the Sanctuary System for Surplus Chimpanzees authorized by section 404K of the PHS Act, including for the construction, renovation, and funding of current or additional facilities of the sanctuary system as authorized by section 404K, notwithstanding the limitations in subsection (g) of such section except that the aggregate total of funds reserved may not exceed the amount specified in subsection (g)(1) of such section by more than $2,000,000.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For the study of, construction of, renovation of, and acquisition of equipment for, facilities of or used by NIH, including the acquisition of real property, $125,308,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

MENTAL HEALTH

For carrying out titles III, V, and XIX of the PHS Act with respect to mental health, and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act, $958,060,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 520A(f)(2) of the PHS Act, no funds appropriated for carrying out section 520A shall be available for carrying out section 1971 of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That in addition to amounts provided herein, $21,039,000 shall be available under section 241 of the PHS Act to carry out subpart I of part B of title XIX of the PHS Act to fund section 1920(b) technical assistance, national data, data collection and evaluation activities, and further that the total available under this Act for section 1920(b) activities shall not exceed 5 percent of the amounts appropriated for subpart I of part B of title XIX: *Provided further*, That section 520E(b)(2) of the PHS Act shall not apply to funds appropriated under this Act for fiscal year 2013: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, $48,713,000 shall be for the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative as described in section 582 of the PHS Act.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

For carrying out titles III, V, and XIX of the PHS Act with respect to substance abuse treatment and section 1922(a) of the PHS Act with respect to substance abuse prevention, $2,114,700,000: *Provided*, That in addition to amounts provided herein, the following amounts shall be available under section 241 of the PHS Act: (1) $79,200,000 to carry out subpart II of part B of title XIX of the PHS Act to fund section 1935(b) technical assistance, national data, data collection and evaluation activities, and further that the total available under this Act for section 1935(b) activities shall not exceed 5 percent of the amounts appropriated for subpart II of part B of title XIX; and (2) $2,000,000 to evaluate substance abuse treatment programs.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

For carrying out titles III and V of the PHS Act with respect to substance abuse prevention, $185,364,000.

HEALTH SURVEILLANCE AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

For program support and cross-cutting activities that supplement activities funded under the headings ''Mental Health'', ''Substance Abuse Treatment'', and ''Substance Abuse Prevention'' in carrying out titles III, V, and XIX of the PHS Act and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, $104,210,000: *Provided*, That in addition to amounts provided herein, $27,428,000 shall be available under section 241 of the PHS Act to supplement funds available to carry out national surveys on drug abuse and mental health, to collect and analyze program data, and to conduct public awareness and technical assistance activities: *Provided further*, That, in addition, fees may be collected for the costs associated with additional publications, data, data tabulations, and data analysis completed under title V of the PHS Act and provided to a public or private entity upon request, which shall be credited to this appropriation and shall remain available until expended for such purposes: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading may be used to supplement program support funding provided under the headings ''Mental Health'', ''Substance Abuse Treatment'', and ''Substance Abuse Prevention''.

AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

For carrying out titles III and IX of the PHS Act, part A of title XI of the Social Security Act, and section 1013 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, $349,053,000 shall be available from amounts available under section 241 of the PHS Act, notwithstanding subsection 947(c) of such Act: *Provided*, That in addition, amounts received from Freedom of Information Act fees, reimbursable and interagency agreements, and the sale of data shall be credited to this appropriation and shall remain available until September 30, 2014.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

GRANTS TO STATES FOR MEDICAID

For carrying out, except as otherwise provided, titles XI and XIX of the Social Security Act, $178,791,197,000, to remain available until expended.

For making, after May 31, 2013, payments to States under title XIX or in the case of section 1928 on behalf of States under title

XIX of the Social Security Act for the last quarter of fiscal year 2013 for unanticipated costs incurred for the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary.

For making payments to States or in the case of section 1928 on behalf of States under title XIX of the Social Security Act for the first quarter of fiscal year 2014, $106,335,631,000, to remain available until expended.

Payment under such title XIX may be made for any quarter with respect to a State plan or plan amendment in effect during such quarter, if submitted in or prior to such quarter and approved in that or any subsequent quarter.

PAYMENTS TO HEALTH CARE TRUST FUNDS

For payment to the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund, as provided under sections 217(g), 1844, and 1860D–16 of the Social Security Act, sections 103(c) and 111(d) of the Social Security Amendments of 1965, section 278(d)(3) of Public Law 97–248, and for administrative expenses incurred pursuant to section 201(g) of the Social Security Act, $251,417,790,000.

In addition, for making matching payments under section 1844 and benefit payments under section 1860D–16 of the Social Security Act that were not anticipated in budget estimates, such sums as may be necessary.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

For carrying out, except as otherwise provided, titles XI, XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act, titles XIII and XXVII of the PHS Act, the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988, and other responsibilities of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, not to exceed $3,826,187,000, to be transferred from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund, as authorized by section 201(g) of the Social Security Act; together with all funds collected in accordance with section 353 of the PHS Act and section 1857(e)(2) of the Social Security Act, funds retained by the Secretary pursuant to section 302 of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006; and such sums as may be collected from authorized user fees and the sale of data, which shall be credited to this account and remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That all funds derived in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 9701 from organizations established under title XIII of the PHS Act shall be credited to and available for carrying out the purposes of this appropriation: *Provided further*, That $11,150,000, to remain available through September 30, 2014, shall be for contract costs for the Healthcare Integrated General Ledger Accounting System: *Provided further*, That the Secretary is directed to collect fees in fiscal year 2013 from Medicare Advantage organizations pursuant to section 1857(e)(2) of the Social Security Act and from eligible organizations with risk-sharing contracts under section 1876 of that Act pursuant to section 1876(k)(4)(D) of that Act: *Provided further*, That $44,000,000 shall be available for the State high-risk health insurance pool program as authorized by the State High Risk Pool Funding Extension Act of 2006.

HEALTH CARE FRAUD AND ABUSE CONTROL ACCOUNT

In addition to amounts otherwise available for program integrity and program management, $309,790,000, to remain available through September 30, 2014, to be transferred from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund, as authorized by section 201(g) of the Social Security Act, of which $250,442,000 shall be for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Program Integrity Activities, including administrative costs, to conduct oversight activities for the Medicare program, including but not limited to Medicare Advantage under part C and the Medicare Prescription Drug Program under part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, and for activities described in section 1893(b) of such Act and for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program integrity activities, of which $29,674,000 shall be for the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General to carry out fraud and abuse activities authorized by section 1817(k)(3) of such Act, and of which $29,674,000 shall be for the Department of Justice to carry out fraud and abuse activities authorized by section 1817(k)(3) of such Act: *Provided*, That the report required by section 1817(k)(5) of the Social Security Act for fiscal year 2013 shall include measures of the operational efficiency and impact on fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP programs for the funds provided by this appropriation.

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

For making payments to States or other non-Federal entities under titles I, IV–D, X, XI, XIV, and XVI of the Social Security Act and the Act of July 5, 1960, $2,756,485,000, to remain available until expended; and for such purposes for the first quarter of fiscal year 2014, $1,100,000,000, to remain available until expended.

For making payments to each State for carrying out the program of Aid to Families with Dependent Children under title IV–A of the Social Security Act before the effective date of the program of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families with respect to such State, such sums as may be necessary: *Provided*, That the sum of the amounts available to a State with respect to expenditures under such title IV–A in fiscal year 1997 under this appropriation and under such title IV–A as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 shall not exceed the limitations under section 116(b) of such Act.

For making, after May 31 of the current fiscal year, payments to States or other non-Federal entities under titles I, IV–D, X, XI, XIV, and XVI of the Social Security Act and the Act of July 5, 1960, for the last 3 months of the current fiscal year for unanticipated costs, incurred for the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary.

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

For making payments under subsections (b) and (d) of section 2602 of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, $3,471,672,000: *Provided*, That all but $497,000,000 of such funds shall be allocated as though the total appropriation for such payments for fiscal year 2013 was less than $1,975,000,000: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 2609A(a), of the amounts appropriated under section 2602(b), not more than $3,000,000 of such amounts may be reserved by the Secretary for technical assistance, training, and monitoring of program activities for compliance with internal controls, policies and procedures.

REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE

For necessary expenses for refugee and entrant assistance activities authorized by section 414 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, for carrying out section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, for costs associated with the care and placement of unaccompanied alien children, and for carrying out the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998, $1,004,000,000, of which up to $9,775,000 shall be available to carry out the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading pursuant to section 414(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 for fiscal year 2013 shall be available for the costs of assistance provided and other activities to remain available through September 30, 2015.

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

For carrying out the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (''CCDBG Act''), $2,388,313,000 shall be used to supplement, not supplant State general revenue funds for child care assistance for low-income families: *Provided*, That $19,396,000 shall be available for child care resource and referral and school-aged child care activities, of which $1,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary for a competitive grant for the operation of a national toll free referral line and Web site to develop and disseminate child care consumer education information for parents and help parents access child care in their local community: *Provided further*, That, in addition to the amounts required to be reserved by the States under section 658G of the CCDBG Act, $304,733,000 shall be reserved by the States for activities authorized under section 658G, of which $111,758,000 shall be for activities that improve the quality of infant and toddler care: *Provided further*, That $9,871,000 shall be for use by the Secretary for child care research, demonstration, and evaluation activities.

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

For making grants to States pursuant to section 2002 of the Social Security Act, $1,700,000,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding subparagraph (B) of section 404(d)(2) of such Act, the applicable percent specified under such subparagraph for a State to carry out State programs pursuant to title XX–A of such Act shall be 10 percent.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS

For carrying out, except as otherwise provided, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, the Head Start Act, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, sections 303 and 313 of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the Native American Programs Act of 1974, title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (adoption opportunities), the Abandoned Infants Assistance Act of 1988, part B–1 of title IV and sections 413, 1110, and 1115 of the Social Security Act; for making payments under the Community Services Block Grant Act (''CSBG Act''), sections 473B and 477(i) of the Social Security Act, and the Assets for Independence Act; for necessary administrative expenses to carry out such Acts and titles I, IV, V, X, XI, XIV, XVI, and XX of the Social Security Act, the Act of July 5, 1960, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980; and for the administration of prior year obligations made under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act and the Help America Vote Act of 2002, $9,800,869,000, of which $39,346,000, to remain available through September 30, 2014, shall be for grants to States for adoption incentive payments, as authorized by section

473A of the Social Security Act and may be made for adoptions completed before September 30, 2013: *Provided*, That $8,018,544,000 shall be for making payments under the Head Start Act: *Provided further*, That of the amount in the previous proviso, $7,968,543,933 shall be available for payments under section 640 of the Head Start Act at the same level of such payments for fiscal year 2012: *Provided further*, That of the remaining amount for making payments under the Head Start Act under this heading, notwithstanding any other provision of law, $25,000,000 shall be available for allocation by the Secretary to supplement activities described in paragraphs (7)(B) and (9) of section 641(c) of such Act under the Designation Renewal System, established under the authority of sections 641(c)(7), 645A(b)(12) and 645A(d) of such Act, and $25,000,000 shall be available for carrying out the cost of living adjustment described in section 640(a)(3)(A)(ii)(II)(aa) of such Act: *Provided further*, That amounts allocated to Head Start grantees at the discretion of the Secretary to supplement activities pursuant to the previous proviso shall not be included in calculation of the ''base grant'' in subsequent fiscal years, as such term is used in section 640(a)(7)(A) of the Head Start Act: *Provided further*, That $718,282,000 shall be for making payments under the CSBG Act: *Provided further*, That $41,274,000 shall be for sections 680 and 678E(b)(2) of the CSBG Act, of which not less than $34,943,000 shall be for section 680(a)(2) and not less than $5,981,000 shall be for section 680(a)(3)(B) of such Act: *Provided further*, That to the extent funds provided in this Act for the Assets for Independence Act are distributed as grant funds to a qualified entity and have not been expended by such entity within three years after the date of award, such funds may be recaptured and reallocated among other qualified entities, to remain available to such other qualified entities for five years: *Provided further*, That in addition to amounts provided herein, $5,762,000 shall be available from amounts available under section 241 of the PHS Act to carry out the provisions of section 1110 of the Social Security Act: *Provided further*, That to the extent Community Services Block Grant funds are distributed as grant funds by a State to an eligible entity as provided under the CSBG Act, and have not been expended by such entity, they shall remain with such entity for carryover into the next fiscal year for expenditure by such entity consistent with program purposes: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall establish procedures regarding the disposition of intangible assets and program income that permit such assets acquired with, and program income derived from, grant funds authorized under section 680 of the CSBG Act to become the sole property of such grantees after a period of not more than 12 years after the end of the grant period for any activity consistent with section 680(a)(2)(A) of the CSBG Act: *Provided further*, That intangible assets in the form of loans, equity investments and other debt instruments, and program income may be used by grantees for any eligible purpose consistent with section 680(a)(2)(A) of the CSBG Act: *Provided further*, That these procedures shall apply to such grant funds made available after November 29, 1999: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated for section 680(a)(2) of the CSBG Act shall be available for financing construction and rehabilitation and loans or investments in private business enterprises owned by community development corporations: *Provided further*, That $1,992,000 shall be for a human services case management system for federally declared disasters, to include a comprehensive national case management contract and Federal costs of administering the system: *Provided further*, That section 303(a)(2)(A)(i) of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act shall not apply to amounts provided herein: *Provided further*, That up to $2,000,000 shall be for improving the Public Assistance Reporting Information System, including grants to States to support data collection for a study of the system's effectiveness.

PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES

For carrying out section 436 of the Social Security Act, $345,000,000 and in addition, for carrying out section 437 of such Act, $63,065,000.

PAYMENTS FOR FOSTER CARE AND PERMANENCY

For making payments to States or other non-Federal entities under title IV–E of the Social Security Act, and for carrying out section 477(g) of such Act, $4,810,000,000.

For making payments to States or other non-Federal entities under title IV–E of the Social Security Act, for the first quarter of fiscal year 2014, $2,200,000,000.

For making, after May 31 of the current fiscal year, payments to States or other non-Federal entities under section 474 of title IV–E of the Social Security Act, for the last 3 months of the current fiscal year for unanticipated costs, incurred for the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary.

ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For carrying out, to the extent not otherwise provided, the Older Americans Act of 1965 (''OAA''), section 398 and title XXIX of the PHS Act, section 119 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, title XX–B of the Social Security Act, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, section 291 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, for necessary administrative expenses to carry out section 393D of the PHS Act, and for Department-wide coordination of policy and program activities that assist individuals with disabilities, $1,650,488,000, together with $52,115,000 to be transferred from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund to carry out section 4360 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990: *Provided*, That amounts appropriated under this heading may be used for grants to States under section 361 of the OAA only for disease prevention and health promotion programs and activities which have been demonstrated through rigorous evaluation to be evidence-based and effective: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided shall be used to carry out sections 1701 and 1703 of the PHS Act (with respect to chronic disease self-management activity grants), except that such funds may be used for necessary expenses associated with administering any such grants awarded prior to the date of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That the total amount available for fiscal year 2013 under this and any other Act to carry out activities related to Aging and Disability Resource Centers under subsections (a)(20)(B)(iii) and (b)(8) of section 202 of the OAA shall not exceed the amount obligated for such purposes for fiscal year 2010 from funds available under Public Law 111–117: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, funds made available under this heading to carry out section 311 of the OAA may be transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with such section.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

GENERAL DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided, for general departmental management, including hire of six passenger motor vehicles, and for carrying out titles III, XVII, and XXI of the PHS Act, the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission Act, and research studies under section 1110 of the Social Security Act, $473,424,000, together with $69,211,000 from the amounts available under section 241 of the PHS Act to carry out national health or human services research and evaluation activities: *Provided*, That of this amount, $53,681,000 shall be for minority AIDS prevention and treatment activities: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $104,592,000 shall be for making competitive contracts and grants to public and private entities to fund medically accurate and age appropriate programs that reduce teen pregnancy and for the Federal costs associated with administering and evaluating such contracts and grants, of which not less than $75,000,000 shall be for replicating programs that have been proven effective through rigorous evaluation to reduce teenage pregnancy, behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy, or other associated risk factors, of which not less than $25,000,000 shall be available for research and demonstration grants to develop, replicate, refine, and test additional models and innovative strategies for preventing teenage pregnancy, and of which any remaining amounts shall be available for training and technical assistance, evaluation, outreach, and additional program support activities: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading from amounts available under section 241 of the PHS Act, $8,455,000 shall be available to carry out evaluations (including longitudinal evaluations) of teenage pregnancy prevention approaches: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $5,000,000 shall be for making competitive grants to provide abstinence education (as defined by section 510(b)(2)(A)–(H) of the Social Security Act) to adolescents, and for Federal costs of administering the grant: *Provided further*, That grants made under the authority of section 510(b)(2)(A)–(H) of the Social Security Act shall be made only to public and private entities that agree that, with respect to an adolescent to whom the entities provide abstinence education under such grant, the entities will not provide to that adolescent any other education regarding sexual conduct, except that, in the case of an entity expressly required by law to provide health information or services the adolescent shall not be precluded from seeking health information or services from the entity in a different setting than the setting in which abstinence education was provided: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $3,500,000 shall be for strengthening the capacity and capabilities of the acquisition workforce (as defined in 41 U.S.C. 1703) of HHS, including for training, recruitment, and hiring and retention of members of the acquisition workforce; information technology in support of acquisition workforce effectiveness; and management solutions to improve acquisition management: *Provided further*, That funds provided in this Act for embryo adoption activities may be used to provide to individuals adopting embryos, through grants and other mechanisms, medical and administrative services deemed necessary for such adoptions: *Provided further*, That such services shall be provided consistent with 42 CFR 59.5(a)(4).

OFFICE OF MEDICARE HEARINGS AND APPEALS

For expenses necessary for administrative law judges responsible for hearing cases under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (and related provisions of title XI of such

Act), $79,908,000, to be transferred in appropriate part from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

For expenses necessary for the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, including grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements for the development and advancement of interoperable health information technology, $16,415,000: *Provided*, That in addition to amounts provided herein, $49,842,000 shall be available from amounts available under section 241 of the PHS Act.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles for investigations, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, $55,483,000: *Provided*, That of such amount, necessary sums shall be available for providing protective services to the Secretary and investigating non-payment of child support cases for which non-payment is a Federal offense under 18 U.S.C. 228: *Provided further*, That at least 40 percent of this amount shall be used only for investigations, audits, and evaluations pertaining to the discretionary programs funded in this Act.

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

For expenses necessary for the Office for Civil Rights, $38,966,000.

RETIREMENT PAY AND MEDICAL BENEFITS FOR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

For retirement pay and medical benefits of Public Health Service Commissioned Officers as authorized by law, for payments under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan and Survivor Benefit Plan, and for medical care of dependents and retired personnel under the Dependents' Medical Care Act, such amounts as may be required during the current fiscal year.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary to support activities related to countering potential biological, nuclear, radiological, chemical, and cybersecurity threats to civilian populations, and for other public health emergencies, $561,576,000; of which $5,000,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2015, to support emergency operations and of which $15,000,000 shall remain available until expended for the purpose of funding a strategic investment corporation established to further the purposes of section 319L of the PHS Act to foster innovation in the development of medical countermeasures; and of which up to $5,000,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2015 to support the delivery of medical countermeasures.

From funds transferred to this account pursuant to the fourth paragraph under this heading in Public Law 111–117, up to $415,000,000 shall be available for expenses necessary to support advanced research and development pursuant to section 319L of the PHS Act, and other administrative expenses of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority to support additional advanced research and development: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading for the purpose of acquisition of security countermeasures may be used and shall be in addition to any other funds available for such purpose: *Provided further*, That products purchased with funds provided under this heading may, at the discretion of the Secretary, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile pursuant to section 319F–2 of the PHS Act.

In addition, for expenses necessary for replacement of building leases and associated renovation costs for Public Health Service agencies and other components of the Department of Health and Human Services, including relocation and fit-out costs, $17,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. Funds appropriated in this title shall be available for not to exceed $50,000 for official reception and representation expenses when specifically approved by the Secretary.

SEC. 202. The Secretary shall make available through assignment not more than 60 employees of the Public Health Service to assist in child survival activities and to work in AIDS programs through and with funds provided by the Agency for International Development, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund or the World Health Organization.

SEC. 203. None of the funds appropriated in this title shall be used to pay the salary of an individual, through a grant or other extramural mechanism, at a rate in excess of Executive Level II.

SEC. 204. None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be expended pursuant to section 241 of the PHS Act, except for funds specifically provided for in this Act, or for other taps and assessments made by any office located in HHS, until 15 days following notification to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding the planned uses of such funds: *Provided*, That any further adjustments to such taps or assessments shall be treated as a reprogramming of such funds under section 514 of this Act.

SEC. 205. Notwithstanding section 241(a) of the PHS Act, such portion as the Secretary shall determine, but not more than 2.5 percent, of any amounts appropriated for programs authorized under such Act shall be made available for the evaluation (directly, or by grants or contracts) of the implementation and effectiveness of such programs.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 206. Not to exceed 1 percent of any discretionary funds (pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985) which are appropriated for the current fiscal year for HHS in this Act may be transferred between appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 3 percent by any such transfer: *Provided*, That the transfer authority granted by this section shall not be used to create any new program or to fund any project or activity for which no funds are provided in this Act: *Provided further*, That the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 207. The Director of the NIH, jointly with the Director of the Office of AIDS Research, may transfer up to 3 percent among institutes and centers from the total amounts identified by these two Directors as funding for research pertaining to the human immunodeficiency virus: *Provided*, That the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate shall be notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Of the amounts made available in this Act for NIH, the amount for research related to the human immunodeficiency virus, as jointly determined by the Director of NIH and the Director of the Office of AIDS Research, shall be made available to the ''Office of AIDS Research'' account. The Director of the Office of AIDS Research shall transfer from such account amounts necessary to carry out section 2353(d)(3) of the PHS Act.

SEC. 209. None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be made available to any entity under title X of the PHS Act unless the applicant for the award certifies to the Secretary that it encourages family participation in the decision of minors to seek family planning services and that it provides counseling to minors on how to resist attempts to coerce minors into engaging in sexual activities.

SEC. 210. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no provider of services under title X of the PHS Act shall be exempt from any State law requiring notification or the reporting of child abuse, child molestation, sexual abuse, rape, or incest.

SEC. 211. None of the funds appropriated by this Act (including funds appropriated to any trust fund) may be used to carry out the Medicare Advantage program if the Secretary denies participation in such program to an otherwise eligible entity (including a Provider Sponsored Organization) because the entity informs the Secretary that it will not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or provide referrals for abortions: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall make appropriate prospective adjustments to the capitation payment to such an entity (based on an actuarially sound estimate of the expected costs of providing the service to such entity's enrollees): *Provided further*, That nothing in this section shall be construed to change the Medicare program's coverage for such services and a Medicare Advantage organization described in this section shall be responsible for informing enrollees where to obtain information about all Medicare covered services.

SEC. 212. In order for HHS to carry out international health activities, including HIV/AIDS and other infectious disease, chronic and environmental disease, and other health activities abroad during fiscal year 2013:

(1) The Secretary may exercise authority equivalent to that available to the Secretary of State in section 2(c) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956. The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of State and relevant Chief of Mission to ensure that the authority provided in this section is exercised in a manner consistent with section 207 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 and other applicable statutes administered by the Department of State.

(2) The Secretary is authorized to provide such funds by advance or reimbursement to the Secretary of State as may be necessary to pay the costs of acquisition, lease, alteration, renovation, and management of facilities outside of the United States for the use of HHS. The Department of State shall cooperate fully with the Secretary to ensure that HHS has secure, safe, functional facilities that comply with applicable regulation governing location, setback, and other facilities requirements and serve the purposes established by this Act. The Secretary is authorized, in consultation with the Secretary of State, through grant or cooperative agreement, to make available to public or nonprofit private institutions or agencies in participating foreign countries, funds to acquire, lease, alter, or renovate facilities in those countries as necessary to conduct programs of assistance for international health activities, including activities relating to HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, chronic and environmental diseases, and other health activities abroad.

(3) The Secretary is authorized to provide to personnel appointed or assigned by the Secretary to serve abroad, allowances and

benefits similar to those provided under chapter 9 of title I of the Foreign Service Act of 1980, and 22 U.S.C. 4081 through 4086 and subject to such regulations prescribed by the Secretary. The Secretary is further authorized to provide locality-based comparability payments (stated as a percentage) up to the amount of the locality-based comparability payment (stated as a percentage) that would be payable to such personnel under section 5304 of title 5, United States Code if such personnel's official duty station were in the District of Columbia. Leaves of absence for personnel under this subsection shall be on the same basis as that provided under subchapter I of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code, or section 903 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980, to individuals serving in the Foreign Service.

SEC. 213. (a) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director of NIH (''Director'') may use funds available under section 402(b)(7) or 402(b)(12) of the PHS Act to enter into transactions (other than contracts, cooperative agreements, or grants) to carry out research identified pursuant to such section 402(b)(7) (pertaining to the Common Fund) or research and activities described in such section 402(b)(12).

(b) PEER REVIEW.—In entering into transactions under subsection (a), the Director may utilize such peer review procedures (including consultation with appropriate scientific experts) as the Director determines to be appropriate to obtain assessments of scientific and technical merit. Such procedures shall apply to such transactions in lieu of the peer review and advisory council review procedures that would otherwise be required under sections 301(a)(3), 405(b)(1)(B), 405(b)(2), 406(a)(3)(A), 492, and 494 of the PHS Act.

SEC. 214. Not to exceed $45,000,000 of funds appropriated by this Act to the institutes and centers of the National Institutes of Health may be used for alteration, repair, or improvement of facilities, as necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of the activities authorized herein, at not to exceed $3,500,000 per project.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 215. Of the amounts made available for NIH, 1 percent of the amount made available for National Research Service Awards (''NRSA'') shall be made available to the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration to make NRSA awards for research in primary medical care to individuals affiliated with entities who have received grants or contracts under section 747 of the PHS Act, and 1 percent of the amount made available for NRSA shall be made available to the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to make NRSA awards for health service research.

SEC. 216. None of the funds made available in this title may be used, in whole or in part, to advocate or promote gun control.

SEC. 217. (a) The Secretary shall publish in the fiscal year 2014 budget justification and on Departmental Web sites information concerning the employment of full-time equivalent Federal employees or contractors for the purposes of implementing, administering, enforcing, or otherwise carrying out the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (''PPACA''), and the amendments made by that Act, in the proposed fiscal year and the 3 prior fiscal years.

(b) With respect to employees or contractors supported by all funds appropriated for purposes of carrying out the PPACA (and the amendments made by that Act), the Secretary shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

(1) For each such fiscal year, the section of such Act under which such funds were appropriated, a statement indicating the program, project, or activity receiving such funds, the Federal operating division or office that administers such program, and the amount of funding received in discretionary or mandatory appropriations.

(2) For each such fiscal year, the number of full-time equivalent employees or contracted employees assigned to each authorized and funded provision detailed in accordance with paragraph (1).

(c) In carrying out this section, the Secretary may exclude from the report employees or contractors who:

(1) Are supported through appropriations enacted in laws other than PPACA and work on programs that existed prior to the passage of PPACA;

(2) spend less than 50 percent of their time on activities funded by or newly authorized in PPACA;

(3) or who work on contracts for which FTE reporting is not a requirement of their contract, such as fixed-price contracts.

SEC. 218. (a) The Secretary shall establish a publicly accessible Web site to provide information regarding the uses of funds made available under section 4002 of Public Law 111–148.

(b) With respect to funds provided under section 4002, the Secretary shall include on the Web site established under subsection (a) at a minimum the following information:

(1) In the case of each transfer of funds under section 4002(c), a statement indicating the program or activity receiving funds, the operating division or office that will administer the funds, and the planned uses of the funds, to be posted not later than the day after the transfer is made.

(2) Identification (along with a link to the full text) of each funding opportunity announcement, request for proposals, or other announcement or solicitation of proposals for grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts intended to be awarded using such funds, to be posted not later than the day after the announcement or solicitation is issued.

(3) Identification of each grant, cooperative agreement, or contract with a value of $25,000 or more awarded using such funds, including the purpose of the award and the identity of the recipient, to be posted not later than 5 days after the award is made.

(4) A report detailing the uses of all funds transferred under section 4002(c) during the fiscal year, to be posted not later than 90 days after the end of the fiscal year.

(c) With respect to awards made in fiscal years 2012 and 2013, the Secretary shall also include on the Web site established under subsection (a), semi-annual reports from each entity awarded a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract from such funds with a value of $25,000 or more, summarizing the activities undertaken and identifying any sub-grants or sub-contracts awarded (including the purpose of the award and the identity of the recipient), to be posted not later than 30 days after the end of each 6-month period.

(d) In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall:

(1) present the information required in subsection (b)(1) on a single webpage or on a single database;

(2) ensure that all information required in this section is directly accessible from the single webpage or database; and

(3) ensure that all information required in this section is able to be organized by program or State.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Health and Human Services Appropriations Act, 2013''.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EDUCATION FOR THE DISADVANTAGED

For carrying out title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (referred to in this Act as ''ESEA'') and section 418A of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (referred to in this Act as ''HEA''), $15,866,609,000, of which $4,933,013,000 shall become available on July 1, 2013, and shall remain available through September 30, 2014, and of which $10,841,177,000 shall become available on October 1, 2013, and shall remain available through September 30, 2014, for academic year 2013–2014: *Provided*, That $6,577,904,000 shall be for basic grants under section 1124 of the ESEA: *Provided further*, That up to $3,984,000 of these funds shall be available to the Secretary of Education (referred to in this title as ''Secretary'') on October 1, 2012, to obtain annually updated local educational agency-level census poverty data from the Bureau of the Census: *Provided further*, That $1,362,301,000 shall be for concentration grants under section 1124A of the ESEA: *Provided further*, That $3,350,626,000 shall be for targeted grants under section 1125 of the ESEA: *Provided further*, That $3,350,626,000 shall be for education finance incentive grants under section 1125A of the ESEA: *Provided further*, That funds available under sections 1124, 1124A, 1125 and 1125A of the ESEA may be used to provide homeless children and youths with services not ordinarily provided to other students under those sections, including supporting the liaison designated pursuant to section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and providing transportation pursuant to section 722(g)(1)(J)(iii) of such Act: *Provided further*, That $3,100,000 shall be to carry out sections 1501 and 1503 of the ESEA: *Provided further*, That $533,552,000 shall be available for school improvement grants under section 1003(g) of the ESEA, which shall be allocated by the Secretary through the formula described in section 1003(g)(2) and shall be used consistent with the requirements of section 1003(g), except that State and local educational agencies may use such funds to serve any school eligible to receive assistance under part A of title I that has not made adequate yearly progress for at least 2 years or is in the State's lowest quintile of performance based on proficiency rates and, in the case of secondary schools, priority shall be given to those schools with graduation rates below 60 percent: *Provided further*, That funds available for school improvement grants may be used by a local educational agency to implement a whole-school reform strategy for a school using an evidence-based strategy that ensures whole-school reform is undertaken in partnership with a strategy developer offering a whole-school reform program that is based on at least a moderate level of evidence that the program will have a statistically significant effect on student outcomes, including more than one well-designed or well-implemented experimental or quasi-experimental study: *Provided further*, That funds available for school improvement grants may be used by a local educational agency to implement an alternative State-determined school improvement strategy that has been established by a State educational agency with the approval of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That a local educational agency that is determined to be eligible for services under subpart 1 or 2 of part B of title VI of the ESEA may modify not more than one element of a school improvement grant model: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 1003(g)(5)(A), each State educational agency may establish a maximum subgrant size of not more than $2,000,000 for each participating school applicable to such funds: *Provided further*, That

the Secretary may reserve up to 5 percent of the funds available for section 1003(g) of the ESEA to carry out activities to build State and local educational agency capacity to implement effectively the school improvement grants program: *Provided further*, That $159,698,000 shall be available under section 1502 of the ESEA for a comprehensive literacy development and education program to advance literacy skills, including pre-literacy skills, reading, and writing, for students from birth through grade 12, including limited-English-proficient students and students with disabilities, of which one-half of 1 percent shall be reserved for the Secretary of the Interior for such a program at schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Education, one-half of 1 percent shall be reserved for grants to the outlying areas for such a program, up to 5 percent may be reserved for national activities, and the remainder shall be used to award competitive grants to State educational agencies for such a program, of which a State educational agency may reserve up to 5 percent for State leadership activities, including technical assistance and training, data collection, reporting, and administration, and shall subgrant not less than 95 percent to local educational agencies or, in the case of early literacy, to local educational agencies or other nonprofit providers of early childhood education that partner with a public or private nonprofit organization or agency with a demonstrated record of effectiveness in improving the early literacy development of children from birth through kindergarten entry and in providing professional development in early literacy, giving priority to such agencies or other entities serving greater numbers or percentages of disadvantaged children: *Provided further*, That the State educational agency shall ensure that at least 15 percent of the subgranted funds are used to serve children from birth through age 5, 40 percent are used to serve students in kindergarten through grade 5, and 40 percent are used to serve students in middle and high school including an equitable distribution of funds between middle and high schools: *Provided further*, That eligible entities receiving subgrants from State educational agencies shall use such funds for services and activities that have the characteristics of effective literacy instruction through professional development, screening and assessment, targeted interventions for students reading below grade level and other research-based methods of improving classroom instruction and practice.

IMPACT AID

For carrying out programs of financial assistance to federally affected schools authorized by title VIII of the ESEA, $1,311,186,000, of which $1,173,540,000 shall be for basic support payments under section 8003(b), $48,413,000 shall be for payments for children with disabilities under section 8003(d), $17,441,000 shall be for construction under section 8007(a), $66,947,000 shall be for Federal property payments under section 8002, and $4,845,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for facilities maintenance under section 8008: *Provided*, That for purposes of computing the amount of a payment for an eligible local educational agency under section 8003(a) for school year 2012–2013, children enrolled in a school of such agency that would otherwise be eligible for payment under section 8003(a)(1)(B) of such Act, but due to the deployment of both parents or legal guardians, or a parent or legal guardian having sole custody of such children, or due to the death of a military parent or legal guardian while on active duty (so long as such children reside on Federal property as described in section 8003(a)(1)(B)), are no longer eligible under such section, shall be considered as eligible students under such section, provided such students remain in average daily attendance at a school in the same local educational agency they attended prior to their change in eligibility status.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

For carrying out school improvement activities authorized by parts A and B of title II, part B of title IV, parts A and B of title VI, and parts B and C of title VII of the ESEA; the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; section 203 of the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002; the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003; and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, $4,554,096,000, of which $2,729,595,000 shall become available on July 1, 2013, and remain available through September 30, 2014, and of which $1,681,441,000 shall become available on October 1, 2013, and shall remain available through September 30, 2014, for academic year 2013–2014: *Provided*, That funds made available to carry out part B of title VII of the ESEA may be used for construction, renovation, and modernization of any elementary school, secondary school, or structure related to an elementary school or secondary school, run by the Department of Education of the State of Hawaii, that serves a predominantly Native Hawaiian student body: *Provided further*, That funds made available to carry out part C of title VII of the ESEA shall be awarded on a competitive basis, and also may be used for construction: *Provided further*, That $51,113,000 shall be available to carry out section 203 of the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002: *Provided further*, That $17,619,000 shall be available to carry out the Supplemental Education Grants program for the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands: *Provided further*, That up to 5 percent of the amount referred to in the previous proviso may be reserved by the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands to administer the Supplemental Education Grants programs and to obtain technical assistance, oversight and consultancy services in the administration of these grants and to reimburse the United States Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education for such services: *Provided further*, That up to 3 percent of the funds for subpart 1 of part A of title II of the ESEA shall be reserved by the Secretary for competitive awards for teacher or principal recruitment and training or professional enhancement activities to national not-for-profit organizations, of which up to 10 percent may be used for related research, development, evaluation, technical assistance, and outreach activities.

INDIAN EDUCATION

For expenses necessary to carry out, to the extent not otherwise provided, title VII, part A of the ESEA, $130,779,000.

INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

For carrying out activities authorized by part G of title I, subpart 5 of part A and parts C and D of title II, parts B, C, and D of title V of the ESEA, and sections 14006 and 14007 of division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, as amended, $1,524,441,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary may use up to $549,284,000, which shall remain available for obligation through December 31, 2013, for section 14006 of division A of Public Law 111–5, as amended, to make awards (including on the basis of previously submitted applications) to State educational agencies, local educational agencies, or consortia of either, in accordance with the applicable requirements of that section, as determined by the Secretary, and may use up to 5 percent of such funds for technical assistance and evaluation of the activities carried out under that section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall make new awards for State grants for improving early childhood care and education for infants, toddlers, and pre-schoolers under such section and shall administer such grants jointly with the Secretary of HHS on such terms as such Secretaries set forth in an interagency agreement: *Provided further*, That up to $149,417,000 shall be available for obligation through December 31, 2013 for section 14007 of division A of Public Law 111–5, and up to 5 percent of such funds may be used for technical assistance and the evaluation of activities carried out under such section: *Provided further*, That $299,433,000 of the funds for subpart 1 of part D of title V of the ESEA shall be for competitive grants to local educational agencies, including charter schools that are local educational agencies, or States, or partnerships of: (1) a local educational agency, a State, or both; and (2) at least one non-profit organization to develop and implement performance-based compensation systems for teachers, principals, and other personnel in high-need schools: *Provided further*, That such performance-based compensation systems must consider gains in student academic achievement as well as classroom evaluations conducted multiple times during each school year among other factors and provide educators with incentives to take on additional responsibilities and leadership roles: *Provided further*, That recipients of such grants shall demonstrate that such performance-based compensation systems are developed with the input of teachers and school leaders in the schools and local educational agencies to be served by the grant: *Provided further*, That recipients of such grants may use such funds to develop or improve systems and tools (which may be developed and used for the entire local educational agency or only for schools served under the grant) that would enhance the quality and success of the compensation system, such as high-quality teacher evaluations and tools to measure growth in student achievement: *Provided further*, That applications for such grants shall include a plan to sustain financially the activities conducted and systems developed under the grant once the grant period has expired: *Provided further*, That up to 5 percent of such funds for competitive grants shall be available for technical assistance, training, peer review of applications, program outreach, and evaluation activities: *Provided further*, That of the funds available for part B of title V of the ESEA, the Secretary shall use not less than $16,000,000 to carry out activities under section 5205(b) and shall use not less than $11,000,000 for subpart 2: *Provided further*, That of the funds available for subpart 1 of part B of title V of the ESEA, and notwithstanding section 5205(a), the Secretary shall reserve not less than $30,000,000 to make multiple awards to non-profit charter management organizations and other entities that are not for-profit entities for the replication and expansion of successful charter school models and shall reserve up to $14,082,000 to carry out the activities described in section 5205(a), including improving quality and oversight of charter schools and providing technical assistance and grants to authorized public chartering agencies in order to increase the number of high-performing charter schools: *Provided further*, That each application submitted pursuant to section 5203(a) shall describe a plan to monitor and hold accountable authorized public chartering agencies through such activities as providing technical assistance or establishing a professional development program, which may include evaluation, planning, training, and systems development for staff

of authorized public chartering agencies to improve the capacity of such agencies in the State to authorize, monitor, and hold accountable charter schools: *Provided further*, That each application submitted pursuant to section 5203(a) shall contain assurances that State law, regulations, or other policies require that: (1) each authorized charter school in the State operate under a legally binding charter or performance contract between itself and the school's authorized public chartering agency that describes the rights and responsibilities of the school and the public chartering agency, including student academic achievement goals for all groups of students described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v) of the ESEA; conduct annual, timely, and independent audits of the school's financial statements that are filed with the school's authorized public chartering agency; and demonstrate improved student academic achievement; and (2) authorized public chartering agencies use increases in student academic achievement for all groups of students described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v) of the ESEA as the primary factor when determining to renew or revoke a school's charter: *Provided further*, That each application submitted pursuant to section 5203(a) may use the funds to make multiple awards for subgrants to not-for-profit charter management organizations and other not-for-profit entities for the replication and expansion of successful charter school models, in addition to supporting new charter schools models.

SAFE SCHOOLS AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

For carrying out activities authorized by part A of title IV and subparts 1, 2, and 10 of part D of title V of the ESEA, $259,589,000: *Provided*, That $48,600,000 shall be available for subpart 2 of part A of title IV: *Provided further*, That $80,000,000 shall be available for Promise Neighborhoods and shall be available through December 31, 2013.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

For carrying out part A of title III of the ESEA, $732,144,000, which shall become available on July 1, 2013, and shall remain available through September 30, 2014, except that 6.5 percent of such amount shall be available on October 1, 2012, and shall remain available through September 30, 2014, to carry out activities under section 3111(c)(1)(C): *Provided*, That the Secretary shall use estimates of the American Community Survey child counts for the most recent 3-year period available to calculate allocations under such part.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

For carrying out the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (''IDEA'') and the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004, $12,790,709,000, of which $3,259,828,000 shall become available on July 1, 2013, and shall remain available through September 30, 2014, and of which $9,283,383,000 shall become available on October 1, 2013, and shall remain available through September 30, 2014, for academic year 2013–2014: *Provided*, That the amount for section 611(b)(2) of the IDEA shall be equal to the lesser of the amount available for that activity during fiscal year 2012, increased by the amount of inflation as specified in section 619(d)(2)(B) of the IDEA, or the percent change in the funds appropriated under section 611(i) of the IDEA, but not less than the amount for that activity during fiscal year 2012: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, without regard to section 611(d) of the IDEA, distribute to all other States (as that term is defined in section 611(g)(2)), subject to the third proviso, any amount by which a State's allocation under section 611(d), from funds appropriated under this heading, is reduced under section 612(a)(18)(B), according to the following: 85 percent on the basis of the States' relative populations of children aged 3 through 21 who are of the same age as children with disabilities for whom the State ensures the availability of a free appropriate public education under this part, and 15 percent to States on the basis of the States' relative populations of those children who are living in poverty: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may not distribute any funds under the previous proviso to any State whose reduction in allocation from funds appropriated under this heading made funds available for such a distribution: *Provided further*, That the States shall allocate such funds distributed under the second proviso to local educational agencies in accordance with section 611(f): *Provided further*, That the amount by which a State's allocation under section 611(d) of the IDEA is reduced under section 612(a)(18)(B) and the amounts distributed to States under the previous provisos from funds appropriated for fiscal year 2012 or any subsequent year shall not be considered in calculating the awards under section 611(d) for fiscal year 2013 or for any subsequent fiscal years: *Provided further*, That the funds reserved under 611(c) of the IDEA may be used to provide technical assistance to States to improve the capacity of the States to meet the data collection requirements of sections 616 and 618 and to administer and carry out other services and activities to improve data collection, coordination, quality, and use under parts B and C of the IDEA: *Provided further*, That the level of effort a local educational agency must meet under section 613(a)(2)(A)(iii) of the IDEA, in the year after it fails to maintain effort is the level of effort that would have been required in the absence of that failure and not the local educational agency's reduced level of expenditures: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may, notwithstanding section 643(e)(1) of the IDEA, reserve up to $2,710,000 of the amount provided under section 644 for incentive grants to States to carry out section 635(c): *Provided further*, That $1,996,000, to remain available for obligation through September 30, 2014, shall be for competitive grants to States, incentive payments, and related activities as may be necessary to improve the provision and coordination of services and supports for Supplemental Security Income (''SSI'') child recipients and their families or households in order to achieve improved outcomes, including both physical and emotional health, education and post-school outcomes, such as completing post-secondary education and job training and obtaining employment, that may result in long-term improvements in the SSI child recipient's economic self-sufficiency: *Provided further*, That States may award subgrants for a portion of the funds to other public and private, non-profit entities*: Provided further*, That funds provided in the ninth proviso may be used for performance-based awards for Pay for Success projects: *Provided further*, That, with respect to the previous proviso, any funds obligated for such projects shall remain available for disbursement until expended, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1552(a): *Provided further*, That, with respect to the twelfth proviso, any deobligated funds from such projects shall immediately be available for section 611 of the IDEA.

REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH

For carrying out, to the extent not otherwise provided, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, and the Helen Keller National Center Act, $3,624,226,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary may use amounts provided in this Act that remain available subsequent to the reallotment of funds to States pursuant to section 110(b) of the Rehabilitation Act for activities aimed at improving the outcomes of children receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and their families that may result in long-term improvement in the SSI child recipient's economic status and self-sufficiency: *Provided further*, That States may award subgrants for a portion of the funds to other public and private, non-profit entities: *Provided further*, That any funds made available subsequent to reallotment for activities aimed at improving the outcomes of children receiving SSI and their families shall remain available until September 30, 2014: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $20,000,000 of the amounts made available in the first proviso may be used for performance-based awards for Pay for Success projects: *Provided further*, That, with respect to the previous proviso, any funds obligated for such projects shall remain available for disbursement until expended, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1552(a): *Provided further*, That, with respect to the fifth proviso, any deobligated funds from such projects shall immediately be available for programs authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: *Provided further*, That $2,000,000 shall be for competitive grants to support alternative financing programs that provide for the purchase of assistive technology devices, such as a low-interest loan fund; an interest buy-down program; a revolving loan fund; a loan guarantee; or insurance program: *Provided further*, That applicants shall provide an assurance that, and information describing the manner in which, the alternative financing program will expand and emphasize consumer choice and control: *Provided further*, That State agencies and community-based disability organizations that are directed by and operated for individuals with disabilities shall be eligible to compete.

SPECIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND

For carrying out the Act of March 3, 1879, $24,505,000.

NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

For the National Technical Institute for the Deaf under titles I and II of the Education of the Deaf Act of 1986, $65,422,000: *Provided*, That from the total amount available, the Institute may at its discretion use funds for the endowment program as authorized under section 207 of such Act.

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

For the Kendall Demonstration Elementary School, the Model Secondary School for the Deaf, and the partial support of Gallaudet University under titles I and II of the Education of the Deaf Act of 1986, $124,541,000, of which $7,000,000 shall be for construction and shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That from the total amount available, the University may at its discretion use funds for the endowment program as authorized under section 207 of such Act.

CAREER, TECHNICAL, AND ADULT EDUCATION

For carrying out, to the extent not otherwise provided, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 and the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (referred to in this Act as the ''AEFLA''), $1,737,154,000, of which $946,154,000 shall become available on July 1, 2013, and shall remain available through September 30, 2014, and of which $791,000,000 shall become available on October 1, 2013, and shall remain available through September 30, 2014: *Provided*, That of the amount provided for Adult Education State Grants, $74,709,000 shall be made available for integrated English literacy and civics education services to immigrants and other limited-English-proficient

populations: *Provided further*, That of the amount reserved for integrated English literacy and civics education, notwithstanding section 211 of the AEFLA, 65 percent shall be allocated to States based on a State's absolute need as determined by calculating each State's share of a 10-year average of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services data for immigrants admitted for legal permanent residence for the 10 most recent years, and 35 percent allocated to States that experienced growth as measured by the average of the 3 most recent years for which United States Citizenship and Immigration Services data for immigrants admitted for legal permanent residence are available, except that no State shall be allocated an amount less than $60,000: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available for AEFLA, $11,302,000 shall be for national leadership activities under section 243.

STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

For carrying out subparts 1 and 3 of part A, and part C of title IV of the HEA, $24,535,281,000, which shall remain available through September 30, 2014.

The maximum Pell Grant for which a student shall be eligible during award year 2013–2014 shall be $4,860.

STUDENT AID ADMINISTRATION

For Federal administrative expenses to carry out part D of title I, and subparts 1, 3, and 9 of part A, and parts B, C, D, and E of title IV of the HEA, $1,105,363,000, to remain available until September 30, 2014.

HIGHER EDUCATION

For carrying out, to the extent not otherwise provided, titles II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII of the HEA, the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, and section 117 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, $1,911,502,000: *Provided*, That $607,000 shall be for data collection and evaluation activities for programs under the HEA, including such activities needed to comply with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this Act to carry out title VI of the HEA and section 102(b)(6) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 may be used to support visits and study in foreign countries by individuals who are participating in advanced foreign language training and international studies in areas that are vital to United States national security and who plan to apply their language skills and knowledge of these countries in the fields of government, the professions, or international development: *Provided further*, That of the funds referred to in the preceding proviso up to 1 percent may be used for program evaluation, national outreach, and information dissemination activities: *Provided further*, That, of the amount available under subpart 2 of part A of title VII of the HEA, the Secretary may use up to $4,451,000 to fund continuation awards for projects originally supported under subpart 1 of part A of title VII of the HEA.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

For partial support of Howard University, $234,064,000, of which not less than $3,593,000 shall be for a matching endowment grant pursuant to the Howard University Endowment Act and shall remain available until expended.

COLLEGE HOUSING AND ACADEMIC FACILITIES LOANS PROGRAM

For Federal administrative expenses to carry out activities related to existing facility loans pursuant to section 121 of the HEA, $459,000.

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAPITAL FINANCING PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans, $20,150,000, as authorized pursuant to part D of title III of the HEA, which shall remain available through September 30, 2014: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed $320,350,000: *Provided further*, That these funds may be used to support loans to public and private Historically Black Colleges and Universities without regard to the limitations within section 344(a) of the HEA.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the Historically Black College and University Capital Financing Program entered into pursuant to part D of title III of the HEA, $352,000.

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

For carrying out activities authorized by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act, section 208 of the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002, and section 664 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, $591,664,000, which shall remain available through September 30, 2014: *Provided*, That funds available to carry out section 208 of the Educational Technical Assistance Act may be used to link Statewide elementary and secondary data systems with early childhood, postsecondary, and workforce data systems, or to further develop such systems: *Provided further*, That up to $10,000,000 of the funds available to carry out section 208 of the Educational Technical Assistance Act may be used for awards to public or private organizations or agencies to support activities to improve data coordination, quality, and use at the local, State, and national levels.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

For carrying out, to the extent not otherwise provided, the Department of Education Organization Act, including rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia and hire of three passenger motor vehicles, $448,470,000, of which $2,211,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for relocation of, and renovation of buildings occupied by, Department staff.

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

For expenses necessary for the Office for Civil Rights, as authorized by section 203 of the Department of Education Organization Act, $102,624,000.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of the Inspector General, as authorized by section 212 of the Department of Education Organization Act, $59,820,000.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. No funds appropriated in this Act may be used for the transportation of students or teachers (or for the purchase of equipment for such transportation) in order to overcome racial imbalance in any school or school system, or for the transportation of students or teachers (or for the purchase of equipment for such transportation) in order to carry out a plan of racial desegregation of any school or school system.

SEC. 302. None of the funds contained in this Act shall be used to require, directly or indirectly, the transportation of any student to a school other than the school which is nearest the student's home, except for a student requiring special education, to the school offering such special education, in order to comply with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For the purpose of this section an indirect requirement of transportation of students includes the transportation of students to carry out a plan involving the reorganization of the grade structure of schools, the pairing of schools, or the clustering of schools, or any combination of grade restructuring, pairing, or clustering. The prohibition described in this section does not include the establishment of magnet schools.

SEC. 303. No funds appropriated in this Act may be used to prevent the implementation of programs of voluntary prayer and meditation in the public schools.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 304. Not to exceed 1 percent of any discretionary funds (pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985) which are appropriated for the Department of Education in this Act may be transferred between appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 3 percent by any such transfer: *Provided*, That the transfer authority granted by this section shall not be used to create any new program or to fund any project or activity for which no funds are provided in this Act: *Provided further*, That the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

SEC. 305. The Outlying Areas may consolidate funds received under this Act, pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1469a, under part A of title V of the ESEA.

SEC. 306. Section 105(f)(1)(B)(ix) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d(f)(1)(B)(ix)) shall be applied by substituting ''2013'' for ''2009''.

SEC. 307. (a) Section 206 of the Department of Education Organization Act (20 U.S.C. 3416) is amended—

(1) by striking out the heading and inserting ''Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education'';

(2) by striking out ''Office of Vocational and Adult Education'' and inserting ''Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education'';

(3) by striking out ''Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education''; and

(4) by striking out ''vocational and adult education'' each place it appears and inserting ''career, technical, and adult education''.

(b) Section 202 of the Department of Education Organization Act (20 U.S.C. 3412) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(C), by striking out ''Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education''; and

(2) in subsection (h), by striking out ''Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education'' each place it appears and inserting ''Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education''.

(c) Section 1 of the Department of Education Organization Act (20 U.S.C. 3401 note) is amended by striking out the entry for section 206 and inserting ''Sec. 206. Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education.''.

(d) Section 114(b)(1) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2324(b)(1)) is amended by striking out ''Office of Vocational and Adult Education'' and inserting ''Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education''.

SEC. 308. (a) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) Subsection (d) of section 484 of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1091) is amended to read as follows:

''(d) STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.—

''(1) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.—In order for a student who does not have a certificate of

graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such certificate, to be eligible for any assistance under subparts 1 and 3 of part A and parts B, C, D, and E of this title, the student shall meet the requirements of one of the following subparagraphs:

''(A) The student is enrolled in an eligible career pathway program and meets one of the following standards:

''(i) The student shall take an independently administered examination and shall achieve a score, specified by the Secretary, demonstrating that such student can benefit from the education or training being offered. Such examination shall be approved by the Secretary on the basis of compliance with such standards for development, administration, and scoring as the Secretary may prescribe in regulations.

''(ii) The student shall be determined as having the ability to benefit from the education or training in accordance with such process as the State shall prescribe. Any such process described or approved by a State for the purposes of this section shall be effective 6 months after the date of submission to the Secretary unless the Secretary disapproves such process. In determining whether to approve or disapprove such process, the Secretary shall take into account the effectiveness of such process in enabling students without high school diplomas or the equivalent thereof to benefit from the instruction offered by institutions utilizing such process, and shall also take into account the cultural diversity, economic circumstances, and educational preparation of the populations served by the institutions.

''(iii) The student shall be determined by the institution of higher education as having the ability to benefit from the education or training offered by the institution of higher education upon satisfactory completion of 6 credit hours or the equivalent coursework that are applicable toward a degree or certificate offered by the institution of higher education.

''(B) The student has completed a secondary school education in a home school setting that is treated as a home school or private school under State law.

''(2) ELIGIBLE CAREER PATHWAY PROGRAM.—In this subsection, the term 'eligible career pathway program' means a program that—

''(A) concurrently enrolls participants in connected adult education and eligible postsecondary programs;

''(B) provides counseling and supportive services to identify and attain academic and career goals;

''(C) provides structured course sequences that—

''(i) are articulated and contextualized; and

''(ii) allow students to advance to higher levels of education and employment;

''(D) provides opportunities for acceleration to attain recognized postsecondary credentials, including degrees, industry relevant certifications, and certificates of completion of apprenticeship programs;

''(E) is organized to meet the needs of adults;

''(F) is aligned with the education and skill needs of the regional economy; and

''(G) has been developed and implemented in collaboration with partners in business, workforce development, and economic development.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE AND TRANSITION.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if such amendment was enacted on June 30, 2012, and shall apply to students who first enroll in a program of study during the period beginning July 1, 2012, and ending June 30, 2019.

(3) REPEAL.—Effective June 30, 2012, section 309(c) of division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (20 U.S.C. 1091 note), and the amendments made by such section 309(c), are repealed.

(b) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN NOT-FOR-PROFIT SERVICERS.—Section 456(a) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1087f(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) SPECIAL RULE FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT SERVICERS WITH AFFILIATES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, only an eligible not-for-profit servicer described in clause (i) or (ii) of subsection (c)(1)(B) shall receive a contract with the Secretary under paragraph (4)(A), and an allocation under paragraph (4)(B), except that, if an eligible not-for-profit servicer so described is also a corporation described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 150(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, then the affiliated entity of that servicer (described in subsection (c)(1)(B)(ii)) shall receive the contract with the Secretary under paragraph (4)(A), and an allocation under paragraph (4)(B), rather than the eligible not-for-profit servicer described in clause (i) or (ii) of subsection (c)(1)(B).

''(6) SPECIAL RULE FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT SERVICERS WITH SHARED MANAGEMENT OR COMMON CONTROL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in the case of entities that otherwise meet the definition of an eligible not-for-profit servicer under this section but 2 or more of the same individuals serve as part of the management, board of directors, or other governing body of more than one such entity, or the Secretary determines that one entity controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, another such entity, all such entities with that shared management or control shall receive one aggregate allocation under paragraph (4)(B) and be treated for purposes of paragraph (4) as though all of such entities were a single eligible not-for-profit servicer.''.

SEC. 309. Section 307 of division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–74) shall continue in effect until March 27, 2013.

SEC. 310. The Secretary may reserve funds under section 9601 of the ESEA (subject to the limitations in subsections (b) and (c) of that section) in order to carry out activities authorized under that section with respect to any ESEA program funded in this Act and without respect to the source of funds for those activities: *Provided*, That not later than 10 days prior to the initial obligation of funds reserved under this section, the Secretary shall submit an evaluation plan to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and the House Committees on Appropriations and Education and Workforce which identifies the source and amount of funds reserved under this section, the impact on program grantees if funds are withheld, and the programs to be evaluated with such funds.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2013''.

TITLE IV

RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled established by Public Law 92–28, $5,375,000.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Corporation for National and Community Service (referred to in this title as ''CNCS'') to carry out the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (referred to in this title as ''1973 Act'') and the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (referred to in this title as ''1990 Act''), $749,846,000, notwithstanding sections 198B(b)(3), 198S(g), 501(a)(6), 501(a)(4)(C), and 501(a)(4)(F) of the 1990 Act: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided under this heading: (1) up to 1 percent of program grant funds may be used to defray the costs of conducting grant application reviews, including the use of outside peer reviewers and electronic management of the grants cycle; (2) $44,815,000 shall be available for expenses authorized under section 501(a)(4)(E) of the 1990 Act; (3) $15,437,000 shall be available to provide assistance to State commissions on national and community service, under section 126(a) of the 1990 Act and notwithstanding section 501(a)(5)(B) of the 1990 Act; (4) $30,742,000 shall be available to carry out subtitle E of the 1990 Act; and (5) $3,992,000 shall be available for expenses authorized under section 501(a)(4)(F) of the 1990 Act, which, notwithstanding the provisions of section 198P shall be awarded by CNCS on a competitive basis.

PAYMENT TO THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For payment to the National Service Trust established under subtitle D of title I of the 1990 Act, $208,744,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That CNCS may transfer additional funds from the amount provided within ''Operating Expenses'' allocated to grants under subtitle C of title I of the 1990 Act to the National Service Trust upon determination that such transfer is necessary to support the activities of national service participants and after notice is transmitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided further*, That amounts appropriated for or transferred to the National Service Trust may be invested under section 145(b) of the 1990 Act without regard to the requirement to apportion funds under 31 U.S.C. 1513(b).

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of administration as provided under section 501(a)(5) of the 1990 Act and under section 504(a) of the 1973 Act, including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, the employment of experts and consultants authorized under 5 U.S.C. 3109, and not to exceed $2,500 for official reception and representation expenses, $85,886,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, $5,400,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. CNCS shall make any significant changes to program requirements, service delivery or policy only through public notice and comment rulemaking. For fiscal year 2013, during any grant selection process, an officer or employee of CNCS shall not knowingly disclose any covered grant selection information regarding such selection, directly or indirectly, to any person other than an officer or employee of CNCS that is authorized by CNCS to receive such information.

SEC. 402. AmeriCorps programs receiving grants under the National Service Trust program shall meet an overall minimum share requirement of 24 percent for the first 3 years that they receive AmeriCorps funding, and thereafter shall meet the overall minimum share requirement as provided in section 2521.60 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, without regard to the operating costs match requirement in section 121(e) or the member support Federal share limitations in section 140 of the 1990 Act, and subject to partial waiver consistent with section

2521.70 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 403. Donations made to CNCS under section 196 of the 1990 Act for the purposes of financing programs and operations under titles I and II of the 1973 Act or subtitle B, C, D, or E of title I of the 1990 Act shall be used to supplement and not supplant current programs and operations.

SEC. 404. In addition to the requirements in section 146(a) of the 1990 Act, use of an educational award for the purpose described in section 148(a)(4) shall be limited to individuals who are veterans as defined under section 101 of the Act.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

For payment to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (''CPB''), as authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, an amount which shall be available within limitations specified by that Act, for the fiscal year 2015, $445,000,000: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available to CPB by this Act shall be used to pay for receptions, parties, or similar forms of entertainment for Government officials or employees: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to CPB by this Act shall be available or used to aid or support any program or activity from which any person is excluded, or is denied benefits, or is discriminated against, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or sex: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to CPB by this Act shall be used to apply any political test or qualification in selecting, appointing, promoting, or taking any other personnel action with respect to officers, agents, and employees of CPB: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to CPB by this Act shall be used to support the Television Future Fund or any similar purpose.

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (''Service'') to carry out the functions vested in it by the Labor-Management Relations Act, 1947, including hire of passenger motor vehicles; for expenses necessary for the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978; and for expenses necessary for the Service to carry out the functions vested in it by the Civil Service Reform Act, $46,163,000, including $400,000 to remain available through September 30, 2014, for activities authorized by the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, fees charged, up to full-cost recovery, for special training activities and other conflict resolution services and technical assistance, including those provided to foreign governments and international organizations, and for arbitration services shall be credited to and merged with this account, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That fees for arbitration services shall be available only for education, training, and professional development of the agency workforce: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Service is authorized to accept and use on behalf of the United States gifts of services and real, personal, or other property in the aid of any projects or functions within the Director's jurisdiction.

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, $17,000,000.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

OFFICE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES:

GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

For carrying out the Museum and Library Services Act of 1996 and the National Museum of African American History and Culture Act, $231,954,000.

MEDICAID AND CHIP PAYMENT AND ACCESS COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary to carry out section 1900 of the Social Security Act, $7,500,000.

MEDICARE PAYMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary to carry out section 1805 of the Social Security Act, $11,778,000, to be transferred to this appropriation from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the National Council on Disability as authorized by title IV of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, $3,258,000.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the National Labor Relations Board to carry out the functions vested in it by the Labor-Management Relations Act, 1947, and other laws, $278,306,000: *Provided*, That no part of this appropriation shall be available to organize or assist in organizing agricultural laborers or used in connection with investigations, hearings, directives, or orders concerning bargaining units composed of agricultural laborers as referred to in section 2(3) of the Act of July 5, 1935, and as amended by the Labor-Management Relations Act, 1947, and as defined in section 3(f) of the Act of June 25, 1938, and including in said definition employees engaged in the maintenance and operation of ditches, canals, reservoirs, and waterways when maintained or operated on a mutual, nonprofit basis and at least 95 percent of the water stored or supplied thereby is used for farming purposes.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 405. None of the funds provided by this Act or previous Acts making appropriations for the National Labor Relations Board may be used to issue any new administrative directive or regulation that would provide employees any means of voting through any electronic means that enables off-site, remote, or otherwise absentee voting in an election to determine a representative for the purposes of collective bargaining.

NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of the Railway Labor Act, including emergency boards appointed by the President, $13,411,000.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, $11,667,000.

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For payment to the Dual Benefits Payments Account, authorized under section 15(d) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, $45,000,000, which shall include amounts becoming available in fiscal year 2013 pursuant to section 224(c)(1)(B) of Public Law 98–76; and in addition, an amount, not to exceed 2 percent of the amount provided herein, shall be available proportional to the amount by which the product of recipients and the average benefit received exceeds the amount available for payment of vested dual benefits: *Provided*, That the total amount provided herein shall be credited in 12 approximately equal amounts on the first day of each month in the fiscal year.

FEDERAL PAYMENTS TO THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

For payment to the accounts established in the Treasury for the payment of benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act for interest earned on unnegotiated checks, $150,000, to remain available through September 30, 2014, which shall be the maximum amount available for payment pursuant to section 417 of Public Law 98–76.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for the Railroad Retirement Board (''Board'') for administration of the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, $111,149,000, to be derived in such amounts as determined by the Board from the railroad retirement accounts and from moneys credited to the railroad unemployment insurance administration fund.

LIMITATION ON THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General for audit, investigatory and review activities, as authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, not more than $8,155,000, to be derived from the railroad retirement accounts and railroad unemployment insurance account.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

PAYMENTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUNDS

For payment to the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, as provided under sections 201(m), 228(g), and 1131(b)(2) of the Social Security Act, $20,402,000.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAM

For carrying out titles XI and XVI of the Social Security Act, section 401 of Public Law 92–603, section 212 of Public Law 93–66, as amended, and section 405 of Public Law 95–216, including payment to the Social Security trust funds for administrative expenses incurred pursuant to section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act, $40,123,552,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That any portion of the funds provided to a State in the current fiscal year and not obligated by the State during that year shall be returned to the Treasury: *Provided further*, That not more than $17,000,000 shall be available for research and demonstrations under sections 1110, 1115, and 1144 of the Social Security Act and remain available through September 30, 2014.

For making, after June 15 of the current fiscal year, benefit payments to individuals under title XVI of the Social Security Act, for unanticipated costs incurred for the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary.

For making benefit payments under title XVI of the Social Security Act for the first quarter of fiscal year 2014, $19,300,000,000, to remain available until expended.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, including the hire of two passenger motor vehicles, and not to exceed $20,000 for official reception and representation expenses, not more than $10,535,544,000 may be expended, as authorized by section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act, from any one or all of the trust funds referred to in such section: *Provided*, That not less than $2,146,000 shall be for the Social Security Advisory Board: *Provided further*, That not less than $23,000,000 shall be for section 1149 of the Social Security Act: *Provided further*, That not less than $7,000,000

shall be for section 1150 of the Social Security Act: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances of funds provided under this paragraph at the end of fiscal year 2013 not needed for fiscal year 2013 shall remain available until expended to invest in the Social Security Administration information technology and telecommunications hardware and software infrastructure, including related equipment and non-payroll administrative expenses associated solely with this information technology and telecommunications infrastructure: *Provided further*, That the Commissioner of Social Security (''Commissioner'') shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate prior to making unobligated balances available under the authority in the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That reimbursement to the trust funds under this heading for expenditures for official time for employees of the Social Security Administration pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 7131, and for facilities or support services for labor organizations pursuant to policies, regulations, or procedures referred to in section 7135(b) of such title shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury, with interest, from amounts in the general fund not otherwise appropriated, as soon as possible after such expenditures are made: *Provided further*, That the Commissioner shall seek to enter into a contract with the National Academy of Public Administration for purposes of reviewing and contributing to a long-range strategic plan for the Social Security Administration.

In addition, for the costs associated with conducting continuing disability reviews under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act and for the cost associated with conducting redeterminations of eligibility under title XVI of the Social Security Act, $756,052,000 may be expended, as authorized by section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act, from any one or all of the trust funds referred to therein: *Provided*, That, of such amount, $273,000,000 is provided to meet the terms of section 251(b)(2)(B)(ii)(III) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, and $483,052,000 is additional new budget authority specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(B) of such Act: *Provided further*, That the Commissioner shall provide to the Congress (at the conclusion of the fiscal year) a report on the obligation and expenditure of these funds, similar to the reports that were required by section 103(d)(2) of Public Law 104–121 for fiscal years 1996 through 2002.

In addition, $170,000,000 to be derived from administration fees in excess of $5.00 per supplementary payment collected pursuant to section 1616(d) of the Social Security Act or section 212(b)(3) of Public Law 93–66, which shall remain available until expended. To the extent that the amounts collected pursuant to such sections in fiscal year 2013 exceed $170,000,000, the amounts shall be available in fiscal year 2014 only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts.

In addition, up to $1,000,000 to be derived from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the Social Security Protection Act, which shall remain available until expended.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, $28,887,000, together with not to exceed $75,396,000, to be transferred and expended as authorized by section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act from the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

In addition, an amount not to exceed 3 percent of the total provided in this appropriation may be transferred from the ''Limitation on Administrative Expenses'', Social Security Administration, to be merged with this account, to be available for the time and purposes for which this account is available: *Provided*, That notice of such transfers shall be transmitted promptly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 501. The Secretaries of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education are authorized to transfer unexpended balances of prior appropriations to accounts corresponding to current appropriations provided in this Act. Such transferred balances shall be used for the same purpose, and for the same periods of time, for which they were originally appropriated.

SEC. 502. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 503. (a) No part of any appropriation contained in this Act or transferred pursuant to section 4002 of Public Law 111–148 shall be used, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships, for publicity or propaganda purposes, for the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, electronic communication, radio, television, or video presentation designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before the Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body, except in presentation to the Congress or any State or local legislature itself, or designed to support or defeat any proposed or pending regulation, administrative action, or order issued by the executive branch of any State or local government, except in presentation to the executive branch of any State or local government itself.

(b) No part of any appropriation contained in this Act or transferred pursuant to section 4002 of Public Law 111–148 shall be used to pay the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment of legislation, appropriations, regulation, administrative action, or Executive order proposed or pending before the Congress or any State government, State legislature or local legislature or legislative body, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships or participation by an agency or officer of a State, local or tribal government in policymaking and administrative processes within the executive branch of that government.

(c) The prohibitions in subsections (a) and (b) shall include any activity to advocate or promote any proposed, pending or future Federal, State or local tax increase, or any proposed, pending, or future requirement or restriction on any legal consumer product, including its sale or marketing, including but not limited to the advocacy or promotion of gun control.

SEC. 504. The Secretaries of Labor and Education are authorized to make available not to exceed $28,000 and $20,000, respectively, from funds available for salaries and expenses under titles I and III, respectively, for official reception and representation expenses; the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service is authorized to make available for official reception and representation expenses not to exceed $5,000 from the funds available for ''Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, Salaries and Expenses''; and the Chairman of the National Mediation Board is authorized to make available for official reception and representation expenses not to exceed $5,000 from funds available for ''National Mediation Board, Salaries and Expenses''.

SEC. 505. When issuing statements, press releases, requests for proposals, bid solicitations and other documents describing projects or programs funded in whole or in part with Federal money, all grantees receiving Federal funds included in this Act, including but not limited to State and local governments and recipients of Federal research grants, shall clearly state—

(1) the percentage of the total costs of the program or project which will be financed with Federal money;

(2) the dollar amount of Federal funds for the project or program; and

(3) percentage and dollar amount of the total costs of the project or program that will be financed by non-governmental sources.

SEC. 506. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act, and none of the funds in any trust fund to which funds are appropriated in this Act, shall be expended for any abortion.

(b) None of the funds appropriated in this Act, and none of the funds in any trust fund to which funds are appropriated in this Act, shall be expended for health benefits coverage that includes coverage of abortion.

(c) The term ''health benefits coverage'' means the package of services covered by a managed care provider or organization pursuant to a contract or other arrangement.

SEC. 507. (a) The limitations established in the preceding section shall not apply to an abortion—

(1) if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or

(2) in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

(b) Nothing in the preceding section shall be construed as prohibiting the expenditure by a State, locality, entity, or private person of State, local, or private funds (other than a State's or locality's contribution of Medicaid matching funds).

(c) Nothing in the preceding section shall be construed as restricting the ability of any managed care provider from offering abortion coverage or the ability of a State or locality to contract separately with such a provider for such coverage with State funds (other than a State's or locality's contribution of Medicaid matching funds).

(d)(1) None of the funds made available in this Act may be made available to a Federal agency or program, or to a State or local government, if such agency, program, or government subjects any institutional or individual health care entity to discrimination on the basis that the health care entity does not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions.

(2) In this subsection, the term ''health care entity'' includes an individual physician or other health care professional, a hospital, a provider-sponsored organization, a health maintenance organization, a health insurance plan, or any other kind of health care facility, organization, or plan.

SEC. 508. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for—

(1) the creation of a human embryo or embryos for research purposes; or

(2) research in which a human embryo or embryos are destroyed, discarded, or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death greater than that allowed for research on fetuses in utero under 45 CFR 46.204(b) and section 498(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 289g(b)).

(b) For purposes of this section, the term ''human embryo or embryos'' includes any organism, not protected as a human subject under 45 CFR 46 as of the date of the enactment of this Act, that is derived by fertilization, parthenogenesis, cloning, or any other means from one or more human gametes or human diploid cells.

SEC. 509. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any activity that promotes the legalization of any drug or other substance included in schedule I of the schedules of controlled substances established under section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act except for normal and recognized executive-congressional communications.

(b) The limitation in subsection (a) shall not apply when there is significant medical evidence of a therapeutic advantage to the use of such drug or other substance or that federally sponsored clinical trials are being conducted to determine therapeutic advantage.

SEC. 510. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to promulgate or adopt any final standard under section 1173(b) of the Social Security Act providing for, or providing for the assignment of, a unique health identifier for an individual (except in an individual's capacity as an employer or a health care provider), until legislation is enacted specifically approving the standard.

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated or expended to enter into or renew a contract with an entity if—

(1) such entity is otherwise a contractor with the United States and is subject to the requirement in 38 U.S.C. 4212(d) regarding submission of an annual report to the Secretary of Labor concerning employment of certain veterans; and

(2) such entity has not submitted a report as required by that section for the most recent year for which such requirement was applicable to such entity.

SEC. 512. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriation Act.

SEC. 513. None of the funds made available by this Act to carry out the Library Services and Technology Act may be made available to any library covered by paragraph (1) of section 224(f) of such Act, as amended by the Children's Internet Protection Act, unless such library has made the certifications required by paragraph (4) of such section.

SEC. 514. (a) None of the funds provided under this Act, or provided under previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2013, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates new programs;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted;

(4) relocates an office or employees;

(5) reorganizes or renames offices;

(6) reorganizes programs or activities; or

(7) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees;

unless the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified 15 days in advance of such reprogramming or of an announcement of intent relating to such reprogramming, whichever occurs earlier.

(b) None of the funds provided under this Act, or provided under previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2013, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds in excess of $500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, that—

(1) augments existing programs, projects (including construction projects), or activities;

(2) reduces by 10 percent funding for any existing program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent as approved by Congress; or

(3) results from any general savings from a reduction in personnel which would result in a change in existing programs, activities, or projects as approved by Congress;

unless the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified 15 days in advance of such reprogramming or of an announcement of intent relating to such reprogramming, whichever occurs earlier.

SEC. 515. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to request that a candidate for appointment to a Federal scientific advisory committee disclose the political affiliation or voting history of the candidate or the position that the candidate holds with respect to political issues not directly related to and necessary for the work of the committee involved.

(b) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to disseminate information that is deliberately false or misleading.

SEC. 516. Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, each department and related agency funded through this Act shall submit an operating plan that details at the program, project, and activity level any funding allocations for fiscal year 2013 that are different than those specified in this Act, the accompanying detailed table in the explanatory statement regarding this division, or the fiscal year 2013 budget request.

SEC. 517. The Secretaries of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education shall each prepare and submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the number and amount of contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements exceeding $500,000 in value and awarded by the Department on a non-competitive basis during each quarter of fiscal year 2013, but not to include grants awarded on a formula basis or directed by law. Such report shall include the name of the contractor or grantee, the amount of funding, the governmental purpose, including a justification for issuing the award on a non-competitive basis. Such report shall be transmitted to the Committees within 30 days after the end of the quarter for which the report is submitted.

SEC. 518. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract in an amount greater than $5,000,000 or to award a grant in excess of such amount unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the contractor or grantee has filed all Federal tax returns required during the 3 years preceding the certification, has not been convicted of a criminal offense under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and has not, more than 90 days prior to certification, been notified of any unpaid Federal tax assessment for which the liability remains unsatisfied, unless the assessment is the subject of an installment agreement or offer in compromise that has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service and is not in default, or the assessment is the subject of a non-frivolous administrative or judicial proceeding.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 519. Of the funds made available for performance bonus payments under section 2105(a)(3)(E) of the Social Security Act, $6,934,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That this rescission shall have no effect until July 1, 2013.

SEC. 520. None of the funds appropriated in this Act shall be expended or obligated by the Commissioner of Social Security, for purposes of administering Social Security benefit payments under title II of the Social Security Act, to process any claim for credit for a quarter of coverage based on work performed under a social security account number that is not the claimant's number and the performance of such work under such number has formed the basis for a conviction of the claimant of a violation of section 208(a)(6) or (7) of the Social Security Act.

SEC. 521. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used by the Commissioner of Social Security or the Social Security Administration to pay the compensation of employees of the Social Security Administration to administer Social Security benefit payments, under any agreement between the United States and Mexico establishing totalization arrangements between the social security system established by title II of the Social Security Act and the social security system of Mexico, which would not otherwise be payable but for such agreement.

SEC. 522. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no funds appropriated in this Act shall be used to carry out any program of distributing sterile needles or syringes for the hypodermic injection of any illegal drug.

SEC. 523. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Health Education Assistance Loan (''HEAL'') program under title VII, part A, subpart I of the PHS Act, and the authority to administer such program, including servicing, collecting, and enforcing any loans that were made under such program that remain outstanding, shall be permanently transferred from the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the Secretary of Education no later than the end of the first fiscal quarter that begins after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS, ASSETS, AND LIABILITIES.—The functions, assets, and liabilities of the Secretary of HHS relating to such program shall be transferred to the Secretary of Education.

(c) INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION OF TRANSFER.—The Secretary of HHS and the Secretary of Education shall carry out the transfer of the HEAL program described in subsection (a), including the transfer of the functions, assets, and liabilities specified in subsection (b), in the manner that they determine is most appropriate.

(d) USE OF AUTHORITIES UNDER HEA OF 1965.—In servicing, collecting, and enforcing the loans described in subsection (a), the Secretary of Education shall have available any and all authorities available to such Secretary in servicing, collecting, or enforcing a loan made, insured, or guaranteed under part B of title IV of the HEA of 1965.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Effective as of the date on which the transfer of the HEAL program under subsection (a) takes effect, section 719 of the PHS Act is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Education.''.

SEC. 524. The first proviso in section 526 of division F of Public Law 112–74 shall not apply to funds appropriated to the Indian Health Service in fiscal year 2013 or prior fiscal years.

SEC. 525. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 50 employees from a Federal department or agency at any single international conference unless the head of such department or agency reports to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives at least 30 days in advance of the beginning of the conference that such attendance is important to the national interest: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section the term ''international conference'' shall mean a conference occurring outside of the United States attended by representatives of the United States Government and of foreign governments, international organizations, or nongovernmental organizations.

SEC. 526. None of the funds in this Act may be used to support, maintain, or establish a computer network, software, or Web site that permits or enables viewing, downloading, or exchanging pornography.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 527. Of the funds made available for fiscal year 2013 for the Independent Payment Advisory Board under section 3403 of Public Law 111–148, $10,000,000 is rescinded.

SEC. 528. (a) ACROSS-THE-BOARD RESCISSIONS.—There is hereby rescinded an amount equal to 0.127 percent of—

(1) the budget authority provided for fiscal year 2013 for any discretionary account of this Act; and

(2) the budget authority provided in any advance appropriation for fiscal year 2013 for any discretionary account in prior Acts making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies.

(b) PROPORTIONATE APPLICATION.—Any rescission made by subsection (a) shall be applied proportionately—

(1) to each discretionary account and each item of budget authority described in such subsection; and

(2) within each such account and item, to each program, project, and activity (with programs, projects, and activities as delineated in this Act or the accompanying explanatory statement).

(c) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply to the amount made available by this Act for ''Social Security Administration, Limitation on Administrative Expenses'' for continuing disability reviews under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act and for the cost associated with conducting redeterminations of eligibility under title XVI of the Social Security Act.

(d) OMB REPORT.—Within 30 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report specifying the account and amount of each rescission made pursuant to this section.

SEC. 529. The explanatory statement regarding this division printed in the Senate section of the Congressional Record on or about March 12, 2013, by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

SEC. 530. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, subsections (a)(4) and (c)(2) of section 1101, section 1109(b), and paragraphs (3), (5), (10), (28), and (29) of section 1114(c) of title I of division F, and sections 1501 through 1521 of title V of division F, shall have no force or effect.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 1111 of title I of division F shall not apply with respect to advance appropriations provided to the Departments of Labor and Education and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

This division may be cited as the ''Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013''.

SA 54. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VIII of division C, add the following:

SEC. 8131. (a) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT FOR ARMY O&M FOR ACTIVITIES IN CONUS.—The amount appropriated by title II of this division under the heading ''OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY'' is hereby increased by $114,000,000, with the amount to be available for operation and maintenance expenses of the Army in connection with programs, projects, and activities in the continental United States.

(b) OFFSET.—

(1) ARMY RDTE FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESEARCH.—The amount appropriated by title IV of this division under the heading ''RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION, ARMY'' is hereby reduced by $37,000,000, with the amount of the reduction to be allocated to amounts available under that heading for Alternative Energy Research.

(2) NAVY RDTE FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESEARCH.—The amount appropriated by title IV of this division under the heading ''RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION, NAVY'' is hereby reduced by $40,000,000, with the amount of the reduction to be allocated to amounts available under that heading for Alternative Energy Research.

(3) AIR FORCE RDTE FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESEARCH.—The amount appropriated by title IV of this division under the heading ''RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION, AIR FORCE'' is hereby reduced by $37,000,000, with the amount of the reduction to be allocated to amounts available under that heading for Alternative Energy Research.

SA 55. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VIII of division F, add the following:

SEC. 1811. (a) Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for ''Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Operations'' shall be $9,703,395,000: *Provided*, That the amounts specified in the matter under the heading ''OPERATIONS'' under the heading ''FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION'' in title I of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (division C of Public Law 112–55; 125 Stat. 645) shall be applied to funds appropriated by this division—

(1) by substituting ''$7,492,738,000'' for ''$7,442,738,000''; and

(2) by substituting ''$10,350,000 shall be for the contract tower cost-sharing program and not less than $130,000,000 shall be for the contract tower program'' for ''$10,350,000 shall be for the contract tower cost-sharing program''.

(b) Of amounts appropriated for fiscal years before fiscal year 2013 that remain available for obligation as of the date of the enactment of this Act and that are not designated an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the following amounts are rescinded from the following accounts:

(1) ''Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Facilities and Equipment'', $23,861,002.

(2) ''Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Research, Engineering, and Development'', $26,183,998.

SA 56. Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 555, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

SEC. 1515A. Of the amount provided by section 1101 for the First in the World initiative under part B of title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1138 et seq.), not more than $1,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary of Education to carry out section 1106 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110–315; 122 Stat. 3494).

SA 57. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by division A, B, C, D, or E of this Act may be made available, including through a contract, grant, loan, sub-loan, or other means of financing or support, to the Institute for Microelectronics, of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, of Singapore, unless the Attorney General and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have submitted a certification to Congress that the Government

of Singapore has allowed Federal law enforcement from the United States to access all records and evidence relating to the death of Shane Todd on June 24, 2012, in Singapore and the subsequent investigation.

SA 58. Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 1313, and insert the following:

SEC. 1313. PRESERVING MARKET REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT.

Notwithstanding section 1101—

(1) the level for the ''Commodity Futures Trading Commission'' shall be $308,000,000, and the authorities and conditions, including comparable periods of availability, under Public Law 112–55 shall apply to such appropriation; and

(2) the level for the ''Securities and Exchange Commission'' shall be $1,415,000,000, and the authorities and conditions, including comparable periods of availability, under Public Law 112–74, shall apply to such appropriation.

SA 59. Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place insert the following:

SEC. ___. PRESERVING MARKET REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT.

Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for the ''Securities and Exchange Commission'' shall be $1,415,000,000, and the authorities and conditions, including comparable periods of availability, under Public Law 112–74, shall apply to such appropriation.

SA 60. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 580, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

SEC. 1811. Notwithstanding section 1101, the first paragraph under the heading ''Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Housing Administration, General and Special Risk Program Account'' in division C of Public Law 112-55 shall be applied in fiscal year 2013 by substituting ''$30,000,000,000'' for ''$25,000,000,000''.

SA 61. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title I of division F, insert after section 1114 the following:

SEC. 1115. (a)(1) None of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act for military assistance for Egypt under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763; relating to the Foreign Military Financing program), may be used to enter into a contract on or after the date of enactment of this Act with the Government or Armed Services of Egypt for the sale or transfer of significant conventional defense articles, including F–16 attack aircraft, M1 tanks, and related defense technologies, until 30 days after the President submits to Congress the strategy required under subsection (b).

(2) Nothing in the section shall be construed to require the violation of an existing defense contract with the Government or Armed Forces of Egypt, or to prevent or disrupt the production, transfer, or delivery of any defense article or service to the Government or Armed Services of Egypt as required by a contract concluded by the United States Government or a United States person prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b)(1) Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President, in consultation with the Government and Armed Services of Egypt, and with other partners in the region, shall provide to Congress a report detailing a comprehensive strategy for modernizing and improving United States security cooperation with, and assistance to, Egypt in order to prioritize and advance the following national security objectives:

(A) The strategy shall seek to enhance the ability of the Government of Egypt to detect, disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda, affiliated groups, and other terrorist organizations, whether based in and operating from Egyptian territory or elsewhere, and to counter terrorist ideology and radicalization within Egypt.

(B) The strategy shall seek to improve and increase the capacity of the Government of Egypt to prevent human trafficking and the illicit movement of terrorists, criminals, weapons, and other dangerous material across Egypt's borders or administrative boundaries, especially through tunnels and other illicit points of entry into Gaza.

(C) The strategy shall seek to improve the ability of the Government of Egypt to conduct counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations in the Sinai as part of a comprehensive civil-military strategy—

(i) to enforce the rule of law and the sovereign authority of the Egyptian state;

(ii) to enhance security while protecting basic human rights;

(iii) to advance economic development in the Sinai;

(iv) to deny safe haven to enemies of Egypt, the United States, and our other partners in the region; and

(v) to maintain the Camp David Accords.

(D) The strategy shall seek to enhance the capacity of the Egyptian Armed Services to gather, integrate, analyze, and share intelligence, especially with regard to the threat posed by terrorism and other illicit criminal activity, while ensuring a proper respect and protection for the human rights and civil liberties of Egypt's citizens.

(E) The strategy shall seek to encourage, reinforce, and strengthen efforts by the Government of Egypt to reform its internal security services, including police forces, and justice sector with the purpose of maintaining public order and security while ensuring protections for internationally-recognized human rights, the rule of law, and equal access to justice for all citizens and persons in Egypt.

(F) Any other objective that the President determines necessary.

(2) The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed assessment of resources and amounts that will be necessary to achieve each of the objectives enumerated in such paragraph.

(3) The strategy required under paragraph (1) may also include any recommended changes to the allocation of amounts between Foreign Military Financing and Economic Support Funds within overall United States assistance to Egypt and any additional authorities that the President may determine necessary to implement such strategy, including authorities to shift money between foreign assistance accounts or between Federal departments or agencies.

SA 62. Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

On page 378, line 3, strike ''a. grant for''.

On page 585, line 11, strike ''through C'' and insert ''through F''.

On page 586, line 16, strike ''division C'' and insert ''division F''.

SA 63. Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING.

None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to do the following:

(1) Finalize, implement, enforce, or otherwise take any action to give effect to the Information Memorandum dated July 12, 2012 (Transmittal No. TANF–ACF–IM–2012–03), or to any administrative action relating to the same subject matter set forth in the Information Memorandum or that reflects the same or similar policies as those set forth in the Information Memorandum.

(2) Authorize, approve, renew, modify, or extend any experimental, pilot, or demonstration project under section 1115 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315) that waives compliance with a requirement of section 407 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 607) through a waiver of section 402 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 602) or that provides authority for an expenditure which would not otherwise be

an allowable use of funds under a State program funded under part A of title IV of such Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) with respect to compliance with the work requirements in section 407 of such Act to be regarded as an allowable use of funds under that program for any period.

SA 64. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division G, insert the following:

SEC. _____. SEQUESTER FLEXIBILITY.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''agency'' means—

(1) an Executive agency (as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code);

(2) an office, agency, or other establishment in the legislative branch which is not a part of another office, agency, or other establishment in the legislative branch; and

(3) an office, agency, or other establishment in the judicial branch which is not a part of another office, agency, or other establishment in the judicial branch.

(b) 2013 SEQUESTER CANCELLATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the sequestration of budgetary resources for fiscal year 2013 ordered on March 1, 2013, pursuant to section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is cancelled.

(c) FLEXIBLE SEQUESTER IMPLEMENTED BY AGENCY HEADS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the budget sequester for an account in the security and non-security categories required by section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 for fiscal year 2013 shall be implemented within each account as determined by the head of the agency with spending authority over such account.

(2) APPROPRIATIONS OVERSIGHT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency may not exercise the authority provided in paragraph (1) unless the head has submitted a notice of implementation describing the proposed exercise of authority to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses not later than 15 days before exercising such authority and each such committee approves the implementation as provided in subparagraph (B).

(B) APPROPRIATIONS APPROVAL.—After the committees receive an executive branch proposal for administering the sequester under subparagraph (A) and not later than 5 days after such receipt, each committee, using standard procedures for reprogramming, shall accept or reject the proposal. If a proposal is accepted by both committees, the proposal may be implemented. If either committee rejects a proposal and notwithstanding subsection (b), sequestration within the relevant agency will be administered through across the board cuts consistent with section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SA 65. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 193, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the functions of the Political Science Program in the Division of Social and Economic Sciences of the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences of the National Science Foundation.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount available for the ''National Science Foundation; Research and Related Activities'' is decreased by $10,000,000.

(c) Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for the ''National Institutes of Health; National Cancer Institute'' shall be increased by $7,000,000.

SA 66. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. FREEZE ON HIRING OF NONESSENTIAL FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available under division A, B, C, D, E, or F of this Act may be used by any Executive agency (as defined under section 105 of title 5, United States Code, except that such term shall not include the Government Accountability Office) to hire any new employee.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to the hiring of an excepted employee or an employee performing emergency work, as such terms are defined by the Office of Personnel Management.

SA 67. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 521, line 15, strike ''this'' and all that follows through ''occurring'' on line 19, and insert ''division A, B, C, D, E, or F of this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 25 employees from a Federal department or agency at any single conference occurring within the United States or''.

SA 68. Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BURR, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 539, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

SEC. 1315. UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.

Notwithstanding section 1101, the matter under the heading ''PAYMENT TO THE POSTAL SERVICE FUND'' under the heading ''UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE'' of title V of division C of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–74; 125 Stat. 923) shall be applied by striking the second proviso.

SA 69. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 392, line 25, strike ''training.'' and insert the following: ''training: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under paragraph (2) may be used for employee overtime or backfill pay, for security measures at sports facilities used for Major League Baseball spring training, to pay for attendance at conferences, or to purchase computers or televisions.''

SA 70. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 573 of title V of division D, insert the following:

SEC. 574. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a copy of each report required under this division to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

SA 71. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 84, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

SEC. 74____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out (or to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to carry out) the Federal sugar loan program under section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272) or the feedstock flexibility program for bioenergy producers under section

9010 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8110) other than in a manner that is of no cost to the Federal Government.

SA 72. Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mrs. HAGAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VIII of division C, add the following:

SEC. 8131. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretaries of the military departments shall use not less than the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act for tuition assistance programs for members of the Armed Forces to carry out such tuition assistance programs in accordance with the provisions of law authorizing such programs.

SA 73. Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 555, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

SEC. 1515A. Of the amount provided by section 1101 for part B of title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1138 et seq.), not more than $1,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary of Education to carry out section 1106 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110–315; 122 Stat. 3494).

SA 74. Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BEGICH, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 80, strike line 3 and all that follows through page 81, line 2.

SA 75. Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 82, strike line 21 and all that follows through page 84, line 3.

SA 76. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. COATS, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 455, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 574. Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and weekly thereafter through the end of fiscal year 2013, the Assistant Secretary of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives that contains—

(1) a detailed expenditure plan for amounts appropriated under the ''U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Salaries and Expenses'' heading, by program, project, and activity, which specifies how the Assistant Secretary will use such amounts to maintain not fewer than 34,000 detention bed levels through September 30, 2013;

(2) the number of aliens who were released from detention by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement during the elapsed portion of fiscal year 2013 not covered by a prior report under this section;

(3) a complete list of the aliens described in paragraph (2) who were released from detention as a result of budgetary constraints; and

(4) for each alien described in paragraph (3), a description of—

(A) the offense for which the alien was convicted or charged;

(B) the alien's status as an absconder or a fugitive;

(C) an existing order of deportation, if applicable;

(D) the reason for the alien's detention; and

(E) the terms of the alien's release.

SA 77. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 543. (a) INCREASE IN AMOUNT FOR NASA FOR CROSS AGENCY SUPPORT.—The amount appropriated by title III of this division under the heading ''NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION'' under the heading ''CROSS AGENCY SUPPORT'' is hereby increased by $172,000,000.

(b) OFFSET.—The amount appropriated by title III of this division under the heading ''NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION'' under the heading ''CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION'' is hereby decreased by $172,000,000, with the amount of the reduction to be allocated to amounts available under that heading for Construction of Facilities (CoF).

SA 78. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 446, strike lines 4 through 22.

SA 79. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 84, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

SEC. 74__. None of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation may be used to carry out the feedstock flexibility program for bioenergy producers under section 9010 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8110).

SA 80. Mr. ROCKEFELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V of division F, add the following:

SEC. 1523. Of the amounts made available under this Act to the Solicitor of Labor, the amount necessary to maintain the amount allocated for offices and resources to reduce the number of cases pending before the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for fiscal year 2013 at the same level of funding provided for such offices and resources for fiscal year 2012 shall be used for such offices and resources, except that such amount may be reduced by a percentage equal to the percentage reduction of the Solicitor of Labor's budget required pursuant to a sequestration order issued by the President pursuant to section 251A(7)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a).

SA 81. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 580, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

SEC. 1811. Section 5307(a)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting

''or general public demand response'' after ''fixed route'' each place that term appears.

SA 82. Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 84, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

SEC. 74___. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act—

(1) the amount made available for buildings operations and maintenance expenses in the matter before the first proviso under the heading ''AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES AND RENTAL PAYMENTS'' under the heading ''AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS'' in title I shall be $52,169,000;

(2) the amount made available for necessary expenses to carry out services authorized by the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act in the matter before the first proviso under the heading ''FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE'' under the heading ''AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS'' in title I shall be $1,056,427,000; and

(3) the amount made available to provide competitive grants to State agencies in the second proviso under the heading ''CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS'' under the heading ''FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE'' under the heading ''DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS'' in title IV shall be $10,000,000.

SA 83. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 26 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 441, strike line 17 and all that follows through page 445, line 12.

SA 84. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) United States officials reportedly took Suleiman Abu Ghayth into custody on February 28, 2013.

(2) Abu Ghayth is the son-in-law of Osama Bin Laden and a member of al Qaeda.

(3) From 2001 to 2002, Abu Ghayth allegedly served al Qaeda, urged others to swear allegiance to Bin Laden, spoke on behalf of and in support of al Qaeda's mission, warned that attacks similar to those of September 11, 2001, would continue, and actively supported al Qaeda's efforts to kill Americans.

(4) On or about May 2001, Abu Ghayth allegedly urged individuals at a guest house in Kandahar, Afghanistan, to swear an oath of allegiance to Bin Laden.

(5) Members and associates of al Qaeda have executed a number of terrorist attacks intended to kill Americans, including the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, which killed approximately 2,976 people.

(6) On the morning of September 12, 2001, Abu Ghayth appearing with Bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri, served as a spokesman for al Qaeda and warned the United States and its allies that ''[a] great army is gathering against you'' and called upon ''the nation of Islam'' to do battle against ''the Jews, the Christians and the Americans''.

(7) After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Abu Ghayth gave a speech in which he warned that ''the storms shall not stop, especially the Airplanes Storm'', and advised Muslims, children, and opponents of the United States ''not to board any aircraft and not to live in high rises''.

(8) In 2002, Abu Ghayth allegedly said ''al Qaeda has the right to kill four million Americans, including one million children, displace double that figure, and injure and cripple hundreds and thousands''.

(9) In 2002, Abu Ghayth reportedly arranged to be smuggled to Iran, where he was held under a loose form of house arrest for several years.

(10) Abu Ghayth has been reportedly tied to the October 8, 2002, attack on United States Marines training on Faylaka Island off the coast of Kuwait, which resulted in the death of one American.

(11) Kuwait reportedly stripped Abu Ghayth of his citizenship because of his role in recruiting Kuwaitis for al Qaeda.

(12) Abu Ghayth is reportedly believed to have been in Iran since his release in 2010.

(13) On or about March 1, 2013, Abu Ghayth was brought to the United States to stand trial on terrorism charges in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

(14) On March 8, 2013, Abu Ghayth pled not guilty to terrorism charges.

(15) On September 14, 2001, in the wake of the terrorist attacks on the United States, Congress passed the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107–40), which the President signed on September 18, 2001.

(16) The Authorization for Use of Military Force authorizes the President ''to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations or persons''.

(17) Section 1021 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81) affirms the authority of the Armed Forces of the United States to detain covered persons pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force.

(18) Section 1022 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 establishes a requirement, subject to a case-by-case national security waiver by the President, for military custody of foreign members of al Qaeda and associated forces who participated in the course of planning or carrying out an attack or attempted attack against the United States and its coalition partners.

(19) Abu Ghayth is an enemy belligerent and meets the definition of a covered person under section 1022 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

(20) Military custody for enemy belligerents, consistent with United States and international law, provides the best means to collect the intelligence that can prevent future terrorist attacks and save American lives.

(21) Long-term law of war military detention affords the opportunity for interrogators to return periodically over subsequent months and years to gather additional information.

(22) It is this access to detainees in long-term law of war custody that allowed the intelligence community to gather information that helped ultimately locate Bin Laden.

(23) Members of al Qaeda, like Abu Ghayth, are not common criminals. They are enemy belligerents at war with our country. United States detention and interrogation policies must distinguish between intelligence collection to prevent terrorist attacks and standard criminal prosecutions.

(24) When the United States places enemy belligerents in courts under Article III of the Constitution for trial, grants them the legal rights normally reserved for common criminals, and focuses on prosecution rather than intelligence collection, the United States can miss valuable information that will help keep our country safe.

(25) Al Qaeda affiliates throughout the world, such as al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and al Qaeda in the Islamic Mahgreb, present a complex and growing threat to the United States and its interests.

(26) United States forces continue to capture members of al Qaeda and associated forces.

(27) The United States has a top-rate facility at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, that allows for the secure and humane detention and interrogation of foreign enemy belligerents.

(28) On January 22, 2009, President Obama issued an executive order to close the detention facility at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, yet Congress has prohibited the use of funds to transfer detainees at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to the United States or to construct or modify facilities in the United States to house detainees at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. Congress has also placed restrictions on the ability to transfer detainees at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to foreign countries.

(29) On February 15, 2011, the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, Michael Vickers, said ''[t]he administration is in the final stages of. . .establishing its detention policy''.

(30) On April 7, 2011, General Carter Ham, the Commander of the United States Africa Command responded to a question about what he would do if we captured a member of al Qaeda in Africa, by saying he would need ''some lawyerly help on answering that one''.

(31) On June 28, 2011, the Commander of the United States Special Operations Command, Admiral William McRaven, testified that his options to detain foreign enemy belligerents were to detain them temporarily on a ship, transfer them to a third country, or ''if we can't do either one of those, then we'll release that individual and that becomes the—the unenviable option, but it is an option''.

(32) On March 6, 2012, approximately a year later, when asked during a hearing of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate whether the administration has developed a detention policy for enemy belligerents, Admiral McRaven testified ''nothing has changed since then''.

(33) Approximately 28 percent of detainees who have been released from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay have reengaged or are suspected of having reengaged in terrorist activity.

(34) Former detainees at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay have conducted suicide bombings, recruited radicals, and trained recruits to kill Americans and our allies.

(35) Said al Shihri and Abdul Zakir represent two examples of former detainees at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay who returned to the fight and assumed leadership positions in terrorist organizations dedicated to killing Americans and our allies.

(36) On November 29, 2012, in a 54 to 41 vote, the Senate agreed to Senate Amendment 3245 to S. 3254, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, which would have permanently prohibited use of funds for the transfer or release of detainees from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay into the United States.

(37) As enacted, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239) prohibits for one year the use of Department of Defense funds to transfer or release detainees at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to or within the United States, its territories, or possessions.

(b) SENSE OF SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate to—

(1) reaffirm that the United States remains at war with al Qaeda and its associated forces;

(2) assert that when a member of al Qaeda or an associated force is taken into custody, the focus should be on intelligence collection and the prevention of future attacks and not on prosecution;

(3) believe by bringing members of al Qaeda and its associated forces into civilian custody, rather than military detention, the United States inappropriately gives these terrorists the rights afforded by the civilian system of justice in the United States, including speedy presentment and Miranda rights;

(4) believe no terrorists should ever hear ''you have the right to remain silent'';

(5) believe that Abu Ghayth and other members of al Qaeda or associated forces like him should be placed in military custody and brought to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay for long-term, interrogation, and, as appropriate, trial by military commission, consistent with chapter 47A of title 10, United States Code (as amended by the Military Commissions Act of 2009 (title XVIII of Public Law 111–84)); and

(6) call on the Obama Administration to work with Congress to establish a coherent detention policy for the long-term detention and interrogation of enemy belligerents, and the potential trial by military commission of foreign enemy belligerents, that will help collect intelligence, protect our country, and prevent future attacks.

SA 85. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title I of division F, insert after section 1114 the following:

SEC. 1115. (a) Not later than 30 days after the end of the 60-day period for an audited establishment to respond to a covered final audit report submitted to the establishment by an Inspector General under section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), or by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, or any other Inspector General under applicable law, or 30 days after the establishment responds to a covered audit report with a non-concur or partial concur response, the head of the establishment shall submit to Congress a report with an explanation for the failure to respond or the non-concur or partial concur response.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term ''covered final audit report'' means a final audit report issued by an Inspector General under the Inspector General Act of 1978 or other applicable law that includes a recommendation for an establishment to implement cost-saving measures or to seek reimbursement for failure by a contractor or subcontractor to successfully complete a contract due to poor contractor performance, cost-overruns, or other reasons that would, if implemented, result in at least $2,000,000 in savings.

(2) The term ''establishment'' has the meaning given that term in section 12 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, except that the term also includes the following:

(A) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(B) The Central Intelligence Agency.

(C) The Architect of the Capitol.

(D) The Government Accountability Office.

(E) The Government Printing Office.

(F) The Library of Congress.

(3) The term ''head of the establishment'' has the meaning given that term in section 12 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, except that the term also includes the following:

(A) The Director of National Intelligence.

(B) The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

(C) The Architect of the Capitol.

(D) The Comptroller General of the United States.

(E) The Public Printer.

(F) The Librarian of Congress.

SA 86. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title I of division F, insert after section 1114 the following:

SEC. 1115. (a) Not later than 180 days after an establishment responds to a covered audit report submitted to the establishment by an Inspector General under section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, or by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, or any other Inspector General under applicable law, with a full concur response, the head of the establishment shall submit to Congress a report with a description of the status of any open or pending recommendations from the Inspector General, including any actions taken to implement the recommendations.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term ''covered final audit report'' means a final audit report issued by an Inspector General under the Inspector General Act of 1978 or other applicable law that includes a recommendation for an establishment to implement cost-saving measures or to seek reimbursement for failure by a contractor or subcontractor to successfully complete a contract due to poor contractor performance, cost-overruns, or other reasons that would, if implemented, result in at least $2,000,000 in savings.

(2) The term ''establishment'' has the meaning given that term in section 12 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, except that the term also includes the following:

(A) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(B) The Central Intelligence Agency.

(C) The Architect of the Capitol.

(D) The Government Accountability Office.

(E) The Government Printing Office.

(F) The Library of Congress.

(3) The term ''head of the establishment'' has the meaning given that term in section 12 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, except that the term also includes the following:

(A) The Director of National Intelligence.

(B) The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

(C) The Architect of the Capitol.

(D) The Comptroller General of the United States.

(E) The Public Printer.

(F) The Librarian of Congress.

SA 87. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE I—BIENNIAL BUDGETING AND APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. __01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Biennial Budgeting and Appropriations Act''.

SEC. __02. REVISION OF TIMETABLE.

Section 300 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 631) is amended to read as follows:

''TIMETABLE

''SEC. 300. (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by subsection (b), the timetable with respect to the congressional budget process for any Congress (beginning with the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress) is as follows:

''First Session

On or before:	Action to be completed:
First Monday in February.	President submits budget recommendations.
February 15	Congressional Budget Office submits report to Budget Committees.
Not later than 6 weeks after budget submission.	Committees submit views and estimates to Budget Committees.
April 1	Budget Committees report concurrent resolution on the biennial budget.
May 15	Congress completes action on concurrent resolution on the biennial budget.
May 15	Biennial appropriation bills may be considered in the House.
June 10	House Appropriations Committee reports last biennial appropriation bill.
June 30	House completes action on biennial appropriation bills.
August 1	Congress completes action on reconciliation legislation.
October 1	Biennium begins.

''Second Session

On or before:	Action to be completed:
February 15	President submits budget review.
Not later than 6 weeks after President submits budget review.	Congressional Budget Office submits report to Budget Committees.

''Second Session—Continued

The last day of the session.	Congress completes action on bills and resolutions authorizing new budget authority for the succeeding biennium.

''(b) SPECIAL RULE.—In the case of any first session of Congress that begins in any year immediately following a leap year and during which the term of a President (except a President who succeeds himself or herself) begins, the following dates shall supersede those set forth in subsection (a):

''First Session

On or before:	Action to be completed:
First Monday in April.	President submits budget recommendations.
April 20	Committees submit views and estimates to Budget Committees.
May 15	Budget Committees report concurrent resolution on the biennial budget.
June 1	Congress completes action on concurrent resolution on the biennial budget.
July 1	Biennial appropriation bills may be considered in the House.
July 20	House completes action on biennial appropriation bills.
August 1	Congress completes action on reconciliation legislation.
October 1	Biennium begins.''.

SEC. __03. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET AND IMPOUNDMENT CONTROL ACT OF 1974.

(a) DECLARATION OF PURPOSE.—Section 2(2) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621(2)) is amended by striking ''each year'' and inserting ''biennially''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) BUDGET RESOLUTION.—Section 3(4) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 622(4)) is amended by striking ''fiscal year'' each place it appears and inserting ''biennium''.

(2) BIENNIUM.—Section 3 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 622) is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(12) The term 'biennium' means the period of 2 consecutive fiscal years beginning on October 1 of any odd-numbered year.''.

(c) BIENNIAL CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET.—

(1) SECTION HEADING.—The section heading of section 301 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 632) is amended by striking ''ANNUAL'' and inserting ''BIENNIAL''.

(2) CONTENTS OF RESOLUTION.—Section 301(a) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 632(a)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by—

(i) striking ''April 15 of each year'' and inserting ''May 15 of each odd-numbered year'';

(ii) striking ''the fiscal year beginning on October 1 of such year'' the first place it appears and inserting ''the biennium beginning on October 1 of such year''; and

(iii) striking ''the fiscal year beginning on October 1 of such year'' the second place it appears and inserting ''each fiscal year in such period'';

(B) in paragraph (6)—

(i) by striking ''For purposes'' and inserting ''for purposes''; and

(ii) by striking ''for the fiscal year'' and inserting ''for each fiscal year in the biennium''; and

(C) in paragraph (7)—

(i) by striking ''For purposes'' and inserting ''for purposes''; and

(ii) by striking ''for the fiscal year'' and inserting ''for each fiscal year in the biennium''.

(3) ADDITIONAL MATTERS.—Section 301(b)(3) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 632(b)(3)) is amended by striking ''for such fiscal year'' and inserting ''for either fiscal year in such biennium''.

(4) VIEWS OF OTHER COMMITTEES.—Section 301(d) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 632(d)) is amended by inserting ''(or, if applicable, as provided by section 300(b))'' after ''United States Code''.

(5) HEARINGS.—Section 301(e)(1) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 632(e)(1)) is amended by—

(A) striking ''fiscal year'' and inserting ''biennium''; and

(B) inserting after the second sentence the following: ''On or before April 1 of each odd-numbered year (or, if applicable, as provided by section 300(b)), the Committee on the Budget of each House shall report to its House the concurrent resolution on the budget referred to in subsection (a) for the biennium beginning on October 1 of that year.''.

(6) GOALS FOR REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT.—Section 301(f) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 632(f)) is amended by striking ''fiscal year'' each place it appears and inserting ''biennium''.

(7) ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS.—Section 301(g)(1) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 632(g)(1)) is amended by striking ''for a fiscal year'' and inserting ''for a biennium''.

(8) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents set forth in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 301 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 301. Biennial adoption of concurrent resolution on the budget.''.

(d) COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS.—Section 302 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 633) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)

(A) in paragraph (1), by—

(i) striking ''for the first fiscal year of the resolution,'' and inserting ''for each fiscal year in the biennium,'';

(ii) striking ''for that period of fiscal years'' and inserting ''for all fiscal years covered by the resolution''; and

(iii) striking ''for the fiscal year of that resolution'' and inserting ''for each fiscal year in the biennium''; and

(B) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking ''April 15'' and inserting ''May 15 or June 1 (under section 300(b))'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''budget year'' and inserting ''biennium'';

(3) in subsection (c) by striking ''for a fiscal year'' each place it appears and inserting ''for each fiscal year in the biennium'';

(4) in subsection (f)(1), by striking ''for a fiscal year'' and inserting ''for a biennium'';

(5) in subsection (f)(1), by striking ''the first fiscal year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year of the biennium'';

(6) in subsection (f)(2)(A), by—

(A) striking ''the first fiscal year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year of the biennium''; and

(B) striking ''the total of fiscal years'' and inserting ''the total of all fiscal years covered by the resolution''; and

(7) in subsection (g)(1)(A), by striking ''April'' and inserting ''May''.

(e) SECTION 303 POINT OF ORDER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 303(a) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 634(a)) is amended by—

(A) striking ''for a fiscal year'' and inserting ''for a biennium'';

(B) striking ''the first fiscal year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year of the biennium''; and

(C) striking ''that fiscal year'' each place it appears and inserting ''that biennium''.

(2) EXCEPTIONS IN THE HOUSE.—Section 303(b)(1) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 634(b)(1)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''the budget year'' and inserting ''the biennium''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''the fiscal year'' and inserting ''the biennium''.

(3) APPLICATION TO THE SENATE.—Section 303(c)(1) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 634(c)(1)) is amended by—

(A) striking ''fiscal year'' and inserting ''biennium''; and

(B) striking ''that year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year of that biennium''.

(f) PERMISSIBLE REVISIONS OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS ON THE BUDGET.—Section 304 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 635) is amended—

(1) by striking ''fiscal year'' the first two places it appears and inserting ''biennium''; and

(2) by striking ''for such fiscal year'' and inserting ''for such biennium''.

(g) PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS.—Section 305 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 636) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking ''fiscal year'' and inserting ''biennium''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(3), by striking ''fiscal year'' and inserting ''biennium''.

(h) COMPLETION OF HOUSE ACTION ON APPROPRIATION BILLS.—Section 307 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 638) is amended—

(1) by striking ''each year'' and inserting ''each odd-numbered year'';

(2) by striking ''annual'' and inserting ''biennial'';

(3) by striking ''fiscal year'' and inserting ''biennium''; and

(4) by striking ''that year'' and inserting ''that odd-numbered year''.

(i) COMPLETION OF ACTION ON REGULAR APPROPRIATION BILLS.—Section 309 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 640) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''of any odd-numbered year'' after ''July'';

(2) by striking ''annual'' and inserting ''biennial'';

(3) by striking ''fiscal year'' and inserting ''biennium''; and

(4) by striking ''such year'' and inserting ''such odd-numbered year''.

(j) RECONCILIATION PROCESS.—Section 310(a) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 641(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''any fiscal year'' and inserting ''any biennium''; and

(2) in paragraph (1) by striking ''such fiscal year'' each place it appears and inserting ''any fiscal year covered by such resolution''.

(k) SECTION 311 POINT OF ORDER.—

(1) IN THE HOUSE.—Section 311(a)(1) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 642(a)(1)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''for a fiscal year'' and inserting ''for a biennium'';

(B) by striking ''the first fiscal year'' each place it appears and inserting ''either fiscal year of the biennium''; and

(C) by striking ''that first fiscal year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year in the biennium''.

(2) IN THE SENATE.—Section 311(a)(2) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 642(a)(2)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''for the first fiscal year'' and inserting ''for either fiscal year of the biennium''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking ''that first fiscal year'' the first place it appears and inserting ''each fiscal year in the biennium''; and

(ii) by striking ''that first fiscal year and the ensuing fiscal years'' and inserting ''all fiscal years''.

(3) SOCIAL SECURITY LEVELS.—Section 311(a)(3) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 642(a)(3)) is amended by—

(A) striking ''for the first fiscal year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year in the biennium''; and

(B) striking ''that fiscal year and the ensuing fiscal years'' and inserting ''all fiscal years''.

(l) MDA POINT OF ORDER.—Section 312(c) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 643) is amended—

(1) by striking ''for a fiscal year'' and inserting ''for a biennium'';

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking ''the first fiscal year'' and inserting ''either fiscal year in the biennium'';

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking ''that fiscal year'' and inserting ''either fiscal year in the biennium''; and

(4) in the matter following paragraph (2), by striking ''that fiscal year'' and inserting ''the applicable fiscal year''.

SEC. __04. AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 31, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 1101 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) 'biennium' has the meaning given that term in paragraph (12) of section 3 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 622).''.

(b) BUDGET CONTENTS AND SUBMISSION TO THE CONGRESS.—

(1) SCHEDULE.—The matter preceding paragraph (1) in section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(a) On or before the first Monday in February of each odd-numbered year (or, if applicable, as provided by section 300(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974), beginning with the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, the President shall transmit to the Congress, the budget for the biennium beginning on October 1 of such calendar year. The budget of the United States Government transmitted under this subsection shall include a budget message and summary and supporting information. The President shall include in each budget the following:''.

(2) EXPENDITURES.—Section 1105(a)(5) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the fiscal year for which the budget is submitted and the 4 fiscal years after that year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year in the biennium for which the budget is submitted and in the succeeding 4 fiscal years''.

(3) RECEIPTS.—Section 1105(a)(6) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the fiscal year for which the budget is submitted and the 4 fiscal years after that year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year in the biennium for which the budget is submitted and in the succeeding 4 years''.

(4) BALANCE STATEMENTS.—Section 1105(a)(9)(C) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the fiscal year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year in the biennium''.

(5) FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES.—Section 1105(a)(12)(A) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the fiscal year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year in the biennium''.

(6) ALLOWANCES.—Section 1105(a)(13) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the fiscal year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year in the biennium''.

(7) ALLOWANCES FOR UNCONTROLLED EXPENDITURES.—Section 1105(a)(14) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking ''that year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year in the biennium for which the budget is submitted''.

(8) TAX EXPENDITURES.—Section 1105(a)(16) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the fiscal year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year in the biennium''.

(9) FUTURE YEARS.—Section 1105(a)(17) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''the fiscal year following the fiscal year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year in the biennium following the biennium'';

(B) by striking ''that following fiscal year'' and inserting ''each such fiscal year''; and

(C) by striking ''fiscal year before the fiscal year'' and inserting ''biennium before the biennium''.

(10) PRIOR YEAR OUTLAYS.—Section 1105(a)(18) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''the prior fiscal year'' and inserting ''each of the 2 most recently completed fiscal years,'';

(B) by striking ''for that year'' and inserting ''with respect to those fiscal years''; and

(C) by striking ''in that year'' and inserting ''in those fiscal years''.

(11) PRIOR YEAR RECEIPTS.—Section 1105(a)(19) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''the prior fiscal year'' and inserting ''each of the 2 most recently completed fiscal years'';

(B) by striking ''for that year'' and inserting ''with respect to those fiscal years''; and

(C) by striking ''in that year'' each place it appears and inserting ''in those fiscal years''.

(12) HOMELAND SECURITY.—Section 1105(a)(35)(A)(i) of title 31, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''the fiscal years for which the budget is submitted'' and inserting ''each fiscal year in the biennium for which the budget is submitted''.

(13) EESA.—Section 1105(a)(36) of title 31, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''the fiscal year for which the budget is submitted'' and inserting ''each fiscal year in the biennium for which the budget is submitted''.

(14) VETERANS HEALTH.—Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended in the first paragraph designated as paragraph (37) (relating to medical care accounts of the Veterans Health Administration), by striking ''the fiscal year for which the budget is submitted'' and inserting ''each fiscal year in the biennium for which the budget is submitted''.

(A) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by redesignating the second paragraph designated as paragraph (37) (relating to plans and reports identified for elimination or consolidation) as paragraph (39).

(c) ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES OF LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES.—Section 1105(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking ''each year'' and inserting ''each even-numbered year''.

(d) RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEET ESTIMATED DEFICIENCIES.—Section 1105(c) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''the fiscal year for'' the first place it appears and inserting ''each fiscal year in the biennium for'';

(2) by striking ''the fiscal year for'' the second place it appears and inserting ''each fiscal year of the biennium, as the case may be, for''; and

(3) by striking ''for that year'' and inserting ''for each fiscal year of the biennium''.

(e) CAPITAL INVESTMENT ANALYSIS.—Section 1105(e)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking ''ensuing fiscal year'' and inserting ''biennium to which such budget relates''.

(f) SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET ESTIMATES AND CHANGES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1106(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by—

(i) inserting after ''Before July 16 of each year'' the following: ''and February 15 of each even-numbered year''; and

(ii) striking ''fiscal year'' and inserting ''biennium'';

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking ''that fiscal year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year in such biennium'';

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking ''fiscal year'' and inserting ''biennium''; and

(D) in paragraph (3), by striking ''fiscal year'' and inserting ''biennium''.

(2) CHANGES.—Section 1106(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by—

(A) inserting after ''Before July 16 of each year'' the following: ''and February 15 of each even-numbered year'';

(B) striking ''the fiscal year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year in the biennium''; and

(C) striking ''submitted before July 16'' and inserting ''required by this subsection''.

(g) CURRENT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES ESTIMATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1109(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''On or before the first Monday after January 3 of each year (on or before February 5 in 1986)'' and inserting ''At the same time the budget required by section 1105 is submitted for a biennium''; and

(B) by striking ''the following fiscal year'' and inserting ''each fiscal year of such period''.

(2) JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE.—Section 1109(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking ''before March 1 of each year'' and inserting ''within 6 weeks of the President's budget submission for each odd-numbered year (or, if applicable, as provided by section 300(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)''.

(h) YEAR-AHEAD REQUESTS FOR AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION.—Section 1110 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by—

(1) striking ''May 16'' and inserting ''March 31''; and

(2) striking ''year before the year in which the fiscal year begins'' and inserting ''calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the biennium begins''.

SEC. __05. TWO-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS; TITLE AND STYLE OF APPROPRIATIONS ACTS.

Section 105 of title 1, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 105. Title and style of appropriations Acts

''(a) The style and title of all Acts making appropriations for the support of the Government shall be as follows: 'An Act making appropriations (here insert the object) for each fiscal year in the biennium of fiscal years (here insert the fiscal years of the biennium).'.

''(b) All Acts making regular appropriations for the support of the Government shall be enacted for a biennium and shall specify the amount of appropriations provided for each fiscal year in such period.

''(c) For purposes of this section, the term 'biennium' has the same meaning as in section 3(12) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 622(12)).''.

SEC. __06. MULTIYEAR AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the following:

''AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS

''SEC. 316. (a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives or the Senate to consider—

''(1) any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that authorizes appropriations for a period of less than 2 fiscal years, unless the program, project, or activity for which the appropriations are authorized will require no further appropriations and will be completed or terminated after the appropriations have been expended; and

''(2) in any odd-numbered year, any authorization or revenue bill or joint resolution until Congress completes action on the biennial budget resolution, all regular biennial appropriations bills, and all reconciliation bills.

''(b) APPLICABILITY.—In the Senate, subsection (a) shall not apply to—

''(1) any measure that is privileged for consideration pursuant to a rule or statute;

''(2) any matter considered in Executive Session; or

''(3) an appropriations measure or reconciliation bill.''.

(b) AMENDMENT TO TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the

Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 315 the following:

''Sec. 316. Authorizations of appropriations.''.

SEC. __07. GOVERNMENT PLANS ON A BIENNIAL BASIS.

(a) MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY.—Section 9703 of title 31, United States Code, relating to managerial accountability, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the first sentence by striking ''annual''; and

(B) by striking ''section 1105(a)(29)'' and inserting ''section 1105(a)(28)''; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in the first sentence by striking ''one or'';

(B) in the second sentence by striking ''a subsequent year'' and inserting ''a subsequent 2-year period''; and

(C) in the third sentence by striking ''three'' and inserting ''4''.

(b) PILOT PROJECTS FOR PERFORMANCE BUDGETING.—Section 1119 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1), by striking ''annual'' and inserting ''biennial''; and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking ''annual'' and inserting ''biennial''.

(c) STRATEGIC PLANS.—Section 2802 of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) is subsection (a), by striking ''September 30, 1997'' and inserting ''September 30, 2015'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''five years forward'' and inserting ''6 years forward''; and

(B) by striking ''at least every three years'' and inserting ''at least every 4 years''; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''section'' the second place it appears and inserting ''section, including a strategic plan submitted by September 30, 2015 meeting the requirements of subsection (a)''.

(d) PERFORMANCE PLANS.—Section 2803(a) of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter before paragraph (1), by striking ''an annual'' and inserting ''a biennial'';

(2) in paragraph (1), by inserting after ''program activity'' the following: ''for each years 1 and 2 of the biennial plan'';

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(4) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(5) by adding after paragraph (6) the following:

''(7) cover a 2-year period beginning with the first fiscal year of the next biennial budget cycle.''.

(e) COMMITTEE VIEWS OF PLANS AND REPORTS.—Section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act (2 U.S.C. 632(d)) is amended by adding at the end ''Each committee of the Senate or the House of Representatives shall review the strategic plans, performance plans, and performance reports, required under section 306 of title 5, United States Code, and sections 1115 and 1116 of title 31, United States Code, of all agencies under the jurisdiction of the committee. Each committee may provide its views on such plans or reports to the Committee on the Budget of the applicable House.''.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on March 1, 2015.

(2) AGENCY ACTIONS.—Effective on and after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency shall take such actions as necessary to prepare and submit any plan or report in accordance with the amendments made by this title.

SEC. __08. BIENNIAL APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 631 et seq.), as amended by section ____06(a), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''CONSIDERATION OF BIENNIAL APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

''SEC. 317. It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives or the Senate in any odd-numbered year to consider any regular bill providing new budget authority or a limitation on obligations under the jurisdiction of any of the subcommittees of the Committees on Appropriations for only the first fiscal year of a biennium, unless the program, project, or activity for which the new budget authority or obligation limitation is provided will require no additional authority beyond 1 year and will be completed or terminated after the amount provided has been expended.''.

(b) AMENDMENT TO TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 316, as added by section ____06(b) the following:

''Sec. 317. Consideration of biennial appropriations bills.''.

SEC. __09. REPORT ON TWO-YEAR FISCAL PERIOD.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

(1) determine the impact and feasibility of changing the definition of a fiscal year and the budget process based on that definition to a 2-year fiscal period with a biennial budget process based on the 2-year period; and

(2) report the findings of the study to the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Budget of Senate.

SEC. __10. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as provided in section ____07, this title and the amendments made by this title shall take effect on January 1, 2015, and shall apply to budget resolutions and appropriations for the biennium beginning with fiscal year 2016.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship will meet on March 14, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. in room 432 Russell Senate Office building to hold a roundtable discussion entitled ''Helping Small Businesses Weather Economic Challenges & Natural Disasters: Review of Legislative Proposals on Access to Capital and Disaster Recovery.''

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 13, 2013, at 10 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled, ''Strategic Counterterrorism: Meeting Current and Emerging Challenges.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 13, 2013, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Costs and Impacts of Crisis Budgeting.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 13, 2013, at 10:30 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''We the People: Fulfilling the Promise of Open Government Five Years After The OPEN Government Act.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 13, 2013, at 10 a.m. in room SR–418 of the Russell Senate office building to conduct a hearing entitled ''VA Claims Process—Review of VA's Transformation Efforts.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 13, 2013, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 13, 2013, to conduct a hearing entitled ''876–SCAM: Jamaican Phone Fraud Targeting Seniors.''

The Committee will meet in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building beginning at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DESIGNATING THE SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUYE ROOM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to S. Res. 76.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 76) designating room S–126 of the United States Capitol as the ''Senator Daniel K. Inouye Room'' in recognition of his service to the Senate and the people of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 76) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 558

Mr. REID. I understand there is a bill at the desk due for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 558) to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from awarding any grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or other financial assistance under section 103 of the Clean Air Act for any program, project, or activity outside the United States.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, but I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for a second time on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, in accordance with Public Law 93–618, as amended by Public Law 100–418, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Finance, appoints the following members of the Finance Committee as congressional advisers on trade policy and negotiations to international conferences, meetings and negotiation sessions relating to trade agreements: the Senator from Montana, Mr. BAUCUS, the Senator from West Virginia, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the Senator from Oregon, Mr. WYDEN, the Senator from Utah, Mr. HATCH, and the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2013

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning, March 14; that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 933, the continuing appropriations bill, under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Tomorrow we will continue to work through the amendments to the CR. There will be at least one rollcall vote at approximately 11:15. We hope to complete action on this bill tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:43 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 14, 2013, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JAMES J. JONES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE STEPHEN ALAN OWENS, RESIGNED.

KENNETH J. KOPOCIS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE PETER SILVA SILVA, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEBORAH KAY JONES, OF NEW MEXICO, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO LIBYA.

JAMES KNIGHT, OF ALABAMA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

STEPHEN CRAWFORD, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2015, VICE ALAN C. KESSLER, RESIGNED.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

OLGA VISO, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2018, VICE WILLIAM FRANCIS PRICE, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive message transmitted by the President to the Senate on March 13, 2013 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

ELISSA F. CADISH, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA, VICE PHILIP M. PRO, RETIRED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 4, 2013.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO DUSTIN PETERSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Dustin Petersen for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Dustin Petersen has been a partner with McGladrey LLP since 2007. His roles at McGladrey certainly keep him busy as a national tax leader for the firm's consumer products group as well as a national practice leader for the alternative energy sector. In 2002, Mr. Petersen started a national renewable practice with McGladrey that today has clients across the country and the world. Outside of work, Dustin serves his community as the chair of Ankeny Economic Development Collaboration Start-up and Entrepreneurial Growth Group, as well as a board member for the Blank Park Zoo Foundation and the Blank Park Endowment Corporation. Raised on a second generation farm in northern Iowa, Dustin now resides in Ankeny with his wife Nicole and their three children, Alex, Megan and Zach. In all facets of his life, Dustin is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Dustin in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Petersen for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Dustin on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

IN HONOR OF DETECTIVE ELIZABETH CHASE BUTLER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Detective Elizabeth Chase Butler, a fallen Santa Cruz Police Detective who touched the lives of many through her commitment to service in her community.

Elizabeth was born on March 16th, 1974, in Boulder, Colorado, and moved to Santa Cruz, California, after the tragedy of 9/11. Elizabeth joined the Santa Cruz Police Department in 2003 and was constantly challenged to learn new skills and take on new roles within the SCPD. She took great pride in the work she did and wore many hats in her years with the department, serving as a patrol officer and bicycle officer, and also as a member of a special drug task force and hostage negotiation team. Elizabeth had a love of investigating and had earned the rank of Detective in charge of sexual assault investigations at the time of her tragic death. Her compassion for others and commitment to her community only grew as she spent more time assisting with and caring for child and female victims.

Elizabeth is survived by her long-time partner, Peter Wu, and their two sons, five-year old Joaquin, and two-year old Stellan. Her time with her family was filled with trips to the Santa Cruz beach, walks through Henry Cowell State Park, and visits to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. She and her family also traveled to Manzanita, Oregon, every summer to visit with extended family. Additionally, Elizabeth stayed very close with her long-time friends and college roommates, who had traveled to San Francisco for a twenty-year reunion the week before Elizabeth's passing. Detective Elizabeth Chase Butler will be remembered not only for her commitment to her family and her community, but also for her joyful spirit and love of life.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Elizabeth Chase Butler's legacy as a kind–hearted and dedicated partner, mother, and community servant.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KAPPA OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th Anniversary of the Kappa Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. The Kappa Omega chapter was the first chapter established in the South Atlantic Region, where it was chartered on March 1, 1923 in Atlanta, GA. The charter members include Founder Marie Woolfolk Taylor, Floy Brown, Eva Conner, Caroline Bond Day, Madeline Smith Davis, Adelaide D. Smith, Alice Rucker, Ruth Prince, Louise Shivery and Hattie Watson. I honor their commitment to their community, particularly to promoting and cultivating high scholastic achievement and social unity amongst girls and women of color.

For the past nine decades, Kappa Omega has distinguished itself as a guiding torch in servicing others by implementing programs that impact communities around the world. Their current international program initiatives focus on Global Leadership through Timeless Service. The women of Kappa Omega certainly know leadership. Several notable chapter members have become leaders on the local, regional and international level. At the regional level, A. Cathryn Johnson, Sujette F. Crank, Dr. Mary Shy Scott and Dr. Lucretia R. Payton-Stewart have all served as South Atlantic Regional Directors, while Dr. Scott has also served as the 23rd President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Members of this chapter have also served on and chaired several international committees.

The members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority deserve to be commended for the thousands of hours of volunteer work they contribute every year. Their efforts at the local level to encourage young girls to go to college, and to help them succeed after they get in, are laudable and must continue. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor their hard work and service, and I encourage my fellow colleagues to do the same.

IN CELEBRATION OF GREGORY KONDOS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Gregory Kondos, a friend and renowned artist, as we celebrate his extraordinary career and his upcoming 90th birthday. Gregory is often noted as one of the finest California landscape artists, receiving a number of awards for his exquisite ability to capture beauty. As his family, friends, colleagues and fellow artists all gather to honor his remarkable career, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Gregory Kondos.

A resident of Sacramento for over eight decades, Gregory began his career and artistic training at Sacramento City College, later to receive both his Bachelor's and Master's in Art from California State University in Sacramento. He would later return to Sacramento City College to teach within the Art Department for 27 years, and served as the director of the campus gallery.

Gregory's art is simply breathtaking, capturing California's beauty like few others ever have. I have long been an admirer of Gregory's work, and am thankful to have one of his paintings of the Sacramento River in my office. In Sacramento our rivers are our identity and the painting reminds me of Sacramento's ties to water and the benefits and challenges that brings. His California and Sacramento landscape pieces are amazing works of art that truly capture the essence and beauty of the region. After decades of work, Gregory and his art continue to be great ambassadors for the Sacramento region.

His collections have been on display in numerous museums including the Monterey Museum of Art, the Hirshhorn in Washington D.C., Yosemite Museum and the National Academy Museum and School of Fine Arts in Manhattan. Additionally, Gregory has been recognized by a number of awards and accolades including being elected to the National Academy of Design.

To celebrate Gregory's 90th birthday and his career as both an artist and teacher, the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento is displaying over 70 pieces of his work in an exhibit, ''A Touch of Blue: Landscapes by Gregory Kondos.''

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the many contributions made by Gregory Kondos to the people of Sacramento and our nation. As Gregory, his wife Moni, friends, and colleagues celebrate his achievement, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his contributions and in celebrating his birthday and exceptional artistry.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PHIFER MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in gratitude to the members of the Phifer Middle School student council, concert band, chorus and cheer squad for their welcoming reception during a recent visit. I enjoyed the cheer performance by Zoe Dillard, Irez Ramirez, and Jeanny Valerio Disla, as well as the assembly of talented young students who sang and performed music, making my visit quite memorable. As these Middle School students continue their education, I hope they choose to cultivate and develop their talents, as they have done at Phifer.

Participants in the assembly included members of the Phifer Middle School student council, made up of Davina Nguyen, Natalya Portobanco, Medina Talebi, Carmen Rosario, Alejandro Rodriguez, Franshayla Matias, Krystian Duong, Monica Van, Nicole Alfino, Michael Zuckerman, Zach DiPietro, Jennifer Luu, Grace Pietzsch, Kaitlyn McGowen, Maresha Morton, Kiara Banchs, Yesarie Rivera, Brianni Lugo, Daisy Anyanwu, Maryann Dwomor, Laura Espaillat, Christina Van, Areli Olarte, Jasmine Magalong, Asia Davis, Michael Nguyen, Yasmeir S, Marcellus Edwards, Alyssa Edelman, Xavier Molina, Kyla Green, Emilie Reustle, Michelle Olivares, Christian Alvarez, DaJone Saunders, Alina Ayala, Selena Carter, Alyza Alix, Alexis Taylor, Angel Davis and Jadae Turlington.

Members of the 7th and 8th grade concert band, accompanied by the 8th grade chorus performed America the Beautiful, the Star Spangled Banner and ''Plaza de Toros'' by Mark Williams. Members of the 8th grade concert band include: Johnny Almonte, Isaac Amato, Daniel Ball, Nicholas Camacho, Michael Camacho, Asia Davis, Toni Deliso, Jude Dizon, Sarah Eisenhower, Kyle Faraghan, Emily Gmyr, Dimitri Hicks, Jose Jimenez, Ryan Lam, Nicolette Markakis, Xavier Martinez, Elijah Medina, Kristina Mitchell, Isaac Munoz, Christian Nicdao, Alexandra Pasamihalis, Talisa Prince, Irez Ramirez, Alison Rosado, Mario Sagliocca, Micheal Sculley, Jake Urena, Vivian Vu, Aaliya Ware and Steven Williams.

Members of the 7th grade concert band include: Carlos Acevedo, Ariana Alameda, Nicole Alfano, Briana Allende, Jonathan Almonte, Tyler Barrett, Karoline Cedano, Nicole Chin, Desiree Colon, Angel Cruz, Megan Flaherty, Joshua Hall, Destiny Hernandez, Jonathan Hernandez, Paige Hickman, Eric Hoang, Kaitlyn McGowan, Jamil Morris, Gabriella Pavel, Jesse Pringle, Deanna Rodriguez, Serenity Sanders, Sydney Slaton, Gina Stone and Irene You.

Members of the 8th grade chorus include: Dezeray Adams, Amanda Alicea, Alina, Ayala, Irisell Baetz, Teyonna Balkman, Michelle Bello, Selena Carter, Flarissa Crawford, Angel Davis, Courtney Dixon, Josh Echeverria, Janiskaliz Espada, Lucas Figueroa, Jurnee Gabri-El, Toni Glatz, Bobbi-Sue Godwin, Michael Hartka, Vivian Hnynh, Elias Horiates, Krystiana Jalosjos, Talia Johnson, Taylor Johnson, Kayli Jones, Alexis Laboy, Kimani Lawson, Tyler Lee, Zephenia Lindsey, Saniyah Mack, James Marchese, Kinaya McEady, Emma Muller, Kiara Munoz, Jessica Ngeth, Areli Olarte, Hannah Pietzsch, Kaitlyn Pratt, Jose Ravelo and Tyiya Richards.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW OSTANIK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Matthew Ostanik for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Matt Ostanik is the President of Submittal Exchange LLC, his own online construction communications software company he founded in 2003. Today, Matt has overseen Submittal Exchange grow to 40,000 users and 35 employees with an annual year-over-year revenue growth rate of 350 percent over five years. Architecture is one of Matt's passions, as he helps others grow professionally through his business and his roles on the board of directors for the American Institute of Architects' Iowa chapter and with the Iowa Architectural Foundation. In all facets of his life, Matt is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Matt in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Ostanik for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Matt on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

THE NAGORNO KARABAKH

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, peace and stability in the Caucuses is in the national interest of the United States and our European allies. That means achieving a peaceful resolution to the rising tensions between the peoples of Armenia and Azerbaijan. A final status of the Nagorno Karabakh dispute must be achieved without resorting to war and must be in keeping with democratic principles, the rule of law and the protection of individual human rights.

Decades of Soviet rule and the continuing dispute over Nagorno Karabakh have decimated the economy of Armenia. In stark contrast, Azerbaijan now enjoys a growing economy from the extraction of natural resources. This economic imbalance is further aggravated by the fact that both Turkey and Azerbaijan have sealed their borders with Armenia, with Azerbaijan pursuing an aggressive military build-up.

The United States must continue to press for resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh dispute through the good offices and mechanisms of international actors such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. We must be ever vigilant in decrying actions that undermine such efforts. I concur with the Obama administration's demand for an explanation of Azerbaijan's pardoning of Ramil Safarov. Azerbaijan's decision to pardon Ramil Safarov after he was convicted by a Hungarian court for the murder of an Armenian soldier while participating in NATO's Partnership for Peace program is not only unconscionable, it is a direct affront to NATO and its efforts to bring peace and stability to conflict regions through the Partnership for Peace program.

FIRST THE SATURDAY PEOPLE THEN THE SUNDAY PEOPLE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from Lebanon and Egypt where I met with State Department officials, civil society actors, including prominent religious leaders and humanitarian aid organizations, and Syrian refugees. The trip (February 18–21, 2013) came at a critical time, as events in the broader Middle East over the last two years have been both historic and tumultuous.

One of the main purposes of the trip was to spend time with the Syrian Christian community. As a brutal civil war, which has taken nearly 70,000 lives, rages in Syria the plight of the sizable Christian community is often overlooked. While from the outside it appears as though President Bashar al-Assad's brutal regime will ultimately fall, the eventual outcome,

including how many will perish in or be displaced by the continued violence and who will step into the ensuing power vacuum, is far from certain. Moreover, what that will mean for the Christian community in Syria is largely unknown and, unfortunately, rarely addressed by Western media or church leaders.

I wanted to hear firsthand from Syrian Christians about their concerns and what the future might hold and to put this issue in the larger context of an imperiled Christian community in the broader Middle East, specifically in Egypt and Iraq.

Coptic Christians and other minorities in Egypt have increasingly been marginalized with the ascendancy of the Muslim Brotherhood. The newly drafted constitution is viewed as highly problematic by many Egyptians. A February 5 Associated Press article reported "[p]rovisions in the document allow for a far stricter implementation of Islamic Shariah law than in the past, raising opponents' fears that it could bring restrictions on many civil liberties and the rights of women and Christians."

Egypt is the recipient of billions of dollars in U.S. foreign assistance. A thorough assessment of the conditions in Egypt and the evolving political situation is critical, especially in these tight budgetary times.

THE SUNDAY PEOPLE

These issues must be viewed not simply as today's news but rather through the lens of history. A phrase not often heard outside the majority Muslim world is "First the Saturday people, then the Sunday people." The "Saturday people" are, of course, the Jews. Their once vibrant communities in countries throughout the region are now decimated. In 1948 there were roughly 150,000 Jews in Iraq; today less than 10 remain. In Egypt, there were once as many as 80,000 Jews; now less than 100 remain. It appears a similar fate may await the ancient Christian community in these same lands.

Consider this observation by author and adjunct fellow at the Center for Religious Freedom, Lela Gilbert, who recently wrote in the Huffington Post: "Between 1948 and 1970, between 80,000 and 100,000 Jews were expelled from Egypt—their properties and funds confiscated, their passports seized and destroyed. They left, stateless, with little more than the shirts on their backs to show for centuries of Egyptian citizenship. . . ."

Meanwhile, with the fall of Hosni Mubarak, Coptic Christians, numbering roughly 8–10 million, are leaving in droves. A January 8 National Public Radio, NPR, story reported "Coptic Christians will celebrate Christmas on Monday, and many will do so outside their native Egypt. Since the revolution there, their future in the country has looked uncertain and many are resettling in the United States. Their population in the U.S. may have grown by nearly 30 percent, according to rough estimates."

Gilbert echoes this reality, writing ". . . today, hundreds of thousands of Copts have already fled—those able to afford airfare and lawyers have sought asylum in the U.S. and Canada. As for the others . . . the options are few and fraught with danger."

Similarly, Iraq's Christian population has fallen from as many as 1.4 million in 2003 to roughly 500,000 today. Churches have been targeted, believers kidnapped for ransom and families threatened with violence if they stay. In October 2010, Islamist extremists laid siege on Our Lady of Salvation Catholic Church in Baghdad, killing over 50 hostages and police, and wounding dozens more.

Turning to Syria, in the midst of devastating bloodshed and civil war, the Christian population is particularly vulnerable. A recent Associated Press story reported "[Christians] are fearful that Syria will become another Iraq, with Christians caught in the crossfire between rival Islamic groups."

Over the span of a few decades, the Middle East, with the exception of Israel, has virtually been emptied of Jews. In my conversations with Syrian Christian refugees, Lebanese Christians and Coptic Christians in Egypt, a resounding theme emerged: a similar fate awaits the "Sunday People."

AN EXODUS

While it remains to be seen whether the historic exodus of Christians from the region will prove to be as dramatic as what has already happened to the Jewish community, it is without question devastating, as it threatens to erase Christianity from its very roots.

A recent study on Christian persecution released by the London-based think tank Civitas found that "[p]arts of the media have been influenced by the logical error that equates criticism of Muslims with racism, and therefore as wrong by definition. This has further distracted attention away from the hounding of Christians, helping to cement the surprisingly widespread idea that Christianity is a 'Western' faith."

This idea could not be further from the truth. The Middle East is the very cradle of Christendom.

Consider Iraq. With the exception of Israel, the Bible contains more references to the cities, regions and nations of ancient Iraq than any other country. The patriarch Abraham came from a city in Iraq called Ur. Isaac's bride, Rebekah, came from northwest Iraq. Jacob spent 20 years in Iraq, and his sons (the 12 tribes of Israel) were born in northwest Iraq. A remarkable spiritual revival as told in the book of Jonah occurred in Nineveh. The events of the book of Esther took place in Iraq as did the account of Daniel in the Lion's Den. Furthermore, many of Iraq's Christians still speak Aramaic the language of Jesus. In fact a February 2013 Smithsonian Magazine story noted "[a]s Jesus died on the cross, he cried in Aramaic, 'Elahi, Elahi, lema shabaqtani?' ('My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?')" In Egypt, some 2,000 years ago, Mary, Joseph and Jesus sought refuge in this land from the murderous aims of King Herod. Egypt's Coptic community traces its origins to the apostle Mark.

If, as appears to be happening, the Middle East is effectively emptied of the Christian faith, this will have grave geopolitical implications and does not bode well for the prospects of pluralism and democracy in the region, which is especially disquieting in the aftermath of the "Arab Spring." These developments demand our attention as policymakers.

Similarly, these realities demand the attention of the church in West. As already noted, ancient faith communities have inhabited these lands for centuries and are a vital part of the fabric of global Christendom.

LEBANON

Upon arriving in Beirut on the evening of February 18, I met with the U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon, Maura Connelly, and senior embassy staff. One of the many issues addressed was the impact the substantial—and growing—Syrian refugee population is having on Lebanon.

Just over four million people live in Lebanon, which is about the size of Connecticut. Since the fighting started in Syria in the spring of 2011, thousands of refugees have entered the country, putting a strain on the people and government of Lebanon. Complicating this is the fact that Lebanon has its own sectarian issues, and there is concern that the spillover from Syria could lead to instability in Lebanon, given that roughly half the population supports the Assad regime and the other half supports the rebels.

A February 23 New York Times story described the precarious balance this way: "As they flee increasingly sectarian killing, Syrians layer their fears onto those of a country deeply scarred by its own generation-long sectarian civil war. They are testing, yet also relying on, the fragile yet flexible balance that has endured here, punctured by occasional fighting, since Lebanon's war ended 22 years ago."

On February 19, I met with Lebanese President Michel Sleiman, the only Christian president in the region. I also met with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati and Lebanese Minister of Social Affairs Wael Abou Faour. Lebanon's leaders—and its people—should be thanked for what they are doing to help address the humanitarian crisis in Syria. Lebanon is hosting more Syrian refugees than any other country, and all three expressed concern that the situation is growing more tenuous by the day as greater numbers of refugees pour over the border and resentment among Lebanon's poorer communities grows, not to mention the underlying sectarian tension. Criminal activity is also on the rise.

Following the initial meetings with government leaders, I spent the rest of my time in Lebanon meeting with religious leaders, civil society representatives, non-governmental organizations, NG0s, and Syrian refugees—both Christian and Muslim.

JOHN AND MARY

My first meeting was a moving encounter with a Syrian Christian and his wife who, despite the risks, had driven from Syria to Beirut to meet with me and detail the experience of their community. They often cross the border. Given security concerns, I will simply refer to them as John and Mary.

John and Mary told me that many Christians had left Damascus, and most of those who remained were simply too old to flee. They described some in the Free Syrian Army as terrorists, including foreign fighters from countries like Libya, Afghanistan, Yemen and Egypt.

Increasingly the claims of foreign jihadists are verified. A February 18 Washington Post story reported "[a] report issued Monday in Geneva by the U.N. Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria said the Islamist fighters include foreigners—from Libya, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt—drawn to the conflict because they consider it a Sunni jihad against Assad's government, which, although secular, is dominated by Alawites, a branch of Shiism."

John and Mary described the situation in Syria as "very dangerous." Fear was a constant. "We are always afraid," they said. They did not see a future for themselves or their community if the Free Syrian Army prevailed. "We were told that when we [the opposition] take over the government you will be out [of the country] or you will die."

But the threat is actually imminent, not some distant concern. They said the day before meeting with me that they read on the Internet that ''we advise you to leave because we are going to destroy your community.''

Throughout the course of the meeting Mary was understandably emotional. Through tears she told me that they had attempted to prepare their children for what the future may hold, saying ''we have told our children our house could come under attack and there may be blood. We have told them we will shut our eyes and then open them in Heaven.''

She went on to say that she feels God wants them in Syria. ''We will not fail. It is our mission.''

Bashar al-Assad is a brutal dictator and war criminal. But, as John and Mary caution, the West must be clear-eyed about who the rebels are, and what they will do if they seize power. Indeed, factions within the rebel movement, such as the al-Nusra Front, do not seek a peaceful, democratic and pluralistic Syria.

They warned against supporting such segments of the opposition. The prospect of extremists taking over Syria weighed heavily on John and Mary.

I asked if they felt abandoned by the church in the West. Their answer: ''yes.''

I left the meeting deeply sobered by what I had heard and convinced anew that there are no easy answers to the unfolding tragedy in Syria.

CHURCH LEADERS

On March 15, 2011, Bechara Rai was elected the 77th Patriarch of Antioch and the Levant. The Maronite Church is in communion with Rome, and Patriarch Rai frequently travels on pastoral visits to Maronite communities around the world. I spent an hour with Patriarch Rai and Bishop Sayah, who served in Jerusalem for 16 years before coming to Lebanon.

Patriarch Rai provided a candid assessment of the situation in Syria, saying that ''the original movement was spontaneous. It was about freedom and human rights. But all of a sudden someone came in and took over.''

He told me ''reforms were needed, but in dealing with theocracies, it backfired.'' He pointed to Iraq, saying ''it has not reached a democracy, and now the Sunni and Shia are fighting. Our Christian culture started in Iraq. Now a majority of the Christians have had to leave. A similar thing is happening in Egypt with the Copts. They have been marginalized and are afraid. In Syria, we are witnessing the same scenario.''

Patriarch Rai also spoke to the broader geopolitical implications of the crisis facing Christians in the region, saying ''the West is heading to a situation that is going to hurt them. If Christians disappear, what will happen to this part of the world? If the Christians are gone, the West will have to deal with this radicalism.''

He lauded the model of Lebanon, saying ''Lebanon has agreed to live together. It has become a model. It still has its problems, but it has human rights. We have to make sure this country is safeguarded, too. If Lebanon disappears as a formula for success it will hurt this region and the West, too.''

I also met with Archdeacon Emanuel Youkhana of the Assyrian Church of the East. He was the focus of a piece that recently appeared in National Review Online vividly detailing the exodus of Christians from Syria. It was written by Nina Shea, director of the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom and a former commissioner on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. She also highlighted a recent report by Swedish Journalist Nun i Kino titled ''Between the Barbed Wire.'' The Archdeacon told me that it is imperative that the church be involved in the political debate and peace process surrounding it. He also cautioned the church not to defend the Assad regime by saying it is protecting them. He said the minorities in Syria, including Christians, are being used to give cover to the dictatorship. He ended our conversation by saying Christianity in the West cannot survive if Christianity in the East is being destroyed and asked for the church in the West to ''pray for those suffering in the East. Pray for the Martyrs.''

Again, the complexities of the situation in Syria were apparent.

SYRIAC LEAGUE

During a meeting with the Syriac League, an NGO in Lebanon that has strong connections with the Syriac community in Lebanon and with Christians who have come to Lebanon to escape conflict and difficulties in their own countries, including Syria, Iraq and Egypt, I had a chance to hear directly from a number of people who had fled Syria. Once again, the general theme was an abiding sense of fear. They said they lived under threat every day. They described killings and kidnappings for ransom. They talked about having to pay smugglers to help them get across the border. (One man told me that he knew he had fake papers, so he turned himself in to the authorities and ultimately had to spend 57 days in a Lebanese prison. He was released the day before we met.) They said there are some towns and villages in Syria where there are no Christians left. They said many of the Christians who remain simply have no money to get out. They talked about multiple checkpoints: some manned by the regime's forces; others by opposition forces.

They said three years ago life in Syria was relatively good. While they may not have had equal rights in the government, they had freedom of religion. They also had their safety and security.

One of the people I met was a doctor. He described how the Free Syrian Army forced him to treat wounded soldiers. He said they came in daily but when they found out he was a Christian they threatened to kill him. The Kurds helped him escape. He said half of his friends had either been killed or kidnapped. He lamented that as a doctor he led a good life in Syria but is struggling now because he obviously can't go back to his country nor is he able to practice medicine in Lebanon.

When I asked what message I needed to take back to leaders in the West, the universal refrain was: ''We need you not to support regimes that are persecuting us [Christians]. We need to be treated as equals.''

JIHADISTS ARRIVE

The people also spoke of a newcomer on the scene: jihadists. They echoed earlier conversations saying that people from other places (Afghanistan, Tunisia and Chechnya were mentioned) were coming in to fight. They specifically mentioned al-Nusra Front. On December 11, 2012, the State Department designated al-Nusra Front as a terrorist organization linked to al-Qaeda in Iraq. In the State Department briefing announcing the designation, the department spokesperson said ''Al-Nusra Front has sought to portray itself as part of a legitimate Syrian opposition, but today's actions are intended to expose them and make clear that the United States believes that al-Nusra's extremist ideology has no role in a post-Assad Syria. Among the consequences of today's actions is a prohibition against knowingly providing or attempting or conspiring to provide material support or resources to or engaging in transactions with al-Nusra Front.''

One of the men I spoke to said, ''Our people see no future for us. There is no law and order in Iraq or Syria. Our people are leaving and not coming back.''

''We want to survive here,'' another said. ''Yet there are two problems: violence and people do not accept us as citizens.''

One family who was there with their young daughter, who is an American citizen, said they had been in Lebanon for seven months. They left Syria because the opposition knew their daughter was born in America, and they were going to kidnap her. They said a Palestinian woman once came to their house and said: ''Your daughter is an American. I am going to take your house.'' They said their neighbors were killed because they were Christians.

I asked them what they would want church leaders in the West to know. The response: ''There is a total erasure of the Christian presence in the region.''

A REFUGEE CRISIS

I also visited the registration center being operated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which is leading the humanitarian response to the refugee crisis in Lebanon. UNHCR has identified roughly 300,000 refugees—both those already registered and those who are known to be waiting for a registration date. As of February 22, there were 309,997 Syrian refugees in Lebanon, which includes 196,744 already registered and 113,253 waiting to be registered. The number of Syrians reaching out to UNHCR has accelerated significantly in the last two months with more than 3,000 individuals per day seeking assistance. I was told that it is difficult to quantify how many Christians there are among the Syrian refugee population since most of them are too afraid to register.

During my visit to the center, I met with a Muslim family who had fled Syria after their village was destroyed by a bomb. The father said during the day life was normal, but at night the bombing would start and continue for several hours. ''You cannot sleep,'' he told me. He said his youngest son was cut by shards of glass when the village was hit. The family, made up of two girls and three boys, had been in Lebanon for three months and would like to go back but don't know what the future holds. The father said he has seen a number of ''foreign fighters'' in Syria and that there were checkpoints—some controlled by the regime; some controlled by the opposition—throughout the country.

My next stop was the town of Zahlé, about 90 minutes southeast of Beirut, to meet with more refugees and Caritas Lebanon, an NGO that has been operating in Lebanon since 1994. Catholic Relief Services is assisting Caritas.

During my visit, I was able to talk to two families in Caritas' offices and visit two sites

where families were living. Their stories were painfully similar to the other stories I had already heard: death, destruction and fear. Both families I met with said the circumstances in Syria have changed dramatically since the fighting started, saying Christians were not initially targeted for violence but they are now. ''Christians and Muslims were living like brother and sister but that has changed,'' one woman, who has two young children and whose husband cannot escape Syria, told me.

She also explained that while she is appreciative of all that the Lebanese have done, her situation is not good. She said she has had a hard time trying to find a place to live and is essentially living in a hallway. She cannot work because there is no one to watch her children. I was told by officials with Caritas that some women are prostituting themselves for $3.50 simply to help their families survive. In recent years similar heartbreaking stories have emerged out of the Iraqi refugee population. A May 29, 2007 New York Times story quoted Sister Marie-Claude, a Syrian nun aiding Iraqi refugees, saying ''I met three sisters-in-law recently who were living together and all prostituting themselves . . . They would go out on alternate nights—each woman took her turn—and then divide the money to feed all the children.''

Unlike many humanitarian crises which are the result of war, those fleeing Syria into Lebanon are not living in massive tent cities. Most are being absorbed into communities and towns across Lebanon. But Wael Abou Faour, the Lebanese Minister of Social Affairs, cautioned in our meeting that the time is fast approaching when formal camps may need to be established. Some in the Lebanese government are understandably concerned about this.

The first ''house'' I visited looked essentially like a storage unit in the West. It was about 20 feet wide and 40 feet deep (roughly the size of a two-car garage) with a concrete floor and no windows. Three Muslim families—a total of 19 people—shared the space and paid $250 a month in rent. The second site was in a farmer's field. Twenty families were living in about eight large white tents. They had been there for roughly six months. The ground was extremely muddy, the result of heavy rains in January. They pay rent to the farmer. There did not appear to be running water.

The burgeoning Syria refugee crisis is but one of the great human tolls of this deadly conflict.

EGYPT

I was last in Egypt in June 2011, four months after Hosni Mubarak stepped down as president and turned over power to the military. In the face of decades of human rights and religious freedom abuses under the Mubarak regime, successive U.S. administrations, including the Obama Administration, failed to advocate for those whose voices were being silenced. Many pro-democracy activists and religious minorities that I spoke with during that trip felt abandoned by the West. Their disillusionment with the U.S. and general trepidation about the rise of Islamists in the lead up to the elections was tempered by a palpable sense of anticipation, and in some cases, even hope about what the future might hold for the Egyptian people.

Fast-forward to February 2013. I wanted to witness first-hand the outcome of the revolution. The verdict is not what anyone had hoped. Egypt is in danger of becoming a failed state. Its economy is collapsing, unemployment is rising, as is inflation, lawlessness is becoming a real issue, and human rights abuses persist, and in some cases, are now enshrined in the new Egyptian constitution.

During my visit, I met with government officials, including Prime Minister Hisham Kandil, civil society activists, Christian leaders and NGOs. In addition, I met with Maggie Gobran, affectionately known as ''Mama Maggie.'' She runs a ministry that serves poor families living in Egypt's garbage slums. Established in 1989, Stephen's Children runs 65 camps, five vocational centers, 80 clinics and 80 community education centers. The organization serves Egyptians of all faiths, including Coptic Christians. I have been so inspired by her work and ministry over the years that I joined with several other Members of Congress, both last year and this year, in nominating her for the Nobel Peace Prize.

One of my last meetings was with 86-year-old Carmen Weinstein, the president of the Jewish Community of Cairo (JCC). She was born and raised in Egypt and has lived her entire life there—a life set against the backdrop of a great Jewish emigration out of Egypt, namely the departure of thousands of Egyptian Jews from the 1940s–60s. She now leads a small community of mostly elderly Jewish women in Cairo, who with their sister community in Alexandria, represent Egypt's remaining 70 or so Jews.

There are 12 synagogues left in Cairo. Some, along with a landmark synagogue in Alexandria, have been refurbished by the government of Egypt and/or U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and have received protection as cultural and religious landmarks. Mrs. Weinstein is seeking to form a foreign-based endowment to protect the remaining synagogues, the Bassatine Jewish Cemetery—which is 900 years old and half overrun with squatters—and the patrimony records of the community. This is increasingly important as the remaining Jewish community ages and in all likelihood will eventually disappear.

SUMMER MARRIAGES

Other than in my meetings with Egyptian officials, no one painted a rosy picture for the future of Egypt. In fact, many suggested that life was better under Mubarak. I was repeatedly told that the new government led by President Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood is ignoring women's rights, human rights and religious rights. I was told women are being removed from positions in the workplace. Photos of unveiled women are being dropped from textbooks. Child labor abuse continues, as well as female genital mutilation. I was told girls as young as nine are being kidnapped and sold as child brides. When reported to the police, no action is taken. There is no rule of law. Sexual trafficking is prevalent. Girls ages 16–18 are ''rented'' to rich men from the Gulf in what are called ''summer marriages'' during the summer months and then returned to their families.

GROWING PERSECUTION

The Christian community also continues to be persecuted. Churches have been desecrated, and no permits to build new churches have been granted since January 2011. Just days before I arrived, an angry mob set fire to a church in Fayoum Province. Fox News reported that it was the ''second such assault against the town's Coptic population in a month. The attackers ripped down the church's cross and hurled rocks at church members. . . .''

Television channels regularly carry programming that insults Christians and women. ''The general atmosphere allows Islamists to speak out against women and Christianity and the government does nothing,'' one activist told me.

At a meeting at the Coptic Orthodox Church in Cairo, Bishop Moussa, a close advisor to Coptic Pope Tawadros II, told me he is concerned about where Egypt is headed and said the Coptic community is fearful. He raised a number of issues relating to the proposed changes to the Egyptian constitution. Earlier this month, Pope Tawadros took the unusual step of publicly criticizing the constitution as discriminatory.

ELECTIONS

There also is deep concern that the upcoming elections will essentially be rigged, especially since it is believed that the Muslim Brotherhood has put its supporters in place to oversee the elections and that there will be no transparency. The Associated Press reported on February 23 that ''[a] key opposition leader called Saturday for a boycott of upcoming parliamentary elections, saying he will not take part in a 'sham democracy.' ''

In a meeting a with Emad Abdel Ghafour, a Salafist who is the presidential advisor for community outreach, all these reports were brushed aside and blamed on politics. At least the prime minister acknowledged that the government still has a long way to go. ''We are trying. It just takes time,'' he told me.

The media has done a better job of reporting the plight of the persecuted in Egypt than it has in other parts of the Middle East and surrounding region. On February 22, the Washington Post ran an op-ed co-written by Robert Kagan and Michele Dunne that makes the case for a new U.S. approach in dealing with Egypt. I agree with much of what they said and have shared it with my congressional colleagues.

THE PEOPLE, NOT THE REGIME

The U.S. must change how it deals with Egypt. On more than one occasion I was told the perception among many Egyptians is that the United States is supporting the Muslim Brotherhood. ''Why hasn't the State Department issued any statements condemning the lack of certain rights?'' one person asked me. ''There is a double standard,'' another told me. ''Human rights and women's rights mean one thing in the United States and another in Egypt.''

I was told people think the United States is developing relationships with the Muslim Brotherhood because it believes the party is going to remain in power. They went on to say that the feeling is that as long as the brotherhood protects the United States' interests in the region, it can act with impunity within its borders.

One person pointedly said, ''the United States is helping create a state of terrorism that will be exported to Europe. The dogma of religion affecting human rights and women's rights will be worse than the Wahhabi sect in Saudi Arabia.''

I also was told the United States is losing credibility. When I asked what message I should take back to the West, I was told: ''Make sure you support the people of Egypt, not the regime.''

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the meetings I had and the insights I gained, I came away with a number of broad-based policy recommendations:

SYRIA

The situation in Syria is complex and there is no easy solution. Many believe it will take years to resolve. Will Assad continue to cling to power with the help of Tehran? Will Syria fracture? Will the rebels attempt to form a legitimate shadow government in Syria that can garner international support? There are more questions than answers about the future of Syria. But even before the civil war broke out, Assad's abuses were well-known. Not only was he a brutal, corrupt dictator at home, but Damascus was a lifeline to the terrorist organization Hezbollah. I have seen with my own eyes Hezbollah's murderous aims having visited the Marine barracks in Lebanon following their 1983 bombing that killed 241 American servicemen. Fast-forward to earlier this month, as Hezbollah was implicated in the deadly bomb attack on Israeli vacationers in Bulgaria. Clearly Assad has much blood on his hands and the U.S. must work, even at this late date, to bring about an end to Assad's reign in Syria.

The Obama Administration missed an early opportunity to aid the opposition in Syria at a time when the conflict had not yet devolved into a proxy war and when international jihadists were not as significant of a factor as they are today. An already complex environment has only intensified, and many of Syria's minorities increasingly wonder what the future holds for them. A January 15, New York Times story said, ''Former [State Department] Syria adviser, Frederic C. Hof, wrote last month that although the opposition has offered general assurances to the one-third of Syrians who belong to minority groups, 'probably no more than a handful' believe it, especially as jihadist groups grow more prominent on the battlefield. . . .'' As the Obama Administration seeks to develop an effective Syria policy, including Secretary Kerry's latest overture to the Syrian opposition, it must be ever mindful of the very real concerns of Syria's Christian community. Opposition to Assad should not be enough to garner American support. A common enemy does not our friend make. Any aid to the rebels, non-military or otherwise, must be accompanied by insistence that the opposition respect minority rights and allay the very real fears of these communities. This is especially important given the influx of foreign jihadists and the ambiguity surrounding their influence and numbers among the opposition.

Christian leaders in the West must begin to speak out about what is happening not only in Syria but in the Middle East and other parts of South Central Asia. Christian leaders from the Middle East need to be brought to the United States to meet with church leaders here and make the case for greater engagement from the faith community in the West. (In January, I wrote to more than 300 Protestant and Catholic leaders in the U.S. urging them to use their influence to speak out on behalf of the persecuted church around the globe specifically in the Middle East.).

EGYPT

After I returned from Egypt in July 2011, I recommended that the United States seriously consider conditioning U.S. foreign assistance—specifically military assistance—to Egypt. Since the Camp David Peace Accords, Egypt has received over $60 billion in U.S. foreign assistance, the second largest overall recipient of such funding. Given the Mubarak regime's human rights and religious freedom abuses, I have long believed this assistance should be conditioned on improvements in these areas. Now with the Muslim Brotherhood at the helm, and the transition to a mature democracy with all that entails, far from certain, I am more convinced than ever that aid to Egypt must be conditioned upon the government respecting and upholding universally recognized human rights norms. We must press President Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood more broadly to respect and uphold religious freedom, freedom of speech and the press, freedom of assembly and other basic rights. Police reform, too, must be a priority. Rather than ramming through the constitution, the Muslim Brotherhood must be urged to embrace an inclusive process that takes into account the concerns of the opposition and various minority groups. Clear benchmarks must be set—an agreed upon framework established—that allows policymakers in the U.S. to determine if Egypt is truly on a path to reform. Recognizing that democratic transitions are often long and messy, it is simply unacceptable to blindly give precious aid dollars to a government that is working at cross-purposes with American values. In addition, Congress should seriously consider removing altogether the State Department waiver authority as it relates to aid to Egypt, since the State Department, without fail and irrespective of changes on the ground, uses the waiver.

The United States should press President Morsi to compromise with the opposition on rules for upcoming parliamentary elections, which he scheduled to begin April 22 over opposition objections. There are many legitimate opposition concerns, including gerrymandering to break up districts formerly won by secular parties and use of government ministries to advantage Morsi's party. As of now, most of the secular opposition parties say they will boycott, which means that the elections cannot produce a truly representative parliament even if they are cleanly run.

The administration must utilize every ''tool'' in its ''toolbox'' to influence the Egyptian government. President Morsi's planned trip to Washington is a significant point of leverage to begin pressing for key reforms. As Morsi and his government seek further international economic relief, the U.S. must make it clear that not only is American foreign assistance contingent upon clear progress in the areas outlined above, but our willingness to galvanize the additional economic assistance needed to stabilize the Egyptian economy is also based on progress in these areas.

The U.S. embassy should actively seek to cultivate relationships with the liberal, democratic Egyptian opposition groups and individuals, human rights groups, Coptic Christians and other key civil society actors. By most accounts, U.S. policy has not evolved to meet the new realities in Egypt. We have embraced the Morsi government the same way we embraced the Mubarak government—to the detriment of other elements of Egyptian civil society—elements with which we have a natural affinity. While such groups may not take the reins of leadership in the near future, they are central to the Egyptian democratic experiment, and we can bolster their standing and effectiveness if we take the long-term view. In this same vein, aid to Egypt should once again benefit Egyptian civil society, not simply the military and economy.

Congressional delegations traveling to Egypt should meet with activists, NGOs and Christian leaders to better understand what is happening on the ground and to hear firsthand the perception of the United States' support for the Muslim Brotherhood.

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Special Envoy.—There must be a high level Special Envoy at the State Department with the dedicated mission of protecting and preserving religious minority communities in the Middle East and South Central Asia. In January 2011, I introduced bipartisan legislation in the House which would do just that. It overwhelmingly passed by a vote of 402–20 in July 2011. The House-passed legislation and companion legislation introduced by Senators CARL LEVIN and ROY BLUNT stalled in the Senate. Despite my repeated appeals, former Senators Jim Webb and John Kerry objected to the legislation moving forward. I have joined with my Democratic colleague Rep. ANNA ESHOO in reintroducing this legislation in the 113th Congress and remain committed to pressing ahead with the envoy despite State Department opposition opposition which is short-sighted and utterly consistent with the department's posture on similar initiatives over the years having opposed for example the creation of the International Religious Freedom Office. It is worth noting that it is fully within the Secretary of State's authority to appoint an envoy absent legislative action. Based on what I heard on this trip, I am confident that such a move by Secretary Kerry would be warmly embraced by the communities affected in the region and the diaspora communities abroad, including here in the United States.

Persecuted Christians Relief Fund.—In some of the countries where Christians and other religious minorities have faced the most difficulties, severe economic hardship is a consequence of religious persecution, especially when entire communities are displaced. Consider this February 2011 International Organization for Migration (IOM) press report: ''The physical instability driving Christian displacement is now leading to financial hardship as well. Some in Baghdad have sought to exploit the situation by publishing rumors of impending violence against Christians in order to drive down prices of Christian homes and to force Christians to flee. Unable to sell their homes for a fair price and quickly in addition to facing difficulties in transferring their jobs or finding new sources of income, many Christians are finding it difficult to support themselves while displaced.'' It is worth noting that depletion of the Christian community in Iraq happened while America was deeply involved in Iraq and in a position militarily, politically and otherwise to exert tremendous influence. Similar difficulties faced the Syrian Christian refugees with whom I spoke as outlined above. Despite congressional attempts, over multiple years, to target aid toward Iraqi Christians, the State Department resisted these efforts, and once the funding was provided the department and USAID proved ineffectual in ensuring that the communities in question benefited. In fact, a July 2012 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, ''U.S. Assistance to Iraq's Minority Groups in Response to Congressional Directive,'' found that the agencies could not prove they spent the funds as

Congress intended. In fact, it often appears that there is an anti-Christian bias at the State Department. For years the department refused to recognize that Iraqi Christians were being targeted, insisting instead that they were simply victims of generalized violence. In light of these realities, church leaders in the West, especially the leadership of affected communities (Copts, Chaldeans, Assyrians etc.), should consider partnering with other churches in the U.S. in establishing a relief fund to benefit beleaguered Christians in the Middle East.

Champion Human Rights.—Every U.S. government official, from the President, to the Secretary of State, to the young foreign service officer serving in Cairo or Beirut, must champion the cause of human rights, including religious freedom, in their interactions with foreign government officials and civil society actors. Not simply paying lip-service to these foundational American principles but seeing that they are fully integrated into U.S. foreign policy at every turn. In a 1987 Constitution Day speech, President Ronald Reagan described the United States Constitution as ''a covenant we have made not only with ourselves, but with all of mankind.'' We have an obligation to keep that covenant with the fearful Coptic Christian and the displaced Syrian refugee. My conversations abroad revealed that the covenant is in jeopardy.

CONCLUSION

In closing, I would like to thank the federal employees—embassy personnel, foreign service officers, Diplomatic Security Officers, FBI, and other government agencies—serving in Lebanon and Egypt. They are extraordinarily dedicated and extremely professional. In Lebanon, the ambassador and embassy staff live in an extremely challenging security environment. Their movement is seriously restricted. In Egypt, too, there are also very real security concerns for U.S. embassy personnel. Protesters scaled the walls of the compound on September 11, 2012 and pulled down the American flag, mere hours before the Benghazi consulate attack. We owe these employees of the U.S. government and their families a debt of gratitude.

Specifically, in Lebanon, I was grateful for Ambassador Connelly's hospitality and for the work of my control officer, Caitlin Spicer, and the embassy's political and economic section chief, Danielle Garbe. All went to great lengths to ensure that our trip was a success and that our time was filled with insightful meetings.

In Egypt, I appreciate Ambassador Patterson and her team's efforts to see that our relatively brief visit was productive. I especially want to thank my control officer Peter Shea (who also assisted with my earlier visit to Egypt). His dedication to human rights and religious freedom is evident and appreciated.

I also would like to thank Speaker JOHN BOEHNER and House Appropriations Committee Chairman HAL ROGERS for approving this trip.

Finally, I would like to thank my staff, particularly Elyse Anderson, my foreign policy director, and Dan Scandling, my chief of staff, who accompanied me on the trip.

IN HONOR OF PATRICIA ''PAT'' DERBY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia ''Pat'' Derby, a world-renowned advocate, champion of animal rights, and a dear friend.

Patricia Bysshe Shelly was born June 7, 1942, in East Sussex, England, the second of two children born to Charles Boswell Shelley, a Cambridge University professor, and Mary, a homemaker. Pat's father died when she was 12, and at the age of 15 she immigrated by herself to New York City to pursue her dream of theatre and ballet. She enrolled at New York's Columbia University but later dropped out to pursue her Hollywood dreams in California.

While living in San Francisco, she met future husband and animal trainer Ted Derby and began working with him as a team, training animals for television and movies. Throughout the 1960's and 70's, Pat trained many exotic animals for Hollywood TV shows like ''Flipper,'' ''Lassie,'' and ''Gunsmoke.''

However, after many years of witnessing widespread abuse of exotic and performing animals, Pat quit the business and quickly became one of the most vocal critics of animal abuse in Hollywood.

In 1975, Pat wrote her best-selling book, ''The Lady and Her Tiger,'' which documented her time working with animals in the entertainment industry and brought to light the negative aspects of the industry's practices, which invariably made her an enemy of many Hollywood elite.

In 1984, Mrs. Derby and her lifetime associate, Ed Stewart, founded the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS). Her hope what that this organization would serve to advocate for, and protect, the animals we see on a daily basis in TV shows and movies.

Pat's first, and most important, mission was always to educate others regarding animal rights and how organizations should approach caring for captive wild animals.

Pat also worked closely with government agencies, and kept her USDA and California Fish and Game permits up-to-date as there were few facilities to aid animals when she first started. These permits were initially used to start a sanctuary that has since grown from 30 acres to 2,300 acres in Galt, California which has housed everything from lions and wolves to a sick baby Elephant. Each of which lived out the entirety of its life in full health on Pat's sanctuary.

Pat's long time associate Ed Stewart wrote that when some people die they are unduly given ''hero'' status, and yet that is not Pat. She was a true hero in the animals rights world whose sole crusade was aimed at helping animals that could not protect or advocate for themselves. Pat realized that even wild animals need someone to look out for them, and she dedicated her life to that belief.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia ''Pat'' Derby for her lifetime commitment to protecting the welfare of performing animals.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH OLSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Keith Olson for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

At 29 years old, Keith Olson is one of Iowa's premier commercial brokers, utilizing his talents as a commercial associate at NAI Ruhl and Ruhl Commercial Company. Mr. Olson's impact on the Des Moines area has been undeniable after being named Downtown Community Alliances's downtown broker of the year on two separate occasions, as well as being named a Dave Ramsey Commercial Real Estate endorsed local provider. Outside of real estate, Keith is active in his church, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa, March of Dimes, and Young Variety, just to name a few. In all facets of his life, Keith is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Keith in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Olson for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Keith on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO SUNSET BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Sunset Beach, North Carolina as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding.

After Hurricane Hazel struck Southeastern North Carolina in 1955, only a small area called Bald Beach remained unscathed. Mannon C. Gore purchased the small island of Bald Beach and a 500-acre section of the mainland across from the Intracoastal Waterway. In the following years, Mr. Gore built a pontoon swing bridge, a one-of-a-kind bridge that served the town until November, 2010. These areas established the foundation for the future Town of Sunset Beach.

On March 26, 1963, the North Carolina General Assembly ratified the incorporation of

the Town of Sunset Beach. From a population of 30 in 1963, Sunset Beach is now home to more than 3400 permanent residents and a booming tourism industry. Unique among Barrier Island communities in North Carolina, Sunset Beach encompasses both a mainland and an island. Nearby Bird Island is a 1300–acre State Preserve barrier island home to unique species of birds and turtles.

From the natural beauty of the Intracoastal Waterway to the pristine beaches, small-town atmosphere, golf courses, and wildlife, Sunset Beach offers a family-friendly destination for thousands of tourists every year. Although Sunset Beach has grown significantly since 1963, it retains the small-town charm that has led thousands of North Carolinians to call it home.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Town of Sunset Beach, North Carolina, as it celebrates 50 years. I am fortunate to represent this beautiful coastal town, to have a place to spend time there with my family, and to enjoy the friendship of its residents.

May God continue to bless this place which is so special not only to its citizens and to families like mine, but also to those who travel to this wonderful destination indeed, a beautiful part of God's creation!

HONORING MILJENKO ''MIKE'' GRGICH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miljenko ''Mike'' Grgich on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Born in Croatia, Mr. Grgich studied winemaking and viticulture at the University of Zagreb before he left communist Croatia for the Napa Valley in 1958.

In 1976 the Chardonnay that Mike made won the famed Paris Tasting. This victory shattered the myth that only French soil can produce world-class wines, and the victory pumped new energy into the California wine industry, particularly in the Napa Valley. Following Mike's lead, California vintners redoubled their efforts to make better wines each year.

In honor of his contributions to the industry, Mike was inducted into the Vintners Hall of Fame on March 7, 2008, the same year the California State Fair presented Mike Grgich with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 1977 Mr. Grgich launched Grgich Hills Winery, a stunning illustration of innovation in winemalcing. The winery converted to solar power in 2006, and today farms all of its 366 acres organically. Each of the wines that the vineyard produces is estate grown.

Today Mr. Grgich is active in Roots of Peace, the international campaign to rid the world of land mines by changing the mines to vines. In 2007, Roots of Peace presented Mike with its Global Citizen Award for his leadership and unique contributions in raising landmine awareness around the globe.

Mr. Grgich's winery donates to a number of organizations and it is a longtime supporter of the Auction Napa Valley, which raises money for local nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Grgich is a legend of the Napa Valley and a champion of our community. Mr. Speaker, it is only appropriate that we honor Miljenko Ggrich's profound contributions to Napa Valley and the art of American winemaking

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on March 6, 2013, I missed rollcall Nos. 59, 60, 61, and 62 due to upcoming cataract surgery. Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay'' on rollcall No. 59, ''nay'' on rollcall No. 60, ''yea'' on rollcall No. 61, and ''nay'' on rollcall No. 62.

On March 12, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 63. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. S. GERALD DAVIDSON

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the retirement of Mr. S. Gerald Davidson. Mr. Davidson is an accomplished attorney who has dedicated his life to helping his community of Rochester, New York, and making our country a better place to live.

Mr. Davidson was first drawn to our area while attending the University of Rochester, graduating in 1952. After earning his law degree at Cornell, Mr. Davidson moved back to Rochester where he opened his own firm, Davidson Fink LLP in 1968, and focused on practicing matrimonial and family law. Since its inception, Davidson Fink has dedicated itself to tailoring to each client's individual needs, expectations and time constraints. Under Mr. Davidson's tutelage, the firm has become one of the fastest growing business operations over the last four years while attracting some of the best attorneys to Upstate New York.

With 44 years of expertise, Mr. Davidson is very generous in sharing his knowledge through lectures at the Monroe County Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. By setting this precedent, employees at Davidson Fink LLP are also expected to share their experiences throughout the legal community through publishing, forums, and seminars to meet the challenges of an ever-changing profession.

In addition to fully immersing himself in the legal community through the Collaborative Law Association of the Rochester Area, Inc., and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, having previously served as the chairman of the Family Law section in New York State Chapter Board of Managers, Mr. Davidson has dedicated himself to upholding the highest level of professionalism. Mr. Davidson clearly enjoys remaining a student of a field he loves where families themselves have grown more diverse.

With all of these remarkable accomplishments, perhaps the most illustrative of Mr. Davidson's commitment to his profession is the prestigious honor of consistently being named one of the Best Lawyers in America, beginning with their initial rankings in the 1980s. For families facing monumental changes in their future, this experience can be overwhelming, stressful, and confusing. Even if the make-up of these clients' families may be altered, what remains the same is Mr. Davidson's unparalleled abilities to navigate these complex relationships.

His dedication towards others also extends to our community. Mr. Davidson has served on the Board of Directors for the Jewish Home of Rochester and was a member of the Town of Brighton's Board of Appeals for over a decade. Davidson Fink LLP has continued to follow in his footsteps as a staunch supporter of community outreach by participating in events hosted by the Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, and the Ibero-American Action League and advocating for others through pro bono work. Mr. Davidson's actions have had long lasting impacts on our community, and we are so fortunate that he has chosen to call Rochester his home.

In tribute to a lifetime of service to community and country, I stand to acknowledge Mr. Davidson. There is no better way to commemorate his retirement than to honor a man who has committed himself to families and upholding the law to the best of his abilities. I am proud to honor one of the finest residents of New York's 25th Congressional District, the incomparable Mr. S. Gerald Davidson.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS McDANIEL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Dennis McDaniel for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

In 2003, Dennis McDaniel joined the Windsor Heights Police Department as a police officer. Today, he is a law enforcement veteran who has ascended the rank of Windsor Heights' Chief of Police. In this role, which he has held since 2010, Mr. McDaniel has revolutionized his department's operations and actively made his community a safer place, developing a volunteer police reserve program and implementing a variety of technological and goal–based tools in his department's divisions. From serving as chairman for the Central Iowa Traffic Safety Task Force to teaching Rape Aggression Defense programs to the women of Greater Des Moines, Dennis has demonstrated a clear commitment to providing

leadership and marked improvement to his community. In all facets of his life, Dennis is an example of service and hard work that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Dennis in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. McDaniel for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Dennis on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 933, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an important oversight in the implementation of the sequester that this CR does not address: the inclusion of several private, non-profit organizations in the scope of the sequester.

We all recognize the importance of eliminating our country's growing deficit and debt. While the sequester is in no way the best solution to this problem, we cannot afford to ignore our nation's debt crisis. Meaningful spending cuts are absolutely required in order to get our fiscal house in order.

As a CPA, I am concerned about two organizations in particular, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and the Financial Accounting Standards Board. These two organizations were designed from their inception to be independent of the federal budget process.

High-quality accounting and independent audit oversight is critical to providing transparent, consistent, comparable, relevant, and reliable financial information to investors. Because of the complexity and the competing stakeholder interests associated with accounting standards, Congress has repeatedly determined that the establishment and enforcement of these standards should be managed by independent, private-sector organizations.

In order to insulate the PCAOB and FASB from coercion and to protect their independence, Congress authorized these organizations to collect fees as dedicated sources of funding in the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. These fees are not federal dollars; they never touch the Treasury or any other governmental entity, and are not subject to appropriation. In fact, Section 109(c)(1) of Sarbanes-Oxley specifically says: "accounting support fees and other receipts of the [PCAOB] and [FASB] shall not be considered public monies of the United States."

Importantly, neither the PCAOB nor FASB has any budget authority, or the ability to obligate and expend funds on behalf of the Federal government. Section 109(i) of Sarbanes-Oxley clarifies their independence further by stating: "Nothing in this section shall be construed to render either the [PCAOB], [FASB], or both, subject to procedures in Congress to authorize or appropriate public funds, or to prevent such organization from utilizing additional sources of revenue for its activities . . ."

Despite this clear Congressional intent to keep the PCAOB and FASB independent of the Federal budget process, OMB included them both in the President's Budget, making them subject to sequestration under the BCA. Yet, because their revenues are not federal monies, sequestering their funds would have no impact on the Federal budget and would not reduce the deficit one dollar.

Sequestration of the PCAOB and FASB's accounting support fees would jeopardize the independence of the accounting standards-setting and auditing process, and provide the Federal government with unintended and unprecedented control over these institutions. That type of control is precisely what Congress sought to avoid when it made the PCAOB and FASB independent of the Federal budget process in Sarbanes-Oxley.

Absent correction, I fear that FASB's sister organization, the Government Accounting Standards Board—GASB—will also be subject to sequester. Like the PCAOB and FASB, GASB had its independence firmly established with its own authorization to collect fees and its complete separation from the federal budget written into Dodd-Frank.

In order to implement Congressional intent and maintain the independence of the accounting and auditing community, we must exempt these private, non-profit organizations from the President's Budget and clarify that these and other similarly situated entities are not subject to current or future sequestration under the BCA.

I would like to insert into the RECORD a bipartisan letter signed by nine members of the Congressional Caucus on CPAs and Accountants. While the letter is focused on FASB and GASB, it is equally applicable to the PCAOB and shows the bipartisan concern that protecting the independence of these organizations has.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, February 26, 2013.

Hon. BARBARA MIKULSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATTY MURRAY,
Chairman, Senate Budget Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. HAROLD ROGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN MIKULSKI, ROGERS, MURRAY, AND RYAN: As Members of the Bi-Partisan Congressional Accountants Caucus, we are concerned about the Office of Management and Budget's (''OMB'') unilateral determination that sequestration applies to the Financial Accounting Standards Board (''FASB'') under the Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112–25) (''BCA'').

OMB's decision to sequester funding for FASB, and the potential for a future sequestration of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (''GASB''), undermines the independence required for the establishment of fair and reliable accounting standards. It also contradicts Congressional intent and the legal requirements of the BCA, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (''SOX''), and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (''Dodd-Frank''). Consequently, we ask that FASB and GASB be excluded from the list of entities subject to any current or future sequestration under the BCA.

High-quality accounting standards are critical to providing transparent, consistent, comparable, relevant, and reliable financial information to investors. Because of the complexity and the competing stakeholder interests associated with accounting standards, Congress has repeatedly determined that the establishment of these standards should be managed by an independent, private-sector body. Congress statutorily authorized the SEC to designate FASB as the entity responsible for developing financial accounting and reporting standards for all nongovernmental, private-sector entities that issue financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.. Similarly, GASB is recognized as the private-sector accounting standards-setter for state and local governments.

Congress has determined that independent, private-sector funding sources are necessary in order for those entities to remain objective and unbiased. Therefore, Congress authorized the collection of fees as dedicated sources of funding to insulate FASB and GASB from coercion and to protect their independence. It is important to note that those fees are explicitly not public monies of the United States; the fees never touch the Treasury or any other governmental entity, and are not subject to appropriation.

Despite this clear Congressional intent to keep FASB and GASB independent of the Federal budget process, OMB unilaterally decided to include FASB in the President's Budget, making it subject to sequestration under the BCA. Absent correction, we fear that OMB may also decide to include GASB in the President's Budget, thereby also making it subject to sequestration. Importantly, neither FASB nor GASB has budget authority, or the ability to obligate and expend funds on behalf of the Federal government. Therefore, sequestering their funds would have no impact on the Federal budget and would not reduce the deficit one dollar.

Sequestration of FASB accounting support fees would jeopardize the independence of the accounting standards-setting process and provide the Federal government with unintended and unprecedented control over FASB's budget. That type of control is precisely what Congress sought to avoid when it made FASB independent of the Federal budget process in SOX, and GASB in Dodd-Frank.

In order to implement Congressional intent and maintain the independence of the accounting standards-setting process, we request that the Appropriations and Budget Committees take such steps as might be necessary to exempt FASB and GASB from the President's Budget and to clarify that these entities are not subject to sequestration under the BCA. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

Rep. Mike Conaway, Co-Chair, Caucus on CPAs and Accountants.
Sen. Mike Enzi, Co-Chair, Caucus on CPAs and Accountants.
Rep. Brad Sherman, Co-Chair Caucus on CPAs and Accountants.
Rep. John Campbell.
Rep. Bill Flores.
Rep. Steven Palazzo.
Rep. James Renacci.
Rep. Patrick Murphy.
Rep. Collin Peterson.

TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF MR. JAMES D. RUTH, GENERAL MANAGER, ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the retirement of Mr. James D. Ruth, the General Manager of the Orange County Sanitation District. I worked with Jim during the past several years when the District was within my congressional district and learned to appreciate the tremendous public servant that Jim embodies. He was appointed interim General Manager of the Orange County Sanitation District in December 2005 and was originally supposed to stay about three to six months. Today, seven years later, Jim has worked with the OCSD Board of Directors to guide the District through some of the most challenging times that any public official could face. Jim's good humor, his expertise in public administration, his commitment to deliver the finest work resulted in successes that others could hope to attain. I must note that Jim also enabled his staff to take risks and make tough decisions that have strengthened the District and will allow it to make the transition with a new General Manager seamless. In his tenure, Jim oversaw a number of significant accomplishments and gaining national and international acclaim for the third largest wastewater treatment plant west of the Mississippi River.

While I no longer serve Orange County, I am proud to have worked hand-in-hand with OCSD and others on some very important issues. Under his watch, Jim Ruth oversaw the relocation of the Santa Ana River Interceptor Line—an important link between the Inland Empire and Orange County—and once completed, will finally remove an environmental threat that has been looming for many, many years.

Jim transformed OCSD and was leader in trimming costs and saving ratepayer dollars. Thanks to his leadership, OCSD was one of the first agencies to implement a lower cost second tier pension system across the board and save millions of dollars with efficiencies and elimination of duplicative services.

With 55 years of public service, Jim Ruth leaves a legacy of transforming public agencies and bringing out the best in the people around him. Many of us think, Jim really isn't retiring but moving on to something else as those of us who know him well, know he cannot sit still.

Congratulations Jim on a very successful career at OCSD and on serving the people of Orange County for many years. I wish you the best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL McLEAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Rachel McLean for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award–winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up–and–coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Rachel McLean currently serves as the Vice President and a consultant for Ruan Companies in Des Moines. The daughter of John Ruan III and Janis Ruan, Rachel has found her talents and expertise uniquely suited for leading the family business. Previously the director of communications and ultimately Vice President of Communications at Ruan Transportation Management Systems, Rachel was tasked with managing the communication processes among Ruan's 4,500 employees. Mrs. McLean now hones those experiences as she oversees charitable giving for the Ruan Family Foundation, conducts quantitative research to maximize the company's performance, and manages the customer satisfaction initiative for Ruan Transportation. Outside of work, Rachel is heavily involved in the Des Moines community through her involvement in the Des Moines Founders Garden Club, Linden Heights Neighborhood Association, and Harkin Institute of Public Policy. Mrs. McLean also serves on the Board of Directors for the Des Moines Community Playhouse and Youth Homes of Mid–America. Rachel and her husband Ben are kept busy at home with their son, set to turn two later this year. In all facets of her life, Rachel is a shining example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Rachel in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. McLean for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Rachel on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF JOAN MARGARET (KATHAN) ZERZAN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the passing of a great Oregonian whose contribution to my State and our nation bears recognition.

Joan Margaret (Kathan) Zerzan was born in Grants Pass, Oregon on June 26, 1927. A child of the Great Depression, she grew up in a house up Evans Creek Road in Rogue River, Oregon that was for a good part of her youth not wired with electricity. And yet, as she was fond of saying, if her family was poor she didn't know it at the time.

A descendent of pioneers and frontiersmen, throughout her life Joan Zerzan demonstrated the indomitable spirit of her forebears. During World War II she served as a civilian spotter of air traffic while working on her sister's ranch. A musical prodigy, she attended Willamette University at the age of 17 on musical scholarship, having been born with the unique ability to play almost any instrument seemingly just by looking at it.

It was while at Willamette that Joan met the great love of her life and husband of 60 years, Charles Zerzan. Almost exactly 5 years ago I memorialized Charles Zerzan's life on this floor, and recounted his many accomplishments. There is no question that these would not have been possible without his beloved wife Joan.

In Joan Zerzan's life she served in many roles—patron of the arts, poll worker on election day, volunteer at school and church. Yet for all her many endeavors, there was no field in which she excelled so much as in being a mother. Joan Zerzan gave birth to 12 children, 8 sons and 4 daughters, and provided each one with the love and succor that only a mother can provide. As the Psalmist wrote, so Joan Zerzan truly believed, "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth." In not only raising fine children, but in teaching them her core values of faith and hard work, she richly contributed to the ongoing success of our nation in the irreplaceable way upon which all of civilization ultimately rests. She provided an example of the matchless power of these two values throughout her life through her words and her actions—beliefs she instilled not only in her own children but in her 32 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Though we mourn the loss of Joan Zerzan, we also celebrate the life of a woman whose contributions to this country leave an enduring legacy and inspiration to others. Joan Zerzan believed nothing was impossible and taught her children and grandchildren that, when faced with uncertainty or given a choice between hope and despair, the only reasonable choice was hope. As recounted in the Gospel of Matthew, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." The woman who built her own life on solid ground, who grew up in a humble dwelling in southern Oregon, now retires to the mansion that has been promised her. On this solemn but ultimately joyful occasion I know this whole body will join with me in giving thanks for the life of Joan Zerzan.

CONGRATULATING RITA FOLEY HALPIN ON HER 92ND BIRTHDAY

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the 92nd birthday last week on March 5th of Rita Foley Halpin of Glenview, Illinois. Rita is one of the few surviving Americans who can say that her grandfather fought

in the Civil War. Captain Patrick Foley, an immigrant from County Kerry, Ireland, served in the 23rd Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry (''the Irish Brigade''), fought under General Philip Sheridan in the last major Civil War battle, the siege of Petersburg, and was present at Appomattox Court House for the final surrender.

Rita's father, Dr. Thomas P. Foley, was a past President of the Chicago Medical Society. Following in the footsteps of her mother, Elizabeth Hannon Foley, Rita graduated from Chicago Teachers College in 1943 and started her career as a kindergarten teacher in Chicago public schools.

Rita's husband, the late Thomas J. Halpin, to whom she was married for over sixty-two years, was a captain serving with the 88th Infantry during the liberation of Rome in World War II. Her grandson, Sean R. Halpin, continues the family tradition of military service as a first lieutenant in United States Forces/Korea.

Rita raised four children and then returned to teaching where she was an elementary school teacher at St. Paul of the Cross School in Park Ridge, Illinois for almost two decades. She is still fondly remembered by her many pupils.

For historical purposes, I submit this statement to be made part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in honor of Rita Foley Halpin and the contributions that she and her family have made to this country.

TRIBUTE TO BOY SCOUT TROOP ONE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Boy Scouts of Troop One in Ballston Spa, NY and their 100th anniversary celebration.

On December 27, 1912, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Ballston Spa signed a charter with the Boy Scouts of America to sponsor Boy Scout Troop One. Troop One formed just three years after the first national chapter of Boy Scouts of America, making it one of New York's oldest Boy Scout Troops.

For the last 100 years, Troop One's young men have demonstrated the Boy Scouts of America's principles of loyalty, leadership, resourcefulness and commitment to community service. Its members have engaged in countless volunteer projects and educational activities that have built a stronger community.

I commend the scout masters, parents and volunteers who have mentored so many of the Capital-Saratoga Region's young men, 58 of whom have risen to the highest level of scouting and become Eagle Scouts. That proud tradition continues today with the 45 scouts currently active in Troop One.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all current and former members of Boy Scout Troop One of Ballston Spa for this milestone, thanking them for all their contributions to the Capital-Saratoga Region and wishing them all the best in the many years of scouting ahead of them.

HONORING LARRY GOMEZ FOR HIS SERVICE TO OMAHA CHAMBER

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Gomez on his last week as Director of Small Business Services at the Omaha Chamber of Commerce. After 36 years serving small business owners in Omaha, Larry will hang up his Chamber shoes on March 15th and replace them with golf shoes.

A graduate of Bishop-Ryan High School in 1966 and of the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 1971, Larry spent his days as captain of the baseball team. When he wasn't busy with baseball, he earned a speech and communication/business degree from UNO. Upon graduating, he took a job with the City of Omaha in 1972 as the Chief Relocation Officer where he spearheaded the relocation of 52 businesses from the Central Park Mall.

Since he joined the Omaha Chamber in 1976 he hasn't looked back. As Director of the Omaha Regional Minority Purchasing Council, he matched minority businesses with corporate buyers. In 1978, Larry was named Director of Small Business Council and Area Councils. Major milestones during his tenure with the Chamber include: Buy the Big O! Show, Omaha 25 Fastest Growing (now the Big O! Excellence Awards), Business on the Green, and the Area Council Golden Spike Awards. In the last five years, Larry has been an integral part of the membership team and member retention.

Larry has been a tremendously valuable resource for my office. Whether it was setting up a group of business leaders to discuss cyber technology or the hurdles facing owners, Larry was always the first call.

I am going to miss seeing him at the many ribbon cuttings we've attended together through the years. What I do look forward to, however, is seeing if he puts his band—Larry Gomez and the Brotherhood—back together again.

So I rise today to thank him for his years of service and for his efforts to strengthen our city. May his drives be straight and his putts be few. I speak for all Omahans when I say we'll miss him and the energy he brought to the Chamber.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 4, 2013, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on rollcall vote No. 56 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 307).

TRIBUTE TO EMILY HARRIS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Emily Harris for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Emily Harris is a patent attorney and shareholder at Davis Brown Law Firm. In the firm's intellectual property department, Emily is tasked with obtaining patent, trademark, and copyright protection for clients and supporting the intellectual property litigators. Ms. Harris' role at Davis Brown also allows her passion for science to intersect with her avocation of supporting startup businesses. Emily co-founded the firm's Startup Launchpad website to assist young companies in accessing legal solutions and avoiding legal pitfalls. Outside of work, Emily enjoys reading and has published numerous articles on property law. Ms. Harris is also heavily involved in her community through her service as a member of the Greater Des Moines Partnership's Capital Crossroads Technology Transfer committee, as well as her previous work with the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys and pro bono work for the former Iowa Biosciences Alliance. In all aspects of her busy life, Emily is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Emily in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Harris for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Emily on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT LORAN LEE ''BUTCH'' BAKER, JR.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a brave and honorable community hero, the late Sergeant Loran Lee ''Butch'' Baker, Jr. A Sergeant in the Santa Cruz Police Department, Butch was known not only for his investigative ability and skills in gathering intelligence, but also for his larger–than–life personality, his commitment to his family, his

sense of humor, and his continual love for others. An avid sports fan, Butch enjoyed watching NASCAR races, and cheering for his favorite teams, The San Francisco Giants and The San Jose Sharks.

Butch was born in San Francisco, California in 1961, and met his future wife, Kelly, when they were only ten and eleven years old. In 1985, Butch joined the Santa Cruz Police Department, where he displayed an unwavering commitment to protect and defend the citizens of the City of Santa Cruz. In 1989, Butch earned a Medal of Valor in for his heroic actions following the earthquake. Additionally, Butch earned numerous state and federal law enforcement awards throughout his career.

Butch lost his life in a senseless act of violence, but his legacy will never be forgotten within our community, and throughout the extended law enforcement family. My thoughts are with Sergeant Baker's family, including his wife, Kelly, his daughters, Jillian and Ashley, and his son, Adam.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sergeant Loran Lee ''Butch'' Baker, and to promise that his life and his legacy will never be forgotten.

CELEBRATING SLEEP AWARENESS WEEK

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the millions of Americans affected by sleep disorders and insufficient sleep and in observance of National Sleep Awareness Week, which occurred last week from March 3rd through 10th.

Sleep disorders affect every age group from infants to the elderly and are often an indicator of, or a precursor to other major diseases and disorders, in addition to being a public health and safety issue. According to the Institute of Medicine's report entitled ''Sleep Disorder and Sleep Deprivation: An Unmet Public Health Problem'' (2006), 50–70 million Americans chronically suffer from sleep or circadian disorders, while 15% of the population suffers from sleep–disordered breathing, including obstructive sleep apnea. Chronic sleep disorders include insomnia, REM sleep behavior disorder, narcolepsy and other forms of hypersomnia, and circadian disruptions. These disorders negatively affect sleep duration, increasing risk of obesity, diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, stroke, depression, and substance abuse.

Sleep disorders and sleep deprivation cost $150 billion annually in lost productivity and $48 billion in medical costs related to motor vehicle accidents involving drowsy drivers. Sleep apnea results in excessive daytime somnolence, poor performance, increased frequency of road traffic accidents, and arterial hypertension. Prior to diagnosis, patients with sleep apnea often incur higher costs in their overall health care. If left untreated, obstructive sleep apnea has significant negative impacts on health, including early mortality. Furthermore, as our troops return home from Afghanistan and Iraq, there will be great need for continuing research concerning the link between sleep apnea and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. A study including 725 active–duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces found that 85% of them had a sleep disorder. The most common was obstructive sleep apnea (51%), followed by insomnia (25%). Through increased federal commitment we can provide the best care to improve the health of those brave Americans who have served in uniform.

New treatment options, enhanced patient care, and future cures will increase the quality of life and productivity of the workforce. Research funding can also spur local economies through discovery of new technologies that can lead to the creation of new jobs. Federal investment in sleep research at the National Institutes of Health National Center on Sleep Disorders Research, are vital to supporting discoveries in the area of sleep disorders and job creation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting sustained and meaningful improvements in the health and healthcare of the millions of Americans whose health is compromised because of sleep disorders. By increasing awareness of the need for increased research funding, we will be able to continue to examine the links between sleep and health in an effort to improve the health of the population and lower overall healthcare costs.

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY LIFE AND CAREER OF SHERIFF MICHAEL McDONALD

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the exemplary life and service of Stark County Sheriff Michael McDonald who sadly passed away on February 22nd, 2013. Sheriff McDonald joined the police force at the young age of 18 and over time proved himself to be an effective and talented officer. He served the county in many capacities over his long and illustrious career, including sheriff, chief deputy and jail administrator. The selfless nature that dedicated public servants like Sheriff McDonald embody is what makes our country great.

Sheriff McDonald was a man who gave himself to his community and the people of Stark County, making the lives of those living in the community safer. His legacy will continue to be felt every day as the people and the department that he cared so deeply about continues to protect and serve.

I would like to extend my deepest and heartfelt sympathies to Sheriff McDonald's family: his wife Judy, his son Bradley; his daughter and son-in-law, Kelly and Gabe Moser; his sisters and brother-in-law, Joanne and James Caplea, Laura McDonald and Mary Lou McDonald; sister-in-law, Kelly McDonald; his father and mother-in-law, Paul and Norma Zwick; his in-laws, Rick and Linda Heithoff, Rose Elmerick and John and Sandy Swigert; and his beloved nieces and nephews. I would also like to extend my sympathies to the Sheriff's second family, the men and women of the Stark County Sheriff's Department. Rest assured that his 32 years of devotion to the people of Stark Count will never be forgotten.

HONORING DAVID WENDEL'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A DEACON TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25 years of service that David Wendel has given to the Catholic Church as a Deacon.

He started as an altar boy at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Lakeland for Father Bryan Walsh. He continued to serve at St. Joseph's and then also started serving at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Lakeland in the mid-1980s.

Mr. Wendel became one of the first 500 volunteers to join what is now known as AmeriCorps and assist our country.

His commitment to service led him to believe that if you see a problem, you must get involved in fixing it. He encouraged many members of his family to get involved in their communities. Every Saturday he took his nephew, Brian, to visit the elderly and handicapped which helped create a foundation for service in Brian's life.

Mr. Wendel now serves at a church in Georgia.

I want to thank him for his 25 years of service to our community and country.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELA HILBERT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Angela Hilbert for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Angela Hilbert is the Sales and Marketing Director for Deerfield Retirement Community. An Iowa native and graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, Angela always knew she wanted her work to include assisting and influencing those around her. This passion has led Angela to extensive involvement with nonprofits in Iowa over the last decade, including the YMCA of Greater Des Moines, the Des Moines Community Playhouse, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and the Easter Seals of Iowa, just to name a few. Angela married her high school sweetheart Rob, and together they live in Urbandale with their daughters, Samantha and Emerson. Indicative of her character, Angela is honored to be among the 2013 Class of Forty Under 40 and

hopes it will serve as another platform to contribute to those around her. In all facets of her life, Angela is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Angela in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Hilbert for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Angela on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

RECOGNIZING MARCH AS SOCIAL WORK MONTH

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to an entire profession of people dedicated to serving the most vulnerable among us. I am referring, of course, to social workers. Social workers have touched the lives of millions of individuals and families in need of emotional, psychological, economic and physical support. They have integrated themselves within our nation's social safety net in order to help meet the basic needs of all people.

These hardworking advocates do not simply provide individuals with the resources they need to resolve their life challenges; they also cultivate a sense of self-reliance to encourage individuals to create their own solutions. Social workers help connect service providers to those in need to weave an ever-growing social safety net, and I commend them for their dedication.

March was officially recognized as National Professional Social Work Month in 1984. Since then social workers around the country, in my community and in yours, have worked to spread awareness of this critical profession. They have reached out not only to service providers and those in need, but also to students and others with the potential to join this noble profession.

To those of you who have joined this hardworking, empathetic and resourceful group of people, I thank you for all the time and energy you have invested in helping others in your community. I hope that you will continue to do so, with the knowledge that your efforts have been recognized and appreciated.

RECOGNIZING ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER'S VOLUNTEERS

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the St. Francis's volunteers who have dedicated their time in service and assistance to the patients of the medical center. These men and women have devoted countless hours to help those during times of need and have made a tremendous impact on the Monroe community.

Specifically, I would like to recognize 10 volunteers for contributing over 25 years of service, some of whom have reached the 30 year milestone: Barbara Roberts (25 years), Mabel Sims (25 years), Mary Hart (28 years), Pat Ham (29 years), Lucille Calk (30 years), Saundra Franklin (30 years), Syble Leigh (30 years), Carolyn Roberts (30 years), Patsy Welch (30 years), and last but not least, Angie Bruscato (38 years).

I would also like to congratulate Ruth Beavers and Talma Turrentine for giving more than 10,000 service hours to St. Francis.

This group is certainly an inspiration to us all as they bring the gift of comfort and hope to countless patients and their families. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding each volunteer, past and present, for their admirable service and leadership.

HARRISBURG HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding victory of the Harrisburg High School Bulldogs at State Champions.

The Bulldog won the Class 2A State Championship in a 50–44 victory. I would like to congratulate Coach Randy Smithpeters, Assistant Coaches Brandon Henshaw, Richard Dwyer, Dr. Robert Hodson and Eric Griffin who have work hard to help the Harrisburg Bulldogs achieve this victory.

Members of the state championship team include: Logan Hartley, Caleb Bartok, Tyler Smithpeters, Justin Younger, Capel Henshaw, Ryne Roper, Jarren Goldman, Bahari Amaya, Anfernee Houston, Snjolfur Bjornsson, Eli Taborn–Scott, Gabe Oglesby, Jake Simerly, Carson Batts and Dakota Upchurch.

I look forward to the continued success of the Harrisburg High School Bulldogs. I extend my best wishes for another outstanding season next year.

CONGRATULATING BRURIA FINKEL

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I pay tribute to Bruria Finkel, an award winning painter, sculptor, and installation artist.

Bruria has participated in over sixty art shows in the United States and Europe.

Bruria was a pioneer of the Los Angeles feminist art movement and helped found the Los Angeles Council of Women Artists (LACWA) to protest gender discrimination at LACMA in 1968.

Bruria served as a founding member and Chair of the Santa Monica Arts Commission from 1982 until 1996. She founded the Arts Foundation in the 1980s, presided as Chair of the City's Rent Control Board from 1995 to 2002, and sat on many civic committees over the years.

Bruria has richly contributed to shaping art in Southern California, and has been a longtime leader in making California's coast a vibrant community for artists as well as the arts.

Mr. Speaker, Bruria's artistic contributions to Southern California have been an inspiration to many. She personifies how artists can shape life in a community. I am proud to have such an accomplished artist in Southern California.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL MERLE PETERSON, US ARMY (RET) AND CAPTAIN DONALD PETERSON, US NAVY (RET) REGARDING THEIR DEDICATION TO OUR SERVICE ACADEMIES AND OUR NATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel Merle Peterson, US Army (Ret) and Captain Donald Peterson, US Navy (Ret) for their extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. These gentlemen served long honorable careers in the United States Military. Upon retirement, both continued to dedicate their lives to ensuring our nation's premier Service Academies attendees included the most talented nominees from the First Congressional District of Minnesota.

Colonel Peterson joined the US Army as an enlisted Soldier in 1948 and served in the Korean War. When he returned home in 1951, Colonel Peterson joined the Army Reserves, serving with the 419th and 407th Civil Affairs Companies from 1956 until 1969. Colonel Peterson attended Winona State University becoming a schoolteacher. Between St. Charles High School and Rochester Kellogg Middle School, Colonel Peterson taught for 31–years.

In 1971, the United States Military Academy selected Colonel Peterson as Academy Liaison Officer for Minnesota's First Congressional District. For over 41 years, Colonel Peterson worked with five Members of Congress of the First Congressional District; assisting over 100 candidates to attend West Point.

Captain Peterson joined the US Naval Air Reserve in 1953 as an enlisted servicemember. He served in that capacity until 1956 when drafted and inducted into the US Army where he spent the next four years. In 1959, Captain Peterson rejoined the Naval Air Reserve and had over 39 years of total military service until his retirement in 1992.

Captain Peterson attended the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology where he attained a degree in mechanical engineering. He purchased his own business, Mississippi Welder Supply Company currently located in three states with ten different branches.

In 1984, the United States Naval Academy selected Captain Peterson to be a Blue & Gold Officer. He has represented the Naval Academy in Southeastern Minnesota for 29 years. Captain Peterson interviewed countless candidates over the years helping many highly qualified Midshipmen enter the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I seek to recognize the dedication and selfless service both Colonel and Captain Peterson provided the United States Military, the United States Service Academies,

the First Congressional District of Minnesota, and our nation. For combined 70 years, Colonel and Captain Peterson assessed our best and brightest candidates, enabling these young recruits to continue the proud tradition of attending United States Service Academies. Both Colonel and Captain Peterson are patriotic Americans who deserve this nation's thanks and gratitude.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 316—94TH NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION CELEBRATION

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize American Legion Post 316, located in Woodstock, Georgia, which will celebrate 94 years of patriotic service on March 21, 2013.

Since the American Legion received its Congressional Charter in 1919, it has grown to more than 2.4 million members at over 14,000 posts across the world. Mr. Speaker, as the country's largest wartime veteran's organization, the National American Legion has become a leading advocate for devoted veterans, active service members, and strong communities.

In that spirit, American Legion Post 316 will honor local men and women for their exemplary service. Detective Ron Hughes, Lieutenant Matt O'Keefe, Officer Cullen Fitchett, Jenny Banas, Matt Marano, Bobby Brian Dean, James Brennan, and Eagle Scout William Harrison Stepat will receive awards for their accomplishments in Cherokee County law enforcement, firefighting, and Boy Scouts.

To American Legion Post 316, Cherokee County law enforcement, firefighters, and community leaders: On behalf of Georgia's 11th District, my deepest thanks for your service and your commitment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote 63. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "yes."

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, March 14, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 15

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine JPMorgan Chase whale trades.

SD–G50

MARCH 18

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine how comprehensive immigration reform should address the needs of women and families.

SD–226

MARCH 19

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. European Command, U.S. Northern Command, and U.S. Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.

SH–216

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine bipartisan solutions for house finance reform.

SD–538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the options and challenges related to possible reauthorization and reform of two payment programs for local governments, focusing on the recently expired ''Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act'' and the ''Payment in Lieu of Taxes''.

SD–366

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Syria's humanitarian crisis.

SD–419

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights

To hold hearings to examine the American Airlines/US Airways merger, focusing on consolidation, competition, and consumers.

SD–226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

To hold hearings to examine developments and opportunities in United States fisheries management.

SR–253

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's 2013 trade agenda.

SD–215

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

To receive a briefing on cybersecurity threats in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing in SVC–217.

SR–222

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine keeping savings in the retirement system.

SD–430

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gregory Alan Phillips, of Wyoming, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, and Karol Virginia Mason, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SD–226

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

3 p.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance and Investment

To hold hearings to examine streamlining regulation, improving consumer protection and increasing competition in insurance markets.

SD–538

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the trajectory of democracy in Hungary, focusing on Hungary's constitutional changes with a particular view to the independence of the judiciary, present-day Hungary's relationship to its Holocaust-era past, and the implications of Hungary's sweeping legal changes for civil society, including an independent media and religious organizations.

SVC–210

MARCH 20

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Science and Space

To hold hearings to examine assessing the risks, impacts, and solutions for space threats.

SR–253

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine reforming the delivery system, focusing on the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation.

SD–215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, ''Animal Drug and Animal Generic Drug User Fee Reauthorization Act of 2013'', and S. 330, to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish safeguards and standards of quality for research and transplantation of organs infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

SD–430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Hurricane Sandy, focusing on getting the recovery right and the value of mitigation.

SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the future of drones in America, focusing on law enforcement and privacy considerations.

SD–226

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Veterans Affairs mental health care, focusing on ensuring timely access to high-quality care.

SR–418

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine building an immigration system worthy of American values.

SD–226

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine counterterrorism policies and priorities, focusing on addressing the evolving threat.

SD–419

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine aviation safety, focusing on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) progress on key safety initiatives.

SR–253

MARCH 21

10 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Homeland Security at 10 years, focusing on a progress report on management.

SD–342

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

APRIL 9

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.

SD–G50

APRIL 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Air Force in review of the

Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.

SD–G50

APRIL 23

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD–106

APRIL 25

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.

SD–106

MAY 8

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

To hold hearings to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR–222

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Final Résumé of Congressional Activity (including the History of Bills) for the Second Session of the 112th Congress.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1717–S1826

Measures Introduced: Eighteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 542–559, S.J. Res. 11, S. Res. 76, and S. Con. Res. 7. **Page S1784–86**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2013". (S. Rept. No. 113–3) **Page S1785**

Measures Passed:

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Room: Senate agreed to S. Res. 76, designating room S–126 of the United States Capitol as the "Senator Daniel K. Inouye Room" in recognition of his service to the Senate and the people of the United States. **Pages S1825–26**

Measures Considered:

Department of Defense, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of H.R. 933, making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, after agreeing to the motion to proceed, and taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S1718–19, S1719–82**

Adopted:

McCain Amendment No. 33 (to Amendment No. 26), to strike certain authorities relating to the use for grants of funds of the Office of Economic Assistance of the Department of Defense. (By 48 yeas to 50 nays (Vote No. 35), Senate earlier failed to table the amendment.) **Pages S1768–73**

Rejected:

By 45 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 34), Cruz Amendment No. 30 (to Amendment No. 26), to prohibit the use of funds to carry out the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. **Pages S1724–41**

Pending:

Reid (for Mikulski/Shelby) Modified Amendment No. 26, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S1719**

Harkin/Cardin Amendment No. 53 (to Amendment No. 26), of a perfecting nature. **Pages S1741–68**

Inhofe Amendment No. 29 (to Amendment No. 26), to prohibit the expenditure of Federal funds to enforce the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure rule of the Environmental Protection Agency against farmers. **Pages S1773–82**

A motion was entered to close further debate on Reid (for Mikulski/Shelby) Modified Amendment No. 26, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Friday, March 15, 2013. **Page S1782**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of Reid (for Mikulski/Shelby) Modified Amendment No. 26. **Page S1782**

Subsequently, the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill was withdrawn. **Page S1720**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, March 14, 2013; that there be up to one hour of debate, equally divided in the usual form on Harkin/Cardin Amendment No. 53 (to Amendment No. 26) (listed above); that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on or in relation to Harkin/Cardin Amendment No. 53 (to Amendment No. 26); that there be no amendments in order to the amendment prior to the vote; and the amendment be subject to a 60 affirmative vote threshold. **Page S1782**

Appointments:

Congressional Advisers on Trade Policy, Trade Agreements, and Negotiations: The Chair, in accordance with Public Law 93–618, as amended by Public Law 100–418, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Finance, appointed the following Members of the Finance Committee as congressional advisers on trade policy and negotiations to International conferences, meetings and negotiation sessions relating to trade agreements: Senator Baucus, Senator Rockefeller, Senator Wyden, Senator Hatch, Senator Grassley. **Page S1826**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

James J. Jones, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Kenneth J. Kopocis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Deborah Kay Jones, of New Mexico, to be Ambassador to Libya.

James Knight, of Alabama, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chad.

Stephen Crawford, of Maryland, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for the remainder of the term expiring December 8, 2015.

Olga Viso, of Minnesota, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2018. **Page S1826**

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Elissa F. Cadish, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, which was sent to the Senate on January 4, 2013. **Page S1826**

Messages from the House: **Page S1784**

Measures Referred: **Page S1784**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S1784**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1784–85**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S1786**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1787–94**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1783–84**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1794–S1825**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S1825**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1825**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—35) **Pages S1741, S1773**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:43 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 14, 2013. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1826.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

SEXUAL ASSAULTS IN THE MILITARY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine sexual assaults in the military, after receiving testimony from Senator Boxer; Robert S. Taylor, Acting General Counsel, Lieutenant General Dana K. Chipman, JAGC, USA, Judge Advocate General of the United States Army, Vice Admiral Nanette M. DeRenzi, JAGC, USN, Judge Advocate General of the United States Navy, Lieutenant General Richard C. Harding, JAGC, USAF, Judge Advocate General of the United States Air Force, Major General Vaughn A. Ary, USMC, Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Major General Gary S. Patton, USA, Director, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, all of the Department of Defense; Rear Admiral Frederick J. Kenney, Jr., USCG, Judge Advocate General of the United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; Anu Bhagwati, Service Women's Action Network, and Rebekah Havrilla, former Sergeant, United States Army, both of New York, New York; former Specialist BriGette McCoy, United States Army, Atlanta, Georgia; and Brian K. Lewis, former Petty Officer Third Class, United States Navy, Baltimore, Maryland, on behalf of Protect Our Defenders.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Budget: Committee began consideration of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2014, but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to the call and will meet again on Thursday, March 14, 2013.

STRATEGIC COUNTERTERRORISM

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a closed hearing to examine strategic counterterrorism, focusing on meeting current and emerging challenges, after receiving testimony from Wendy R. Sherman, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs; and Matthew G. Olsen, Director, National Counterterrorism Center.

COSTS AND IMPACTS OF CRISIS BUDGETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the costs and impacts of crisis budgeting, after receiving

testimony from Philip G. Joyce, University of Maryland School of Public Policy, College Park; Scott D. Pattison, National Association of State Budget Officers, and Colleen M. Kelley, National Treasury Employees Union, both of Washington, D.C.; and Stan Soloway, Professional Services Council, Arlington, Virginia.

OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT FIVE YEARS LATER

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine fulfilling the promise of open government five years after the ''OPEN Government Act'', after receiving testimony from Melanie Ann Pustay, Director, Office of Information Policy, Department of Justice; Miriam Nisbet, Director of the Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration; Sean Moulton, Center for Effective Government, and Thomas Blanton, George Washington University National Security Archive, both of Washington, D.C.; and Kevin M. Goldberg, Fletcher, Heald and Hildreth, PLC, Arlington, Virginia, on behalf of the American Society of News Editors and the Sunshine in Government Initiative.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS CLAIMS PROCESS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Veterans' Affairs (VA) claims process, focusing on a review of Veterans' Affairs transformation efforts, including persisting challenges to timely processing, after receiving testimony from Allison A. Hickey, Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration; Daniel Bertoni, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; and Joseph Thompson, National Academy of Public Administration, Barton F. Stichman, National Veterans Legal Services Program, and Joseph A. Violante, Disabled American Veterans, all of Washington, D.C.

JAMAICAN PHONE FRAUD

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Jamaican phone fraud targeting seniors, after receiving testimony from Shawn Tiller, Deputy Chief Postal Inspector, United States Postal Inspection Service; Vance Callender, Operations Chief, Homeland Security Investigations, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; William L. King, Jr., Chief Deputy, York County Sheriff's Office, Alfred, Maine; Robert Romasco, and Doug Shadel, both of AARP, Washington, D.C.; Phil Hopkins, The Western Union Company, Englewood, Colorado; Kim Nichols, Hermon, Maine; and Sonia Ellis, Oakville, Ontario, Canada.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 44 public bills, H.R. 1104–1147; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 23; and H. Res. 112, 114–116, were introduced. **Pages H1394–96**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1398–99**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 113, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 803) to reform and strengthen the workforce investment system of the Nation to put Americans back to work and make the United States more competitive in the 21st century (H. Rept. 113–16). **Page H1394**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Bentivolio to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1361**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:24 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H1363**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 295 yeas to 120 nays with 1 answering ''present'', Roll No. 66. **Pages H1363–64, H1372–73**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:57 p.m. and reconvened at 2:55 p.m. **Page H1371**

Preserving Work Requirements for Welfare Programs Act of 2013: The House passed H.R. 890, to prohibit waivers relating to compliance with the work requirements for the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, by a recorded vote of 246 ayes to 181 noes, Roll No. 68. **Page H1373**

Rejected the Enyart motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 199 yeas to 230 nays, Roll No. 67. **Pages H1382–84**

Pursuant to the rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–3 shall be considered as adopted. **Page H1373**

H. Res. 107, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a recorded vote of 233 ayes to 194 noes, Roll No. 65, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 233 yeas to 195 nays, Roll No. 64.

Pages H1365–71, H1371–72

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the McGovern motion to adjourn by a recorded vote of 1 aye to 421 noes, Roll No. 69. **Pages H1384–85**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1365.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1371–72, H1372, H1372–73, H1383–84, H1384, and H1384–85. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Committee Meetings

NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT AND ITS IMPACTS ON RURAL ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry held a hearing on National Forest Management and its Impacts on Rural Economies and Communities. Testimony was heard from Tom Tidwell, Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS—EPA AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING OVERSIGHT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies held a hearing on Water Infrastructure Financing Oversight. Testimony was heard from Mike Shapiro, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water; and Alfredo Gomez, Director of Natural Resources, Government Accountability Office.

APPROPRIATIONS—USDA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on USDA Food and Nutrition Service Oversight. Testimony was heard from Elizabeth Hagen, Under Secretary for Food Safety, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture; and Alfred V. Almanza, Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS—FEMA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on FEMA Hurricane Sandy Funding Oversight. Testimony was heard from Craig Fugate, Administrator, FEMA.

APPROPRIATIONS—PUBLIC AND OUTSIDE WITNESSES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing for Public and Outside Witnesses. Testimony was heard from public and outside witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—NASA

Committee on Appropriations: Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies held a hearing on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Oversight. Testimony was heard from Paul K. Martin, Inspector General, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

APPROPRIATIONS—SYRIA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, and Related Programs held a hearing on Syria Oversight. Testimony was heard from Robert S. Ford, Ambassador. This was a closed hearing.

APPROPRIATIONS—U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held a hearing on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Implementation. Testimony was heard from Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; Major General Michael Walsh, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations; and Colonel Kent Savre, North Atlantic Division Commander.

APPROPRIATIONS—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing on related agencies. Testimony was heard from Max Cleland, American Battle Monuments Commission; Kathryn A. Condon, Executive Director, Army National Cemeteries; Bruce Kasold, Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeal for Veterans Claims; and Steve McManus, Chief Operating Officer, Armed Forces Retirement Home.

IMPACT OF THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION ON THE MILITARY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing on the Impact of the Continuing Resolution, Sequestration, and Declining Operations and Maintenance Budgets on Military Personnel and Family Related Programs. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General Howard B. Bromberg, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff G–1, U.S. Army; Lieutenant General Darrell D. Jones, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, U.S. Air Force; Lieutenant General Robert E. Milstead, USMC, Deputy Commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, U.S. Marine Corps; Vice Admiral Scott R. Van Buskirk, USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Manpower, Personnel, Training, and Education, U.S. Navy; Jonathan Woodson, Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, Department of Defense; and Jessica Wright, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense.

MODERNIZATION AND POLICY ISSUES TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE FORCE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities held a hearing entitled ''Information Technology and Cyber Operations: Modernization and Policy Issues to Support the Future Force''. Testimony was heard from General Keith Alexander, Commander, United States Cyber Command; Elizabeth McGrath, Deputy Chief Management Officer, Department of Defense; and Teri Takai, Chief Information Officer, Department of Defense.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee began markup on the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2014.

KEEPING COLLEGE WITHIN REACH

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Keeping College Within Reach: Examining Opportunities to Strengthen Federal Student Loan Programs''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DOE MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT OF ITS NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPLEX

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''DOE Management and Oversight of Its Nuclear Weapons Complex: Lessons of the Y–12 Security Failure''. Testimony was heard from Sandra E. Finan, Brigadier General, USAF, Commander, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center and Former Acting Chief of Defense Nuclear Security, NNSA; Daniel B. Poneman, Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy; and David C. Trimble, Director, Natural Resources and Environment Team, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

OBAMACARE'S IMPACT ON JOBS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Obamacare's Impact on Jobs''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MORTGAGE INSURANCE: COMPARING PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT-SUBSIDIZED APPROACHES

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance held a hearing entitled ''Mortgage Insurance: Comparing Private Sector and Government-Subsidized Approaches''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REBALANCE TO ASIA: WHY SOUTH ASIA MATTERS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing entitled ''The Rebalance to Asia: Why South Asia Matters'' (Part II). Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DHS CYBERSECURITY: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROTECT THE NATION'S CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''DHS Cybersecurity: Roles and Responsibilities to Protect the Nation's Critical Infrastructure''. Testimony was heard from Jane Holl Lute, Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

EXAMINATION OF LITIGATION ABUSES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice held a hearing entitled ''Examination of Litigation Abuses''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

INVESTIGATING AND PROSECUTING 21ST CENTURY CYBER THREATS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Investigating and Prosecuting 21st Century Cyber Threats''. Testimony was heard from Jenny Durkan, Department of Justice; John Boles, Federal Bureau of Investigation; and public witnesses.

FURTHERING ASBESTOS CLAIM TRANSPARENCY

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law held a hearing entitled ''Furthering Asbestos Claim

Transparency (FACT) Act of 2013''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a hearing on the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Testimony was heard from Sam Rauch, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

ADDRESSING TRANSPARENCY IN THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY: MOVING TOWARD A MORE OPEN GOVERNMENT

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Addressing Transparency in the Federal Bureaucracy: Moving Toward A More Open Government''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND INVESTING IN LIFELONG SKILLS ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 803, the ''Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills Act''. The Committee granted, by voice vote, a structured rule for H.R. 803. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–4 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Kline; and Representatives Hinojosa, Tierney, and Garrett.

STEM EDUCATION: INDUSTRY AND PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research held a hearing entitled ''STEM Education: Industry and Philanthropic Initiatives''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FEDERAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled ''Federal Financial Support for Energy Technologies: Assessing Costs and Benefits''. Testimony was heard from Terry Dinan, Senior Analyst, Congressional Budget Office; and public witnesses.

FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a hearing entitled ''FBI Headquarters Consolidation''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Hoyer, Wolf, Moran, Connolly, Edwards; Dorothy Robyn, Commissioner, Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration; and Kevin L. Perkins, Associate Deputy Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

MEETING PATIENT CARE NEEDS AND VALUE OF VA PHYSICIAN STAFFING STANDARDS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Meeting Patient Care Needs: Measuring the Value of VA Physician Staffing Standards''. Testimony was heard from Linda A. Halliday, Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; Larry Reinkemeyer, Director, Kansas City Audit Operations Division Office of the Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; Madhulika Agarwal, M.D., Deputy Under Secretary for Health Policy and Services, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Jeffrey A. Murawsky, M.D., Director, Great Lakes Health Care System (VISN 12), Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

GULF WAR: THE KIND OF CARE VETERANS ARE RECEIVING 20 YEARS LATER

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Gulf War: What Kind of Care are Veterans Receiving 20 Years Later?'' Testimony was heard from Victoria Davey, Chief Officer, Office of Public Health

and Environmental Hazards Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

UNITED STATES–INDIA TRADE RELATIONS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Trade held a hearing entitled ''U.S.–India Trade Relations: Opportunities and Challenges''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2013

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on the Budget: business meeting to continue consideration of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2014, 9 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: business meeting to consider S. 23, to designate as wilderness certain land and inland water within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in the State of Michigan, S. 25, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal features of the electric distribution system to the South Utah Valley Electric Service District, S. 26, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the development of hydroelectric power on the Diamond Fork System of the Central Utah Project, S. 112, to expand the Alpine Lakes Wilderness in the State of Washington, to designate the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River and Pratt River as wild and scenic rivers, S. 130, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to the Powell Recreation District in the State of Wyoming S. 157, to provide for certain improvements to the Denali National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska, S. 222, to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to clarify that uncertified States and Indian tribes have the authority to use certain payments for certain noncoal reclamation projects and acid mine remediation programs, S. 230, to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, S. 241, to establish the Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area in the State of New Mexico, S. 244, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to modify the Pilot Project offices of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project, S. 247, to establish the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, New York, and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties, Maryland, S. 276, to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the American Falls Reservoir, S. 304, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Mississippi 2 parcels of surplus land within the boundary of the Natchez Trace Parkway, S. 311, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating sites in the Lower Mississippi River Area in the State of Louisiana as a unit of the National Park System, S. 347, to establish the First State National Historical Park in the State of Delaware, S. 352, to provide for the designation of the Devil's Staircase Wilderness Area in the State of Oregon, to designate segments of Wasson and Franklin Creeks in the State of Oregon as wild rivers, S. 354, to modify the boundary of the Oregon Caves National Monument, S. 383, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of Illabot Creek in Skagit County, Washington, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 393, to designate additional segments and tributaries of White Clay Creek, in the States of Delaware and Pennsylvania, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and S. 459, to modify the boundary of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in the State of South Dakota, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine keeping up with a changing economy, focusing on indexing the minimum wage, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine border security, focusing on measuring progress and addressing challenges, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 150, to regulate assault weapons, to ensure that the right to keep and bear arms is not unlimited, and the nominations of Jane Kelly, of Iowa, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, and Kenneth John Gonzales, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine helping small businesses weather economic challenges and natural disasters, focusing on a review of legislative proposals on access to capital and disaster recovery, 10:30 a.m., SR–428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, hearing on Examining Legislative Improvements to Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, hearing for Public and Outside Witnesses, 9:30 a.m., HC–5 Capitol.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing on USDA Food and Nutrition Service, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, hearing on Department of Energy FY 2014 Budget Applied Energy Funding, 10 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, hearing on the Department of Justice Oversight, 10 a.m., H–309 Capitol.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing on Supreme Court of the United States Oversight, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, hearing on Management Issues at Department of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, hearing on Social Security Administration's Management Challenges in a Fiscally Constrained Environment, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing on Immigration Enforcement Oversight, 10 a.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled ''Is Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Appropriate at this Time?'', 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled ''Examining the Role of Lower-Skilled Guest Worker Programs in Today's Economy'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, hearing entitled ''The Chemical Facilities Anti-terrorism Standards (CFATS) Program: A Progress Update'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) and Emergency Communications'', 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Who is Too Big to Fail? GAO's Assessment of the Financial Stability Oversight Council and the Office of Financial Research'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled ''U.S. Energy Security: Enhancing Partnerships with Mexico and Canada'', 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Transportation Security, hearing entitled ''TSA's Efforts to Advance Risk-Based Security'', 3 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, markup on the Omnibus Committee Funding Resolution; and hearing on Committee Resolution for Franked Mail Allowances for Certain Committees; and Disposition of Election Contest in the 28th District of Texas, 3 p.m., 1301 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1067, to enact title 36, United States Code, ''Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations'', as positive law; H.R. 1068 to enact title 54, United States Code, ''National Park System'', as positive law; H.R. 258, the ''Stolen Valor Act of 2013''; and, H.R. 1073, the ''Nuclear Terrorism Conventions Implementation and Safety of Maritime Navigation Act of 2013'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled ''Abusive Patent Litigation, The Impact on American Innovation and Jobs, and Potential Solutions'', 11:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, hearing entitled ''The Separation of Nuclear Families under U.S. Immigration Law'', 1:30 p.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled ''America's Onshore Energy Resources, Creating Jobs, Securing America, and Lowering Prices'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environment Regulation, hearing on H.R. 588, the ''Vietnam Veterans Donor Acknowledgment Act of 2013''; H.R. 716, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to the city of Vancouver, Washington, and for other purposes; and H.R. 819, the ''Preserving Access to Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area Act'', 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled ''Top Challenges For Science Agencies, Reports from the Inspectors General—Part 2'', 12:30 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 756, the ''Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2013''; and H.R. 967, the ''Advancing America's Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2013'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Regulations, hearing entitled ''Regulating the Regulators-Reducing Burdens on Small Business'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled ''Implementing MAP–21, Progress Report from DOT Modal Administrators'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled ''Lowering the Rate of Unemployment for the National Guard and Reserve, Are We Making Progress?'', 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Waiting for Care, Examining Patient Wait Times at VA'', 1:30 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee Social Security, hearing entitled ''Financing Challenges Facing the Social Security Disability Insurance Program'', 10 a.m., B–318 Rayburn.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, business meeting on Member Access request, 9:30 a.m., HVC–304. Portions of this meeting may be closed.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Ongoing Intelligence Activities'', 10 a.m., HVC–304. This is a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine solving the Federal debt crisis, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

SECOND SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3, 2012 through January 3, 2013

	Senate	*House*	*Total*
Days in session	153	153	..
Time in session	930 hrs., 12′	726 hrs., 12′	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	8,668	7,589	..
Extensions of Remarks	..	2,043	..
Public bills enacted into law	54	139	193
Private bills enacted into law	1	..	..
Bills in conference	..	..	..
Measures passed, total	479	479	958
Senate bills	86	55	..
House bills	139	301	..
Senate joint resolutions	3	2	..
House joint resolutions	2	4	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	15	13	..
House concurrent resolutions	13	18	..
Simple resolutions	221	86	..
Measures reported, total	*224	*335	559
Senate bills	172	13	..
House bills	31	267	..
Senate joint resolutions	1	..	..
House joint resolutions	..	1	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	1	..	..
House concurrent resolutions	..	2	..
Simple resolutions	19	52	..
Special reports	8	53	..
Conference reports	4	4	..
Measures pending on calendar	391	119	..
Measures introduced, total	2,014	3,381	5,395
Bills	1,685	2,967	..
Joint resolutions	18	25	..
Concurrent resolutions	32	52	..
Simple resolutions	279	337	..
Quorum calls	..	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	251	246	..
Recorded votes	..	**412	..
Bills vetoed	..	..	..
Vetoes overridden	..	..	..

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanyingreport. A total of 164 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 392 reports have been filed in the House.

**Proceedings on Roll Call No. 327 were vacated by unanimous consent.

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3, 2012 through January 3, 2013

Civilian Nominations, totaling 433 (including 188 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	294
Withdrawn	16
Returned to White House	123

Other Civilian Nominations, totaling 4,941 (including 167 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	4,931
Withdrawn	3
Returned to White House	7

Air Force Nominations, totaling 6,593 (including 295 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	6,582
Withdrawn	1
Returned to White House	10

Army Nominations, totaling 7,316 (including 16 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	7,304
Withdrawn	1
Returned to White House	11

Navy Nominations, totaling 3,873 (including 1 nomination carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	3,871
Returned to White House	2

Marine Corps Nominations, totaling 1,314, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	1,314

Summary

Total Nominations carried over from the First Session	667
Total Nominations Received this Session	23,803
Total Confirmed	24,296
Total Unconfirmed	0
Total Withdrawn	21
Total Returned to the White House	153

HISTORY OF BILLS ENACTED INTO PUBLIC LAW

(112th Cong., 2D Sess.)

BILLS ENACTED INTO PUBLIC LAW (112TH, 2D SESSION)

	Law No.
S. 270	112–164
S. 271	112–165
S. 292	112–133
S. 300	112–194
S. 363	112–134
S. 404	112–137
S. 679	112–166
S. 684	112–138
S. 710	112–195
S. 739	112–167
S. 743	112–199
S. 925	112–259
S. 997	112–139
S. 1134	112–100
S. 1302	112–119
S. 1335	112–153
S. 1379	112–229
S. 1710	112–101
S. 1956	112–200
S. 1959	112–168
S. 1998	112–217
S. 2009	112–149
S. 2038	112–105
S. 2061	112–146
S. 2165	112–150
S. 2170	112–230
S. 2318	112–283
S. 2367	112–231
S. 3187	112–144
S. 3193	112–232
S. 3202	112–260
S. 3245	112–176
S. 3261	112–132
S. 3311	112–233
S. 3315	112–234
S. 3331	112–276
S. 3363	112–169
S. 3454	112–277
S. 3472	112–278
S. 3486	112–211

	Law No.
S. 3510	112–173
S. 3542	112–218
S. 3552	112–177
S. 3564	112–235
S. 3624	112–196
S. 3625	112–178
S. 3630	112–279
S. 3642	112–236
S. 3662	112–280
S. 3666	112–261
S. 3677	112–281
S. 3687	112–237
S.J. Res. 44	112–282
S.J. Res. 49	112–262
H.R. 8	112–240
H.R. 33	112–142
H.R. 205	112–151
H.R. 298	112–107
H.R. 347	112–98
H.R. 443	112–263
H.R. 473	112–103
H.R. 588	112–94
H.R. 658	112–95
H.R. 886	112–104
H.R. 915	112–205
H.R. 1162	112–97
H.R. 1272	112–179
H.R. 1339	112–241
H.R. 1369	112–156
H.R. 1402	112–170
H.R. 1423	112–108
H.R. 1464	112–264
H.R. 1560	112–157
H.R. 1627	112–154
H.R. 1791	112–180
H.R. 1845	112–242
H.R. 1905	112–158
H.R. 2072	112–122

	Law No.
H.R. 2076	112–265
H.R. 2079	112–109
H.R. 2139	112–181
H.R. 2213	112–110
H.R. 2240	112–182
H.R. 2244	112–111
H.R. 2297	112–143
H.R. 2338	112–243
H.R. 2415	112–124
H.R. 2453	112–201
H.R. 2467	112–212
H.R. 2527	112–152
H.R. 2606	112–197
H.R. 2660	112–112
H.R. 2668	112–113
H.R. 2706	112–183
H.R. 2767	112–114
H.R. 2838	112–213
H.R. 2947	112–129
H.R. 3001	112–148
H.R. 3004	112–115
H.R. 3187	112–209
H.R. 3220	112–125
H.R. 3237	112–92
H.R. 3246	112–116
H.R. 3247	112–117
H.R. 3248	112–118
H.R. 3263	112–244
H.R. 3276	112–159
H.R. 3319	112–214
H.R. 3412	112–160
H.R. 3413	112–126
H.R. 3477	112–219
H.R. 3501	112–161
H.R. 3556	112–184
H.R. 3606	112–106
H.R. 3630	112–96
H.R. 3641	112–245
H.R. 3670	112–171
H.R. 3772	112–162

	Law No.
H.R. 3783	112–220
H.R. 3800	112–91
H.R. 3801	112–93
H.R. 3869	112–246
H.R. 3870	112–221
H.R. 3892	112–247
H.R. 3902	112–145
H.R. 3912	112–222
H.R. 3992	112–130
H.R. 4014	112–215
H.R. 4045	112–120
H.R. 4053	112–248
H.R. 4057	112–249
H.R. 4073	112–250
H.R. 4097	112–131
H.R. 4105	112–99
H.R. 4114	112–198
H.R. 4119	112–127
H.R. 4155	112–147
H.R. 4158	112–185
H.R. 4212	112–266
H.R. 4223	112–186
H.R. 4240	112–172
H.R. 4281	112–102
H.R. 4310	112–239
H.R. 4347	112–187
H.R. 4348	112–141
H.R. 4365	112–267
H.R. 4367	112–216
H.R. 4389	112–251
H.R. 4606	112–268
H.R. 4849	112–128
H.R. 4967	112–121
H.R. 5512	112–188
H.R. 5738	112–223
H.R. 5740	112–123
H.R. 5837	112–224
H.R. 5859	112–252
H.R. 5872	112–155
H.R. 5883	112–135

	Law No.
H.R. 5890	112–136
H.R. 5949	112–238
H.R. 5954	112–225
H.R. 5986	112–163
H.R. 6014	112–253
H.R. 6029	112–269
H.R. 6060	112–270
H.R. 6063	112–206
H.R. 6064	112–140
H.R. 6116	112–226
H.R. 6118	112–202
H.R. 6131	112–203
H.R. 6156	112–208
H.R. 6189	112–189
H.R. 6215	112–190
H.R. 6223	112–227
H.R. 6260	112–254
H.R. 6328	112–271
H.R. 6336	112–174
H.R. 6364	112–272
H.R. 6375	112–191
H.R. 6379	112–255
H.R. 6431	112–192
H.R. 6433	112–193
H.R. 6570	112–204
H.R. 6582	112–210
H.R. 6586	112–273
H.R. 6587	112–256
H.R. 6620	112–257
H.R. 6621	112–274
H.R. 6634	112–207
H.R. 6655	112–275
H.R. 6671	112–258
H.J. Res. 117	112–175
H.J. Res. 122	112–228

BILLS VETOED

Title	Bill No.	Date introduced	Committee		Date Reported		Report No.		Date of passage		Public Law	
			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 112–	Senate 112–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 112–
To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3800	Jan. 23, 2012	TI WM			.....	.....	.....	Jan. 24, 2012	Jan. 26, 2012	Jan. 31, 2012	91
To amend the SOAR Act by clarifying the scope of coverage of the Act.	H.R. 3237	Oct. 18, 2011	OGR	HEL&P	Dec. 6, 2011		315	.....	Dec. 6, 2011	Jan. 23, 2012	Feb. 1, 2012	92
To amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to clarify the definition of aircraft and the offenses penalized under the aviation smuggling provisions under that Act, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3801	Jan. 23, 2012	WM AS			.....	.....	.....	Jan. 25, 2012	Jan. 26, 2012	Feb. 10, 2012	93
To redesignate the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge as the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge.	H.R. 588	Feb. 9, 2011	NR	EPW	Nov. 10, 2011		279	.....	Nov. 14, 2011	Feb. 1, 2012	Feb. 14, 2012	94
To amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, to streamline programs, create efficiencies, reduce waste, and improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes.	H.R. 658	Feb. 11, 2011	TI SST Jud		Mar. 10, 2011	.....	29	.....	Apr. 1, 2011	Apr. 7, 2011	Feb. 14, 2012	95
To provide incentives for the creation of jobs, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3630	Dec. 9, 2011	WM EC FS FA TI Agr OGR HA Bud NR R Int			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 13, 2011	Dec. 17, 2011	Feb. 22, 2012	96
To provide the Quileute Indian Tribe Tsunami and Flood Protection, and for other purposes.	H.R. 1162	Mar. 17, 2011	NR		Feb. 3, 2012	.....	387	.....	Feb. 6, 2012	Feb. 13, 2012	Feb. 27, 2012	97
To correct and simplify the drafting of section 1752 (relating to restricted buildings or grounds) of title 18, United States Code.	H.R. 347	Jan. 19, 2011	Jud	Jud	Feb. 11, 2011	Nov. 17, 2011	9	0	Feb. 28, 2011	Feb. 6, 2012	Mar. 8, 2012	98
To apply the countervailing duty provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930 to nonmarket economy countries, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4105	Feb. 29, 2012	WM			.....	.....	.....	Mar. 6, 2012	Mar. 7, 2012	Mar. 13, 2012	99
To authorize the St. Croix River Crossing Project with appropriate mitigation measures to promote river values.	S. 1134	May 26, 2011	TI NR Bud	ENR		Dec. 16, 2011	.....	124	Mar. 1, 2012	Jan. 23, 2012	Mar. 14, 2012	100
To designate the United States courthouse located at 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, as the James M. Fitzgerald United States Courthouse.	S. 1710	Oct. 13, 2011	TI	EPW			.....	.....	Mar. 5, 2012	Dec. 17, 2011	Mar. 14, 2012	101

Title	Bill No.	Date introduced	Committee		Date Reported		Report No.		Date of passage		Public Law	
			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 112–	Senate 112–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 112–
To provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs.	H.R. 4281	Mar. 28, 2012	TI WM NR SST EC			.....	.....	.....	Mar. 29, 2012	Mar. 29, 2012	Mar. 30, 2012	102
To provide for the conveyance of approximately 140 acres of land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes.	H.R. 473	Jan. 26, 2011	NR	ANF	Sept. 23, 2011		218	.....	Oct. 3, 2011	Mar. 15, 2012	Apr. 2, 2012	103
To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the establishment of the Nation's first Federal law enforcement agency, the United States Marshals Service.	H.R. 886	Mar. 2, 2011	FS	BHUA			.....	.....	Dec. 15, 2011	Mar. 15, 2012	Apr. 2, 2012	104
To prohibit Members of Congress and employees of Congress from using nonpublic information derived from their official positions for personal benefit, and for other purposes.	S. 2038	Jan. 26, 2012		HS&GA	.....	Jan. 26, 2012	.....	244	Feb. 9, 2012	Feb. 2, 2012	Apr. 4, 2012	105
To increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies.	H.R. 3606	Dec. 8, 2011	FS		Mar. 1, 2012	.....	406	.....	Mar. 8, 2012	Mar. 22, 2012	Apr. 5, 2012	106
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 East Whitestone Boulevard in Cedar Park, Texas, as the "Army Specialist Matthew Troy Morris Post Office Building".	H.R. 298	Jan. 18, 2011	OGR	HS&GA		Apr. 25, 2012	.....	0	Nov. 14, 2011	Apr. 26, 2012	May 15, 2012	107
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 4th Avenue Southwest in Ardmore, Oklahoma, as the "Specialist Micheal E. Phillips Post Office".	H.R. 1423	Apr. 7, 2011	OGR	HS&GA		Apr. 25, 2012	.....	0	May 2, 2011	Apr. 26, 2012	May 15, 2012	108
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 Main Street in East Rockaway, New York, as the "John J. Cook Post Office".	H.R. 2079	June 1, 2011	OGR	HS&GA		Apr. 25, 2012	.....	0	Feb. 15, 2012	Apr. 26, 2012	May 15, 2012	109
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Eastport Street in Iuka, Mississippi, as the "Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office".	H.R. 2213	June 16, 2011	OGR	HS&GA		Apr. 25, 2012	.....	0	July 29, 2011	Apr. 26, 2012	May 15, 2012	110
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 67 Castle Street in Geneva, New York, as the "Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office".	H.R. 2244	June 21, 2011	OGR	HS&GA		Apr. 25, 2012	.....	0	July 29, 2011	Apr. 26, 2012	May 15, 2012	111
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 North Holderrieth Boulevard in Tomball, Texas, as the "Tomball Veterans Post Office".	H.R. 2660	July 26, 2011	OGR	HS&GA		Apr. 25, 2012	.....	0	Nov. 16, 2011	Apr. 26, 2012	May 15, 2012	112
To designate the station of the United States Border Patrol located at 2136 South Naco Highway in Bisbee, Arizona, as the "Brian A. Terry Border Patrol Station".	H.R. 2668	July 27, 2011	TI	HS&GA	Dec. 12, 2011	May 7, 2012	326	0	Dec. 14, 2011	May 8, 2012	May 15, 2012	113
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8 West Silver Street in Westfield, Massachusetts, as the "William T. Trant Post Office Building".	H.R. 2767	Aug. 1, 2011	OGR	HS&GA		Apr. 25, 2012	.....	0	Dec. 13, 2011	Apr. 26, 2012	May 15, 2012	114

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 260 California Drive in Yountville, California, as the "Private First Class Alejandro R. Ruiz Post Office Building".	H.R.	3004	Sept. 21, 2011	OGR	HS&GA		Apr. 25, 2012	.....	0	Nov. 16, 2011	Apr. 26, 2012	May 15, 2012	115
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building".	H.R.	3246	Oct. 24, 2011	OGR	HS&GA		Apr. 25, 2012	.....	0	Dec. 13, 2011	Apr. 26, 2012	May 15, 2012	116
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Town and Country Commons in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos Post Office Building".	H.R.	3247	Oct. 24, 2011	OGR	HS&GA		Apr. 25, 2012	.....	0	Feb. 15, 2012	Apr. 26, 2012	May 15, 2012	117
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 South 5th Street in Saint Charles, Missouri, as the "Lance Corporal Drew W. Weaver Post Office Building".	H.R.	3248	Oct. 24, 2011	OGR	HS&GA		Apr. 25, 2012	.....	0	Feb. 15, 2012	Apr. 26, 2012	May 15, 2012	118
To authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Tracy, California, to the City of Tracy.	S.	1302	June 29, 2011	OGR TI	EPW		July 28, 2011	.....	40	May 7, 2012	Aug. 2, 2011	May 15, 2012	119
To modify the Department of Defense Program Guidance relating to the award of Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence administrative absence days to members of the reserve components to exempt any member whose qualified mobilization commenced before October 1, 2011, and continued on or after that date, from the changes to the program guidance that took effect on that date.	H.R.	4045	Feb. 15, 2012	AS			.....	.....	.....	May 15, 2012	May 17, 2012	May 25, 2012	120
To prevent the termination of the temporary office of bankruptcy judges in certain judicial districts.	H.R.	4967	Apr. 27, 2012	Jud			.....	.....	.....	May 9, 2012	May 10, 2012	May 25, 2012	121
To reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.	H.R.	2072	June 1, 2011	FS		Sept. 8, 2011	.....	201	.....	May 9, 2012	May 15, 2012	May 30, 2012	122
To extend the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes.	H.R.	5740	May 15, 2012	FS			.....	.....	.....	May 17, 2012	May 24, 2012	May 31, 2012	123
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11 Dock Street in Pittston, Pennsylvania, as the "Trooper Joshua D. Miller Post Office Building".	H.R.	2415	July 6, 2011	OGR	HS&GA		May 16, 2012	.....	0	Nov. 16, 2011	May 17, 2012	June 5, 2012	124
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 170 Evergreen Square SW in Pine City, Minnesota, as the "Master Sergeant Daniel L. Fedder Post Office".	H.R.	3220	Oct. 14, 2011	OGR	HS&GA		May 16, 2012	.....	0	Dec. 12, 2011	May 17, 2012	June 5, 2012	125
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1449 West Avenue in Bronx, New York, as the "Private Isaac T. Cortes Post Office".	H.R.	3413	Nov. 14, 2011	OGR	HS&GA		May 16, 2012	.....	0	Mar. 5, 2012	May 17, 2012	June 5, 2012	126
To reduce the trafficking of drugs and to prevent human smuggling across the Southwest Border by deterring the construction and use of border tunnels.	H.R.	4119	Mar. 1, 2012	Jud WM HS		Mar. 21, 2012	.....	418	.....	May 16, 2012	May 17, 2012	June 5, 2012	127
To direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue commercial use authorizations to commercial stock operators for operations in designated wilderness within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and for other purposes.	H.R.	4849	Apr. 26, 2012	NR			.....	.....	.....	Apr. 27, 2012	May 17, 2012	June 5, 2012	128

Title	Bill No.	Date introduced	Committee		Date Reported		Report No.		Date of passage		Public Law	
			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 112–	Senate 112–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 112–
To provide for the release of the reversionary interest held by the United States in certain land conveyed by the United States in 1950 for the establishment of an airport in Cook County, Minnesota.	H.R. 2947	Sept. 15, 2011	NR	ENR ANF	Apr. 16, 2012		441	.....	Apr. 24, 2012	May 24, 2012	June 8, 2012	129
To allow otherwise eligible Israeli nationals to receive E-2 nonimmigrant visas if similarly situated United States nationals are eligible for similar nonimmigrant status in Israel.	H.R. 3992	Feb. 9, 2012	Jud	Jud	Mar. 8, 2012		410	.....	Mar. 19, 2012	May 24, 2012	June 8, 2012	130
To amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4097	Feb. 28, 2012	TI		Apr. 27, 2012	.....	457	.....	May 7, 2012	May 23, 2012	June 8, 2012	131
To allow the Chief of the Forest Service to award certain contracts for large air tankers.	S. 3261	June 4, 2012	Agr	ANF			.....	.....	June 8, 2012	June 7, 2012	June 13, 2012	132
To resolve the claims of the Bering Straits Native Corporation and the State of Alaska to land adjacent to Salmon Lake in the State of Alaska and to provide for the conveyance to the Bering Straits Native Corporation of certain other public land in partial satisfaction of the land entitlement of the Corporation under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.	S. 292	Feb. 4, 2011	NR	ENR	Apr. 16, 2012	Aug. 30, 2011	428	52	June 6, 2012	Oct. 18, 2011	June 15, 2012	133
To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to convey property of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to the City of Pascagoula, Mississippi, and for other purposes.	S. 363	Feb. 16, 2011	NR	CST	May 30, 2012	Nov. 8, 2011	502	133	June 6, 2012	Nov. 10, 2011	June 15, 2012	134
To make a technical correction in Public Law 112-108.	H.R. 5883	June 1, 2012	OGR			.....	.....	.....	June 5, 2012	June 7, 2012	June 21, 2012	135
To correct a technical error in Public Law 112-122.	H.R. 5890	June 5, 2012	FS			.....	.....	.....	June 5, 2012	June 7, 2012	June 21, 2012	136
To modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior.	S. 404	Feb. 17, 2011	NR	ENR	Apr. 16, 2012	Aug. 30, 2011	433	56	June 18, 2012	Oct. 18, 2011	June 27, 2012	137
To provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah.	S. 684	Mar. 30, 2011	NR	ENR	Apr. 16, 2012	Aug. 30, 2011	434	61	June 18, 2012	Nov. 2, 2011	June 27, 2012	138
To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to extend a water contract between the United States and the East Bench Irrigation District.	S. 997	May 12, 2011	NR	ENR	June 15, 2012	Aug. 30, 2011	527	65	June 18, 2012	Nov. 2, 2011	June 27, 2012	139
To provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs.	H.R. 6064	June 29, 2012	TI WM NR EC SST E&W			.....	.....	.....	June 29, 2012	June 29, 2012	June 29, 2012	140
To authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4348	Apr. 16, 2012	TI WM NR SST EC			.....	.....	.....	Apr. 18, 2012	Apr. 24, 2012	July 6, 2012	141
To amend the Securities Act of 1933 to specify when certain securities issued in connection with church plans are treated as exempted securities for purposes of that Act.	H.R. 33	Jan. 5, 2011	FS	BHUA	July 1, 2011		131	.....	July 18, 2011	June 21, 2012	July 9, 2012	142

To promote the development of the Southwest waterfront in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.	H.R.	2297	June 22, 2011	OGR	HS&GA		Mar. 29, 2012	.....	154	Dec. 6, 2011	Mar. 29, 2012	July 9, 2012	143
To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, to establish user-fee programs for generic drugs and biosimilars, and for other purposes.	S.	3187	May 15, 2012			.....	.....	.....	.....	June 20, 2012	May 24, 2012	July 9, 2012	144
To amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to revise the timing of special elections for local office in the District of Columbia.	H.R.	3902	Feb. 6, 2012	OGR	HS&GA		July 12, 2012	.....	186	Feb. 29, 2012	July 12, 2012	July 18, 2012	145
To provide for an exchange of land between the Department of Homeland Security and the South Carolina State Ports Authority.	S.	2061	Feb. 1, 2012	Jud	HS&GA		May 24, 2012	.....	171	July 9, 2012	June 5, 2012	July 18, 2012	146
To direct the head of each Federal department and agency to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses.	H.R.	4155	Mar. 7, 2012	OGR		July 9, 2012	.....	585	.....	July 9, 2012	July 11, 2012	July 23, 2012	147
To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg, in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.	H.R.	3001	Sept. 21, 2011	FS			.....	.....	.....	Apr. 16, 2012	July 11, 2012	July 26, 2012	148
To improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes.	S.	2009	Dec. 16, 2011	FA Jud E&W			.....	.....	.....	July 17, 2012	Dec. 16, 2011	July 26, 2012	149
To enhance strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.	S.	2165	Mar. 6, 2012		FR	.....	June 27, 2012	.....	179	July 17, 2012	June 29, 2012	July 27, 2012	150
To amend the Act titled "An Act to authorize the leasing of restricted Indian lands for public, religious, educational, recreational, residential, business, and other purposes requiring the grant of long-term leases", approved August 9, 1955, to provide for Indian tribes to enter into certain leases without prior express approval from the Secretary of the Interior, and for other purposes.	H.R.	205	Jan. 6, 2011	NR	IA	Apr. 16, 2012		427	.....	May 15, 2012	July 17, 2012	July 30, 2012	151
To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.	H.R.	2527	July 14, 2011	FS Bud	BHUA			.....	.....	Oct. 26, 2011	July 12, 2012	Aug. 3, 2012	152
To amend title 49, United States Code, to provide rights for pilots, and for other purposes.	S.	1335	July 6, 2011	TI	CST			.....	.....	July 23, 2012	June 29, 2012	Aug. 3, 2012	153
To amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish hospital care and medical services to veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, while the water was contaminated at Camp Lejeune, to improve the provision of housing assistance to veterans and their families, and for other purposes.	H.R.	1627	Apr. 15, 2011	VA AS	VA	May 20, 2011		84	.....	May 23, 2011	July 18, 2012	Aug. 6, 2012	154
To require the President to provide a report detailing the sequester required by the Budget Control Act of 2011 on January 2, 2013.	H.R.	5872	May 31, 2012	Bud		July 2, 2012	.....	577	.....	July 18, 2012	July 25, 2012	Aug. 7, 2012	155
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1021 Pennsylvania Avenue in Hartshorne, Oklahoma, as the "Warren Lindley Post Office".	H.R.	1369	Apr. 5, 2011	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	July 23, 2012	Aug. 1, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	156

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			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 112–	Senate 112–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 112–
To amend the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act to allow the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe to determine blood quantum requirement for membership in that tribe.	H.R. 1560	Apr. 14, 2011	NR	IA	Sept. 23, 2011	July 31, 2012	222	0	Dec. 7, 2011	Aug. 1, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	157
To strengthen Iran sanctions laws for the purpose of compelling Iran to abandon its pursuit of nuclear weapons and other threatening activities, and for other purposes.	H.R. 1905	May 13, 2011	FA FS OGR Jud WM	FR			.....	.....	Dec. 14, 2011	May 21, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	158
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2810 East Hillsborough Avenue in Tampa, Florida, as the "Reverend Abe Brown Post Office Building".	H.R. 3276	Oct. 27, 2011	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	June 28, 2012	Aug. 1, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	159
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1421 Veterans Memorial Drive in Abbeville, Louisiana, as the "Sergeant Richard Franklin Abshire Post Office Building".	H.R. 3412	Nov. 14, 2011	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	June 28, 2012	Aug. 1, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	160
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 Kerr Avenue in Rome City, Indiana, as the "SPC Nicholas Scott Hartge Post Office".	H.R. 3501	Nov. 18, 2011	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	June 28, 2012	Aug. 1, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	161
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 150 South Union Street in Canton, Mississippi, as the "First Sergeant Landres Cheeks Post Office Building".	H.R. 3772	Jan. 13, 2012	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	June 28, 2012	Aug. 1, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	162
To amend the African Growth and Opportunity Act to extend the third-country fabric program and to add South Sudan to the list of countries eligible for designation under that Act, to make technical corrections to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States relating to the textile and apparel rules of origin for the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement, to approve the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes.	H.R. 5986	June 21, 2012	WM			.....	.....	.....	Aug. 2, 2012	Aug. 2, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	163
To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Deschutes County, Oregon.	S. 270	Feb. 3, 2011	NR	ENR	July 9, 2012	Aug. 30, 2011	581	49	Aug. 1, 2012	Oct. 18, 2011	Aug. 10, 2012	164
To require the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into a property conveyance with the city of Wallowa, Oregon, and for other purposes.	S. 271	Feb. 3, 2011	NR	ENR	Apr. 16, 2012	Aug. 30, 2011	432	50	Aug. 1, 2012	Nov. 2, 2011	Aug. 10, 2012	165
To reduce the number of executive positions subject to Senate confirmation.	S. 679	Mar. 30, 2011		HS&GA	.....	June 13, 2011	.....	24	July 31, 2012	June 29, 2011	Aug. 10, 2012	166
To authorize the Architect of the Capitol to establish battery recharging stations for privately owned vehicles in parking areas under the jurisdiction of the Senate at no net cost to the Federal Government.	S. 739	Apr. 6, 2011		RAdm	.....	May 12, 2011	.....	0	Aug. 2, 2012	May 24, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	167

To require a report on the designation of the Haqqani Network as a foreign terrorist organization and for other purposes.	S.	1959	Dec. 7, 2011	Jud	FR			.....	.....	July 17, 2012	Dec. 17, 2011	Aug. 10, 2012	168
To provide for the use of National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center Commemorative Coin surcharges, and for other purposes.	S.	3363	June 29, 2012			.....	.....	.....	.....	Aug. 1, 2012	June 29, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	169
To authorize the Architect of the Capitol to establish battery recharging stations for privately owned vehicles in parking areas under the jurisdiction of the House of Representatives at no net cost to the Federal Government.	H.R.	1402	Apr. 6, 2011	HA		July 26, 2012	.....	625	.....	Aug. 2, 2012	Aug. 2, 2012	Aug. 16, 2012	170
To require the Transportation Security Administration to comply with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.	H.R.	3670	Dec. 14, 2011	HS VA	CST	May 18, 2012		487	.....	May 30, 2012	Aug. 2, 2012	Aug. 16, 2012	171
To reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.	H.R.	4240	Mar. 22, 2012	FA	FR		July 18, 2012	.....	0	May 15, 2012	Aug. 2, 2012	Aug. 16, 2012	172
To prevent harm to the national security or endangering the military officers and civilian employees to whom internet publication of certain information applies, and for other purposes.	S.	3510	Aug. 2, 2012			.....	.....	.....	.....	Aug. 2, 2012	Aug. 2, 2012	Aug. 16, 2012	173
To direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue depicting Frederick Douglass from the District of Columbia and to provide for the permanent display of the statue in Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol.	H.R.	6336	Aug. 2, 2012	HA			.....	.....	.....	Sept. 10, 2012	Sept. 12, 2012	Sept. 20, 2012	174
Making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes.	H.J. Res.	117	Sept. 10, 2012	App Bud			.....	.....	.....	Sept. 13, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Sept. 28, 2012	175
To extend by 3 years the authorization of the EB-5 Regional Center Program, the E-Verify Program, the Special Immigrant Nonminister Religious Worker Program, and the Conrad State 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program.	S.	3245	May 24, 2012	Jud E&W	Jud			.....	.....	Sept. 13, 2012	Aug. 2, 2012	Sept. 28, 2012	176
To reauthorize the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.	S.	3552	Sept. 13, 2012			.....	.....	.....	.....	Sept. 14, 2012	Sept. 13, 2012	Sept. 28, 2012	177
To change the effective date for the internet publication of certain information to prevent harm to the national security or endangering the military officers and civilian employees to whom the publication requirement applies, and for other purposes.	S.	3625	Sept. 22, 2012			.....	.....	.....	.....	Sept. 28, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Sept. 28, 2012	178
To provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, et al, by the United States Court of Federal Claims in Docket Numbers 19 and 188, and for other purposes.	H.R.	1272	Mar. 30, 2011	NR	IA	May 30, 2012	Aug. 1, 2012	501	0	June 18, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Oct. 5, 2012	179
To designate the United States courthouse under construction at 101 South United States Route 1 in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the "Alto Lee Adams, Sr., United States Courthouse".	H.R.	1791	May 5, 2011	TI	HS&GA EPW	Nov. 14, 2011	July 10, 2012	282	0	Nov. 16, 2011	Sept. 22, 2012	Oct. 5, 2012	180
To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Lions Clubs International.	H.R.	2139	June 3, 2011	FS			.....	.....	.....	Sept. 10, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Oct. 5, 2012	181
To authorize the exchange of land or interest in land between Lowell National Historical Park and the city of Lowell in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes.	H.R.	2240	June 16, 2011	NR		Apr. 19, 2012	.....	450	.....	Apr. 26, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Oct. 5, 2012	182

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			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 112–	Senate 112–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 112–
To prohibit the sale of billfish	H.R. 2706	July 29, 2011	NR		Sept. 10, 2012	.....	656	.....	Sept. 10, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Oct. 5, 2012	183
To designate the new United States courthouse in Buffalo, New York, as the "Robert H. Jackson United States Courthouse".	H.R. 3556	Dec. 2, 2011	TI		Apr. 27, 2012	.....	456	.....	July 23, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Oct. 5, 2012	184
To confirm full ownership rights for certain United States astronauts to artifacts from the astronauts' space missions.	H.R. 4158	Mar. 7, 2012	SST			.....	.....	.....	Sept. 19, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Oct. 5, 2012	185
To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit theft of medical products, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4223	Mar. 20, 2012	Jud	Jud	June 25, 2012		549	.....	June 26, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Oct. 5, 2012	186
To designate the United States courthouse located at 709 West 9th Street in Juneau, Alaska, as the "Robert Boochever United States Courthouse".	H.R. 4347	Mar. 30, 2012	TI		July 19, 2012	.....	614	.....	July 23, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Oct. 5, 2012	187
To amend title 28, United States Code, to realign divisions within two judicial districts.	H.R. 5512	May 7, 2012	Jud	Jud	May 29, 2012		497	.....	May 30, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Oct. 5, 2012	188
To eliminate unnecessary reporting requirements for unfunded programs under the Office of Justice Programs.	H.R. 6189	July 25, 2012	Jud	Jud	Sept. 10, 2012		648	.....	Sept. 11, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Oct. 5, 2012	189
To amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to correct an error in the provisions relating to remedies for dilution.	H.R. 6215	July 26, 2012	Jud	Jud	Sept. 10, 2012		647	.....	Sept. 11, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Oct. 5, 2012	190
To authorize certain Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facility projects, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.	H.R. 6375	Sept. 11, 2012	VA Bud			.....	.....	.....	Sept. 19, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Oct. 5, 2012	191
To provide flexibility with respect to United States support for assistance provided by international financial institutions for Burma, and for other purposes.	H.R. 6431	Sept. 19, 2012	FS			.....	.....	.....	Sept. 19, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Oct. 5, 2012	192
To make corrections with respect to Food and Drug Administration user fees.	H.R. 6433	Sept. 19, 2012	EC			.....	.....	.....	Sept. 19, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Oct. 5, 2012	193
To prevent abuse of Government charge cards.	S. 300	Feb. 8, 2011	OGR AS	HS&GA	Jan. 27, 2012	July 18, 2011	376	37	Aug. 1, 2012	July 22, 2011	Oct. 5, 2012	194
To amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a hazardous waste electronic manifest system.	S. 710	Mar. 31, 2011	EC	EPW	Sept. 10, 2012	June 7, 2011	654	20	Sept. 11, 2012	Aug. 2, 2011	Oct. 5, 2012	195
To amend section 31311 of title 49, United States Code, to permit States to issue commercial driver's licenses to members of the Armed Forces whose duty station is located in the State.	S. 3624	Sept. 22, 2012	TI			.....	.....	.....	Sept. 28, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Oct. 19, 2012	196
To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow the construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities in the Gateway National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.	H.R. 2606	July 21, 2011	NR	ENR	Jan. 23, 2012		373	.....	Feb. 7, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Nov. 27, 2012	197
To increase, effective as of December 1, 2012, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4114	Feb. 29, 2012	VA	VA	May 18, 2012		486	.....	July 9, 2012	Nov. 13, 2012	Nov. 27, 2012	198

To amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel, and for other purposes.	S.	743	Apr. 6, 2011	OGR Int HS	HS&GA		Apr. 19, 2012	.....	155	Sept. 28, 2012	May 8, 2012	Nov. 27, 2012	199
To prohibit operators of civil aircraft of the United States from participating in the European Union's emissions trading scheme, and for other purposes.	S.	1956	Dec. 7, 2011		CST	.....	Aug. 2, 2012	.....	195	Nov. 13, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Nov. 27, 2012	200
To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Mark Twain.	H.R.	2453	July 7, 2011	FS	BHUA			.....	.....	Apr. 18, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Dec. 4, 2012	201
To amend section 353 of the Public Health Service Act with respect to suspension, revocation, and limitation of laboratory certification.	H.R.	6118	July 12, 2012	EC			.....	.....	.....	Sept. 19, 2012	Nov. 14, 2012	Dec. 4, 2012	202
To extend the Undertaking Spam, Spyware, And Fraud Enforcement With Enforcers beyond Borders Act of 2006, and for other purposes.	H.R.	6131	July 17, 2012	EC		Sept. 10, 2012	.....	653	.....	Sept. 11, 2012	Nov. 14, 2012	Dec. 4, 2012	203
To amend the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to consolidate certain CBO reporting requirements.	H.R.	6570	Oct. 12, 2012	FS E&W Bud			.....	.....	.....	Nov. 14, 2012	Nov. 15, 2012	Dec. 4, 2012	204
To establish a Border Enforcement Security Task Force program to enhance border security by fostering coordinated efforts among Federal, State, and local border and law enforcement officials to protect United States border cities and communities from trans-national crime, including violence associated with drug trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal alien trafficking and smuggling, violence, and kidnapping along and across the international borders of the United States, and for other purposes.	H.R.	915	Mar. 3, 2011	HS	HS&GA	Nov. 4, 2011	Aug. 28, 2012	268	206	May 30, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Dec. 7, 2012	205
To amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to child pornography and child exploitation offenses.	H.R.	6063	June 29, 2012	Jud	Jud	July 31, 2012		638	.....	Aug. 1, 2012	Nov. 26, 2012	Dec. 7, 2012	206
To change the effective date for the Internet publication of certain financial disclosure forms.	H.R.	6634	Dec. 5, 2012	OGR HA			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 5, 2012	Dec. 6, 2012	Dec. 7, 2012	207
To authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to products of the Russian Federation and Moldova and to require reports on the compliance of the Russian Federation with its obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization, and for other purposes.	H.R.	6156	July 19, 2012	WM		July 31, 2012	.....	632	.....	Nov. 16, 2012	Dec. 6, 2012	Dec. 14, 2012	208
To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the March of Dimes Foundation.	H.R.	3187	Oct. 13, 2011	FS Bud			.....	.....	.....	Aug. 1, 2012	Dec. 10, 2012	Dec. 18, 2012	209
To allow for innovations and alternative technologies that meet or exceed desired energy efficiency goals, and to make technical corrections to existing Federal energy efficiency laws to allow American manufacturers to remain competitive.	H.R.	6582	Nov. 2, 2012	EC			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 4, 2012	Dec. 6, 2012	Dec. 18, 2012	210

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			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 112–	Senate 112–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 112–
To implement the provisions of the Hague Agreement and the Patent Law Treaty.	S. 3486	Aug. 2, 2012	Jud	Jud		Sept. 20, 2012	.....	0	Dec. 5, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Dec. 18, 2012	211
To take certain Federal lands in Mono County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Bridgeport Indian Colony.	H.R. 2467	July 8, 2011	NR	IA	July 19, 2012	Sept. 21, 2012	611	0	July 23, 2012	Dec. 11, 2012	Dec. 20, 2012	212
To authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes.	H.R. 2838	Sept. 2, 2011	TI	CST	Oct. 3, 2011		229	.....	Nov. 15, 2011	Sept. 22, 2012	Dec. 20, 2012	213
To allow the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to determine the requirements for membership in that tribe.	H.R. 3319	Nov. 2, 2011	NR	IA	Sept. 18, 2012		675	.....	Sept. 19, 2012	Dec. 11, 2012	Dec. 20, 2012	214
To amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act with respect to information provided to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.	H.R. 4014	Feb. 13, 2012	FS		Mar. 20, 2012	.....	417	.....	Mar. 26, 2012	Dec. 11, 2012	Dec. 20, 2012	215
To amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to limit the fee disclosure requirement for an automatic teller machine to the screen of that machine.	H.R. 4367	Apr. 17, 2012	FS		June 29, 2012	.....	576	.....	July 9, 2012	Dec. 11, 2012	Dec. 20, 2012	216
To obtain an unqualified audit opinion, and improve financial accountability and management at the Department of Homeland Security.	S. 1998	Dec. 15, 2011	HS OGR	HS&GA		Nov. 2, 2012	.....	230	Dec. 12, 2012	Nov. 28, 2012	Dec. 20, 2012	217
To authorize the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to modify screening requirements for checked baggage arriving from preclearance airports, and for other purposes.	S. 3542	Sept. 13, 2012		CST	.....		.....	.....	Dec. 12, 2012	Nov. 29, 2012	Dec. 20, 2012	218
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 133 Hare Road in Crosby, Texas, as the Army First Sergeant David McNerney Post Office Building.	H.R. 3477	Nov. 18, 2011	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	July 23, 2012	Dec. 19, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	219
To provide for a comprehensive strategy to counter Iran's growing hostile presence and activity in the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3783	Jan. 18, 2012	FA			.....	.....	.....	Sept. 19, 2012	Dec. 12, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	220
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6083 Highway 36 West in Rose Bud, Arkansas, as the "Nicky 'Nick' Daniel Bacon Post Office".	H.R. 3870	Feb. 1, 2012	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	July 23, 2012	Dec. 19, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	221
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 Mastic Road in Mastic Beach, New York, as the "Brigadier General Nathaniel Woodhull Post Office Building".	H.R. 3912	Feb. 7, 2012	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	Nov. 28, 2012	Dec. 19, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	222
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15285 Samohin Drive in Macomb, Michigan, as the "Lance Cpl. Anthony A. DiLisio Clinton-Macomb Carrier Annex".	H.R. 5738	May 11, 2012	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	Nov. 28, 2012	Dec. 19, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	223
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 26 East Genesee Street in Baldwinsville, New York, as the "Corporal Kyle Schneider Post Office Building".	H.R. 5837	May 18, 2012	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	July 23, 2012	Dec. 19, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	224

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 7th Street in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, as the "Sergeant Leslie H. Sabo, Jr. Post Office Building".	H.R.	5954	June 18, 2012	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	Nov. 28, 2012	Dec. 19, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	225
To amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide for direct review by the United States Supreme Court of decisions of the Virgin Islands Supreme Court, and for other purposes.	H.R.	6116	July 12, 2012	Jud	Jud			.....	.....	Nov. 14, 2012	Dec. 13, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	226
To amend section 1059(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 to clarify that a period of employment abroad by the Chief of Mission or United States Armed Forces as a translator, interpreter, or in a security-related position in an executive or managerial capacity is to be counted as a period of residence and physical presence in the United States for purposes of qualifying for naturalization, and for other purposes.	H.R.	6223	July 26, 2012	Jud			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 5, 2012	Dec. 17, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	227
Establishing the date for the counting of the electoral votes for President and Vice President cast by the electors in December 2012.	H.J. Res.	122	Dec. 18, 2012			.....	.....	.....	.....	Dec. 18, 2012	Dec. 20, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	228
To amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to revise certain administrative authorities of the District of Columbia courts, and to authorize the District of Columbia Public Defender Service to provide professional liability insurance for officers and employees of the Service for claims relating to services furnished within the scope of employment with the Service.	S.	1379	July 18, 2011	OGR	HS&GA		June 25, 2012	.....	178	Dec. 13, 2012	July 9, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	229
To amend the provisions of title 5, United States Code, which are commonly referred to as the "Hatch Act", to scale back the provision forbidding certain State and local employees from seeking elective office, clarify the application of certain provisions to the District of Columbia, and modify the penalties which may be imposed for certain violations under subchapter III of chapter 73 of that title.	S.	2170	Mar. 7, 2012	OGR	HS&GA		Sept. 13, 2012	.....	211	Dec. 19, 2012	Nov. 30, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	230
To strike the word "lunatic" from Federal law, and for other purposes.	S.	2367	Apr. 25, 2012	Jud FS	BHUA			.....	.....	Dec. 5, 2012	May 23, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	231
To make technical corrections to the legal description of certain land to be held in trust for the Barona Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes.	S.	3193	May 16, 2012	NR	IA	Dec. 17, 2012	Aug. 28, 2012	702	207	Dec. 17, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	232
To designate the United States courthouse located at 2601 2nd Avenue North, Billings, Montana, as the "James F. Battin United States Courthouse".	S.	3311	June 19, 2012	TI	EPW		July 10, 2012	.....	0	Dec. 19, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	233
To repeal or modify certain mandates of the Government Accountability Office.	S.	3315	June 20, 2012		HS&GA	.....	Sept. 19, 2012	.....	219	Dec. 13, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	234
To extend the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000 until 2014 and for other purposes.	S.	3564	Sept. 19, 2012	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	Dec. 19, 2012	Dec. 11, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	235
To clarify the scope of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996.	S.	3642	Nov. 27, 2012	Jud			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 18, 2012	Nov. 27, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	236

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			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 112–	Senate 112–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 112–
To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, to designate certain Federal buildings, and for other purposes.	S. 3687	Dec. 17, 2012	TI NR Jud			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 18, 2012	Dec. 17, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	237
To extend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 for five years.	H.R. 5949	June 15, 2012	Jud Int		Aug. 2, 2012 Aug. 2, 2012	.....	645	.....	Sept. 12, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	Dec. 30, 2012	238
To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4310	Mar. 29, 2012	AS	AS	May 11, 2012		479	.....	May 18, 2012	Dec. 4, 2012	Jan. 2, 2013	239
Entitled the "American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012".	H.R. 8	July 24, 2012	WM Bud			.....	.....	.....	Aug. 1, 2012	Jan. 1, 2013	Jan. 2, 2013	240
To designate the City of Salem, Massachusetts, as the Birthplace of the National Guard of the United States.	H.R. 1339	Apr. 1, 2011	AS	AS			.....	.....	Mar. 28, 2012	Dec. 21, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	241
To provide a demonstration project providing Medicare coverage for in-home administration of intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) and to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the application of Medicare secondary payer rules for certain claims.	H.R. 1845	May 11, 2011	WM EC			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 19, 2012	Dec. 21, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	242
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Florida Avenue in Cocoa, Florida, as the "Harry T. and Harriette Moore Post Office".	H.R. 2338	June 23, 2011	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	Nov. 28, 2012	Dec. 27, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	243
To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow the storage and conveyance of non-project water at the Norman project in Oklahoma, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3263	Oct. 26, 2011	NR		Apr. 16, 2012	.....	442	.....	June 5, 2012	Dec. 30, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	244
To establish Pinnacles National Park in the State of California as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3641	Dec. 13, 2011	NR		July 26, 2012	.....	626	.....	July 31, 2012	Dec. 30, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	245
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 East Capitol Avenue in Little Rock, Arkansas, as the "Sidney 'Sid' Sanders McMath Post Office Building".	H.R. 3869	Feb. 1, 2012	OGR			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 20, 2012	Dec. 27, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	246
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8771 Auburn Folsom Road in Roseville, California, as the "Lance Corporal Victor A. Dew Post Office".	H.R. 3892	Feb. 2, 2012	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	Nov. 28, 2012	Dec. 27, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	247
To intensify efforts to identify, prevent, and recover payment error, waste, fraud, and abuse within Federal spending.	H.R. 4053	Feb. 16, 2012	OGR		Nov. 30, 2012	.....	698	.....	Dec. 13, 2012	Dec. 20, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	248

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a comprehensive policy to improve outreach and transparency to veterans and members of the Armed Forces through the provision of information on institutions of higher learning, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4057	Feb. 16, 2012	VA	VA	Sept. 10, 2012		646	.....	Sept. 11, 2012	Dec. 19, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	249
To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to accept the quitclaim, disclaimer, and relinquishment of a railroad right of way within and adjacent to Pike National Forest in El Paso County, Colorado, originally granted to the Mt. Manitou Park and Incline Railway Company pursuant to the Act of March 3, 1875.	H.R. 4073	Feb. 17, 2012	NR		July 17, 2012	.....	599	.....	Aug. 1, 2012	Dec. 30, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	250
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19 East Merced Street in Fowler, California, as the ''Cecil E. Bolt Post Office''.	H.R. 4389	Apr. 18, 2012	OGR			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 20, 2012	Dec. 27, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	251
To repeal an obsolete provision in title 49, United States Code, requiring motor vehicle insurance cost reporting.	H.R. 5859	May 30, 2012	EC	CST	July 10, 2012		591	.....	July 23, 2012	Dec. 21, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	252
To authorize the Attorney General to award grants for States to implement DNA arrestee collection processes.	H.R. 6014	June 21, 2012	Jud			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 18, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	253
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 211 Hope Street in Mountain View, California, as the ''Lieutenant Kenneth M. Ballard Memorial Post Office''.	H.R. 6260	Aug. 1, 2012	OGR			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 20, 2012	Dec. 27, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	254
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6239 Savannah Highway in Ravenel, South Carolina, as the ''Representative Curtis B. Inabinett, Sr. Post Office''.	H.R. 6379	Sept. 12, 2012	OGR			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 20, 2012	Dec. 27, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	255
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 225 Simi Village Drive in Simi Valley, California, as the ''Postal Inspector Terry Asbury Post Office Building''.	H.R. 6587	Nov. 13, 2012	OGR			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 20, 2012	Dec. 27, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	256
To amend title 18, United States Code, to eliminate certain limitations on the length of Secret Service Protection for former Presidents and for the children of former Presidents.	H.R. 6620	Nov. 30, 2012	Jud	Jud			.....	.....	Dec. 5, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	257
To amend section 2710 of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that a video tape service provider may obtain a consumer's informed, written consent on an ongoing basis and that consent may be obtained through the Internet.	H.R. 6671	Dec. 17, 2012	Jud			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 18, 2012	Dec. 20, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	258
To designate Mt. Andrea Lawrence	S. 925	May 9, 2011	NR	ENR	May 30, 2012		506	.....	Dec. 20, 2012	Oct. 18, 2011	Jan. 10, 2013	259
To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that deceased veterans with no known next of kin can receive a dignified burial, and for other purposes.	S. 3202	May 17, 2012	VA AS Bud	VA			.....	.....	Dec. 30, 2012	Dec. 19, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	260
To amend the Animal Welfare Act to modify the definition of ''exhibitor''.	S. 3666	Dec. 6, 2012	Agr			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 31, 2012	Dec. 6, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	261
Providing for the appointment of Barbara Barrett as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.	S.J. Res. 49	Aug. 1, 2012	HA			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 20, 2012	Aug. 1, 2012	Jan. 10, 2013	262

Title	Bill No.	Date introduced	Committee		Date Reported		Report No.		Date of passage		Public Law	
			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 112–	Senate 112–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 112–
To provide for the conveyance of certain property from the United States to the Maniilaq Association located in Kotzebue, Alaska.	H.R. 443	Jan. 25, 2011	NR EC	IA	Dec. 8, 2011	Dec. 13, 2012	318	250	Dec. 15, 2011	Dec. 20, 2012	Jan. 14, 2013	263
To express the sense of Congress regarding North Korean children and children of one North Korean parent and to require the Department of State regularly to brief appropriate congressional committees on efforts to advocate for and develop a strategy to provide assistance in the best interest of these children.	H.R. 1464	Apr. 8, 2011	FA	FR			.....	.....	Sept. 11, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	Jan. 14, 2013	264
To amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the statutory authority for the longstanding practice of the Department of Justice of providing investigatory assistance on request of State and local authorities with respect to certain serious violent crimes, and for other purposes.	H.R. 2076	June 1, 2011	Jud	Jud	July 29, 2011	Nov. 17, 2011	186	0	Sept. 12, 2011	Dec. 17, 2012	Jan. 14, 2013	265
To prevent the introduction into commerce of unsafe drywall, to ensure the manufacturer of drywall is readily identifiable, to ensure that problematic drywall removed from homes is not reused, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4212	Mar. 19, 2012	EC FA	CST			.....	.....	Sept. 19, 2012	Dec. 21, 2012	Jan. 14, 2013	266
To amend title 5, United States Code, to make clear that accounts in the Thrift Savings Fund are subject to certain Federal tax levies.	H.R. 4365	Apr. 17, 2012	OGR	HS&GA	July 30, 2012		630	.....	Aug. 1, 2012	Jan. 1, 2013	Jan. 14, 2013	267
To authorize the issuance of right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines in Glacier National Park, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4606	Apr. 24, 2012	NR		July 26, 2012	.....	627	.....	Dec. 17, 2012	Jan. 2, 2013	Jan. 14, 2013	268
To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for increased penalties for foreign and economic espionage, and for other purposes.	H.R. 6029	June 27, 2012	Jud		July 19, 2012	.....	610	.....	Aug. 1, 2012	Dec. 19, 2012	Jan. 14, 2013	269
To amend Public Law 106-392 to maintain annual base funding for the Upper Colorado and San Juan fish recovery programs through fiscal year 2019.	H.R. 6060	June 29, 2012	NR	ENR	Sept. 14, 2012		672	.....	Sept. 19, 2012	Jan. 1, 2013	Jan. 14, 2013	270
To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to transfer unclaimed clothing recovered at airport security checkpoints to local veterans organizations and other local charitable organizations, and for other purposes.	H.R. 6328	Aug. 2, 2012	HS			.....	.....	.....	Nov. 27, 2012	Dec. 11, 2012	Jan. 14, 2013	271
To establish a commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, to provide for the designation of memorials to the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I, and for other purposes.	H.R. 6364	Sept. 10, 2012	OGR NR		Dec. 12, 2012	.....	701	.....	Dec. 12, 2012	Dec. 21, 2012	Jan. 14, 2013	272
To extend the application of certain space launch liability provisions through 2014.	H.R. 6586	Nov. 9, 2012	SST			.....	.....	.....	Nov. 13, 2012	Jan. 1, 2013	Jan. 14, 2013	273

To correct and improve certain provisions of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act and title 35, United States Code.	H.R. 6621	Nov. 30, 2012	Jud				.....	.....	.....	Dec. 18, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	Jan. 14, 2013	274
To establish a commission to develop a national strategy and recommendations for reducing fatalities resulting from child abuse and neglect.	H.R. 6655	Dec. 13, 2012	WM	HEL&P Fin				.....	.....	Dec. 19, 2012	Jan. 2, 2013	Jan. 14, 2013	275
To provide for universal intercountry adoption accreditation standards, and for other purposes.	S. 3331	June 21, 2012	FA	FR			Nov. 13, 2012	.....	234	Jan. 1, 2013	Dec. 5, 2012	Jan. 14, 2013	276
To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.	S. 3454	July 30, 2012		Int	.....		July 30, 2012	.....	192	Dec. 31, 2012	Dec. 28, 2012	Jan. 14, 2013	277
To amend the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 to provide improvements to such Act.	S. 3472	Aug. 1, 2012	E&W	HEL&P				.....	.....	Jan. 1, 2013	Dec. 17, 2012	Jan. 14, 2013	278
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218 North Milwaukee Street in Waterford, Wisconsin, as the ''Captain Rhett W. Schiller Post Office''.	S. 3630	Nov. 14, 2012	OGR	HS&GA				.....	.....	Jan. 1, 2013	Dec. 19, 2012	Jan. 14, 2013	279
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6 Nichols Street in Westminster, Massachusetts, as the ''Lieutenant Ryan Patrick Jones Post Office Building''.	S. 3662	Dec. 5, 2012	OGR	HS&GA				.....	.....	Jan. 1, 2013	Dec. 19, 2012	Jan. 14, 2013	280
To make a technical correction to the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973.	S. 3677	Dec. 12, 2012	FS				.....	.....	.....	Jan. 1, 2013	Dec. 12, 2012	Jan. 14, 2013	281
Granting the consent of Congress to the State and Province Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding.	S.J. Res. 44	June 14, 2012	FA	Jud			Aug. 2, 2012	.....	0	Jan. 1, 2013	Sept. 13, 2012	Jan. 14, 2013	282
To authorize the Secretary of State to pay a reward to combat transnational organized crime and for information concerning foreign nationals wanted by international criminal tribunals, and for other purposes.	S. 2318	Apr. 19, 2012	FA	FR			Nov. 13, 2012	.....	232	Jan. 1, 2013	Dec. 19, 2012	Jan. 15, 2013	283

TABLE OF COMMITTEE ABBREVIATIONS

AG .....Aging
Agr .....Agriculture
ANF .....Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
App .....Appropriations
AS .....Armed Services
BHUA ....Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Bud .....Budget
CST .....Commerce, Science and Transportation
E&W .....Education and the Workforce
EC .....Energy and Commerce
ENR .....Energy and Natural Resources
EPW .....Environment and Public Works
Eth .....Ethics
Fin .....Finance
FS .....Financial Services
FA .....Foreign Affairs
FR .....Foreign Relations
HEL&P ..Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
HS .....Homeland Security
HS&GA ..Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
HA .....House Administration
IA .....Indian Affairs
Int .....Intelligence
Jud .....Judiciary
NR .....Natural Resources
OGR .....Oversight and Government Reform
R .....Rules
RAdm ....Rules and Administration
SST .....Science, Space, and Technology
SB .....Small Business
SBE .....Small Business and Entrepreneurship
TI .....Transportation and Infrastructure
VA .....Veterans' Affairs
WM .....Ways and Means

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, March 14

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 933, Department of Defense, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, with a vote on or in relation to Harkin Amendment No. 53 (to Amendment No. 26) at approximately 11:15 a.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, March 14

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Begin consideration of H.R. 803—Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills Act (Subject to a Rule).

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