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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WENSTRUP).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 18, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRAD WENSTRUP 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 1:50 p.m.

GOP BUDGET

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this week, we begin the Republican charade of pretending to balance the budget in 10 years, without a hint of how it really is possible. They intend to repeal ObamaCare, which was the central issue in the last campaign, where you will remember President Obama was reelected, the Senate went even more Democratic, and House Democrats gained seats and won over 1 million more votes than the Republicans.

Normal people would think that the ObamaCare issue might be settled. Does anybody realistically think it's going away anytime soon?

The Republican fantasy budget reduces taxes dramatically without a hint of how it would be possible, without exploding the deficit or dramatically raising taxes on the middle class.

This is consistent with what the Romney-Ryan ticket said on the campaign trail last fall. The same issue where they dodged, dissembled, or ignored the perfectly reasonable question: How is it possible? Six months later, it's back in the budget, but there still is no answer.

During the last 40 years, there have been only four budgets without deficits: the last three Clinton budgets and the one that George Bush inherited from Bill Clinton. In each case, taxes as a percentage of the total economy were over 20 percent. In this Republican fantasyland, budgets are balanced with revenues at 19 percent of the economy, yet meeting the needs of 78 million more seniors and an infrastructure deficit that is growing as America is falling apart.

Clearly, this is not remotely possible if we're going to enjoy anything like our current quality of life. There is a real-world intersection of budget-saving opportunities with potential areas of agreement. Health care reform is one, but not just by shifting the burden to seniors and the disabled, as the Republicans propose in their fantasy budget.

My home State of Oregon is in the middle of an exciting demonstration of how to squeeze out the waste we all know is there and realign incentives. Instead of the empty ritual of pretending to repeal ObamaCare, let's work together to accelerate reform for all Americans.

If the Oregon experiment works—and frankly, many of these efficiencies, by the way, are already achieved in other parts of the country and with some private health systems—we could save more than $1.2 trillion that the flawed sequester is supposed to achieve in the next 10 years.

Another area of irresponsibility in the Republican budget is defense. Instead of increasing Pentagon spending, we should reform it. The most obvious target is the nuclear arsenal larger than anything we need for nuclear deterrence. Ten percent of our nuclear weapons would decimate Russia. A handful of missiles would wipe North Korea off the map, yet they propose to spend over two-thirds of $1 trillion over the next 10 years on this bloated arsenal.

Before we increase the Pentagon budget, maybe we should figure out why the F–35 Joint Strike Fighter is now 7 years behind schedule, 70 percent over budget, and the Pentagon still doesn't know how it's going to meet the more than $1 trillion in operating and maintenance costs.

Amazingly, the Republicans want to increase spending for the Pentagon, the only major budget so flawed it can't even be audited. There are bipartisan opportunities to reduce and reform the military, but you're not hearing about it in the Republican budget this week.

Instead of a Republican rerun of a bad reality TV show, let's consider working together on areas to change how the government does business and give more value to the taxpayer while we get spending under control.

RETURN THE 27TH AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION TO ITS ORIGINAL INTENT

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.J. Res. 33,

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which would reshape the way Washington operates.

Because Congress has failed to do its job to find the spending cuts we need to replace the sequester, folks all across this country, including folks in my district in Georgia, will pay the price.

Unfortunately, in Washington there are rules that prevent Members of Congress from being penalized for not doing their jobs. The Constitution doesn't protect the pay of folks back home, so why should it protect the pay of Members of Congress?

The 27th Amendment of the Constitution was written to prevent Members of Congress from giving themselves pay increases, but lately it has been used as a shield to prevent a congressional pay cut. My proposal, H.J. Res. 33, would return the 27th Amendment to its original intent and hold Members of Congress to the same standard as folks back home.

I urge my colleagues to support this proposal.

SEQUESTER PAKISTAN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America's young warriors risk it all to protect and serve the rest of us. They put themselves in harm's way not only to protect America, but to defend the freedoms of people they have never seen in lands they have never been. Some join right out of high school with the promise that they can further their education while in the military. This helps not only our troops, but an educated military helps America.

Now the administration has broken another promise. Thousands of troops can no longer go to college because the education program has been scuttled. For the sake of politics, the ''Chicken Little Administration'' has handpicked programs to cut that would make Americans feel the sequester the most. One of those programs is the Military Tuition Assistance program.

Mr. Speaker, tuition assistance for our military is not much money. The Pentagon, the Department of Defense, has a budget of $700 billion. This little program is 0.1 percent of the $700 billion Department of Defense program.

The Tuition Assistance program is great because it's one of the ways our government can take care of our men and women who help us. It has allowed members of the military to take 870,000 courses and graduate 50,000 individuals for several degrees. That is remarkable. But the program is gone, thus saith the White House.

Over the past few weeks, I've been hearing from several southeast Texans who are disappointed because Washington has broken another promise. Dr. Norman Lefee, a science teacher at Klein High School in Texas, said this:

> I encourage my students to join the military as a way to open up a possibility for higher education. Oftentimes, they come from families where they are the first high school graduate and the first person to graduate from college. Now that opportunity is being taken away from them. It's not fair. I got these kids to join the military. Now the administration has broken its promise.

□ 1210

Brian wrote me this:

> I am Active Duty Coast Guard and one of your constituents. I was one class away from obtaining a master's degree and the Tuition Assistance program was now canceled. Why?

Jerri from Houston wrote me this:

> As a combat medic in the National Guard, I currently use my tuition assistance to pay for my Ph.D. program in clinical psychology. I want to stay in the military. I hope to move directly to a commission on Active Duty as a psychiatrist or psychologist in the Army and serve soldiers with PTSD.
>
> Education is the great equalizer, and servicemembers' access to affordable education will only make our country stronger. Restore our tuition assistance.

There's more, Mr. Speaker.

Last year, the marines spent roughly $47 million on tuition assistance—$47 million out of a $700 billion Department of Defense budget. However, education assistance is not being cut for everybody. During the same year, Washington spent $12.7 million on higher education in Pakistan. That's right, Mr. Speaker. We spent more than one-fourth of what we spent on education for the marines to fund higher education for the Pakistanis. And that's not all. Since the sequester, the administration has approved $37 million in foreign aid to Pakistan.

Why are we funding education programs for our Benedict Arnold ally when we can't fund—or don't fund—the education for our military? And to Pakistan of all places, where hatred for America is at its highest. Washington should watch its spending and prioritize.

It's time, Mr. Speaker, to sequester Pakistan. Why are we cutting the aid for our military and educating the people in Pakistan? The administration has the power and ability to make it right; but if this program is not reinstated, I am going to introduce legislation to withhold nondefense foreign aid from Pakistan until this wonderful program for our troops is fully funded.

The President should stop punishing our troops. We have a moral obligation to take care of our warriors that protect us.

The President says he is the education President. Well, Mr. President, let the troops go to school.

And that's just the way it is.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Reverend Andrew Walton, Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

We come today with thanks and gratitude for the eternal presence of God, known by many names, that is within, around, and throughout all creation.

May each person in the human family be reminded today in every breath we take of the Spirit that binds and connects us to one another. With every morsel or drop of nourishment taken into our bodies may we remember our interdependence with the soil, streams, seas, plants, and animals of Earth. As we gaze to the sky above may we allow the mysterious vastness of the unknown to stir our imaginations toward creative care of that which is known.

As citizens not only of Nations but also of the Earth itself, may we live this day and every day in harmony with all. And may this Spirit of harmony be that which guides the ideas, conversations, debates, and decisions of our Nation's leaders today and always.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HOYER 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.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. HOYER. Is it in order to request at this point in time a vote on the Journal?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Journal has been approved.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I was seeking recognition to ask for a vote on the Journal when you recognized me to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognized the gentleman to lead the Pledge.

Mr. HOYER. I appreciate that, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman have a unanimous-consent request?

Mr. HOYER. I ask unanimous consent that I might now ask for a vote on the Journal.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the American people have a right to demand a balanced budget from their government, and by ''balanced,'' we mean a plan that will actually get spending in line with income. If we want a prosperous future for our children and grandchildren, we cannot, after all, continue to spend money we don't have.

House Republicans understand the simple math and have introduced a budget that balances in just 10 years. Senate Democrats are taking a different tack. Their budget demands higher taxes, authorizes higher spending, and never balances—ever.

How do we explain that to hardworking families who live with the reality of having to balance their household budgets every month? Washington should not see itself as the exception to the rule. Washington should balance its budget, and House Republicans have a plan to do just that.

PATH TO PROSPERITY BUDGET

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House will consider the Path to Prosperity budget, reaffirming once again that House Republicans are the only ones in Washington offering serious solutions to government spending-driven debt crisis.

Americans at home must prepare a balanced budget for themselves and their families. Our plan would bring the same common sense to Washington and balance our budget in 10 years.

Our budget is not balanced by raising taxes on hardworking Americans but by responsibly reducing spending on government waste and reforming mandatory spending to ensure that programs Americans rely on remain strong for decades to come. Our budget saves taxpayers $4.6 trillion over 10 years.

The Senate Democrat budget calls for $1.5 trillion in new taxes and $7.3 trillion in new debt.

Americans deserve better. That is why House Republicans have proposed a Path to Prosperity budget—to get our economy back on track and create more jobs and opportunity for all Americans.

WE MUST BALANCE OUR BUDGET

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week, House Republicans will pass a balanced, responsible budget. Our proposal achieves balance over the next 10 years and will help small businesses create jobs.

Unfortunately, the concept of ''balanced budget'' is not appreciated by the President and Senate leadership. The President has called for reducing our nearly $17 trillion national debt, but actually it is increased taxes now with unlikely budget reductions in the future. Likewise, the Senate's budget proposal does not achieve balance but instead increases taxes to accelerate more government borrowing.

House Republicans understand the need for a balanced budget. By balancing our budget, America's small businesses will receive the economic certainty they need to create jobs. It is my hope that Senate leadership and the President begin to focus on balancing our budget, rather than continue to spend beyond our means and placing an undue burden on the backs of children and grandchildren.

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

RESPONSIBLE GOP HOUSE BUDGET

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Every day families in Missouri's Second Congressional District create budgets, set priorities, and live within their means. Yet Senate Democrats have failed to pass a budget in 4 years, and President Obama refuses to submit his budget on time to the American people.

With our national debt now exceeding $16 trillion, our country is on an unsustainable path. That's why House Republicans released a plan that balances our budget in 10 years with smart reforms and cuts.

This budget will cut wasteful spending, reform our broken Tax Code, protect and strengthen our national security, and repair our social safety net to make sure that these are strong and sustainable for future generations.

In stark contrast, Senate Democrats introduced a budget that raises taxes by an additional $1 trillion, adds $4 trillion to our national debt, and sets a course that never ever balances the budget.

Instead of raising taxes and taking more of your hard-earned money, it's time we start lifting up and fighting for nurses, teachers, carpenters, and shop owners, and stop growing government and giving away taxpayer bailouts that only result in less money in our pocket and a mortgaging of our children's future.

□ 1410

LABEL DRUG CARTELS AS FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, ''El Chapo'' Joaquin Guzman is the brutal head of Mexico's Sinaloa drug cartel. Chicago has named this killer drug lord Public Enemy No. 1. The last Public Enemy No. 1 was Al Capone, over 80 years ago.

Even though this billionaire bandit from below the border is generally in other countries, his violent criminal drug cartel operation floods dope into Chicago and other American cities. Since our borders are still porous to drug cartels, cartels cross the border at will.

El Chapo and his den of gun-toting smugglers are international terrorists. They have operations in every major city in the United States, including Chicago. Worldwide, his gang is credited with 50,000 murders.

Some say the Chicago murder rate has increased because of his cartel. David Riley, head of the Chicago DEA, said Guzman is more powerful than the former Chicago Mob.

Mr. Speaker, Mexican drug cartels, like the Sinaloa cartel, should be labeled a foreign terrorist organization. Then we can better deal with international terrorist threats to America like Public Enemy No. 1, El Chapo.

And that's just the way it is.

THE HALF-BAKED FEDERAL HEALTH EXCHANGES

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it was 3 years ago tomorrow night that the President's affordable health care law, or bill, was pushed through this House of Representatives.

On Friday, in CQ Healthbeat, an article was published where the Department of Health and Human Services acknowledges that come October 1 there

is ''some possibility'' that States will not be able to launch their health care exchanges.

Mr. Speaker, we're 6 months away, and the insurance exchanges are the very centerpiece of the functioning of this health care law, and they're essential for the President's law to operate.

The Federal Government has spent 3 years, well over $3 billion, assisting the States in implementing these exchanges; but the administration is now left only with the hope that it is ''not a Third World experience.'' A Third World experience.

It doesn't end there. Henry Chao, a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services official overseeing the exchange technology, said in the same article when discussing back-up plans should the exchanges not be operable come October, ''We are having discussions, but they are not fully baked yet.''

October is just around the corner. ''Not fully baked yet'' doesn't even sound like it's in the oven.

IT'S TIME TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Last week, the Associated Press reported that unemployment in Greece rose to a record 26 percent. The news for younger workers is even worse: almost 60 percent of those under the age of 25 are unemployed.

As we all know, the root cause of Greece's financial and economic collapse is the runaway government spending and unsustainable debt. Eventually, the house of cards collapsed, and the results have been devastating for their citizens.

President Obama has said he will not ''chase a balanced budget for the sake of balance.'' Well, Mr. President, what about chasing a balanced budget for the sake of our economy, for the sake of creating jobs, for the sake of preserving Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid, and for the sake of preventing financial calamity?

The present course of trillion-dollar annual deficits and a bloated $17 trillion debt is irresponsible. What's taking place right now in Greece could easily be our future if we don't act.

Mr. President, it's time for you to realize that the best way to help hard-working, tax-paying American families is to balance the budget and free our economy from the burden of our debt.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds the gentleman to address his remarks to the Chair.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1704

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 5 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 18) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 18

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary (in this resolution referred to as the ''sponsor'') shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the 32nd Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service (in this resolution referred to as the ''event''), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to honor the law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2012.

(b) DATE OF EVENT.—The event shall be held on May 15, 2013, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsor shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsor is authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment, as may be required for the event.

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 18.

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

There was no objection.

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

H. Con. Res. 18 would authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on May 15, 2013. I am pleased to be the sponsor of this important resolution, along with the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

In 1962, May 15 was designated by President Kennedy as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and the week in which it falls as Police Week. The memorial service began in 1982 as a gathering in Senate Park of just 120 survivors and supporters of law enforcement. Today, National Police Week draws tens of thousands of law enforcement officers and their supporters from around the world who travel to the Nation's capital to participate in events that honor our fallen officers. The National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, which is sponsored by the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, is one in a series of events which includes the candlelight vigil and seminars.

Tragically, over 126 Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty last year. These are brave men and women of law enforcement who put their lives on the line every day.

Among the fallen officers to be honored include five that served in my home State of Pennsylvania: Officer Bradley Michael Fox, who was from Plymouth Township Police Department, which is actually part of my district, Pennsylvania's Eleventh; Trooper First Class Blake Coble, Pennsylvania State Police; Patrolman Avery Freeman, Chester Police Department; Officer Brian J. Lorenzo, Philadelphia Police Department; and Officer Moses Walker, Jr., Philadelphia Police Department.

These officers, along with more than 100 others who lost their lives in 2012, will be remembered at this service.

These officers made the ultimate sacrifice in serving our country and our communities.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this resolution. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Congratulations, Congressman BARLETTA, for sponsoring this resolution enabling this important memorial service to go forward. You're to be commended for it, and I'm honored to be able to stand here on behalf of the minority and offer our support for the resolution.

H. Con. Res. 18, as the gentleman just said, authorizes use of the Capitol Grounds for the 32nd Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on May 15 on the west front of the U.S. Capitol. This is a solemn and respectful public event honoring local and Federal enforcement officers who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty in 2012.

One of those brave public servants was Cold Spring, Minnesota, Police Officer Thomas ''Tommy'' Decker, who was shot and killed while checking on the welfare of a citizen in an apartment in Cold Spring, Minnesota, on November 29, 2012. Officer Tom Decker was a 6-year veteran and a father of four. He was a 2002 graduate of Alexandria Technical College in Minnesota, where he received an associate in arts degree in law enforcement.

□ 1710

Officer Decker worked in the city of Isle, the city of Watkins, and the city of Kimball, all in Minnesota, before joining the Cold Spring Police Department full time in March of 2006.

According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, Officer Decker was one of 129 brave men and women killed in the line of duty last year. Of those, traffic-related incidents led to the deaths of 50 officers, while 49 died from firearm-related causes. In all, more than 19,000 law enforcement officers have given the ultimate sacrifice while on duty since the first law enforcement death was recorded in 1791.

The National Peace Officers' Memorial Service is a fitting tribute to the 900,000 current law enforcement officers—and all Federal, State, and local police officers—who do the often-dangerous and always necessary work of protecting our families, our homes, and our workplaces. We honor these officers and their families on Capitol Grounds for the sacrifices they have made to maintain the peace in communities all across America.

Consistent with all Capitol Hill events, the memorial service will be free and open to the public. I strongly support this resolution and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this tribute to our fallen law enforcement officers.

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

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, law enforcement all over the country every day go to work to protect us, protect our neighborhoods, our communities, always knowing that they may not return home that night. I think this is very fitting that we honor the men and women who keep this country and our communities safe.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 18.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 19) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 19

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR SOAP BOX DERBY RACES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association (in this resolution referred to as the ''sponsor'') shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, soap box derby races (in this resolution referred to as the ''event''), on the Capitol Grounds.

(b) DATE OF EVENT.—The event shall be held on June 15, 2013, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsor shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsor is authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment as may be required for the event.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board are authorized to make such additional arrangements as may be required to carry out the event.

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, with respect to the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 19.

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

There was no objection.

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

H. Con. Res. 19 would authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on June 15, 2013.

I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for introducing this resolution. He has been a longtime supporter of this event and the children involved each year. This event occurs annually on the Capitol Grounds.

The Soap Box Derby allows children to show off their dedication, work, and creativity as they compete for trophies. The winners of each division are qualified to compete in the National All-American Soap Box Derby held in Akron, Ohio.

I support passage of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I was delighted to learn today from my son, Michael—who is visiting us and sitting in the gallery—that while we are looking at 40-mile-per-hour winds and blizzard conditions back in Minnesota, the snow is piling up. My son's good friend and coworker Toby, along with other kids and dads in our hometown, are bundled up in their garages and in their basements as we speak, designing and building their ultimate speed machines—the soap box racers—getting themselves ready for the exciting annual experience.

I personally have nothing but the fondest memories of long hot summer days scrounging the neighborhood for old wagon wheels, axles, two-by-fours, and thin sheets of tin or aluminum as all of us kids in the neighborhood scrambled to build our soap box racers for the annual summer races down Cemetery Hill.

These races were never formally recognized by the proper authorities, I must admit. In fact, we were frequently chased out of the cemetery by

the superintendent and his subordinates, as well as being chased off the city streets, quite frankly, by the local police, who no doubt had our personal safety and the public safety in mind at the time.

But law enforcement and the establishment never stopped us from enjoying those annual summer races. It was nothing but pure creative, constructive, exhilarating joy and pleasure that we experienced in our Soap Box Derby racers.

So with those golden days of yore in mind, I am delighted to support H. Con. Res. 19, extending proper recognition in authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on June 15 of this year.

I would also like to acknowledge the steadfast support of this event by Mr. HOYER, who has truly been a champion for his constituents in this regard. This bipartisan resolution has the support of the entire D.C.-area delegation.

On the date of the event, soap boxers from the Greater Washington area will race down Constitution Avenue to test their craftsmanship and their courage in Soap Box Derby racing. Children between the ages of 8 and 17 will be competing for the opportunity to race in the National All-American Soap Box Derby held every August in Akron, Ohio.

Consistent with all events using Capitol Grounds, this event is open to the public and free of charge. The organizers will work with the Capitol Police and the Architect of the Capitol to organize the details of the event.

Mr. Speaker, I support H. Con. Res. 19 and urge passage of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded that it is a violation of the rules of the House to bring to the attention of the House occupants of the gallery.

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

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman NOLAN, who was in this body before I was and before you were and before Mr. BARLETTA was, he has been in public service for a very long period of time. Therefore, I appreciate the remarks he made in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, which I am proud to have sponsored for the last 22 years.

□ 1720

It allows the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to hold its 72nd annual competition on June 15 on the grounds of this Capitol. This is a longstanding tradition which brings young people ages 8 to 17 and their families from around the D.C. metro area to the Capitol for a fun and educational experience.

Since 1938, the derby has inspired thousands of the region's young people to learn the physics behind gravity racing and the engineering used to design soap box racers. America's Soap Box Derbies have been called ''the greatest amateur racing event in the world,'' and on June 15, it will continue to make history.

The derby teaches sportsmanship, hard work, and pride of accomplishment, and it imbues its young participants with that same spirit of innovation that has long fueled America's greatness. The young people who participate in these derbies are often sponsored by community groups, police departments, fire departments, and others who want to invest in our country's future in a very direct and meaningful way.

Every year, I am incredibly proud of my constituents from Maryland's Fifth District who participate. A number of Soap Box Derby champions have come from the Fifth District, including the winners of 2007, 2008, 2009, and last year. The winners in 2007 and 2008, Kacie Rader and Courtney Rayle, respectively, went on to win the national Soap Box Derby championship.

As an aside, Mr. Speaker, I was hoping to be able to say that about the Maryland Terrapins this year, but that, apparently, will not be the case, although I do expect them to win the NIT. Last year's winners from the Fifth District were Brittany Sorli and Brandon Sorli of Waldorf, who won the Masters and Super Stock divisions.

I want to thank the Members who are cosponsoring this resolution: Representatives GERRY CONNOLLY, DONNA EDWARDS, JIM MORAN, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, JOHN DELANEY, and my classmate who came with me to Congress in the 97th Congress, my dear friend, FRANK WOLF. I would urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution, and I thank Mr. NOLAN and Mr. BARLETTA for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. I would like to thank the gentleman from Minnesota for his support. I also thank the gentleman from Maryland for introducing this very important resolution and for what it means to so many across our country.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 19.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 18, 2013.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 18, 2013 at 2:34 p.m.:

Appointments:

World War I Centennial Commission.

International conferences, meeting and negotiation sessions relating to trade agreements.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

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 5 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE 113TH CONGRESS

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, from the Committee on House Administration, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–20) on the resolution (H. Res. 115) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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:

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal; and suspending the rules

and agreeing to H. Con. Res. 18 and H. Con. Res. 19.

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

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.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 284, nays 103, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 43, as follows:

[Roll No. 76]

YEAS—284

Alexander
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Cramer
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Enyart
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gerlach
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Green, Al
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Levin
Lewis
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meng
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Upton
Van Hollen
Vargas
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Womack
Yoho
Young (IN)

NAYS—103

Amash
Andrews
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bishop (NY)
Brady (PA)
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Capuano
Carson (IN)
Chu
Clarke
Coffman
Conyers
Cotton
Courtney
Crawford
Crowley
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Duffy
Fitzpatrick
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Garcia
Gardner
Gibson
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Hanna
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Israel
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Joyce
Kilmer
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Lance
Latham
Lee (CA)
LoBiondo
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Marchant
Matheson
McGovern
Meehan
Meeks
Messer
Miller (FL)
Murphy (FL)
Neal
Nolan
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Radel
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rogers (MI)
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Scott, Austin
Sewell (AL)
Slaughter
Stivers
Stockman
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tipton
Turner
Valadao
Veasey
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Westmoreland
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Owens

NOT VOTING—43

Aderholt
Bass
Braley (IA)
Cantor
Castor (FL)
Cicilline
Collins (GA)
Costa
DeLauro
Engel
Eshoo
Fortenberry
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Grayson
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hinojosa
Kind
Langevin
Lipinski
Lynch
Markey
McDermott
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Noem
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Roe (TN)
Rohrabacher
Rothfus
Sanchez, Loretta
Smith (NJ)
Tiberi
Waters
Welch
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

□ 1855

Mr. HANNA changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 18) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 388, nays 0, not voting 43, as follows:

[Roll No. 77]

YEAS—388

Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
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)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
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
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Enyart
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)

Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
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
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
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)
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
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 (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—43

Aderholt
Braley (IA)
Bustos
Cantor
Castor (FL)
Cicilline
Collins (GA)
Costa
DeLauro
Engel
Eshoo
Fortenberry
Garcia
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Grayson
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hinojosa
Kind
Langevin
Lipinski
Lynch
Markey
McDermott
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Noem
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Richmond
Roe (TN)
Rohrabacher
Sanchez, Loretta
Smith (NJ)
Tiberi
Veasey
Waters
Welch
Young (FL)

□ 1902

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 77 I was detained in a meeting. I apologize for the inconvenience I have caused.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 19) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 0, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 78]

YEAS—386

Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
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)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
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
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Enyart
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
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Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
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McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
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McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
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Messer
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Michaud
Miller (FL)
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Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
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Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Nolan
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Roybal-Allard
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Ruppersberger
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Sánchez, Linda T.
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Schakowsky
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Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
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Sewell (AL)
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Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
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NOT VOTING—45

Aderholt
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Castor (FL)
Cicilline
Collins (GA)
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DeLauro
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Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Grayson
Grijalva
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Hudson
Kind
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Lipinski
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Markey
McDermott
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
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Noem
Palazzo
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Roe (TN)
Rohrabacher
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Smith (NJ)
Tiberi
Waters
Welch
Young (FL)

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So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, today, March 18th, I missed three rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: Rollcall vote 76—''yea''—Journal Vote; rollcall vote 77—''yea''—H. Con. Res. 18—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officer' Memorial Service; rollcall vote 78—''yea''—H. Con. Res. 19—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, I had the honor of joining hundreds of fellow Americans at an open-carry walk in Brookville, Pennsylvania, which is located in the Fifth District of Pennsylvania. As a responsible gun owner, I was proud to join this peaceful gathering among citizens to reaffirm the fundamental significance of an individual's constitutionally protected right to bear arms.

The right to own firearms has nothing to do with hunting. The Second Amendment was adopted as part of our Constitution to assure the safety and security of our Nation, our States, as well as our families, our homes and our personal selves.

Many of my constituents are alarmed at the gun control proposals being considered in the U.S. Senate for fear they violate this sacred constitutional right. I share this concern.

When it comes to violence prevention, I believe there are areas of policy that can be improved upon, especially in the area of mental health. The people of Brookville and so many others across this Nation want this body to come together on solutions to thwart future acts of mass violence, but they will not tolerate—and I will fight against—any violation of constitutionally protected rights.

CONGRATULATING HAYWARD EDUCATION FOUNDATION ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Hayward Education Foundation, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. This organization was founded by Hayward school teacher Elaine Adams in 1983. This nonprofit grants money to Hayward school teachers with creative ideas to inspire and enrich their educational experience.

In 2012, grants were given to the butterfly garden at Longwood Elementary, a solar cell car at Bret Harte Middle School, and a college motivation program at Hayward High School. In its 30-year history, the foundation has given out over $1 million.

I want to acknowledge the board of directors: Dianne McDermott, Pastor Chuck Horner, Rick Bartholomew, Peter Bufete, Paul Hodges and Penny Hodges, Guy Sandoval, Bruce Roberts, Maria Servin, Andrea Pa-Shote, Don Evans and Bill Liu.

Hayward's motto is the ''Heart of the Bay,'' but it is the heart and mind and forward thinking of these individuals that really enriches Hayward and makes it such a special place to live.

So I want to congratulate them on their 30th anniversary and wish them well in their next 30 years.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the University of Illinois, and I am proud to represent its flagship university in Champaign-Urbana.

The U of I plans to launch a university-affiliated technology development laboratory in Chicago. This collaboration will attract more industry to Illinois and the entire Midwest region. Like the U of I's current world-class research park in Urbana-Champaign, this lab will operate on the principles of innovation and entrepreneurship.

This will be a center of long-term, large-scale research projects that will unite the best and brightest of the University of Illinois, the city of Chicago, and government and industry, while at the same time give a high-profile image for the University of Illinois in the Chicagoland area.

Illinois' biggest technical challenge is retaining its talent. Thirty-two percent of computer science graduates from the U of I get jobs in California alone. This project's goal is to retain the next generation of Illinois-trained talent with hopes that they'll grow existing companies or start new businesses.

I am proud to recognize the continuous advancements made by the University of Illinois on all of their campuses.

KEYSTONE XL AND TAR SANDS

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my grave concerns about the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, the existence of which is awaiting a decision by the administration.

Last week, 84 of my colleagues—82 Republicans and 2 Democrats—introduced H.R. 3, a bill that would approve the construction and maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline.

The world's foremost climatologist, Dr. James Hansen—and one of the first scientists to warn of the dangers of burning carbon fuel and a partial recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize—has likened the building and use of the Keystone pipeline to the lighting of a carbon bomb—game over.

When you brush aside the studies by TransCanada and other oil companies and you analyze the pure scientific studies, every analysis clearly demonstrates that the Keystone XL pipeline poses major threats at every turn in its extraction, its transportation, its refining, and its consumption—threats to our Earth.

The truth of the matter is the U.S. isn't even going to be using those fossil fuels transported by that pipeline; they're going straight to China. In fact, the only proposed feasible method of getting those Canadian tar sands to China or any other country is by building the Keystone XL pipeline to feed into the port in Houston, Texas.

I urge my colleagues to stop the Keystone XL pipeline, avoid lighting that carbon bomb in our country, oppose H.R. 3, and return our focus to initiatives that center on true energy independence through renewable resources and greener production.

Save the Earth.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, since President Obama has taken office, over $6 trillion has been added to our national debt. This is more than under any President in history.

Since President Obama has taken office, we have had 4 consecutive years of over trillion-dollar-plus deficits. These deficits have led to a national debt of almost $17 trillion.

In 2009, the President promised that he would not sign a health care law that adds one dime to our deficits. Well, a recent report from the GAO finds that ObamaCare will add over $6 trillion to our long-term deficits.

For the sake of our country and our children's future, we must repeal this massive government overreach into our health care system. The Republican House budget does that, and therefore I will support it.

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EXPANDED MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR TEXANS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, $5 trillion in surplus was extinguished in the last Republican administration. It had been created by President Clinton.

The Affordable Care Act will help provide the health coverage that is needed by millions of Americans. I rise today to speak particularly about Texas.

Some 24 percent of the population of Texas is uninsured, and yet our State

government has refused to accept expanded Medicaid. So today, Mr. Speaker, I make a public plea on behalf of the millions of Texans who get up and work every day and do not have health insurance, and to have a State government that is ignoring their plea, and that is to have expanded Medicaid to provide health insurance for working Texans and poor Texans, those that work, as well, below the minimum wage.

It seems selfish that the concerns of those who lead State government are all political and not in any way concerned about the mothers, fathers, and children who all of the medical professionals from county governments to private practice have said that the expanded Medicaid coverage, if taken by the State of Texas, like Florida and like Ohio, will save lives.

Do it now.

CBC HOUR: THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAINES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HORSFORD. Good evening, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to join with my colleague, Mr. JEFFRIES, the gentleman from New York, to coanchor this hour along with the Congressional Black Caucus and my colleagues from the CBC to talk about something very important right now to the American people, and that is the budget and who we will balance the budget on as far as how we move forward for the American people.

Less than 1 month after the sequester, Republicans have presented a carbon copy budget of their austerity plans of the past. The American people spoke loud and clear last November. They believe in investing in our recovery, turning our economy around, and getting people back to work. They reject balancing the budget on the backs of our children, seniors, and the middle class. Yet the Ryan budget starts with the premise that the sequester is good policy, that the ultrawealthy deserve another tax break, and that we don't really need to invest in our children or their future.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, the Congressional Black Caucus and I will lay out why the Ryan budget is a failed proposal for the American people and why we need to support an alternative offered by the Congressional Black Caucus and those who have worked hard to craft it.

I would like to recognize our chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentlelady from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE).

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to thank my colleagues, Congressmen JEFFRIES and HORSFORD, for again leading the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour on an issue of great importance—the Federal budget.

Mr. Speaker, every year since 1981, the Congressional Black Caucus has produced an alternative budget to both Republican and Democratic budgets. The CBC budget has consistently provided a fair and balanced approach to managing the Federal Government's finances. The CBC alternative budget for fiscal year 2014 is a pro-growth, pro-people, and pro-America budget. It acknowledges that only by investing in Americans, in the American people, can you build a bridge to a better America.

This message could not be more important as our Nation still struggles to recover from the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. Compounding this problem is growing income inequality. America needs congressional leadership to pull us out of our economic malaise, address our fiscal issues, and ensure that our recovery is felt in every community. Unfortunately, this is where the House Republican budget fails.

Chairman RYAN's budget attempts to lead America towards financial success by placing America's most vulnerable on the path to financial ruin. The Republican budget seeks to cut education funding, including money for Pell Grants. It slashes economic assistance to programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which could mean 8 to 9 million eligible households without benefits. It dismantles the Affordable Care Act. This means reducing access to affordable health care for the 27 million uninsured Americans who are projected to gain coverage under the law. This is neither the vision that the American people want, nor is it what the American people need.

Now, let's contrast the CBC budget and how it creates opportunity instead of snatching it away.

The CBC budget includes $230 billion in the maintenance and repair for public transit, highways, airports, ports, railroads, bridges, and other infrastructure investments; $13 billion for workforce developments programs, such as the Workforce Investment Act Adult Program, the Dislocated Worker Program, Job Corps and other employment and training services.

It includes $50 billion to provide relief to States to preserve teacher and first responder jobs, and $50 billion for neighborhood stabilization programs that provide affordable housing development, infrastructure improvements and other community development needs.

The CBC budget accomplishes all this while raising $1 trillion in new revenue to avoid sequestration. The economic recession has damaged our communities. Trillions of dollars in wealth were lost. Poverty rates for African Americans and Latinos soared to 26 and 23 percent, respectively. America doesn't need an austerity budget. It doesn't need a budget that looks at the struggling American people and says ''you're on your own.'' Americans need and deserve more.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the CBC fiscal year 2014 budget.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Will the gentlelady yield for a question?

Ms. FUDGE. Yes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. First of all, I want to thank the chairperson for conducting this discussion pertaining to the CBC's budget because I think it is the most compassionate budget that will be presented to the House.

My question for you, Madam Chair, is that I just returned from Florida. Florida ranks first in the last 8 months with the number of people losing their homes because of foreclosure, Miami being first, Orlando being second, Jacksonville being eighth. People approach me about jobs. They're not talking to me about the deficit. They want to know what we are doing as far as putting the American people to work.

Can you expound upon that for me, please?

Ms. FUDGE. Absolutely. I thank the gentlelady.

What we have done in this budget, not only did we put in $13 billion for workforce training, for Job Corps, for dislocated workers, retraining, segment training, but, in total, we have almost $500 billion worth of job creation built into our budget, more than any budget—more than any budget—whether it be the Democratic Caucus, the White House budget, or the Republican budget. We have doubled down on jobs in the CBC budget.

Mr. HORSFORD. Continuing on, as the chairwoman of the CBC just talked about, the Congressional Black Caucus budget is an alternative budget for fiscal year 2014. It puts forth a plan that both reduces the deficit by $2.8 trillion over the next decade and creates millions of jobs through significant investments towards job creation that will accelerate our economic recovery and ensure that it's felt in every community across America.

The CBC budget also cancels the economically disastrous sequester that is currently costing between 750,000 to 1 million jobs. So the CBC budget creates jobs, while the sequester and the Republican budget, which adopts the sequester and makes it permanent, cut jobs, and the CBC budget pays for it.

To elaborate further is the vice chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Let me thank you, Mr. HORSFORD, for your leadership and thank you for convening this opportunity tonight for us to come to the floor and talk about a subject that is so personal and so important to every American.

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I also thank the chairwoman of the CBC, Ms. FUDGE, for her extraordinary and intelligent leadership. You have done so much for so many for so long, and we thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, just last week, House Budget Committee Chairman PAUL

RYAN—and I think most Americans recognize that name by now—Chairman PAUL RYAN rolled out his 2014 budget that he and his Republican colleagues have called the Path to Prosperity. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's more like the path to American ruin.

He says that he's going to balance the budget in 10 years; but he's going to balance that budget, if at all, on the backs of middle class Americans and poor people.

They use good sounding terms like ''strengthening the safety net.'' What that really means is cutting programs that help the poor and disfranchised in our country, programs that good Americans depend on every day to survive.

The Ryan budget talks about restoring fairness by ending barriers for job creation. What he doesn't talk about is that his budget proposal slashes funding for workforce development and job training and child care. How, Mr. Speaker, is a single mother of two small children expected to get and keep a job that pays more than the minimum wage—which, by the way, PAUL RYAN and his colleagues voted against raising—when she has no access to affordable child care or training?

Chairman RYAN and the Republicans don't care about that single mother or her children. They care about serving the interest of big business at the expense of ordinary Americans. So the Congressional Black Caucus has offered a budget alternative that I'm very proud of. It is sensible and balanced.

We propose reforming the Tax Code. We propose ending special tax breaks and closing tax loopholes like the mortgage deduction for vacation homes and yachts, eliminating the deduction for derivative traders and eliminating incentives for sending American jobs overseas. We propose taxing capital gains and dividends as ordinary income, raising about $900 billion over 10 years. These changes, Mr. Speaker, would generate much needed revenue.

The country has begun to recover. We see it every day in the news, and we're moving in the right direction. We're beginning to recover from near financial ruin, but our recovery is fragile and desperately needs a shot in the arm to accelerate our economic recovery. Instead, the Republican-controlled House thought it best to poison the economy and throw away the antidote.

According to leading economists, once sequestration is fully implemented, Americans are going to lose 2.14 million jobs. Those are 2 million jobs that exist now, but won't exist later because of politics.

The CBC and the majority of Americans believe that sequestration is damaging our fragile economy and that it must be reversed immediately. Our budget does just that.

Our Nation's unemployment rate is 7.7 percent and has been on a gradual decline, but there are still far too many people out of work. To reinvigorate a willing and able workforce, the CBC proposes investing over $500 billion in a comprehensive jobs program, including $100 billion for a national direct job creation program, $50 billion for much needed school modernization, and $50 billion to support and maintain jobs in education and law enforcement. We would also dedicate $230 billion to repairing and replacing our crumbling infrastructure, including highways and bridges.

In order for people to get jobs they so badly need, they need to possess the necessary skills. The CBC budget will work to support and enhance job-training programs through an injection of $13 billion and also help to put young people to work through a $7 billion summer jobs program.

When hardworking Americans work their entire lives, they have been paying into a system that promised them income security. We must guarantee it. The Ryan budget seeks to eviscerate the Medicare program as we know it and turn it into a voucher system. That is wrong. They seek to block-grant the Medicaid program and give the discretion to the States. That is wrong, and it will devastate low-income families, and more than 35 percent will be cut from the Medicaid program over the next 10 years. Mr. RYAN proposes to make the change apply to individuals 55 years of age and younger. That's very interesting.

What is particularly egregious, in closing, is that the Ryan budget cuts almost 18 percent from the SNAP program, amounting to $135 billion. Over 90 percent of SNAP money, as we all know, goes to paying for food assistance.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus and the Democratic minority here in the House are serving notice here today that we will not tolerate the unbalanced approach of the Republican majority. You must work with us to create a stream of new revenue by closing loopholes that benefit the rich, and we must have a balanced approach to balancing the Federal budget.

Thank you for the time, Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you for your leadership.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Mr. Vice Chairman.

As you indicate, 70 percent of the American people agree with the CBC plan to have a balanced approach, one that helps to preserve and protect the very programs that you just mentioned and that gets our economy on the focus of what we should be dealing with, which is the jobs deficit in this country, not the so-called ''budget deficit.''

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. There is no question the American people, Mr. HORSFORD, want a strong economy, they want jobs created, and they're expecting us in this House to do it on a bipartisan basis.

We have failed to do it, and we must do it.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you.

Over the weekend, Speaker BOEHNER said:

We do not have an immediate debt crisis. We have one looming. It's not an immediate problem.

Well, what we do have right now is an immediate jobs deficit, and we should be focused on getting the American people back to work. That's what the Congressional Black Caucus alternative budget does.

And to talk about the focus on jobs and investing in our future, the woman who fights for the people of Florida, the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. BROWN).

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Thank you so much, and thank you for your leadership.

I really do believe when you're born you get a birth certificate, and when you die you're going to get a death certificate; and that little dash in between is what you've done to make this a better place. And I really want to thank the Congressional Black Caucus for your leadership, for what you have done being the conscience of this House of Representatives, a House that has lost its conscience.

Now, I come from Florida, and our State now ranks number one in foreclosure. Why is that? There's a direct correlation between if you don't have a job, you cannot pay your mortgage. And so the Congressional Black Caucus budget invests in jobs.

I am so sick and tired of this House position—what I called when I was coming up—''reverse Robin Hood,'' robbing from the poor and working people to give tax breaks to the rich.

The Congressional Black Caucus budget on the other hand invests in education, saving the jobs of teachers and first responders. What else good does it do? It makes investment toward rebuilding our neighborhoods; and we all know that for every billion dollars that we spend in infrastructure, it generates 44,000 permanent jobs.

Now, I want to say something about the fact that you can tell something about an organization or a group or your church or your club as to how you spend the money. That's how you can tell. And you can tell whether you care about the children, the disabled, and the elderly.

Coming from Florida, the home of Claude Pepper, I want to be very clear that I will not vote to cut Social Security, Medicaid, or Medicare.

You know what? We did have an election, and I want you to know the people of Florida weighed in. You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time. And the people of Florida have spoken. They want us to work together, and they want jobs now. They understand that 20 years from now we need to correct Social Security and other things; but today when I go home, the only question they ask me—whether I'm in the dollar store or the nail store or in church—is they want jobs and they want us to work together to bring those jobs to the community.

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I really do believe, to whom God has given much, much is expected, and we really need to expect more out of this House of Representatives, the people's House.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Congresswoman.

As you indicated, in addition to the CBC alternative budget, which focuses on the jobs—maintaining the jobs we have and creating new jobs—the CBC budget also preserves and protects Social Security and Medicare. It rejects the idea of voucherizing care for those who have paid into these programs their entire lives. Instead, it strengthens these programs to guarantee a safe and secure retirement for our parents and our grandparents as well as for the generation to come, which is something that you and other members of the Congressional Black Caucus have fought for for many years in this body.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I just want to add one other thing. I will never forget that Newt Gingrich said that he wanted Medicaid and Medicare to wither on the vine. That is the philosophy of these people who control this House—wither on the vine.

Mr. HORSFORD. These are vital safety programs that save millions of families, many of whom we serve on the Congressional Black Caucus. These programs save them from poverty, like SNAP and TANF—they are enhanced, so that those who are struggling to get by are given not a handout but a hand up in meeting their needs, so that they and their families can survive for themselves, and we will continue to fight to preserve and protect these programs.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Absolutely, sir, because absolutely, in coming from Florida, failure is not an option.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to turn to the physician who is in the House. We have one of the experts in health care, someone who knows how important the Affordable Care Act is and the preservation of the Affordable Care Act.

I find it interesting that the House Republican budget calls for the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, but still they take the money and use it to balance their budget. So how can they balance their budget and repeal the Affordable Care Act at the same time?

I yield to the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands, Representative CHRISTENSEN.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you.

Repealing the Affordable Care Act is going to cost this country exponentially in the years to come, so they are doing the exact opposite of balancing the budget in the long run, but I have to ask the question:

Just how much more austerity can the American people take and still survive?

The recession, which is struggling to recover, has been bad enough, but with past cuts, the sequester, the CR, and now the Republican 2014 budget, they are threatening to make a bad situation even worse. I want to focus on just the hits that health care has taken.

From ROSA DELAURO's report, we learned that since 2002, labor, health, and education programs have endured cuts of 7 percent, resulting in a nearly $12 billion reduction in funding in 2012. Going forward, the discretionary budget caps set in the Budget Control Act of 2011 are estimated to cut over $9 billion, or 5.4 percent, in 2021. Altogether, this will result in a 12 percent per capita cut, or a nearly $22 billion cut to labor, health, and education programs in 2021, when compared to the 2002 levels. These cuts will weaken these critical programs that protect the public health and safety, promote and develop our workforce, and educate the next generation of Americans.

If we just look at programs under the Department of Health and Human Services, here is a partial list compared to 2002 levels:

In 2012, the Health Resources and Services Administration has seen a $2 billion reduction, which includes a $194 million reduction to the program which provides critical funding to support training new health professionals;

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has had a $122 million reduction;

The National Institutes of Health has had a $1.2 billion reduction from 2002 levels;

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has seen an $813.3 million reduction.

All of these reductions—all of these cuts—were in place even before the sequester, and are adjusted for inflation. Then to add insult to injury, at the first of this month, sequestration triggered an estimated 5.3 percent cut, resulting in another cut of approximately $7.5 billion from labor, health, and education programs. These cuts and those across all of the other government agencies, in programs that provide jobs and needed services, were the reason we said that the sequester ought to have been stopped, and why we still insist it needs to be repealed.

Then there is the continuing resolution for the balance of 2013. Will it end the sequester even for this year? No, it won't.

In health, the House bill would cut $75 million to State Health Access Grants and $276 million to flu funding, among other important programs.

Further, their CR underfunds priorities that are critical to crack down on fraud in health care and Social Security, and to help working families. It does not include a requested $949 million to implement the health insurance exchanges.

Their CR does not include a requested $567 million increase for Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control and for Social Security disability reviews and SSI eligibility determinations.

If these cuts and omissions were not bad enough, the Republican continuing resolution that was passed in the House does not include $35 million in emergency ADAP funding or $10 million for part C medical clinics that President Obama announced would happen on World AIDS Day in 2011. While all cuts to health programs are problematic, these cuts are especially devastating because ADAP and the part C medical clinics are there for financially and medically needy populations that need their services.

So are those all of the cuts Republicans are proposing? No, they are not.

They are proposing to pass a budget for fiscal year 2014, and the Republican budget would take the cuts in health programs that are already hurting many of our fellow Americans even further.

It would cut $810 billion from the Medicaid program over the next 10 years and would make it a block grant, which, as we heard in testimony at today's hearing in the Health Subcommittee, would jeopardize health care for children, the disabled, the elderly, and the poor—the most vulnerable in our country. It would raise the Medicare eligibility age and turn it into a voucher for future beneficiaries, shifting costs of as much as $6,000 per year to those beneficiaries, and it would repeal all of the funding, as Mr. HORSFORD said, needed to implement health care reform, essentially repealing the Affordable Care Act and repealing insurance for over 27 million Americans.

That is a heartless budget. Its values do not represent the values on which this country was founded and certainly not those of a nation under God.

The Democratic alternative is a far better budget for our country. It ends the sequester, it funds the Affordable Care Act, it raises revenue, and it makes sensible cuts that spare safety net programs that are more needed than ever. It also includes a doc fix, which stops the deep cuts to physicians' payments under Medicare, which would have reduced access to care for the beneficiaries.

The Democratic budget is a good budget, but the Congressional Black Caucus' pro-growth, pro-people, pro-America budget goes even further and builds on the Democratic budget, which has also adopted some of our key provisions:

The CBC budget doubles the revenue as well as increases the investment, as you've heard, in health, in education, in job creation, in housing, and in infrastructure programs. It does all of this and still significantly reduces the deficit. It protects Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid and all of the safety net programs. It, too, begins with ending the sequester and fully funding the Affordable Care Act.

I am really proud of the Congressional Black Caucus budget this year, as I am every year, and I commend Congressman BOBBY SCOTT and his team for another job well done.

This body and the other must reject the Ryan Republican budget. Everyone

can and should support and vote for the Congressional Black Caucus budget, but I'll tell you that it would be far better to pass any one of the Democratic alternatives, as they are all better for our country today and better for our future.

Mr. HORSFORD. Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN, let me thank you again for your hard work in fighting for quality health care for all Americans.

My grandmother suffered a stroke when I was only 9 weeks old, and she went into a coma. When she came out of that coma, she was paralyzed on the left side of her body. For the next 27 years, she lived in a nursing home, and it was that nursing home that allowed her to have the quality of life that she did have until she passed away in 2000.

□ 1950

Now as a young boy, I visited my grandmother virtually every week in that nursing home. I didn't know whether it was Medicaid or her disability that was providing for her care, but that's the reason she was able to live as long as she did. I know now that there are parents and grandparents depending on those programs more now than ever before, and that's why the CBC budget works to preserve and protect these programs. It's the people's budget, as you refer to it, and our values are the values that protect those who are not able to always protect themselves, versus an austerity budget that looks out more for special interests and corporate interests than it does the people's interests. And so I want to thank you again because it is my grandmother's legacy, and so many other parents and grandparents who are in her situation, that remind me every day what it is we are supposed to be doing here in the people's House. So thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to now turn to Representative BARBARA LEE from California, someone who I know this week, particularly as we talk about ending the war in Iraq, she is someone who stood early on saying we didn't need to go into war, and the deficit spending that occurred in the previous administration is the reason that we have the deficits that we do. And now they want to balance the budget on the backs of the middle class and the poor and not take responsibility for the decisions that were made in the previous administration, so thank you for standing up and standing tall.

I yield to the gentlelady from California.

Ms. LEE of California. Let me thank the gentleman from Nevada first of all for his tremendous leadership on behalf of the people of Nevada, and also thank you for those kind words and thank you for really helping to put together not only this Special Order tonight on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, but for your leadership on so many fronts. Thank you.

Let me first say, I serve as a member of the Budget Committee, and I have seen close-hand the Republican vision for our country's future; and believe you me, it is not a vision of shared prosperity or economic growth. Having a sound and balanced alternative, like the Congressional Black Caucus budget, exposes the Republican budget for the disaster that it really is.

The Republican budget shortchanges 99 percent of the American people so it can give even more tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires, and to protect tax loopholes for special interests and Big Oil. At a time when we need job creation the most, the Republican budget would kill more than 2 million American jobs in 2014 alone. That's unconscionable. Cutting infrastructure development would also kill jobs that are important to our communities, communities of color. Jobs in the construction sector and in the public transit sector, these sectors employ many people that other sectors do not employ.

The Republican budget would take away food from hungry children and families, kick thousands of children off of Head Start, and close the door to college for thousands of graduates next year. Two-thirds of all of the Republican budget cuts target programs for people who are poor or low income, and communities of color would be the hardest hit.

Communities of color still bear the brunt of the last economic recession. Unemployment remains high. As of January, 9.7 percent of Latinos and 13.8 percent of African Americans were unemployed, compared to the national average of 9 percent. And income inequality continues to grow.

Federal unemployment benefits already under sequestration would face greater cuts under this Ryan budget as he proposes an additional $900 billion in cuts to nondiscretionary spending.

The Republican budget's vision for America is very clear. Their budget would shred the social safety net. It would shatter our economic recovery and would push millions of struggling families over the edge.

In stark contrast, the Congressional Black Caucus budget shows that we can choose a different way forward. It is a document that shows our Nation's priorities and values, for, after all, a budget is a moral document. The CBC budget protects and enhances Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, TANF, SNAP, all of our vital safety net programs that save millions of people from poverty.

We believe strongly that any savings derived from changes to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid should be used to extend their solvency, not to pay for tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires, and we do not support a cut in benefits.

For four decades, many of these programs have received support as the first line of defense against hunger and alleviating poverty, helping to ensure vulnerable families in our Nation that they have a stable life. While protecting important antipoverty programs, the CBC budget would also make sound invests in critical areas like infrastructure, education, innovation, and poverty reduction to strengthen the economy for all.

I'm very proud of the fact that the CBC budget includes supporting language for developing a national strategy to eliminate poverty with the goal of cutting poverty in half in 10 years. Fifty million people in the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world are living in poverty; 16 million are children.

We've also included in our budget a formula that Leader Clyburn continues to champion. That's our 10–20–30 formula, which targets resources: 10 percent of Federal funds into certain accounts where there has been a poverty rate of 20 percent for the last 30 years. That is extremely important as we begin to cut poverty in half in 10 years.

The Republican budget, of course, is a pathway to poverty, with cuts to social safety net programs, jobs, as well as programs that serve as a bridge over troubled water for millions of low-income and vulnerable families. The fact of the matter is, when the economy grows through sound policies and investments that lift up struggling families, everyone benefits.

Also, let me just mention the section with regard to national defense. Congressman HORSFORD, thank you very much for reminding us about these two wars, quite frankly, that have been off budget and that are responsible for the deficits and for the lack of jobs and the unemployment rates that we see throughout our country. Our Congressional Black Caucus budget brings our defense spending in line with our legitimate security needs, and we also have a budget that measures our growth in terms of our economic footing as it relates to investing in our national economic security here at home. Whatever savings can be achieved, we put into mental health, veterans' health, and also support and research treatment for traumatic brain injury.

Also, let me just remind you that the Pentagon is the only Federal agency that's not subject to an audit. The Pentagon has lost tens of billions of dollars to waste, fraud, and abuse. There have been reports of suitcases full of dollars, U.S. taxpayer dollars, being stolen or lost as it relates to Iraq and Afghanistan. We've got to be able to audit the Pentagon, and so our budget uses the $300 billion of the savings from cuts also to the ballistic missile defense program for implementing the remaining GAO recommendations. I think we have now 1,682 of them, which would save about $89 billion. And so our budgeting insists that we begin to audit the Pentagon. That is a very important function that the Congressional Black Caucus understands very clearly.

Finally, let me just say, we restore harmful cuts to the military Tuition Assistance program. I can't believe that the Republicans would cancel

military tuition assistance for veterans who have fought so hard in these wars. Don't they deserve better? The Congressional Black Caucus believes they deserve better, and so we restore those harmful cuts.

The Congressional Black Caucus knows we can do better. We know that a shared prosperity is the most important key to sound growth and sound fiscal policy. First, let me just urge everyone to reject the ruinous Republican budget and to support the CBC alternative budget.

I have to thank Congressman BOBBY SCOTT and the Budget Task Force and all the staff for their tremendous work and their support in putting forth and writing a budget, really, that speaks to the aspirations and to reigniting the American Dream for all Americans.

I thank you again, Representative HORSFORD, for your leadership.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, may I confirm how much time we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The gentleman has 21 minutes remaining.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At this time I'd like to yield to the gentlelady from California, Representative BASS, who, as a former legislator like myself, has dealt with these types of brutal across-the-board cuts as proposed and having to work across party lines in a bipartisan way to find commonsense solutions. I think that it is common sense that we need a little more of here in Washington, D.C.

I am pleased to yield to the gentlelady from California.

Ms. BASS. Thank you, Representative HORSFORD.

I do have to say, coming from the State house, it was a little discouraging to come here and find not a lot of common sense. So thank you for your leadership. And thank you very much, Representative JEFFRIES and especially Representative SCOTT, for your leadership and hours and hours of work that you've put into the Congressional Black Caucus budget.

□ 2000

Today, the Republican Party released a sprawling report detailing their failures to connect with the anxieties of middle class Americans, citing this as a major reason why they lost last year's Presidential election.

As a result, they are now promising a kinder, gentler Republican Party; but, sadly, the rhetoric just doesn't match the reality of the Paul Ryan budget, which is nothing more than a rehash of a failed agenda that the American people have already rejected.

The Republican budget continues to push harsh and unnecessary budget cuts that eliminate the safety net for millions of middle class Americans. The American people don't want a budget that breaks our promises to seniors by turning Medicare into a voucher program or cuts investments that support job creation just for the sake of more budget-busting tax cuts for the wealthiest taxpayers and corporations.

Yet my friends on the other side of the aisle continue pushing this failed approach all in the name of deficit reduction—except this weekend their own leadership admitted we don't have an immediate debt crisis in the country. Even the architect of the budget, Congressman PAUL RYAN, said this weekend, ''We do not have a debt crisis right now.'' Speaker BOEHNER said, ''We do not have an immediate debt crisis'' and ''It's not an immediate problem.''

So why should we enact this failed budget when Democrats have offered a better and more balanced approach to protect the middle class and pay down the deficit? Why then should we pass a budget that gets 66 percent of its cuts from programs for people of low-or moderate incomes? Why should we pass a budget that cuts funding for programs like Pell Grants to help students go to college or cuts the SNAP program that helps to feed 48 million people just to give a $200,000 tax cut to millionaires? The budget put forward by the Congressional Black Caucus saves Pell Grants and continues the SNAP program to prevent Americans from going hungry while at the same time reducing the deficit by $2.8 trillion over 10 years.

The American people know we can't cut our way to prosperity, nor can we succeed by pursuing the same failed policies that wrecked our economy in the first place and undermine our economic recovery.

The Congressional Black Caucus budget offers a clear alternative that addresses the concerns of middle class Americans. Our budget is focused on core priorities for the middle class: creating jobs, growing the economy, strengthening the middle class, and reducing the deficit.

Our proposal puts people to work this year with specific and targeted investments, while investing also in education, energy, research, and infrastructure, and keeping our commitment to America's seniors.

Our plan is fair, balanced, reasonable, and responsible. It is pro-growth, pro-people, pro-America; and it is the approach favored by the majority in this country.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Congresswoman BASS.

Mr. Speaker, to focus on jobs and investing in our future, the fact that this is pro-growth, pro-people, and that 70 percent of the American people support this type of an approach is why the CBC is offering this as an alternative to the House Republican majority. And to speak further on the pro-growth needs of this budget, my colleague in the new freshman class, it has been a delight to get to know her, the gentlelady from Ohio, Representative BEATTY.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you so much, Congressman HORSFORD.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss House Budget Committee Chairman RYAN's fiscal year 2014 budget and Democratic alternatives that work.

I first want to thank my colleagues, Mr. HORSFORD and Mr. JEFFRIES, both members of my class, for leading the Congressional Black Caucus' discussion on this critical matter. I would also like to thank Congressman BOBBY SCOTT for his tireless efforts on the Congressional Black Caucus budget.

Released last week, Congressman RYAN's proposal, entitled ''A Path to Prosperity,'' includes more of the same proposals that the American public rejected at the ballot last November. Same proposal, different cover.

I cannot possibly imagine how this regressive tax structure that it contains is a way to lead to shared American prosperity. I also cannot imagine how this budget will balance in 10 years and not hurt Medicare beneficiaries over the age of 55.

As it has been in the past, Republican RYAN'S budget offers a trickle-down agenda—the same agenda tried during George W. Bush's Presidency, which resulted in the withering of the middle class and the total collapse of the economy. This budget shares in the same failed policies of the past, and in a nutshell it is unrealistic, unreasonable, and unfair.

First, Mr. Speaker, while the Ryan budget is clear on its harmful proposed cuts for children's education and health care services for seniors, the budget blueprint is particularly light on details and heavy on tax breaks to wealthy Americans who do not need the help.

Second, but of no less importance, the Ryan proposal fails to repeal and replace the sequester, therefore doing nothing to prevent the loss of over 700,000 jobs the sequester will cause.

By not stopping the sequester and through other budgetary tricks, the Ryan budget will cause even deeper cuts to all of our Nation's essential services, ranging from the deep cuts for services for women to Head Start and health care research to homeland security.

This lack of foresight will also result in some $800 billion of Federal funds being removed from Pell Grants and school lunches and begin the process of changing Medicare to a voucher system.

There is a better way. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus have worked diligently to put forth an alternative blueprint, one designed to be pro-growth and put jobs in the economy first, rather than adhere blindly to ideological spending cuts.

The Congressional Black Caucus alternative would replace the sequester's cuts with intelligent, balanced, deficit-reduction measures.

Additionally, cutting educational spending in the name of future generations smacks of insincerity when we recognize that America's position as global leader in technology and innovation depends on our ability to invest in

the necessary infrastructure and training for such breakthroughs. That's why the Congressional Black Caucus budget would support billions of dollars of infrastructure and job-training investments for the future of our Nation and its citizens.

Americans are tired of watching their government lurch from one crisis to the next. The Congressional Black Caucus alternatives offer serious, credible paths away from gridlock and toward a long-term solution which creates jobs, expands the middle class, honors our commitment to seniors by preserving Medicare and protecting Medicaid, and addresses our budget deficits and debt responsibly.

These goals are achievable. But be clear, the Ryan budget will not get us there. It is not the path to the Nation's collective prosperity. It does not move us forward. The Democrats and members of the Congressional Black Caucus propose that we move America forward.

I thank you for the opportunity to address these important issues.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Congresswoman BEATTY. We appreciate your leadership and your hard work.

Mr. Speaker, can I just confirm our remaining time, please.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For the remaining time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn to two of our members on the Budget Committee, people who have heard firsthand the devastating cuts from the House Republican proposal and who have worked so hard to lay out the alternative proposal for the Congressional Black Caucus.

First, Representative BOBBY SCOTT from Virginia, thank you for your hard work and that of your staff. And after him, Representative JEFFRIES from New York.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Thank you. And I thank the gentleman for yielding. I was on the Budget Committee—I'm not this year—but I have done a lot of work on the Budget Committee.

Mr. HORSFORD. I think you should be back.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Thank you. And I want to thank you for your leadership. I want to thank the gentleman from Nevada for his leadership on this matter, and the chair of the Black Caucus, MARCIA FUDGE.

□ 2010

Mr. Speaker, the Simpson-Bowles Commission several years ago set a $4 trillion, 10-year deficit reduction goal as the amount of deficit reduction we needed to get our budget under control. The CBC does not endorse the specific recommendations of that goal, but our budget does accept the overall spending limitations of the deficit reduction goals.

Based on most analyses, we have already passed, and the President has signed into law, approximately $2.4 trillion in deficit reduction through 2022, not including the sequester. So to reach the goal, we need an additional $1.6 trillion in deficit reduction. So working off the CBO's baseline, we first instruct the Ways and Means Committee to enhance revenues by $2.7 trillion over the next 10 years. That is not an extraordinary figure. Just a few weeks ago, we passed a $3.9 trillion extension in tax cuts. So going back over that and coming up with $2.7 trillion is certainly within the realm of possibility.

Now, we don't just make the number up. We show $4.2 trillion in possible options in coming up with the $2.7 trillion. That would include limiting the deductibility of corporate interest payments, ending a lot of numerous special interest tax breaks that corporations enjoy; money can be raised by capital gains and dividends being taxed as ordinary income without a special benefit; a surcharge of 5.4 percent on that portion of your income over a million dollars—a speculator's tax—reducing the extension of tax cuts down to the first $250,000 rather than $450,000 of income; and several other specific recommendations to choose from to show that the $2.7 trillion is a reasonable figure.

Now, I know those are unpopular; but they're not nearly as unpopular as the sequester and cuts in health care, particularly Medicare and Medicaid. The revenue enhancements called for will be used to first cancel the sequester. Everybody's talking about how bad it is. Our budget cancels the sequester altogether. Then we pay for a $500 billion jobs plan that will put at least 45 million Americans back at work. And then we provide an additional $280 billion in long-term investments in our economy through education, job training, health care, and advanced science and research.

Even with these investments, our budget is projected to reduce the deficit by approximately $2.8 trillion over the decade, compared to the CBO's baseline, which, incidentally, does not include the savings that we will achieve through the winding down of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. That will put us on a sustainable goal. It more than meets the Simpson-Bowles goal. So we feel that is a responsible goal. This number is actually pessimistic because with the jobs bill, we think we're going to do a lot better because of the stimulative effect it has on the economy.

Now, this is in stark contrast to the committee report, which has vague numbers—numbers that don't add up or don't give you a clue as to how they're going to get the money. The budget has a reduction in tax rates, does not say how you're going to make that revenue-neutral or by where you're going to find the $4 trillion to $5 trillion in taxes that would be needed to make it revenue-neutral. They block-grant Medicaid. By the time you get to the end of 10 years, it's about one-third of what it needs to be to maintain present benefits. Two-thirds of Medicaid are the elderly and disabled. So if you're cutting them, what exactly are your plans for them?

If you look at their budget, they claim $4.5 trillion in deficit reduction. A trillion is repealing ObamaCare, but keeping all of the taxes and pay-fors that paid for ObamaCare, and $1.5 billion is cutting Medicaid and Medicare. So that's almost a trillion in unspecified mandatory spending. Most mandatory spending is Social Security. They don't specify where that's coming from. Three-fourths of the rest is interest on what is not going to happen.

On the other hand, the CBC budget specifically outlines where we're going to get the money. Then, it creates 5 million jobs, invests in education, transportation, health care, and research. And in the end, it has more than the Simpson-Bowles goal of deficit reduction. It is a plan that's specific. It can be done. And if we adopt the Congressional Black Caucus budget, we will more than achieve the Simpson-Bowles goals of deficit reduction and create 5 million jobs.

I thank the gentleman for his leadership,

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Congressman SCOTT. Again, thank you for your very hard work and that of your staff in bringing this forward.

To close this out, to lay out the two options and approaches that are before us, we have what I would like to coin as the Compassionate People's Budget, offered by the Congressional Black Caucus, and we have the Austerity Budget. Now, the Compassionate Budget is focused on the people and the Austerity Budget continues to protect special interest and corporate interest. And to talk more about that, the gentleman from New York, Representative JEFFRIES.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank my good friend, the distinguished gentleman from the Silver State, for his leadership in co-anchoring the CBC Special Order and for giving me the opportunity to lay out as best I can the contrasting visions as represented by the CBC budget—and we're thankful for the leadership of Representative BOBBY SCOTT in that regard—and the GOP budget.

We're at a crossroads in America, a fork in the road, and we can go in one of two different directions. And one direction is a compassionate path, as set forth by the Congressional Black Caucus. The other direction is a more regressive, mean-spirited path, as set forth by the GOP budget.

The CBC budget is designed to create progress for the greatest number of people possible here in America. The GOP budget endorses the view of prosperity for the few. The CBC budget takes a balanced approach to dealing with the economic situation that we find ourselves in here in America. The GOP budget balances the budget on the

backs of the most vulnerable in our society. The CBC budget will create jobs for Americans. The GOP budget will cost us hundreds of thousands of jobs. These are two very different visions for where we need to go here in America.

A balanced approach has four different elements. First, invest in the American economy. Second, raise revenue by closing corporate loopholes that are unfair, unjust, and in many instances, unconscionable—tax breaks for corporate jets, tax subsidies for big oil companies that are making record profits, tax incentives for American companies to ship our jobs overseas. The CBC budget will close these wasteful corporate loopholes.

Third, we look for savings by cutting waste, fraud, and abuse; and we take this approach because of the sensitive nature of our fragile economic recovery. You can't just cut the budget with a meat cleaver without hurting the American people. And, lastly, the CBC balanced approach stands up for important programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid that have nothing to do with the economic mess that we find ourselves in right now.

We don't have a short-term deficit crisis in America. That's what the independent objective economists have concluded. The Speaker of the House of Representatives has acknowledged we don't have a short-term deficit crisis. The chairman of the Budget Committee just yesterday acknowledged that we don't have a short-term deficit crisis.

We've gained 6 million jobs over the last 4-plus years, but we still have a long way to go. We've got a jobs crisis.

□ 2020

Now, corporate profits are way up, the stock market is way up, the productivity of the American worker is way up, but the reality is consumer demand remains stagnant. That's why we have to invest in the American economy, invest in transportation and infrastructure, research and development, invest in technology and innovation, education and job training, as the CBC budget compassionately does.

Now, the other budget balances itself on the backs of the poor, children, senior citizens, working families, and the middle class. Now, they'll say we're trying to put forth misinformation to scare the American people. That's a cute observation, but it has no factual basis.

The GOP budget cuts Medicaid by $810 billion. That's not a scare tactic; that's reality.

The GOP budget voucherizes Medicare so that in the future the health care costs wouldn't be covered by this voucher program in the manner that it is right now. That's not a scare tactic; that's reality.

The GOP budget cuts spending on higher education by $168 billion. That's not a scare tactic; that's reality.

That's why we are putting forth a compassionate budget to put the American people back to work.

Mr. HORSFORD. The CBC budget refocuses the priorities where it should be, on the middle class. The CBC budget will save up to 2 million public and private sector jobs just from the cancellation of the sequester alone.

Bottom line, Mr. Speaker: job creation is our number one priority with this budget. We put Americans back to work, we protect the vital social programs they rely on, and we call on everyone to contribute to growing our economy and strengthening our recovery. This is a balanced approach that the American people are calling for.

We're urging our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work with us to craft a commonsense budget proposal that creates jobs, that moves our country forward, and that protects the middle class and the poor.

I yield back the balance of my time.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2106

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) at 9 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 25, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 115, PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE 113TH CONGRESS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–21) on the resolution (H. Res. 122) providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 115) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CICILLINE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical surgery.

Mr. NADLER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and March 19 on account of attending a funeral.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 19, 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:

731. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the Department is taking essential steps to award a multiyear contract for 32 E-2D Advanced Hawkeye aircraft; to the Committee on Armed Services.

732. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's semiannual Monetary Policy Report pursuant to Pub. L. 106-569; to the Committee on Financial Services.

733. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Assistance to States for the Education of Children With Disabilities [Docket ID: ED-2011-OSERS-0012] (RIN: 1820-AB64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

734. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's FY 2012 annual performance report to Congress required by the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

735. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Health Insurance Market Rules; Rate Review [CMS-9972-F] (RIN: 0938-AR40) received March 7, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

736. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2014 [CMS-9964-F](RIN:0938 AR51] received March 1, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

737. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, Agency for International Development, transmitting a formal response to GAO report GAO-13-34; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

738. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting an intention to transfer jurisdictional control of certain classes of items currently on the United States Munitions List to the Commerce Control List, pursuant to Section 38(f)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

739. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on the status of Data Mining Activities, pursuant to Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act, Section 804; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

740. A letter from the Administrator, Agency for International Development, transmitting the Agency's fiscal year 2012 financial report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

741. A letter from the HR Specialist, Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, transmitting second annual report on the category rating system as required by 5 U.S.C., Section 3319(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

742. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Hawker Beechcraft Corporation (Type Certificate Previously Held by Raytheon Aircraft Company; Beech Aircraft Corporation) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1111; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-114-AD; Amendment 39-17342; AD 2013-03-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

743. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lindstrand Hot Air Balloons Ltd Appliances [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1134; Directorate Identifier 2012-CE-034-AD; Amendment 39-17345; AD 2013-03-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

744. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1251; Directorate Identifier 2012-CE-044-AD; Amendment 39-17335; AD 2013-03-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

745. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1273; Directorate Identifier 2012-CE-045-AD; Amendment 39-17350; AD 2013-03-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

746. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; DASSAULT AVIATION Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1037; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-008-AD; Amendment 39-17347; AD 2013-03-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

747. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Construction and Maintenance — Culvert Pipe Selection [FHWA Docket No.: FHWA-2012-0098] (RIN: 2125-AF47) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

748. A letter from the Board, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, transmitting the Trust's annual management report on its operations and financial condition; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

749. A letter from the Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the 2013 Trade Policy Agenda and the 2013 Annual Report on the Trade Agreements Program as prepared by the Administration; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

750. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Medicare Program; Extension of the Payment Adjustment for Low-volume Hospitals and the Medicare-dependent Hospital (MDH) Program Under the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems (IPPS) for Acute Care Hospitals for Fiscal Year 2013 [CMS-1588-N] (RIN: 0938-AR12) received March 7, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Concurrent Resolution 18. Resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service (Rept. 113–18). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Concurrent Resolution 19. Resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby (Rept. 113–19). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan: Committee on House Administration. House Resolution 115. Resolution providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress (Rept. 113–20). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 122. Resolution providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 115) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress; and for other purposes (Rept. 113–21). 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. ISSA (for himself and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 1232. A bill to amend titles 40, 41, and 44, United States Code, to eliminate duplication and waste in information technology acquisition and management; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 1233. A bill to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 1234. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require preservation of certain electronic records by Federal agencies, to require a certification and reports relating to Presidential records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. HARTZLER (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia):

H.R. 1235. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to permit States to exempt projects from certain Federal Energy Regulatory Commission considerations in issuing licenses for such projects; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 1236. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the inclusion of a behavioral health professional on any physical evaluation board that considers issues of post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or other mental health condition; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 1237. A bill to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor posthumously to Major Dominic S. Gentile of the United States Army Air Forces for acts of valor during World War II; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa (for himself and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 1238. A bill to direct the President to submit to Congress a report on the long-term costs of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, and Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Veterans' 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. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 1239. A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count the negotiated price of drugs provided free or at nominal charge under compassionate treatment programs towards incurred out-of-pocket costs; 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 Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. MENG, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. BERA of California):

H.R. 1240. A bill to extend the low-interest refinancing provisions under the Local Development Business Loan Program of the Small Business Administration; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. COOK (for himself and Mr. MCKEON):

H.R. 1241. A bill to facilitate a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Inyo National Forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.R. 1242. A bill to prohibit the use of drones to kill citizens of the United States within the United States; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H.R. 1243. A bill to establish within the Department of Education the Innovation Inspiration school grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.J. Res. 37. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States limiting the number of times Senators and Representatives may be elected; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H. Res. 123. A resolution expressing support for designation of May as National Stroke Awareness Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H. Res. 124. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SHUSTER (for himself, Mr. ROTHFUS, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. PITTS, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. MARINO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. KELLY, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. DENT, and Mr. PERRY):

H. Res. 125. A resolution encouraging the Navy to commission the USS Somerset (LPD-25) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, and Ms. DELAURO):

H. Res. 126. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of March 24, 2013, through March 30, 2013, as National Young Audiences Arts for Learning Week; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

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. ISSA:

H.R. 1232.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18 of the United States Constitution:

The Congress shall have Power—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 1233.

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. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 1234.

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 Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 1235.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I: Section 8: Clause 3 The United States Congress shall have power

''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 1236.

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 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clause 14), which grants Congress the power to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 1237.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 16.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 1238.

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. CASSIDY:

H.R. 1239.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 1240.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8 ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.''

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 1241.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.R. 1242.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment 5 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:

H.R. 1243.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Justification Statement re: to establish within the Department of Education the Innovation Inspiration school grant program, and for other purposes.

The above mentioned legislation is based upon the following Section 8 statement:

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. RIBBLE:

H.J. Res. 37.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority for this bill is stated in Article V of the U.S. Constitution, which establishes the method for enacting amendments to the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 3: Mr. HURT, Mr. JONES, Mr. SALMON, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 23: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 32: Mr. REICHERT, Mr. MARINO, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 36: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. FLEMING, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 38: Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 176: Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 217: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 276: Mr. HUELSKAMP and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 351: Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 354: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 483: Mr. HALL and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 499: Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 503: Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 543: Mr. LATHAM, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 544: Mr. FORBES and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 578: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 595: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 599: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 621: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 630: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. HOLT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. ESTY, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 633: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 637: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 664: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 673: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 693: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 711: Mr. WOODALL.

H.R. 713: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. BASS, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. BLACKburn, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 715: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 721: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 731: Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 732: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 738: Mr. RUNYAN.

H.R. 742: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 746: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H.R. 752: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 755: Mr. NOLAN, Mr. FORBES, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 791: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. SIRES, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HIMES, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 792: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 807: Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. YOHO, Mr. SALMON, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. AMASH.

H.R. 818: Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 828: Mr. LABRADOR.

H.R. 833: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. HOLT, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. FORBES, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mr. MCHENRY.

H.R. 850: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. REED, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LANCE, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MICA.

H.R. 893: Mr. MARINO and Mr. BRIDENSTINE.

H.R. 904: Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 913: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 924: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 925: Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 938: Mr. VEASEY, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr.

KINGSTON, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. CARNEY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 940: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 951: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 955: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 961: Mr. TAKANO and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1001: Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 1005: Mr. YOUNG of Florida.

H.R. 1010: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 1018: Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 1020: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 1024: Mr. JONES and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 1026: Mr. WESTMORELAND and Ms. JENKINS.

H.R. 1029: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 1030: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 1038: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. VARGAS and Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 1039: Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. RUNYAN.

H.R. 1077: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 1078: Mr. ROKITA and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 1081: Mr. LANCE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. CARTER, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. MCHENRY, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 1091: Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1094: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 1099: Mr. SCALISE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HARPER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BONNER, Mr. JONES, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 1120: Mrs. ROBY.

H.R. 1122: Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1126: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 1153: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 1154: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 1175: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1180: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 1181: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 1186: Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 1219: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. OLSON.

H. J. Res. 36: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.

H. Con. Res. 4: Mr. COOK.

H. Con. Res. 9: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. DESANTIS.

H. Res. 24: Mr. CALVERT.

H. Res. 69: Mr. FATTAH.

H. Res. 75: Mr. GOSAR.

H. Res. 90: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MAFFEI, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H. Res. 94: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H. Res. 108: Ms. BONAMICI.

H. Res. 112: Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. LATTA, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013 No. 39

Senate

The Senate met at 2:00 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God, we put our trust in You, determined to accept the things we cannot change and to change the things we can. Give our lawmakers the wisdom to trust in Your power to help them navigate through the difficulties ahead. Lord, fill their thoughts with Heaven's hopes as the light of Your presence envelops them. Help them to see themselves as Your servant leaders, filled with Your power, patriotism, and purpose. May they tune their hearts to receive Your guidance and Your abundant grace, opening themselves fully to Your transforming might.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 18, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. BALDWIN 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. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 933, the continuing resolution. The filing deadline for second-degree amendments is 4:30 p.m. today. Unless an agreement is reached, there will be a cloture vote on the substitute amendment today at 5:30 p.m.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 582 AND S. 583

Mr. REID. Madam President, there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 582) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

A bill (S. 583) to implement equal protection under the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution for the right to life of each born and preborn human person.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to these two pieces of legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the measures will be placed on the calendar.

THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I want to advise everyone as to what is happening with our effort to keep the government running. On Thursday we recessed for the weekend so negotiators could attempt to reach an agreement on a finite list of amendments to consider today. The bill managers, Senators SHELBY and MIKULSKI, have worked very hard, and they have made progress over the weekend. They have condensed the number of amendments that are being seriously talked about. I commend them and their staff for all their efforts. I have spoken to both of them this morning; they have not yet reached an agreement. I think they are getting close—or at least I hope that is the case. Just before coming in here, I spoke to one of the staff members, and he is reaching out to Senator SHELBY's staff before presenting it to the two Senators for their approval.

Frankly, I had trouble getting both sides to agree on a finite list of amendments. There were a lot of amendments that people wanted, but he objected to this and she objected to that. There is still hope that we can have a limited number of amendments and vote on those so we can move to final passage of the bill. One way or another, we have to move forward on this bill.

On Wednesday I filed a motion to invoke cloture on the pending substitute amendment and the underlying bill. On Thursday we postponed that cloture vote, anticipating that an agreement would be reached and that we could consider amendments today. Absent an agreement, we will vote on a cloture petition tonight. It is in the interest of all Senators that we move forward with this important legislation. The House is waiting on our action. There is a great deal of work to do on either side of the aisle before March 27 kicks in.

Also, the more time we spend on this continuing resolution, the less time we will have to vote on amendments 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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the budget resolution. As a reminder, the budget resolution cannot be filibustered, but there is 50 hours of debate allowed. We must reserve time this week to consider a number of amendments on the budget. After all 50 hours expires, there will be unlimited amendments. So this is going to be a very full week. Senators should expect to work into the night as well as some late votes.

We will stay as long as it takes to complete work on both the continuing resolution and the budget resolution even if that means working on the weekend and into the Easter and Passover recess. I understand that Passover is on Monday, so if we don't finish over the weekend, we would have to come back after Passover, which would be terribly unfortunate, but we need some cooperation from Senators on both sides of the aisle. I am hopeful and confident we can get there.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. REID. Will the Chair announce the business for the rest of the day.

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 H.R. 933.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 933) to make 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.

Pending:

Reid (for Mikulski-Shelby) modified amendment No. 26, in the nature of a substitute.

Toomey amendment No. 115 (to amendment No. 26), to increase by $60 million the amount appropriated for operation and maintenance for the Department of Defense for programs, projects, and activities in the continental United States, and to provide an offset.

Durbin amendment No. 123 (to amendment No. 115), to change the enactment date.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate is in a quorum. Without objection, we will suspend the quorum call.

Mr. BLUNT. I need to repeat my request, Madam President, just in case. I ask unanimous consent that we set aside the pending amendment and call up amendment No. 43.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Ms. MIKULSKI. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I wish to talk about this amendment. I hope there is still a way I might be able to offer it. If I am not able to offer it as an amendment to this bill, I intend to offer it as a bill to become part of the ongoing laws that govern these kinds of activities. I would also say—and I have said to many people—I have great expectations for the chairman of our committee, Chairman MIKULSKI. I understand she is trying to work out how to make the work of the Senate happen, and I think she is going to be vigilant and determined in leading us back toward the normal appropriations process. I am proud to be a member of her committee, and I do believe she and Senator SHELBY, the ranking Republican, are going to be insisting the Senate get back to the way it should do business. I look forward to working with her to solve the problems we are solving this week and the problems we need to solve before October 1, when the new fiscal year begins.

Let me say a few words about this moment we find ourselves in, and that there is no question that government spending is out of control. We have increased spending 19 percent since 2008. The Federal debt has skyrocketed to almost $17 trillion now. In 1981, when Ronald Reagan was sworn in as President, as part of his inaugural address we were approaching the first $1 trillion in debt in the history of the country. The illustration he gave in that speech was: If you had a stack of thousand-dollar bills 4 inches high, you would be a millionaire, but the stack to have $1 trillion would have to be stacked—those dollar bills—67 miles high. Now we are 67 miles high with thousand-dollar bills, not of dollar bills, and if every 4 inches of that were $1 million, we are 67 miles high times almost 17. And that is unacceptable.

The President's own budget office has made more than 200 recommendations of ways we could find savings through making government more efficient. More importantly, the Government Accountability Office has identified 51 areas where programs are inefficient, ineffective, and overlapping, leading to billions of dollars in wasted taxpayer money. There is simply no reason the government should stop providing essential services—which is what I want to talk about—because we are cutting 2½ percent of the budget through these line-by-line cuts that, by the way, wouldn't happen if we would budget at or below the number the law now says is the maximum dollar we can spend in any year—this year or for the next 9 years. This doesn't have to happen at all. But if it does happen, there is no reason we should have to be curtailing essential services.

The Budget Control Act didn't fail to adequately plan for how to protect these essential services. On other days, when the government is not functioning at a full level, there have been many ways found to see those employees got to work. In fact, according to several letters from the Office of Management and Budget, Federal agencies have actually been instructed not to plan for sequestration. A few days ago, I was on the floor with a letter from the Office of Management and Budget from September 28 of last year, 2 days before the new spending year starts, and the letter said: Spend your money as though the law will not be obeyed. Spend your money as though the sequestration law will never go into effect. Spend your money as though the Budget Control Act will be changed.

Of course, now we are halfway into the fiscal year and everybody has been spending as though the law isn't the law and suddenly we have these problems that are much bigger than they would have been if we had dealt with them over 12 months, but now we are trying to deal with them over a handful of months. Furlough notices are being made in a sweeping fashion. They are threatening day-to-day services that protect life and safety.

Every service the Federal Government provides doesn't affect life and safety. I am not saying every Federal job is subject to this amendment or every Federal job is critical for everything that happens every day. I recently sent the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary Vilsack, a letter urging him to use his authority to minimize the impact of sequestration as it relates to food safety and inspection services, the so-called FSIS. The letter came out right after the USDA said they would be laying off people for as many as 15 days in the last 4 months or so of the spending year—the 4 months that would end at the end of September. It is estimated these food inspector furloughs would lead to the closure of nearly 6,300 facilities across America for the day the food inspectors don't show up.

If you happen to work somewhere for the FDA, the Food and Drug Administration, supervisor, they can show up whenever they want to, and they do that periodically. They can do that as a surprise visit. They can do lots of things. But in the facilities that are supervised by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, that inspector has to be there every day and every minute of every day for those workers in Missouri or Wisconsin or Maryland or anywhere to work.

I have been to a lot of these meat, poultry, and egg facilities, because we

have 146 of them in our State. These are hard jobs. These people are not showing up to work every day because they like to have somewhere to go. The fact is hundreds of workers, in fact, thousands of workers, could not show up for work on a given day and because the USDA inspector doesn't show up, they don't get paid for that day, and their families will suffer needlessly because we couldn't figure out how to prioritize what was necessary for those people to go to work. That is unacceptable to me.

As a result of these furloughs, the estimate is that nearly 500,000 workers will lose $400 million in wages over the course of this month. When that inspector doesn't show up, or the two inspectors don't show up at that plant that day, none of the many people who work there—and there might be a thousand people working at that plant that day—can work, none of them get paid, none of them produce the food that a few months later or a few weeks later or a few days later won't show up on the grocery store shelves in the country. And that is a problem too, but the problem I am concerned about is the working families who are affected here as well as the working families who later will see their meat, poultry, and egg prices go up because the supply is that much less than it otherwise would have been.

In his response to my letter, Secretary Vilsack claimed that ''When Congress drafted the Budget Control Act of 2011 directing Federal agencies to reduce their spending at specified levels, it included no exemption for essential employees such as FSIS inspectors.'' So today I wish to introduce the amendment the chairman has objected to—and I will introduce in the next few days a piece of legislation exactly like the amendment—and will continue to look for ways to add this amendment to this legislation.

What this amendment would do is give the administration the flexibility it claims it doesn't have. In doing so, this amendment will ensure essential Federal employees continue to provide vital services, such as meat inspectors, control tower operators, and border security guards. And here is how we would do it. In April of 2011, the Office of Personnel Management sent a detailed memo—this is President Obama's Office of Personnel Management—to each Federal agency outlining which Federal employees would be exempted from furlough during a potential government shutdown. It is my belief that the administration may still have this ability. But if they do not have it, I want to give it to them and I want to give it to them exactly as they themselves said it should be applied in April of 2011: Those employees are considered essential ''to ensure the safety of life and protection of property,'' based on language contained in this act.

My amendment would apply identical language used during government shutdown scenarios to the sequester. It defines an essential employee as an employee that performs work involving the safety of human life and the protection of property as determined by the head of the agency. This is the same language not only used in April of 2011 but used in guidance from the Clinton administration in preparation for the 1995 government shutdown, the last time when the government really did shut down.

These people showed up. These people were told to report to work. And if it was good enough for President Clinton to tell them to report to work, if it was good enough for President Obama in April of 2011 to tell them to report to work, it should be good enough now for the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Homeland Security, and anyone else where these people are being furloughed to do so.

This provision provides agencies with funding flexibility so that essential services are maintained, while nonessential employees are furloughed. I think we could do this—and with the chairman's help, we will do this—in the committee, I would hope, without having furloughs necessary in the future. But this amendment would solve the problem of essential employees that both President Clinton and President Obama thought was important to deal with the last two times a similar topic came up.

I would also like to mention the second amendment, which I am not offering, so it doesn't need to be objected to. Senator PRYOR and I have an amendment that may approach this in a different way—at least from the Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration Subcommittee. He is the chairman and I am the ranking member of that appropriations subcommittee, and I hope we can find a solution here.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDING pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate on the continuing resolution.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I come to the floor to discuss the continuing resolution we will vote on perhaps today or tomorrow.

This bill is much more than a continuing resolution and includes five separate appropriations bills. Our country now faces a $16.6 trillion debt, which is more than $52,000 for every man, woman, and child in America. It is time for Congress to go back to the business of voting on and passing annual budget resolutions, authorization bills, and appropriations bills, instead of a huge Omnibus appropriations bill such as the one before us today.

This continuing resolution includes numerous examples of egregious porkbarrel projects as well as billions in spending that was never authorized by the appropriate committee and not requested by the administration. The American taxpayer expects more and deserves more than what we are giving them in this bill.

One unfortunate example of Congress overstepping in this CR is the ongoing inclusion of an appropriations rider that prohibits the Postal Service from moving to 5-day mail delivery. This congressional mandate was put in place in 1984, and it is a roadblock, keeping the Postal Service from transforming the way it delivers mail while still being able to provide universal service. The Postal Service lost $1.3 billion in the first quarter of this year and recorded a loss of $15.9 billion in fiscal year 2012. So what are we telling them to do? Business as usual.

With the reality that the Postal Service will continue with devastating and unsustainable losses, the Postmaster General announced last month that the Postal Service would move to 5-day mail delivery later this year, which he estimates will save $2 billion annually. However, some in Congress who have decided they know better than the leadership of the Postal Service are moving to prohibit the Postal Service from modernizing and transforming the way it does business.

Congress must accept the fact that the Postal Service's current way of doing business is no longer viable. We now correspond by e-mail. We now correspond by different methods. It was terrible when the bridle-and-saddle business went out on the advent of the automobile. Things and times have changed. A huge percentage of the mail delivered today is what we call junk mail advertising. It is no longer the primary way Americans—and people in the world, for that matter—communicate. The American public conducts business in a different way than even 5 years ago. We have to allow the Postal Service to adapt to changing times in order to have a Postal Service in the future, and this includes 5-day mail delivery.

The Postal Service loses $1.3 billion in the first quarter, $15.9 billion last year, and do we come up with a fix for it? Do we address the issue? Of course not. There is nothing in this bill that would change that debt. There is nothing in this legislation that fixes the broken Postal Service. But there is a prohibition from them going to 5-day mail delivery which would save $2 billion. Now, you still have about $13.9 billion left over, if it is like last year.

So here we are telling the Postal Service they can't go to 5-day delivery, but we have no fix for this problem.

And who picks up the tab? Obviously, eventually it is the American taxpayer. No wonder they view us with certain disdain.

In addition to this rider, the bill includes porkbarrel spending for things such as—and I am not making them up. Here we are with this debt of $16.6 trillion, and we are going to spend $65 million for the Pacific Coast salmon restoration for States, including the State of Nevada. I am not making that up, $65 million for the Pacific Coast salmon restoration, including in Nevada—a program that even President Obama mocked in his 2011 State of the Union Address; $14.7 million for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Watershed Rehabilitation Program, which the administration has suggested eliminating for years—$993,000 in grants to dig private wells for private property owners; $10 billion for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's high energy cost grants programs that go to subsidize electricity bills in two States: Alaska and Hawaii; $5.9 million for the USDA's economic impact initiative grants.

The economic impact initiative grants have become slush funds for local governments to do such things as rehab an exercise room, renovate a museum on the Pacific Island of Palau, and buy kitchen equipment for city government offices.

Now I would like to talk a bit about defense spending. This is probably the most painful part of my comments, and I will explain why later on.

Defense spending includes over $6 billion in unrequested or unauthorized funding for programs for the Department of Defense. At a time when the Department of Defense is facing the impact of sequestration, on top of the $487 billion in cuts directed by the President, we can't afford to spend a single taxpayer dollar on programs that are not a priority for the Defense Department and our national security.

The following things are beginning to happen now that the Department of Defense is under sequestration: The Navy was unable to deploy the USS *Truman*, an aircraft carrier, to the Middle East at a time when the centrifuges in Tehran are spinning; 80 percent of the Army's nondeploying brigades have reduced readiness; Army base operations have been reduced 30 percent; the Navy is reducing flying hours on deployed carriers in the Middle East by 55 percent and shut down all flying for four of the nine carrier air wings. If funding is restored, returning to normal readiness will take 9 to 12 months and cost two to three times as much.

The Air Force is delaying planned acquisition of satellites and aircraft, including JSF and the AC–130J, which will increase the future cost of these systems. And the Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps has said:

> By the end of this year, more than 50 percent of my tactical units will be below minimal acceptable levels of readiness for deployment to combat.

My friends, here we are spending money on this kind of junk, on this kind of pork, while the Commandant of the Marine Corps says by the end of this year more than 50 percent of his combat units will be below minimal acceptable levels of readiness for deployment to combat? In what kind of parallel universe are we residing?

Instead of trying to remedy these drastic reductions to our military strength, the appropriators are willing to overstep the authorizers and defense leadership and provide increased funding for nonessential programs that are clearly not a national security priority. The Armed Services Committee went to great lengths last year to authorize defense spending for the most critical national security requirements as proposed by the President and defense leadership.

Last week I offered an amendment, which was approved by a very narrow margin, that removed funding in the bill for civilian infrastructure—not military infrastructure, mind you, civilian infrastructure—for Guam. This earmark for Guam directly contravened the explicit direction provided by the Armed Services Committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives in the conference report on the fiscal year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act and, in my opinion, is a clear example of abuse of the appropriations process. I say to my colleagues, we are not going to stand for it. I say to my friends on the Appropriations Committee, we will not stand for this.

Funding for the STARBASE Program. This ''nice to have but not necessary to have'' program will receive $5 million. According to its Web site, STARBASE focuses on elementary students, primarily fifth graders. The program's goal is to motivate these students to explore science, technology, engineering, and math as they continue their education. Military volunteers apply abstract principles to real-world situations by leading tours and giving lectures on the use of STEM in different settings and careers.

I am sure that is a nice thing to happen. I am sure STARBASE is nice so that fifth graders are able to hear from members in the military. Meanwhile, we can't deploy an aircraft carrier. With a war going on, a budget crisis at our doorstep, this is how we elect to spend our taxpayers' defense money.

Another example is $11.3 million in increase for the Civil Air Program or CAP. CAP is a volunteer organization that provides aerospace education to young people, runs a junior cadet program, and assists, when possible, by providing emergency services. Its members are hard working. We are grateful for their voluntarism.

This year, as in the past, the Senate Armed Services Committee authorized the President's request for CAP funding. However, CAP is an auxiliary and should not operate to the detriment of the U.S. Air Force. To succeed at their missions, the Air Force must be able to fly and train at locations such as Luke Air Force Base, which is threatened with reduced flight hours and the closure of two local control towers that could impact air safety around the base. By diverting additional funds—not the primary funding but additional funds—to the Civil Air Patrol from Air Force operations and maintenance accounts which pay for the training and flight operations that keep the Air Force in the sky, we are imposing greater risk on our men and women in uniform.

The bill includes $154 million for Army, Navy, and Air Force ''alternative energy research'' initiatives. This type of research has yielded such shining examples as the Department of the Navy's purchase of 450,000 gallons of alternative fuels for $12 million, which is over $26 per gallon. Alternative energy research might be necessary, but shouldn't the Department of Energy do it? Why should the Department of Defense do it, when we cannot fly our airplanes?

Section 1822 prohibits the retirement of the C–23 Sherpa aircraft. The Army is currently retiring or divesting the remainder of its fleet of old, limited-duty C–23s, all of which are flown by the Army National Guard. The Army neither wants nor needs these aircraft. The Air Force neither wants nor needs these aircraft. Last year the Congress granted the Army authority to give these planes to any State Governor who wanted them. Guess what. No takers. Now we prevent the Army from retiring these limited-utility aircraft.

Another provision provides $15 million for an ''incentive program'' that directs the Department of Defense to overpay on contracts by an additional 5 percent if the contractor is a Native Hawaiian-owned company. If there were ever an example of the special interest pork barrel spending that goes on in this body and infuriates the American people, it is this—$15 million of Americans' tax dollars is going to any Native Hawaiian-owned company to give them an additional 5 percent if they are a contractor. Here we are, spending all our time trying to eliminate the waste and inefficiency in defense contracting, and we are now spending $15 million to overpay them if—if they are a Native Hawaiian-owned company.

It will make it easier for the Department of Defense to enter into no-bid contracts for studies, analysis, and unsolicited proposals. The language in the bill makes it ripe for wasteful spending and earmarks for pet projects. For example, the Department of Defense may eliminate competition and use a no-bid contract for a ''product of original thinking and was submitted in confidence by one source.'' If there were ever an example of how pork barrel and earmark spending begins—''for a product of original thinking and was submitted in confidence by one source.''

Another section requires the Secretary of the Air Force to continue

procuring C–27J Spartan aircraft despite the Air Force's intent to end production and divest these aircraft, and $24 million to continue development on ACS, which was a canceled Army reconnaissance aircraft program.

Another goody for defense contractors: There is a recurring provision in the bill that allows Alaska Native corporations to circumvent the rules of the Office of Management and Budget that would otherwise require them to follow an open and fair competition process in order to obtain Department of Defense contracts.

The Department of Defense has a history of awarding billions of dollars in large, sole-source, no-bid contracts to Alaska Native corporations abusively. This matter has been well documented by the Senate subcommittee on contracting, the inspectors general of the Department of Defense and the Small Business Administration. The Washington Post ran a series on the Alaska Native corporation contracting. Last year the Government Accountability Office found that the Department of Defense expeditiously awarded two $500 million, 10-year contracts using this same provision in a past appropriations bill.

Several of us on the Armed Services Committee and the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee have been trying to ensure that contracts to ANCs undergo extra scrutiny. It does not help that this bill is working against the American taxpayer while Congress should be working to make sure the Department of Defense acquires what it truly needs as economically as possible through competition.

There is $48 million in funding for the Defense Department to do research dealing with Parkinson's disease, neurofibromatosis, and HIV/AIDS research. This research is important. It has no place in a Department of Defense bill. It should be funded by the National Institutes of Health, not the Department of Defense.

I ask unanimous consent to have a long list of unspecified and unauthorized and unnecessary and wasteful pork printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Additional DoD funding above the requested and authorized levels include:

$18 million for unspecified ''industrial preparedness''

$567 million for ''unrequested'' medical research

$9 million for unspecified radar research

$48 million for computing research

$20 million for university research initiatives

$45 million for IMPACT AID to civilian elementary and secondary schools

$139 million for CH–47 helicopter procurement and modifications

$110 million to modify National Guard UH–60 helicopters

$199 million for new National Guard UH–60 helicopters

$300 million for new Patriot Missile systems

$100 million for National Guard Humvees

$66 million for laser range finders

$605 million to procure 11 additional F–18 aircraft

$79 million for a Navy Reserve C–40 aircraft—the military version of a Boeing 737

$130 million for two KC–130J aircraft

$55 million for one C–130J aircraft (amount)

$126 million for two HC–130J aircraft

$126 million for two MC–130J aircraft

$107 million for RQ–4 unmanned aerial vehicles

$62 million for Air National Guard F–15 aircraft radar upgrades

$189 million for 17 additional SM–3 missiles

$7 million for Civil Air Patrol program increase

$27 million for Army, Navy, and Air Force nanotechnology research

$26 million for materials research

$71 million for one additional V–22 Osprey aircraft

$80 million for additional Marine UH–1Y and AH–1Z Cobra helicopters

$20 million for upgrades to SH–60 Sea Hawk helicopters

$15 million for ''weapons and munitions technology''

$20 million for ''electronics and electronic devices''

$13 million for ordnance research

$13 million for military clothing technology

$39 million for Army, Navy and Air Force battery research

$19 million for ''missile and rocket technology''

$20 million for university research initiatives

$9 million for unspecified radar research

$32 million for a bone marrow registry program

$7 million for a ''tactical athlete program''

$10 million in small business giveaways as part of the Littoral Combat Ship program

$15 million in small business giveaways as part of the Virginia class submarine program

$15 million in small business giveaways as part of the Multi-Mission Maritime Aircraft program

$10 million in small business giveaways as part of the MK–48 torpedo program

$80 million for the Space Based Infrared System satellite program

$9 million for directed energy technology

$20 million for the Air Force's manufacturing technology program

$105 million for the Operationally Responsive Space program

$25 million for the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle Program

$35 million for the Space Test Program

$20 million to research ''anti-tamper technology''

$20 million for the Air Force to research coal-to-liquid fuel.

$8 million to modify Navy Close-In Weapons Systems

$778 million for advance procurement funding for one Virginia class submarine

$1 billion for one additional Arleigh Burke class destroyer

$263 million for advance procurement of one Amphibious Transport Dock ship

$13 million for submarine research and technology

$40 million for shipyard capital investments

Mr. MCCAIN. It is disgraceful. I see that my colleague from Texas is waiting to talk. This is absolutely unbelievable. All of this long list of billions of dollars of spending can only be considered as how obscene it is by listening to what the impacts of sequester have already been on the men and women in the military.

Sequester so far canceled four brigade exercises of training of the Army—that has been canceled. It reduces the base operations, the normal day-to-day operations of the base, by 30 percent; cancels half a year of helicopter and ground vehicle depot maintenance; stops postwar repair of 1,300 vehicles and 17,000 weapons. It reduces the readiness of the Army's nondeploying brigades and stops tuition assistance for all Active-Duty and Reserve men and women in the Army.

In the Navy, it cancels several submarine deployments; reduces flying hours on deployed carriers in the Middle East by 55 percent—and believe me, my friends, unless they are able to operate and train, they are not safe and they are not capable. It reduces the western Pacific deployed operations by 35 percent; nondeployed Pacific ships lose 40 percent of their steaming days; reduces Middle East, Atlantic, and Mediterranean ballistic missile defense patrols. It shuts down all flying of four of our nine carrier air wings—that has been shut down 9 to 12 months. It will take 9 to 12 months to restore normal readiness at two to three times the cost. It cuts all major exercises that are going on and defers emergent repairs; the USS *Truman* deployment to the Middle East delayed indefinitely; the Eisenhower carrier deployment extended indefinitely; the USS *Nimitz* and *Bush* carrier strike force will not be ready for scheduled 2013 deployments.

The Air Force—likely to prevent the Air Force's ability to achieve the 2017 goal of being fully auditable; over 420 projects at 140 installations across the Air Force are canceled; affects runway repairs and critical sustainment projects; delays planned acquisition of satellites and aircraft; reduces flying hours for cargo, fighter, and bomber aircraft.

In the Marine Corps, the Marine Corps is unable to complete the rebalancing of Marine Corps forces to the Asia Pacific region. It will cause 55 percent of the U.S. Marine Corps aviation squad to fall below ready-to-deploy status. Over half of the aviation squadrons in the U.S. Marine Corps are not ready to deploy. The U.S. Marine Corps will not be able to accomplish planned reset of equipment returning from overseas. Depot-level maintenance will be reduced, delaying reset ability by 18 months and reducing readiness of nondeployed forces. Facilities will be funded at 71 percent of the requirement.

Most important—maybe Members of Congress do not have a lot of credibility. Maybe that is understandable. I will leave that up to the American people to judge. I do think we respect the Commandant of the Marine Corps and what he had to say. I repeat:

> By the end of this year, more than 50 percent of my combat units will be below minimum acceptable levels of readiness for deployment to combat.

Over the weekend, there was a gathering in our Nation's Washington, DC, area of a group of our conservative

Americans and members of the Republican Party, and references were made to people who were too old and moss-covered, that we need new and fresh individuals and ideas and thoughts. I agree with all of those—every bit of those recommendations and comments that were made.

But there is a little bit of benefit of having been around for a while. My friends, I will tell you right now, I have seen this movie before. I saw it after the Vietnam war. When the Vietnam war was over, Americans were war-weary. We had been driven apart in a way that was almost unprecedented in our history—certainly maybe as far back as our Civil War. America was torn apart.

The first casualty of that was our military. Our military was cut and cut and cut, to the point where, in 1979, I believe it was, the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army came before Congress and testified. It was kind of a seminal moment. He told the Congress and the American people that we had a ''hollow Army'' that would be unable to defend this Nation adequately.

It also happened to coincide with when a group of brave Americans were being held hostage in the Embassy in Tehran, made famous by a fantastic movie called ''Argo.'' Along came a guy named Ronald Reagan who promised that we would restore our military, that we would restore our capability, that we would make America the leader in the world again, and a simple phrase called ''peace through strength.''

I want to tell you what we are doing with this sequestration. What we are doing with this sequestration is an exact replay of what we did after the Vietnam war. I understand that the American people are war-weary. I understand that there are savings that can be made—large savings made in our defense spending. But to do it like this puts the security of this Nation in jeopardy.

We are blessed with the finest military ever in our history. I say that with great respect to my predecessors who fought in previous wars. Our All-Volunteer Force is the best this Nation has ever produced. It is the best of America. We all know that. Do you know what is happening to them right now? I will tell you what is happening to them right now because I talk to them all the time. They don't know where their next deployment is going to be. They don't know if they are going to be adequately trained to defend this Nation. They have lost confidence—they have lost confidence in the leadership of this Nation. And the good ones, the really good ones, are getting out. They are not going to stay in a military in which they believe there is no future and they are unable to defend this Nation. I tell my colleagues that. Ask anyone in the military today—junior officer, senior officer, senior enlisted person—and they will tell you they are disgusted with what is going on.

The least we can do is give them the ability to train and to operate to defend this Nation. This sequester and this legislation we are considering is a direct contradiction to everything we have said and promised them that we would do for them when they agreed as a volunteer to serve this Nation. It is a shameful period in the history of this Congress, the Presidency, and the way we have gone about this business. We will maybe—very likely—pay a very heavy price.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, President Obama recently told the Speaker of the House of Representatives that we do not have a spending problem. Last week he told ABC News that we do not have an immediate crisis in terms of the debt. These comments indicate that the President just does not seem to understand the negative impact of $16.5 trillion in debt on our economy.

For that matter, based on the new budget, Senate Democrats do not seem to get it either. Not only would the budget that was passed out of the Senate Budget Committee last week raise taxes by an additional $1.5 trillion, it would also increase Federal spending by roughly 60 percent and increase our national debt by $7.3 trillion.

I should say that as bad as it is, the budget that was passed out of the Budget Committee last week represents progress. How could I possibly say that? Because it has been 1,419 days since the Senate has passed a budget under Democratic control. So I guess we could say actually passing a budget out of the Budget Committee and having the budget come to the floor this week represents progress.

The reason I said Democrats have raised taxes again—or proposed an additional revenue increase in this budget—is because they already did so previously by $1 trillion with the passage of ObamaCare. In my experience, ObamaCare is unique compared to other legislation we have passed here. We passed it in 2009 and early 2010. Many of its provisions have yet to even kick in, and some of the provisions—including the tax increases—will not kick in until 2014. As I said, it will raise taxes by an additional $1 trillion.

Earlier this year—we know as a result of the fiscal-cliff vote at the end of December—there was an additional $620 billion tax increase at that time, but apparently that was not enough. There is an important lesson here. For those who believe that bigger and more government is the answer to every problem that confronts our country, more taxes is never enough. In fact, the Leviathan is insatiable.

This debate comes down to a basic philosophy in how we should govern ourselves as a free people. Our friends on the other side of the aisle seem to be focused incessantly on the government and growing the government in the hope that if the Federal Government spends enough money—even if the money is borrowed from our creditors—some of that might trickle down into the private sector economy. Meanwhile, this side of the aisle fundamentally believes it is the job creation in the private sector which helps grow the economy and creates opportunity and prosperity. We look for ways to rein in wasteful Washington spending to a more sustainable level so it stops hampering private sector investment and job creation.

I wish to ask President Obama: If we don't have a spending problem, why is it we have accumulated more than $6 trillion in additional debt since you took office about 4 years ago? If we don't have a spending problem, why is it we still have $100 trillion in unfunded liabilities because of programs that literally are not funded into the future? Why is it that today we are spending more than $200 billion a year on interest payments on the debt? We cannot borrow $16.5 trillion interest free. Even at the low interest rates we have today, we are paying $200 billion a year on interest on that debt.

Is the President arguing we should postpone measured spending cuts and measured entitlement reforms until we have experienced a full-blown European-style meltdown? I hope not. I don't think so because that would be grossly irresponsible. I will remind the President and his allies that after $4 trillion in deficits—that would be the annual difference between what we bring in and what the government spends. After four times in a row of deficits that are more than $1 trillion, after more than $1.6 trillion in tax increases, after hundreds of billions of dollars worth of new regulations, our country is mired; we are mired in the longest period of high unemployment since the Great Depression. That is a direct consequence of this huge debt and our creditors' lack of confidence that we are actually serious about dealing with it.

Indeed, many workers have simply given up on finding work, which is one reason why our labor force participation rate is now at a 32-year low. Unemployment is almost 8 percent, but that doesn't take into account the millions of people who have simply given up looking for work after a long period of unemployment.

Since June 2009 when the recession officially ended, median household income has fallen by more than $2,400. So instead of treading water, the average American family is seeing their buying power decrease by more than $2,400 since 2009. At the same time they are finding that not only are their taxes going up with the return of the payroll tax to its previous level, but they are finding their costs for gasoline, food, and the other necessities of life are going up. Does this sound like an economy that can stand another massive tax increase? I don't think so.

President Obama said to ABC News that we should not try to balance the

budget ''just for the sake of balance.'' Well, once again, the President was knocking down a straw man. We weren't talking about doing something symbolic; we were talking about doing something real, something that would benefit the economy and job growth and getting people back to work instead of dependency, which I know none of them want. We see more and more people on food stamps, more people receiving disability benefits, and more people on unemployment. These are people who would like to get back to work and regain their sense of dignity and self-sufficiency, but because the economy is growing so slowly, they cannot do that. We believe that balancing the budget and reducing our debt burden is absolutely essential to long-term economic growth—long-term economic growth—which creates more jobs, more taxpayers, and people who are actually putting money into the Treasury to help us balance our deficits.

We also believe that balancing the budget and reducing our debt burden is essential to saving important programs our seniors depend upon, such as Medicare and Social Security. If we want to remain an opportunity society with high levels of upward mobility—something we call the American dream—we must act sooner rather than later. The longer we delay, the more expensive and the more difficult the challenge of fixing these problems will become. Again, the basic question is: Are we more concerned with growing the job-creating private sector or with growing the Federal Government?

The budget that passed out of the Senate Budget Committee—along a party-line vote with strictly the votes of Democrats—last week makes it clear they are ultimately more concerned with growing the Federal Government. We will have a chance on the floor of the Senate this week for Democrats and Republicans alike to offer amendments and get votes, which I think will provide a lot of clarity to the contrasting approaches of the major political parties.

We have simply had the weakest economic recovery since the Great Depression, and so it is now time to do something different. I cannot recall who the original author was of the saying that the definition of insanity is to do the same thing over and over again and to expect different outcomes. Well, if that is the definition of insanity, that is what is happening here in the U.S. Congress. It is time to put economic growth ahead of government growth.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

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 want to bring my colleagues up to date on where we are. Right now the vice chairman of the committee, Senator SHELBY, and I are in conversation on some possible agreements we could make on the outstanding amendments so we can get them down to a manageable list. We are waiting for his arrival. He was at the airport, and we have been in communication. Our conversations have been constructive. When Senator SHELBY arrives, we look forward to perhaps presenting something to the Senate that will give us a clear path on specific amendments.

While we are waiting for that, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business about some very sad events that occurred in Maryland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, over the weekend, we in Maryland were saddened by three separate yet poignant deaths.

CPT Sara Cullen, one of our very own—a wonderful woman who served in the U.S. military—died in Afghanistan. Kristina Quigley, a young woman who showed enormous promise, was killed in an awful bus crash. She was the lacrosse coach at Seton Hill. Also, someone beloved to so many of us, Larry Simns, was the head of the watermen's association. For those who are from different parts of the country, they are called fishermen's associations. For people who enjoy Maryland crabs and oysters, they are harvested by the men who sail the Chesapeake Bay in open waters. The head of their association was Larry Simns.

I wish to talk briefly about all three.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORECES

CAPTAIN SARA KNUSTON CULLEN

Captain Cullen died on March 11 from a crash in a UH–60 Black Hawk helicopter in the Kandahar Province in Afghanistan. It was during a training mission in a very heavy rain. She was assigned to headquarters and the combat aviation brigade. She was a wonderful woman with enormous promise. She was a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. She graduated from West Point in 2007, and she got married very recently to another pilot, Chris Cullen.

I want to comment that we in Maryland mourn the loss of Captain Cullen. She was well known and well regarded here locally in Carroll County. She went to a school called Liberty High School. Isn't that a great name? She wanted to go to West Point. She was not nominated by me but by another member of the Maryland delegation. We try to share that responsibility in order to maximize our talent. I know the gentlelady from Hawaii does that as well. We have so much talent in Maryland, we don't want to waste one nomination, so we all work together.

By all accounts, Captain Cullen was on her way to being an outstanding officer with a deep commitment to her country. Friends and family of hers in Eldersburg, a community in Carroll County where she grew up, said she was dearly loved.

''She was always looking for the next adventure, the next challenge, and the next task to being a better person,'' said her best friend Katie Owens.

NATO told us of the crash last week, and I was mortified about this over the weekend. On behalf of all of Maryland, we want to extend our condolences to her husband, to her family, and to her parents, who obviously gave her a great home and saw to her education. It is a sad day when we lose somebody in Afghanistan, and it is a very sad day for those of us in Maryland.

REMEMBERING KRISTINA QUIGLEY

We also remember another wonderful woman by the name of Kristina Quigley. Kristina Quigley grew up in a community called Dundalk. Dundalk is a blue-collar suburb outside Baltimore City. She went to Dundalk High School and then to Duquesne and then, because she was a great athlete, she went on to a sports career in college at Duquesne and then fulfilled a dream of hers to be a coach.

On a road trip of the college women's lacrosse team, there was a terrible accident on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. The bus went off the road and she was, obviously, sitting in a place where she received one of the first impacts. She was only 30 years old. She was married with a young child. She was 6 months pregnant at the time of the accident. Her unborn child perished as well.

This is very sad. There were many who were injured on this bus. Several were from Maryland who were also members of the team, and the assistant coach is also from Maryland. The assistant coach is from Baltimore. There were 23 students on board when this happened in Cumberland County. We are now awaiting details. We are now awaiting the investigation. But it is a very sad day when this promising young woman with the world ahead of her who, by all accounts, was not only an athlete who could teach athletics, but she was an inspirational leader. Girls and young women just loved her. Lacrosse is a tough sport to play. They were on their way to a great game. Seton Hill is a great Catholic college. There was excitement on the bus, anticipation, and we are sorry about this terrible tragedy.

Again, we extend our heartfelt condolences to her parents who live in Baltimore and to her husband who lives on the Seton Hill campus.

REMEMBERING LARRY SIMNS

In addition, because each one has a story, is my own pal and good friend Larry Simns. Larry Simns was a great Marylander. His official name was Lawrence Simns, Sr., and he passed away Thursday. He fathered three children. He had 5 stepchildren, 12 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. He was a friend to a host of people up and down the Chesapeake Bay. If you were involved in cleaning up the bay or

making sure the people who live alongside the bay had jobs, you knew Larry Simns. He was a true champion. For me, he was a wonderful adviser on how we could clean up the bay but ensure that our watermen could continue to work on the bay.

We have been plagued over the last several years with the declining of our species, including our crabs and our oysters. If we want to save them, it means rules and regulations. If my colleagues know our watermen, they know they are kind of like the Wild West guys who want to ride the range. They don't like rules and regulations. They are not rules and regulations kind of guys, but they also know we have to be able to save the species.

For decades Larry himself saw the bay's declining health: poor water quality, fewer fish and crabs, barren oyster reefs. Then he worked with me to help the watermen navigate through these tough environmental factors, tough economies, and stiff regulations. He did not have an easy job, but he approached it with such tenacity, such persistence, and in such a way where he spoke with humility about what God had given us, this spectacular Chesapeake Bay, and how we had to preserve it and the jobs. He became an unlikely spokesman because, he said: I am not much for words; you know me. We did know him and he spoke eloquently for these men and women.

I worked very hard with the watermen on how we could help them clean up the bay, along with Senator CARDIN and the Members of the House delegation, and worked with our watermen and worked with our scientists studying the bay so we could make sure we could preserve the livelihoods and heritage of the bay and the men who work on it. Fortunately, working together, we were able to do many wonderful things. But we could only do it because Larry Simns was such a great advocate.

We are going to miss him. I just can't believe Larry will not be with us anymore. When I first came to the Senate—now over 20-some years ago—Larry was one of the first to reach out to me, to help me learn the ways of the watermen, learn what they were up against, including tough weather, harsh working conditions, escalating fuel prices, because our men and women go out on those waters using boats that consume diesel oil, and, again, the declining species. But working together, we were able to accomplish a lot.

So I wish to say to his family: Thank you for lending Larry to us, because he spent much time in government meetings, regulatory hearings, sitting with me at Fisherman's Inn or pulling the watermen together for a roundtable so we could talk things over to find a sensible center to preserve their jobs and still have the smart science and smart regulations. We want to thank Larry for all the time he put in, taking a very green Senator—and by green I don't mean only in the environmental sense but as a new Senator—and helping me learn the ways of the people because we want to preserve their way of life.

It is a sad day. It is a sad day for all of us. So when Memorial Day comes and the restaurants open and piles of Maryland crabs start coming in and the restaurants start serving the steamed crabs and so on, I just want to say this: Larry, wherever you are, whenever I pound the crab claw, I will be thinking of you and all you meant in terms of what we did to be able to create jobs, clean up the environment, and be able to keep our way of life going on the Chesapeake Bay.

The Presiding Officer can see we had three great Marylanders, each doing a very different thing. But what I am so proud of with Captain Cullen, Larry Simns, and Kristina Quigley is that each in their own way was trying to make a difference, one to protect America, the other to protect jobs and a way of life on the Chesapeake Bay, and the other to inspire young women not only to be ready for the playing fields of lacrosse but for the playing fields of life. All three in their own way were inspirational leaders. All three in their own way made a difference in the lives of the people I came in contact with. I wish to say God bless them and God treat them kindly and may their souls rest in peace.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask there be order in the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will come to order.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I am going to propound a unanimous consent request. Everyone has to look at this from way up high and understand how much has been accomplished during the last week. Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY have worked very hard to change the bill that came from the House of Representatives, and they have done a good job, a really good job. People have requested further changes to the bill, and we have tried hard. I say ''we,'' I have gone to Senator MCCONNELL many times, Senator MIKULSKI, Senator SHELBY, and others trying to come up with some way to move forward on this legislation.

There is a big spotlight on the Senate to see if we can do something. Whatever we come up with, what MIKULSKI and SHELBY, what they have come up with, it is not perfect. I could improve it. The Senator from Tennessee could improve it. Anyone in this body could improve what they did, but they did the best they could—and it was hard.

Both of these Senators gave up things that help them in their States. They worked together on Commerce-State-Justice for many years. They know that subcommittee better than anyone has ever known that subcommittee. They both have many issues within their States that are affected by that subcommittee, but they gave that up for the greater good.

I am asking Senators here to give up a few things for the greater good, to try to allow us to get this done. The reason this is important is it will allow us to go forward and start having appropriations bills. We changed the rules at the beginning of the year to make it easier to go to certain bills, and what we had in mind was appropriations bills.

It has been hard to come up with this. I repeat, is it really, really good? No, probably not. But it is not bad.

I hope we could approve this unanimous consent request. We would have nine votes on matters that people believe are really important. There are other people who have things that are just as important, but this is legislation, the art of compromise.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the two cloture motions be withdrawn; that the following amendments be in order to the Mikulski-Shelby substitute: Coburn No. 69, Coburn No. 93, Coburn No. 65 as modified with the changes that are at the desk, Coburn No. 70 as modified with the changes that are at the desk, Inhofe No. 72 as modified with changes that are at the desk, Grassley No. 76 as modified with changes that are at the desk, Mikulski-Shelby No. 98, Leahy No. 129 as modified with changes that are at the desk, and Pryor-Blunt No. 82; that no other first-degree amendments to the substitute or the underlying bill be in order and no second-degree amendments be in order to any of the amendments listed above prior to the vote; that there be 30 minutes equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to votes in relation to the amendments in the order listed; and that upon the disposition of Leahy No. 29 as modified, the Durbin second-degree amendment to Toomey amendment No. 115 be withdrawn; that all the amendments be subject to a 60-affirmative-vote threshold; that the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Toomey amendment No. 115; that upon disposition of the Toomey amendment, the Senate proceed to vote on the Mikulski-Shelby substitute amendment, as amended; that if the substitute amendment, as amended, is agreed to, the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

It is my understanding that the Toomey amendment has a point of order against it; is that right? I make that request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection? The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I reserve the right to object. I have filed an amendment. I filed it last week. It

is a reasonable amendment that both sides have been aware of. It is one that is also germane. It is to strike funding, $380 million in funding from the continuing resolution for a missile defense program that will never protect a single warfighter. It is a medium extended air defense system. In fact, it has been called a missile to nowhere, and my amendment would transfer those funds to operation and maintenance so they could be used for our warfighters, particularly as sequestration is pending, for real purposes instead of a program we will never realize anything from, that would protect our warfighters. I reserve the right to object.

Mrs. BOXER. Do you object?

Mr. REID. The Senator has not objected; is that right?

Ms. AYOTTE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Madam President, this is over with. There has been objection. I regret the Senator has objected to this reasonable request. It really is reasonable. I understand how strongly the Senator from New Hampshire feels about the issue. I am aware of the issue. I understand it very well. I have talked to a number of Senators. I can't get them to agree to this. They may be wrong, she may be right. She may be wrong, they may be right. I cannot make that decision. I cannot go forward if somebody doesn't agree to this.

Putting together a unanimous consent agreement like this, as I indicated, certainly has not been easy. The people I have empathy for are these two Senators here. They are veteran legislators. They have dedicated a large part of the last 2 weeks to this legislation.

We could have an alternative. We could just vote for what the House sent us. All the work they have done—down the drain. There are scores of Senators—and I say that plural—scores of the 100 Senators who have benefited from the work they have done. It has helped them in their States. It has rearranged things. What they have done does not spend any more money. We are spending the same amount of money the House did. But the House was very emphatic that they would not allow flexibility on nondefense matters. They have some control over what we do.

I just think it is such a shame that there is an objection preventing the Senate from being able to consider these amendments. There are nine amendments. This is a must-pass measure so we will need to move this Senate bill through the Senate back to the House to avoid the government shutdown. I think it is a shame, but that is where we are.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Maryland, Ms. MIKULSKI, be recognized for up to 5 minutes, and the Senator from Alabama be recognized for up to 5 minutes prior to the vote on cloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, had the Senator from New Hampshire not objected to the previous request for unanimous consent, I would have objected. I want to use this moment just to point out that an amendment that is, in my view, so critical to the air safety of our country, the traveling public's ability to feel secure and safe in their travel, was not included in the request for unanimous consent. This is an amendment that would transfer money to allow the air traffic control tower program to continue.

While the majority leader has requested that there be magnanimity, that there be reasonableness, in my view, in the absence of this amendment being included, come April 7 those air traffic control towers are closed. And even I, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, will have no ability to reverse course once they are closed. So this program faces an immediate deadline.

Had the Senator from New Hampshire not objected previously to the unanimous consent request, I would have on that basis. I have no objection to the request that time be given to the chair and the ranking member of the committee.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my consent has been agreed to. In response to my friend from Kansas, everyone can give a heart-rending speech. We have tens of thousands of children who will not able to go to Head Start. I think that is pretty compelling. There are many other people in this body who could give a tearjerker—just like the Senator tried to do.

This is about compromise. We are trying to work through this so we can continue to fund the government and set up a pattern in this Congress so we can have appropriation bills for 2014.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Is there objection to the request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to ask all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for cloture on the Senate bill. I want to say to my colleagues, we have come very far on this bill, and as of Thursday we had 126 amendments. I love the Senate. We love to talk, and we love to amend. Everyone has, in many instances, outstanding ideas to improve the bill. We are now at the point where we have dueling amendments. We have matters of policy to discuss, but we are now at the point where the bill must come to a close, and that is why we proposed this limited number of amendments. Some of my colleagues have amendments on the issue related to flexibility.

If I could ask the Senator from Kansas a question, it is not that we dispute what the Air Force is going to face or what our poultry farmers are going to face. Both sides of the aisle—whether it is BLUNT of Missouri, ISAKSON of Georgia, PRYOR or BOOZMAN of Arkansas, or MIKULSKI and CARDIN of Maryland, chicken is the mainstay of our eastern shore. We are all facing this.

In my original underlying bill, I had a 1-percent transfer authority subject to the approval of Congress that would have solved all of these problems. It was the other Chamber—and even those on the other side of the aisle—that insisted I remove that from this bill. For all of those who wanted flexibility, I wanted to fix it. We could not fix it. Believe me, I wanted to fix it. Each and every one of these individual amendments has merit in and of itself.

We are now at the point where we have to decide whether we want the Senate bill to stand and be voted on with further amendments subject to the Parliamentarian determining what is germane and therefore eligible for consideration or do we want the House bill? It is as simple as that.

We have come so far. I want to thank the vice chairman, Senator SHELBY, his staff, and all the clerks on the other side of the aisle for working so assiduously.

We have to decide: Do we want to make the perfect the enemy of the good? Do we want to have a bill that substantially improves the House bill? It does not accomplish every objective we want, but, in fact, does do several things.

No. 1, it would avoid a government shutdown. Say what, Senator MIKULSKI? Avoid a government shutdown? We could show that we could actually govern and that we could actually pass a bill that I believe the House will accept as well. Hallelujah. That in and of itself would be a major accomplishment. We would have taken the House bill and we would have made substantial improvements that I think both sides of the aisle agree are important. We could get that done. The question is: Can both sides of this Chamber take yes for an answer? If we take yes for an answer, again, we avoid a government shutdown. We will show we can govern and make substantial improvements not only in the areas of defense and national security, but in other areas where people protect us, such as border control and food safety. Do we get what we want? No. But we do get a bill that we can feel has made a major accomplishment.

I could go through this item by item. I have a speech that would take me 20 minutes to go through. I am not going to go through it. What I am going to say to my colleagues is: Both sides of the aisle have worked together for the common good in such areas as the security of our country, meeting compelling human needs, and investments in research and technology. I think we ought to say yes and vote to move to cloture on the Senate bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, to some extent, I want to repeat what Senator MIKULSKI just said. No. 1, this would avoid a government shutdown. That should appeal to everybody. I think it appeals to the American people. It should appeal to everybody in this body tonight.

No. 2, it enforces the Budget Control Act and sequester levels. I will say it again. It enforces the Budget Control Act and sequester levels. Granted, perhaps not everything is ideal, but what is here? There will be ample time to address some of the issues. Some of the issues that have been raised are bona fide issues that we were unable to address for one reason or another in this process. But I assure my colleagues—and I have been working with my colleagues and with Senator MIKULSKI's Democratic colleagues—that if we do not move forward, I am afraid there may be no future appropriations bills, which is not good for anyone in this legislative process.

We have lurched from crisis to crisis. The CR is running out. What we are asking to do is to fund the government until September 30.

I urge my colleagues to support cloture and move this process forward.

I thank the Chair.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I want to follow up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. To be clear, the first vote is on the cloture for the Senate bill. If this vote on cloture fails, we will go to the House bill. We have two choices tonight; we have two paths which we can go down. We can go down the Senate path, which is bipartisan in its approach. It is a good and solid bill, but if it goes down, we will immediately go to cloture on the House bill. If that passes, then essentially everything that we as U.S. Senators have worked on will be rubberstamping what the House sent us. So the path and choice are ours.

I intend to vote aye on the Senate bill and I urge all of my colleagues on this side of the aisle to follow my lead. I know Senator Shelby feels the same about it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report——

Mr. MORAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No further debate is in order.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the Mikulski-Shelby substitute amendment No. 26, as modified, offered by the Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID, to 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, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is an amendment offered by Reid on behalf of Senators Shelby and Mikulski.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 63, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 38 Leg.]

YEAS—63

Alexander	Franken	Mikulski
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Baucus	Hagan	Murphy
Begich	Harkin	Murray
Bennet	Heinrich	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blunt	Hirono	Reed
Boozman	Hoeven	Reid
Boxer	Isakson	Rockefeller
Brown	Johanns	Sanders
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Cardin	Kaine	Schumer
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cochran	Landrieu	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Coons	Levin	Udall (NM)
Cowan	Manchin	Warner
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warren
Durbin	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wyden

NAYS—35

Ayotte	Coats	Crapo
Barrasso	Coburn	Cruz
Burr	Corker	Enzi
Chambliss	Cornyn	Fischer
Flake	McCain	Scott
Grassley	McConnell	Sessions
Hatch	Moran	Tester
Heller	Paul	Thune
Inhofe	Portman	Toomey
Johnson (WI)	Risch	Vitter
Kirk	Roberts	Wicker
Lee	Rubio	

NOT VOTING—2

Graham	Lautenberg

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 63, the nays are 35. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes and that following my remarks Senator MORAN be granted up to 10 minutes and then Senator BOXER be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES-LED INVASION OF IRAQ

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, this month we mark the 10th anniversary of the United States-led invasion of Iraq. With more veterans per capita than nearly any other State, Montanans proudly answer when duty calls.

The Book of John, chapter 15, verse 13 says: ''Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.''

On this anniversary, we remember the Montanans and all Americans who laid down their lives in the name of freedom.

On my family ranch near Wolf Creek, MT, there is a willow tree that sways in the wind and stretches in the Sun.

On July 29, 2006, my nephew, Marine Cpl Phillip Baucus, was killed during combat operations in Iraq's Al Anbar Province. He was just 28 years old.

He was laid to rest on the same mountain where my father lies, the same ranch where he had married his lovely Katharine less than 1 year earlier.

Phillip was a bright and dedicated young man. He was like a son to me.

My brother John and I planted that willow tree on the ranch in memory of Phillip. We also planted a pine tree nearby.

I am not the only Montanan who has grieved. Forty Montanans have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. We grieve for them all. We miss them all.

We must honor their courage by living up to the ideals they died to defend. We must also honor their sacrifice by supporting the troops who come home forever changed. Thousands come home with traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other injuries.

Make no mistake, we have taken important steps to see that veterans receive the care they need when they come home. We have worked for a strong post-9/11 GI bill to ensure thousands of veterans can go to college. We also fought to make sure the VA is fairly and adequately supporting our

student veterans. Yet it remains a disgrace that unemployment rates among veterans exceed that of nonveterans.

In Montana, unemployment among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans stands at 17.5 percent. That is the fourth highest rate in the country.

Since the Iraq war began, I have hired veterans to help draft policies that honor the sacrifices of our military. My staff has worked with me to draft the original tax credit for businesses that hire veterans. I am very honored to see that has been adopted by this Congress and by the President.

We spearheaded efforts to improve mental health screenings for all branches of the military based on Montana's strong model for catching the warning signs of PTSD. We started that in Montana. It is now incorporated as national defense policy.

In the last 10 years, our Nation has also been fighting terrorists in Afghanistan. As we reflect on the costs of the war in Iraq, we know that now is the time for Afghans to take responsibility for their own country.

In 2013, $97 billion will go to the war in Afghanistan alone. Do you know that the money that is being spent in both Iraq and Afghanistan is enough to double the number of public elementary schools in the United States and rebuild the American Interstate Highway System five times over? Dollars spent daily in Afghanistan need to be spent on nation building here at home.

While I am proud that we are closer than ever to bringing all of our troops home, it is not enough to just bring them back. We need to and can be doing a better job making sure our troops are ready to compete and win on the homefront. That means making sure that the day they are discharged from the service, they can transfer skills earned from the military into the civilian workforce.

My first order of business this year was to declare war on veterans unemployment. Troops who are trained to do a job in the military should get civilian credentials at the same time. They should not have to get recredentialed and retrained when they get home. If they got credentialed in the military, that should be sufficient for driving trucks, et cetera. The effort is already underway for EMTs and truckdrivers, but my VETs Act goes even further to cover military police, firefighters, and air traffic controllers. In 2011, 1,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans were unemployed in Montana, 240,000 unemployed nationwide. With 34,000 troops scheduled to come home from Afghanistan next year, the time to get serious about tackling veterans unemployment is now.

We will never forget the Montanans we have lost in combat in the Mideast over the last 10 years. They had big dreams. They looked forward to long, happy lives. They were volunteers. They were sons and daughters. They had children. They had dear friends. They grew up in small towns, such as Fairfield, Sand Springs, Philipsburg, and Wolf Creek. We hear their voices at Little League games, in the babbling creeks of Montana, in the rustling of willow trees we planted to remember them. We remember them in our hearts and in our deeds. President Lincoln concluded his second inaugural address with a call for the Nation to ''care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.'' Lincoln's charge remains our sacred duty today. The 40 Montanans we remember today left behind 28 children who will be growing up without them.

I also applaud a group of patriotic Montanans who are working to make sure those children can get a college education in Montana. Grateful Nation Montana is a proud example of answering the call to serve, serving those who proudly served us. Their mission is to provide college scholarships at Montana schools for the sons and daughters of our fallen heroes.

We must remember our vets. To all of our veterans and families of veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice, we want them to know they are not alone.

Let's recommit ourselves to making sure our veterans come home safely to good-paying jobs and a nation that honors their sacrifices.

NATIONAL AG WEEK

I would like to speak on another important issue in my home State as we mark National Ag Week. President Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, ''Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field.'' Truer words were never spoken to describe the divide of how agriculture is viewed between Washington, DC, and Montana.

Agriculture is a central part of who we are as Montanans. Fifty percent of Montana's economy is tied to ranching and farming, supporting one in five jobs in Montana.

I had the privilege to grow up on a ranch outside of Helena, MT, near Wolf Creek, MT. It taught me firsthand the values of hard work, faith, family, and doing what is right. Those are the values I take with me to work every day.

Paul Harvey, who got his start in broadcasting in Montana, said it best in his poem ''So God Made a Farmer'':

> God looked down on the Earth he created and said, I need a caretaker for this world I have made, and so God made a farmer.

So as part of trying to bridge that divide between Washington, DC, and Montana, I honor the strong legacy of farming and ranching families in Montana by celebrating National Ag Day. For those Montana families involved in agriculture, it is so much more than a livelihood, it is a way of life. I am honored to represent so many ranchers, so many farmers from Montana who have dedicated their lives to the land and provide a service from which everyone in the world benefits.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. The bill we are debating, the so-called continuing resolution, spends slightly more than $1 trillion between now and the end of the fiscal year. As those who were either on the floor or watching a few moments ago discovered, the opportunity to amend this bill in even a minor fashion, although, in my view, an important fashion, was denied.

So the Senate, in passing the CR, will spend more than $1 trillion, and we have had the opportunity to vote on two amendments, potentially three. That is the total extent to which 100 Senators representing millions of Americans have had the chance to influence the outcome, the content of a significant bill that spends lots of money.

The amendment I have been trying to offer, in my view, is an important one.

One of the things the administration announced following sequestration was that the control tower program, which provides about 179 air traffic control towers across the country, would be eliminated. That certainly is of importance to those who fly. It is important to people in our States, rural America. But this is not just a rural issue. These control towers are located in large cities across our country.

I have been trying to fathom why the Department of Transportation would, in a sense, single out this program. It is hard for me to fathom a good answer to that question.

As close as I can come is there are those in Washington, DC, who wish to demonstrate we can't cut a dime. We can't cut $85 billion from Federal spending, a $3.6 trillion spending program. We can't eliminate 28 days of spending at all. To prove that point, they apparently wish to single out programs which are the most important to Americans.

The idea we would put at risk an air traffic control tower program which is so important to the flying and traveling public is amazing to me. Again, it is not I think that the sequestration and the 5-percent cut in this program could not be handled by the Department of Transportation, but that is not what the Department of Transportation is doing.

In fact, the amendment which I hope to offer continues the sequestration and reduces the program spending by 5 percent. What the Department of Transportation is doing is eliminating the program, reducing the spending in this program by 75 percent.

Again, I can't figure out why this program of such importance would be treated in this fashion unless there are those who simply wish to demonstrate anytime we attempt to reduce spending—it is actually not even reducing spending; sequestration reduces the increase in spending. The only thing I can think of is there are people who wish to demonstrate here we cannot do that without having huge consequences to the safety and security of Americans. In my view, that concept certainly is false. We can find savings, but

beyond that it is a dangerous game to play in trying to prove a point we can't cut spending by putting at risk those who utilize air traffic control towers.

My frustration is increased by the fact we are spending all this money and the bill comes to the floor. I serve on the Appropriations Committee. I ought to have the opportunity to deal with this bill in the committee on which I serve. This hasn't happened.

I think what is my next opportunity, since I didn't have one as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee? Maybe I ought to find colleagues from across the aisle, from around the country, rural, urban, Republican, Democrat, who would understand the value of this program. I did this and we found 23 sponsors of this amendment. We could probably find more. The point I wish to make this evening is 13 of those 23 are Democrat sponsors.

This place ought to function. We have been asked, why can't we work together? Why can't we find bipartisan ways to work together, 23 Senators, where 10 Republicans and 13 Democrats come together to say, yes, this needs to pass? Yet I have had no opportunity to offer that amendment. Numerous Members of the Senate from both sides of the aisle, but especially Democratic Senators, visit with me on the Senate floor saying, why can't you get this amendment made in order? It is a good amendment.

I don't have a good answer for that question.

We have worked hard with the chairperson and the ranking Republican on the committee. We have worked across the aisle and worked with the leadership, attempting to clarify how important this amendment is. Yet we will spend more than $1 trillion. However, one amendment, which transfers $50 million from two accounts, from unencumbered balances and from research funds, to keep the air traffic control program alive and well, is not in order.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, my hope was I could solve this problem in the normal appropriations process. We spoke about this tonight. The majority leader spoke about getting back to the regular order and working on appropriations bills. Presumably sometime this week—although as a result of this amendment not being made in order, it will be later in the week than expected—we will get to the budget. Presumably we will pass a budget and go through the appropriations process.

The problem is I, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, and my colleagues who care about this program, who serve on this committee and who serve in the Senate, will have no opportunity to save this program. The Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, is going to terminate this program on April 7. By the time we ever get to regular order, if and when we do, the program will be eliminated. We will have lost the only opportunity, which is now on this continuing resolution, to make certain this program remains in place.

If we do what we ought to do here, come together and find a solution, reach bipartisan agreement, we ought to have the opportunity to address $50 million out of a more than $1 trillion bill. The idea we would pass a $1 trillion appropriations bill, with only allowing two, maybe three amendments, is something which again suggests we do not have our order in the appropriate place.

This is certainly important to folks across the country, and it is something which deserves attention and deserves a vote. It is something the American public ought to insist we not play the game of whether we can cut anything and put their safety at risk.

My plea to my colleagues tonight, having voted to advance this bill and cloture has been granted, which means no amendments are in order, I would ask our colleagues to realize the importance of this amendment and potentially others. Other Members of the Senate wish to offer amendments to establish and prove our priorities and, as the majority leader, demonstrate we can govern. The majority leader spoke about proving to the American people we can govern by passing this bill. It seems to me governing is something more than passing a continuing resolution without the opportunity for Members of the Senate to make their imprint on behalf of their constituents, and in my case Kansans, on behalf of the American people.

The air transportation system is essential to local communities and it is vital to our economic engine. It matters across the country. This amendment, if I am allowed to offer it, would continue access to the system which has worked so well for so many communities across our country. My plea is between now and when the 30 hours runs on the postcloture debate of this bill, there are those in the Senate who will work with me and others to see the amendment process works and we return to the days in which a Senator has the ability to influence the outcome of important pieces of legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

SEQUESTER AND CLIMATE DISRUPTION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to talk about a very important issue called climate change or climate disruption.

Before I do, I wish to address the issue my colleague has raised. He did not want to stop debate on the continuing resolution bill because he wanted to offer an amendment to ensure we cut somewhere as well as keep the FAA able to keep open air traffic control towers.

As someone who fought a partial government shutdown which shut down the FAA, my friends on the Republican side—my friend wasn't here then—I can tell you I was instrumental in making sure we passed that FAA authorization bill. It was a great bill.

It breaks my heart to see this sequester in action. This is not the way to govern.

I respect my colleague's point of view. He has a right to his opinion, but to say this is the only opportunity to stop the sequester is absolutely incorrect. The President has said he is ready to sit down with the Republicans, pass a balanced plan which would fix the sequester, get the FAA back up to snuff, take care of all of our problems which were caused because of the sequester, deficit reduction, and balance our budget. If this happens, this sequester will end not only for the FAA—my friend is right, this is ridiculous—but for the 70,000 children who are being cut out of Head Start. Why isn't there more discussion about that when we know every dollar invested in a child in Head Start saves $10 because they get that head start in life?

Where is the outrage of the 421,000 fewer HIV tests? This is a public health emergency when 421,000 people can't get their HIV test. They don't know if they are HIV positive and could spread the virus. This is what is happening with this sequester.

There are 10,500 teacher positions lost and 2,700 will lose title I funds, which amounts to 1 million children who will lose special reading help because of the sequester.

I think we all agree the sequester is no way to govern. We can get to a balanced budget without a sequester. We did that under Bill Clinton. We had a balanced approach. We made investments in our people, we cut out unnecessary spending, and we had a fair Tax Code.

I could go on with the problems. There are 25,000 fewer women who will not receive breast cancer screening. I could offer an amendment on that. I want to offer an amendment on that. I understand we need to keep the government running, and that is what this continuing resolution does.

I praise the Republicans on the other side who crossed over to vote with Democrats. Thank you very much for seeing we can't turn this bill into everyone's favorite amendment to restore something which is cut because of the sequester, which none of us ever thought was going to move forward.

I want to repeat this. My friend speaks about the FAA. I agree with him. I hope he would agree with me on Head Start, on teachers, on title I, on HIV tests, and on breast cancer screenings. What about the $540 million which is cut from the Small Business Administration loan program which is so critical to our small businesses and job creation? There are 600,000 children losing their nutrition assistance because of the sequester.

Let's all agree. The sequester is bad, and we need to stop it. Why not do it in the right way, which is to sit down with the President, ensure we can get the deficit reduction the sequester is

bringing in in a better way. He is offering this. He is offering a balanced plan. All of these cries about, oh, they are cutting this, that, and the other—it is all bad. Sequester is not the way to budget or to govern.

We have 1 week to keep this government open. The House has told us not to start a series of amendments or we are never going to be able to keep the government open. Let's do our work and keep this as clean as we can. Let's make sure we all listen to our President, who was reelected in a huge victory. He said he wanted to move us toward balance with a balanced plan, cuts in spending, new revenues. PATTY MURRAY's budget, the Democratic budget, does that.

I am very pleased we are moving toward keeping this government open. This is the basic thing we need to do—keep this simple and move on.

As you know, I am the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. It is a joy for me to have that job, truly. My whole life I have cared about environment and about infrastructure. The way the Senate works, they put those two together. Not only am I able to speak about clean air, safe drinking water, cleaning up Superfund sites, and protecting the health of our families, but I also get to talk about jobs which are created when we build roads, highways, and water systems.

There is something which does not bring us together on that committee, and that is the issue of climate change. What I have decided to do is come down to the floor every Monday possible when the floor is available to speak a few minutes about the devastating consequences of unchecked climate disruption. I wish to discuss and put into the RECORD every week the latest scientific information. On March 4 I began these talks and spoke about a front-page story in USA Today which spotlights the impacts of climate change unfolding around us. The story is the first in a year-long series called ''Why You Should Sweat Climate Change.'' It describes how climate disruption is happening all around us. Last week I discussed a report entitled ''The 2013 High Risk List,'' which was a GAO study, Government Accountability Office study, which said climate disruption is leading to intense weather events, such as Superstorm Sandy, which threaten, our Nation and the finances of our Nation. Plus, I told colleagues of an Oregon State study which appeared in Science which said that we have had the warmest decade in over 11,000 years—the warmest decade in over 11,000 years. Now, not 11 years, not 1,100 years, but 11,000 years. So Earth to my Republican colleagues, please wake up to this fact and let's do something about it.

Today I want to talk about the impact of unchecked climate change on the health of our people. This is a statement made by Dr. Cecil Wilson—and let's look at this chart—the former president of the AMA, the American Medical Association:

> The scientific evidence clearly indicates that our climate is changing, air pollution is increasing, weather is becoming more extreme, and with these changes come public health consequences.

That is why our President made a finding there actually is a danger to public health. It is called an endangerment finding for a reason. It is putting our people in danger. Wake up, colleagues. Please, wake up before it is too late.

The fact is the Bush administration found—and we got this through documentation—that climate change was a threat. The CIA has found that climate change is a threat. The defense establishment has found that climate change is a threat. The only place that doesn't seem to get excited about it is right here, in a bipartisan way, in the Senate.

Again, we know temperatures are continuing to increase. The Draft National Climate Assessment of January 11, 2013, said this:

> Heat caused by climate disruption is especially harmful to our children.

Now I want to talk to colleagues who might just be listening. They might not be because it is 7:20 at night, but if they are, you all say you want to protect our kids. You all love your children and your grandchildren and your nieces and your nephews. This is according to the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee—and I think we have a chart on that:

> Anticipated direct health consequences of climate change include injury and death from extreme weather events and natural disasters, increases in climate-sensitive infectious diseases, increases in air pollution-related illness, and more heat-related, potentially fatal illness. Within all of these categories, children have increased vulnerability compared with other groups.

Again, I say to my colleagues, if we were sent here to do anything, it is to protect the health and safety of our children, for goodness' sakes, and they are one of the most vulnerable groups if we don't act on climate change. And if that doesn't move you, I say to my friends, what about the elderly? They are particularly vulnerable. This is from the Draft National Climate Assessment.

> Older people are at much higher risk of dying during extreme heat events. Preexisting health conditions also make the elderly susceptible to cardiac and respiratory impacts of air pollution and to more severe consequences from infectious diseases.

So if I didn't touch your heart with your kids and grandkids, how about your grandmas, your grandpas, your great-grandmas, and your great-grandpas. They also are terribly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Laurence Kalkstein, a University of Miami professor, who studies the effects of heat on health, said:

> Climate change is a silent killer. Heat can cause fatalities among even the fittest.

It is a silent killer. And he knows because he studies the impact of heat on our health.

So let's not be silent. Maybe climate change is a silent killer, but we can't be silent in the face of the information we have. Continuing to quote Laurence Kalkstein:

> The warming planet can cause many other serious health problems that are harmful to our families. Scientists predict they will get worse.

Scientists believe it will only get worse. Listen to what they say:

> Heatwaves are also associated with increased hospital admissions for cardiovascular, kidney and respiratory disorders. Extreme summer heat is increasing in the U.S., and climate projections indicate that extreme heat events will be much more frequent and intense in coming decades.

Is this the future we want for our people, increased hospital admissions for cardiovascular, kidney, and respiratory disorders? I think not. But, boy, part of me thinks so. I can't seem to get anybody excited about this in the Senate.

You might ask me why that is? I have my theories. There is a lot of power on the other side. There is a lot of power on the other side—people who don't want to move off coal, people who don't want to move off oil. There is a lot of power on the other side.

The increase in temperatures can lead to respiratory illnesses associated with air pollution, such as asthma. Have you ever seen a child with asthma gasping for breath? I say to my colleagues, asthma is a leading cause of hospital admissions for kids at school. I go around and visit the schools, and I ask a simple question: How many of you kids have asthma or know someone with asthma? Almost 50 percent of the room has hands up.

If you saw a child gasping for air on the street, you would hold them close, you would calm them down, you would get them oxygen, you would do everything in your power. You would call 9–1-1, you would take them to the hospital, you would sit by their side, you would hold their hand, you would nurse them back to health.

We have a situation, folks, where climate disruption is going to bring us more cases of asthma. Let's not stand with the giant polluters. Let's move to clean energy. Let's clean up our act and save our children, save our grandparents.

We are not talking about a remote possibility sometime in the near future. Climate disruption is here. It is happening before our eyes. More American children are getting asthma and allergies, more seniors are suffering from heat strokes. And let me tell you about what is happening in New York right now. They are seeing indications that extreme weather events such as Superstorm Sandy are linked to health problems.

They have already given a name to a cough that has developed in that part of the country known locally as the

Rockaway cough because it is in Rockaway. The Rockaway Peninsula on Long Island, NY, was devastated by Sandy. Lives were lost, homes and businesses were destroyed, and now local residents are experiencing health problems from the flooding—coughing, which is a common symptom, health officials said, that could come from mold or the haze of dust and sand kicked up by the storm and demolitions. Governor Cuomo said they are seeing these so-called 100-year storms—supposed to come once in 100 years—all the time.

I say to my colleagues: Wake up to the truth. Look out the window. Figure it out.

Look at this. Is this what we want to see in our country?

I was speaking to Senator WARREN about what happened recently, and I was shocked to see houses in Massachusetts on the beach, beautiful homes, being totally razed and taken away because the ocean is moving so close they can't stay there. It is happening before our eyes. Right here.

With the haze of dust and sand kicked up by the storm and demolitions, the air in the Rockaways is so full of particles the traffic police wear masks, though many recovery workers do not, and that worries people who recall the fallout of another disaster.

Another real threat we are seeing more and more in the West is wildfires. Wildfire smoke contains dangerous compounds. Why do we see this? The droughts that are coming. Smoke exposure increases respiratory and cardiovascular hospitalizations, emergency department visits for asthma, bronchitis, chest pain, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, respiratory infections, and medical visits for lung illnesses, and has been associated with hundreds of thousands of global deaths annually.

That is the bad news. Now, if I stopped here, I wouldn't sleep very well tonight, having gone through all this. But there is good news. We can take steps now to address climate change, and those steps will benefit public health. We have an opportunity to turn this crisis into a win-win situation. When we reduce carbon pollution from powerplants to address climate disruption, we reduce dangerous air pollutants, such as soot and toxic metals that are harmful to our health.

Here is a chart: Policies and other strategies intended to reduce carbon pollution and mitigate climate change can often have independent influences on human health. For example, when you reduce carbon emissions, you reduce air pollutants, such as particles and sulfur dioxides.

We call that cobenefits, Mr. President. When you go after one kind of pollution—carbon pollution—you get the cobenefits of going after the soot, the small particles that lodge in our lungs. So we know when we reduce carbon emissions, we reduce those small particles and sulfur dioxide.

Here is the other good news. As we move away from the very dirty power sources of, what I hope will be, the past, and we move toward clean energy, we help our families' budgets because we move away from polluting automobiles. I drive a hybrid, a plug-in hybrid car. I have to tell you, it is pretty amazing. I get the first 12 miles on electricity, and if I do a few chores and come home and plug the car in again, then when I go past the 12 miles, it goes to a hybrid, which is part gas, part electric. So overall I am getting about 150 miles to the gallon. You know what. That feels pretty good when you don't have to stop and fill up your car all the time and get the sweats because of what it costs to fill up that car.

President Obama and my colleague Senator FEINSTEIN, and my former colleague Senator Snowe, I have to compliment them because in a bipartisan way they moved us toward fuel efficiency. So we are moving toward 50-miles-per-gallon fuel efficiency, and that will help us. But we have to do more.

We have to do more because the health costs associated with climate change are heartbreaking and expensive. Taking steps to reduce carbon pollution will lower our doctors' bills when we don't have kids wheezing and gasping for air. The evidence is clear: Climate change is a public health threat.

We have moved before when we have seen threats to public health. We did it on cigarettes. I was here when the Congress voted to ban smoking on airplanes. Let me tell you, that was a hard vote. We had all the money of the cigarette and tobacco companies against us. And I want to compliment Senators LAUTENBERG and DURBIN. Senator DURBIN was in the House. This was a long time ago, but I can tell you what it was like because I do so much travel across the country.

Mr. President, I would get off the plane where there was smoking, and I would reek of smoke. You felt it all over, and you certainly were breathing it in. It was unhealthy. Everyone said it would never happen; that we would never, ever ban smoking on the airlines. But guess what. We did the right thing.

Now some people say: Well, how do you know that human activity and the kinds of power we are using, the dirty oil and so on, the coal, is causing this? Let me tell you how I know. Because 98 percent of the scientists tell me so.

People say, what if they are wrong. Ninety-eight percent of the scientists agree that human activity is causing this climate disruption. If you stand with the 2 percent, you are standing with the 2 percent who said smoking never caused lung cancer. I would say, if we went to the doctor and the doctor looked at us and said there is a 98-percent chance if you don't change your eating habits or your smoking habits you are going to die an early death, you would say, 98 percent chance? OK, I will change my ways. Well, 98 percent of the scientists are telling us to change our ways when it comes to carbon pollution.

How do we do that in a way that is smart? We have several bills to put a price on carbon. We have the Sanders-Boxer bill. We have the Whitehouse bill. There will be other bills. Once we put a price on carbon, it makes sense because we are factoring in the true cost of carbon pollution, which I just explained is enormous in public health alone and economics related to superstorms and the rest.

So we need to put a price on carbon. What BERNIE SANDERS and I do is we take the funds that come in from that and we give it right back to the people and say: Here is a check, and now you can pay for your new clean energy. It is kind of capping the carbon and giving a dividend to the people. With the rest of the money we lower the deficit, we invest in solar rooftops, and a little bit in solar transportation. It is the way to go.

Some say wait. We can't wait. We wasted 8 long years when George W. Bush was President. Do you know why? He said carbon pollution wasn't covered in the Clean Air Act. All one had to do was read the Clean Air Act. I am not an attorney, but it is right there. It says, in essence, here are the following pollutants that are covered, and it listed greenhouse gas emissions. But, oh, no. He took it all the way to the Supreme Court and wasted 8 long years while the problem got worse and worse.

So here is the deal. Here is a quote from Washington School of Public Health, University of Washington, Dr. Howard Frumkin, who says:

> In public health, when faced with threats to entire populations, we act. For infectious diseases, we vaccinate.

If 98 percent of the doctors say vaccinate to prevent illness, there is always 2 percent who are going to say don't do it. But we go with 98 percent.

> For lung cancer, we ban smoking.

We didn't stand with the doctors who were paid off by big tobacco. We stood with the doctors who had an independent judgment, and we banned smoking on airplanes and in close quarters and in the Senate cloakroom and all the other places in government buildings.

> For injuries, we install seat belts and air bags.

Another big battle. Remember that battle? The auto companies said: We don't want to spend the money installing airbags or seatbelts. We said: You have to do it. You know what. It is worth the cost, and so many lives are saved.

> For obesity, we promote physical activity and healthier eating.

The First Lady has taken this on as a cause and we are starting to see a change. We have a long way to go. Why do that? Because we know the connection between obesity and diabetes and heart disease and stroke. So even

though it is a difficult issue, we have tackled it.

For climate change, we need to act.

We surely do. I am talking to pretty much an empty Chamber, but I am glad the Presiding Officer is here, and I feel a few people are watching. It is good. But there are a few of us who are determined to keep on bringing the facts to the floor of the Senate. Everyone has the right to act or not act, but I believe we need to make the record now, because when my grandchildren grow up, I want them to look back and say: Wow. That was great what grandma's generation did. They took care of this issue. I don't want them to look back and say: What were they thinking? What was wrong with them? Why didn't they act when they could have made a difference?

So next week I will be back. I will be talking about national security threats. This is one of the biggest national security threats we face. That doesn't come from me. That comes from the Pentagon. It comes from the CIA. It comes from the national security teams. So we can just close our eyes to this and we can wish it goes away, but it is not going away or we can ease the pain of climate disruption by moving to clean energy, energy efficiency, and we will face a win-win as we eventually have better public health, save money, and save the planet.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I come to the floor today in strong opposition to Amendment No. 115, offered by the junior Senator from Pennsylvania, to strike funding for the Department of Defense's, DoD, Advanced Drop-In Biofuel Production.

The intent of this amendment is to further limit the Department of Defense's ability to use alternative fuels to enhance our country's national security. Under the authorities of the Defense Production Act, DPA, the Department of Defense has created the Advanced Drop-In Biofuels Production Project. This initiative is focused on creating a public-private partnership that will provide incentives for private-sector investment in cost competitive, advanced biofuels production capability. It also requires at least a one-to-one cost share with private stakeholders. During consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013, the Senate demonstrated bipartisan support for DoD's alternative energy initiatives. This amendment would prevent DoD from taking the necessary steps to diversify its energy supply.

As chairman of the Banking Committee, which has jurisdiction over the DPA, I believe it is misguided to limit the authority of the Defense Department to continue with this project. As one of the largest consumers of oil in the world, the Department of Defense spent $17 billion in fiscal year 2011 on petroleum-based fuels. When oil prices spike, this dependency forces the Department of Defense to reallocate funding from other critical needs. Last year alone, spikes in oil prices required the Navy to pay an additional $500 million on higher fuel costs. Amendment No. 115 will further increase DoD's vulnerability to fluctuations in the price of oil.

This amendment should also be opposed because if it were adopted it would not have the effect intended. Due to a technical drafting error this amendment would not strip money from the account that funds biofuel production, but rather other unrelated programs at the DoD. The amendment still scores in outlays per the Congressional Budget Office and is subject to a budget point of order. This technical drafting error is another reason for Members to oppose this amendment.

The renewable fuels industry has played an important role in addressing our energy needs. Unfortunately, this amendment would hinder our Nation's ability to promote renewable domestic energy sources. We should allow the Defense Department to retain its authority to take steps to diversify the energy sources available to our military. Our national security relies on energy security, and this amendment would weaken both.

I urge all my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

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.

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.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JOE CHRIST

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, with a heavy heart, I rise today to say a few words about a wonderful, talented public servant who unexpectedly passed away recently.

Joseph Christ was a longtime prosecutor in St. Clair County, IL, home of the city that I grew up in, East St. Louis.

In his almost 20 years as an assistant State's attorney, he worked hard to keep criminals off our streets and help victims' families find justice.

Then, just two weeks ago, he was sworn in as an Associate Judge on Illinois' 20th Circuit and began his new journey.

His colleagues from the prosecutor's office said great things about his time there and what a great judge he would make.

But the next weekend, while on an out-of-town trip a few days after being sworn in, he passed away from natural—though certainly unexpected—causes.

We will never know all the good things he would have accomplished as judge, but we can reflect on the good he did while he was with us.

Surely his record indicates that he would have accomplished many more good deeds in the years to come.

He was taken from his wife and children too soon. They are in my thoughts and prayers.

RECOGNIZING THE IAWP AND DICK FREEMAN

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the International Association of Workforce Professionals, IAWP, for a century of leadership in enhancing the professionalism and excellence of America's workforce systems. IAWP will have a special celebration of this centennial milestone during its annual International Educational Conference in Chicago from July 6 to 10. IAWP was founded in Chicago and also celebrated its 50th and 75th anniversaries in that great Midwestern city. The association will honor its founder, W.M. Leiserson, superintendent of Wisconsin Employment Offices. In 1913, he reached out to his counterparts in other States to organize a nationwide association of public employment offices. Since its founding, IAWP has consistently worked to advance its founding principles: to provide members with education, leadership opportunities, information exchange, and recognition of excellence. In particular I would also like to applaud one of my constituents, Dick Freeman, who is receiving a much deserved Lifetime Achievement Award from IAWP at its July conference.

Dick has been a member of the Iowa chapter of IAWP for 41 years, including serving as the Iowa legislative chair since 1985. He has received the Iowa I-Care Award numerous times during his tenure of more than four decades with the association. This award is given for professionals who perform above and beyond normal leadership duties.

Dick played an important role in planning and hosting IAWP's 1990 International Educational Conference in Des Moines. He was the deputy director of the Iowa chapter when it chose to compete to host that year's International Education Conference. Iowa won the bid thanks to Dick's initiative and persistence. Approximately 1,200 IAWP members attended the 1990 conference in Iowa.

Mr. President, I am very pleased to recognize Dick Freeman for his many decades of dedicated service to IAWP members in Iowa and all across the Nation. Again, I congratulate the International Association of Workforce Professionals for 100 years of service to America's workers.

UNREST IN TIBET

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to express my concerns about the continuing unrest in Tibet and the tragic trend of Tibetan self-immolations. Since February 2009, more than 100 Tibetans have set themselves on fire. Many of the self-immolators have called out for the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet and for China to acknowledge the basic human dignity of the Tibetan people.

Like so many others, I wish that Tibetans would not choose self-immolations, a horrific act, as a method of protest. I hope Tibetans will find other ways to express their grievances and despair and halt these self-destructive acts. At the same time, we must understand that these sorts of acts are indicative of the deep sense of frustration felt by the Tibetan people. This is not a conspiracy of ''foreign forces'' but indicative of the deep sense of hopelessness of a people denied their basic dignity.

Under the Chinese Constitution, ''All ethnic groups in the People's Republic of China are equal. The state protects the lawful rights and interests of the minority nationalities and upholds and develops the relationship of equality, unity and mutual assistance among all of China's nationalities. Discrimination against and oppression of any nationality are prohibited. . . .''

Yet Tibet today is one of the most repressed and closed societies in the world, where merely talking on the phone can land you in jail. Support for the Dalai Lama can be prosecuted as an offense against the State. Tibetans are treated as second class citizens; their travel within and outside of Tibetan areas is highly restricted. Foreign diplomats and journalists are routinely denied access.

The American people and Congress have demonstrated an abiding interest in the culture, religion, and people of Tibet, as well as a deep respect for His Holiness the Dalai Lama. We see Tibet as an issue of fundamental justice and fairness, where the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people, as embodied in the PRC's own constitution, are not being respected; where their culture is being eroded; and where their land is being exploited.

So I believe that responsibility falls to us to help the Tibetan people in their efforts to preserve their culture and identity and have a say in their own affairs and to be able to exercise genuine autonomy within the PRC.

Let me offer some thoughts on how Congress can help.

First, we should continue to fund the important programs that help Tibetan communities, both in exile and on the Tibetan plateau. While these provide tangible humanitarian results, they also send a critical signal to the aggrieved Tibetan population that the United States hears their plea.

One measure with which I am familiar is the Tibetan language broadcasts of Radio Free Asia and the Voice of America. I cannot overstate the importance of these efforts to provide perhaps the only independent source of news to Tibetans who struggle under the heavy censorship regime.

Second, we should embrace the statement last fall by U.N. Human Rights Commissioner Navi Pillay on Tibet. She stated that ''social stability in Tibet will never be achieved through heavy security measures and suppression of human rights.'' She called on Chinese authorities to adopt the recommendations of various U.N. bodies and to allow access to Tibet by independent international observers and media members, noting 12 outstanding requests for official visits to China by U.N. Special Rapporteurs on various human rights issues.

Third, the State Department should continue to insist on access to Tibet by its personnel. We need independent and credible reporting on the true situation on the ground, and the Department should work with China to take steps to see that the principle of reciprocity is respected.

Fourth, I encourage the State Department and other government agencies to join in dialogue with China and with others in the region to address the deeper strategic aspects of the Tibet issue. Instability in Tibet is a factor in the broader question of social stability in the entire PRC. Peaceful resolution of the Tibet issue could go a long way in demonstrating to the world that China is indeed a responsible and constructive member of the community of nations. In turn, Beijing's growing influence in the Himalayan belt, especially Nepal, should be assessed in a broader dialogue with other nations in the region.

Likewise, the United States should look for constructive ways to engage China on the issue of water security, given that Tibet's rivers provide the livelihood for hundreds of millions of people downstream in South and Southeast Asia. Chinese diversion of these rivers through constructing dams could become a source of conflict in the region.

Mr. President, I close by paraphrasing an oft-uttered phrase by the Dalai Lama. He says that those who raise their voices of concern for Tibet do so not because they are pro-Tibet or anti-Chinese. They do so because they are pro-justice. I second this remark and look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate, and with China, to promote a durable resolution to the Tibet problem.

CONGRATULATING MITCH SEAVEY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the winner of the 41st Iditarod race. Mitch Seavey of Seward finished the 998-mile dog sled race in a time of 9 days, 7 hours, 39 minutes, and 56 seconds. This is Mitch's second title and I am happy to congratulate him on this significant accomplishment.

Sixty-six teams left this year from Willow, heading out into the dark, cold, and exceptionally rugged terrain of Alaska. This race is not for the weak. Temperatures can plummet, footing is not always solid, and mushers have to deal with the isolation of the Alaskan wilderness, leading an equally brave and athletic team of canine athletes.

Iditarod mushers are not the only people to have witnessed the great ability of sled dogs. American soldiers overseas are now benefiting from the training these canines endure. The U.S. Marine Corps recently decided to study the training regimen of sled dogs that are able to consistently run 1,000-mile races through hazardous conditions. What they observed is what we in the Iditarod community have become accustomed to in sled dog racing—train to the level in which you need to perform. For Iditarod dogs this means training in weather conditions they will encounter during an Alaskan winter and eating up to 12,000 calories a day. Exercise and nutrition techniques were transferred from the Iditarod trail across the world to the deserts of Afghanistan. Bomb-sniffing dogs working in conditions just as extreme, sometimes in heat well in excess of 100 degrees, are now saving lives and limbs every day thanks to the science and innovative techniques developed in our great race. A group of those canines, led by Tanner, a 6-year-old husky, trained their way into peak physical condition and onto the winning podium in Nome.

The Iditarod race exemplifies the greatest assets of my home State: vast nature and beauty, the greatest will and determination in the country, and most of all a sense of community. Those qualities are exemplified in this year's winner, Mitch Seavey.

This title makes Mitch the oldest Iditarod winner ever. It is only fitting that Mitch crossed the burled arch on Front Street in Nome a champion, a year after his son Dallas claimed the title and became the youngest winner in Iditarod history. Back-to-back Seavey family championships lead me to believe that there must be some characteristics of this family that give them an advantage in the world's toughest race.

Mitch Seavey's inspiring run this year was a testament to his athleticism, tenacity, and character. Mitch recaptured his title in dramatic fashion. His lead coming out of White Mountain, starting a sprint to Nome, was only 13 minutes. He thought he could see the dim light of his competitor's headlamp coming up behind his team and he reached another gear. Late Tuesday night Mitch crossed the finish line, claiming his second title, the first since his 2004 championship run. This was one of the closest Iditarod finishes ever. Mitch even joked coming out of White Mountain that he was going to grab his sneakers for the finish. In the heat of competition Mitch kept his sense of humor and

now he has kept the Iditarod championship in the family for another year.

Mitch Seavey may have claimed the Iditarod title in Nome, but getting to that point takes preparation and training that begins months if not years in advance. I would like to congratulate Mitch for all of his hard work and for claiming his second Iditarod title.

I would also like to thank the Iditarod trail team, the many volunteers who came from around the country, the veterinarians, the Iditarod Air Force, and everyone else who has worked to ensure the safety and maintenance of the Iditarod trail and the safety of the dedicated athletes and canines that welcome the challenge. Their efforts are often underrated, but their commitment is resolute. My prayers go out to the families of Carolyn and Rosemarie Sorvoja, and pilot Ted Smith, who lost their lives in a tragic plane crash as they made their way to the eighth check point of Takotna. They had traveled hundreds of miles from the Anchorage area, in hopes of volunteering on the trail. Every volunteer knows the risks associated with their efforts to ensure the safety of others and the success of the Iditarod, but I am surprised each year at how many line up to serve in the face of rugged and extreme Alaskan conditions. This is now a time to remember and honor their efforts, and congratulate Mitch Seavey.

I am proud to congratulate the Seavey team on this amazing accomplishment and historic milestone. I send my best wishes to Mitch and the whole Seavey family as they celebrate this well-deserved victory in Alaska's great race.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ASCENT OF DENALI CENTENNIAL

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the centennial anniversary of the first successful ascent of the south peak of Mount McKinley. In Alaska, the mountain is popularly known as Denali, which means the ''Great One'' in Dena'ina language. At 20,320 feet, the south peak is the tallest of its two peaks, and makes Mount McKinley North America's tallest mountain.

Although other climbers attempted the climb or claimed to have summited McKinley before 1913, Walter Harper, Hudson Stuck, Robert Tatum, and Harry Karstens were the first to complete their journey to the top. Among the party, it was Harper, an Athabascan, who was the first to stand on the south summit after a month-long expedition that started with a mush from Fairbanks by a dog team.

The unsung hero of this accomplishment was another Alaska Native, 16-year-old John Fredson, who travelled with the group and cared for the sled dogs at base camp while waiting for the climbing team to return. This story of triumph and courage underscores the importance of Alaska Natives in the great age of American exploration.

To commemorate the centennial, the Denali 2013 Centennial Climb has been organized. The official party's ascent will commence June 7, 2013, and includes ancestors of the original team: Dana Wright of Fairbanks, the great-grandnephew of Harper; Dan Hopkins, from Ottawa, Ontario, who is the great-great-nephew of Stuck; Ken Karstens, from Colorado; and Ray Schuenemann, from Dallas, Texas, both of whom are great-grandsons of Karstens.

Stuck was a missionary for the Episcopal Church and Archdeacon of the Yukon back in 1913. Stuck had hoped to celebrate communion atop the peak. As part of the recreation of the historic ascent, Mark Lattime, the Episcopal Bishop of Alaska and Reverend at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Fairbanks, will join the climbing party and celebrate communion at the peak.

The spirit of adventure is something that we embrace as Alaskans and Americans. Let us take this moment to acknowledge this significant achievement of our predecessors and wish the 2013 party a safe and successful climb.•

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MARK E. WEATHERINGTON

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate the service of Col. Mark E. Weatherington, who will be ending his command at Ellsworth Air Force Base in early April.

An Air Force Academy graduate, Colonel Weatherington has served in many leadership and flying positions over his impressive 23-year career. He is a B–1 pilot with 2,400 flight hours. Among his many assignments, Colonel Weatherington has served as commander of the 28th Bomb Wing at both Ellsworth AFB and Dyess AFB; served as chief of staff of the Air Force Fellow; was a National Defense Fellow with the Brookings Institution; and previously served at Ellsworth AFB as chief of weapons and tactics and then assistant operations officer of the 77th Bomb Squadron and wing weapons officer of the 28th Operations Support Squadron.

Colonel Weatherington has served as commander of the 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth Air Force Base, the largest B–1 combat wing in the U.S. Air Force, since May 2011. He has distinguished himself during his 2-year stint at the South Dakota installation. He has provided expert guidance during the process to bring the first MQ–9 Reaper squadron, the 432nd Attack Squadron, to Ellsworth Air Force Base, while maintaining the great legacy of the B–1 aircraft and the personnel of the 28th Bomb Wing. Last year, Colonel Weatherington presided over Ellsworth Air Force Base's 70th Anniversary festivities.

Colonel Weatherington's current stint at Ellsworth Air Force Base has lasted just shy of 2 years, but he has provided a lasting impact, overseeing 4,300 military and civilian personnel in the day-to-day operations of the base, as well as the ongoing rotation of airmen to overseas action in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He has maintained a strong relationship between the Base and Black Hills communities, namely Rapid City and Box Elder. For decades there has been a very warm and cordial relationship between Black Hills residents, businesses, and charitable organizations and the personnel and leadership command of Ellsworth Air Force Base. Colonel Weatherington has been committed to maintaining this bond. The relationship between the civilian and military communities remains very strong, and this relationship continues to make the Black Hills a great retirement option for military retirees who once served at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Colonel Weatherington will now move to the Pentagon where he will serve as Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Dr. Ashton Carter. This role will bring new challenges and responsibilities, but I know the leadership, professionalism, and stewardship Colonel Weatherington showed during his time at Ellsworth Air Force Base will serve him well at the Pentagon and throughout his career. I commend Colonel Weatherington for his service to Ellsworth Air Force Base and his continued service to the U.S. Air Force. I wish him, Stephanie, and their family all the best in future endeavors.•

WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring attention to an effort spearheaded by a native West Virginian, Mr. William J. Friedman. I ask to have printed in the RECORD a copy of the West Virginia-House Concurrent Resolution No. 74, which was passed by the West Virginia State Legislature on March 12, 2012, detailing his efforts.

Mr. Friedman is a proud West Virginian. He is the longest tenured member of the National Democratic Club, and founder of both the 116 Club and the prestigious Georgetown Club.

According to his colleagues, Mr. Friedman is also a veteran who served this country in the Korean War and lived in Africa for almost 15 years. Mr. Friedman was present during a number of movements within the region; including the civil war in Mozambique and the dismantling of South African apartheid.

I am informed that Mr. Friedman served his country abroad by investing millions in the country of Mozambique with hopes of spreading American style capitalism and creating hundreds of jobs.

Further, I am told that Mr. Friedman was inspired by Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano, which led to his relocation to Mozambique. At the time, Mozambique was in midst of a bloody civil war. Even so, Mr. Friedman assisted the newly appointed Presi-

dent to develop relationships with western nations.

Mr. Friedman has said that he invested millions of dollars to promote free enterprise in Mozambique. Accordingly, I am told that Mr. Friedman established the first direct foreign investment with Overseas Private Investment Corporation insurance in the country of Mozambique.

Mr. Friedman continued investing in the country until Mozambique held its first multi-party elections and, as a result, Joaquim Chissano was elected President of the Republic of Mozambique.

As a U.S. Senator, it is such an honor to serve the great people of West Virginia and to bring attention to their special efforts. I always say that the people of West Virginia are some of the most patriotic in the country.

The resolution follows:

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

[By Delegates Canterbury, Armstead, T. Campbell, Carmichael, Evans, Gearheart, Hamilton, C. Miller, Nelson, Sigler, Sumner and Walters]

[Adopted by the Legislature, March 9, 2012]

Requesting the Congressional Delegation from the State of West Virginia to ask the United State Department of State to make certain demands on the government of the United Arab Emirates.

Whereas, The Government of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates is in arrears on certain of its sovereign obligations; and

Whereas, Some West Virginians are in possession of bonds issued by the Government of Abu Dhabi, bonds that are now in arrears and at risk of default; and

Whereas, Repayment of these bonds by the Government of Abu Dhabi would result in significant tax revenues to the State of West Virginia and also return investors' capital for reinvestment in significant new projects in West Virginia; and

Whereas, Members of the West Virginia Congressional Delegation have attempted to resolve this matter with the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Washington, D.C, but without result; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia: That West Virginia Congressional Delegation be requested to communicate further to the United State Department of State; and, be it

Further Resolved, That, pursuant to the United States Constitution, Article 1, Section 8, Paragraph 3, which bestows on the United States Congress the duty to regulate commerce with foreign nations, the Congressional Delegation from the State of West Virginia should renew their resolve and ask their Congressional colleagues and every United States legislator, on a bipartisan basis, to ask the United States Department of State to demand that the government of the United Arab Emirates honor and pay their sovereign financial obligations that are guaranteed by the Government of Abu Dhabi as evidenced by bonds signed by their own officials.

I, Gregory M. Gray, Clerk of the House of Delegates, and as such Clerk, Keeper of the Rolls of the Legislature of West Virginia, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of House Concurrent Resolution 74, which was adopted by the Legislature on the 9th day of March, 2012.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. JULIAN DAVIDSON

● As a huge crowd gathered on February 4, 2013, at the memorial service for my good friend, Dr. Julian Davidson of Huntsville, AL, in the magnificent Davidson Center for Space Exploration that bears his name, beside the Saturn V rocket, I had to take a moment to consider its power and the impact its development made on the world. Our space program is the world's greatest technological achievement.

Less appreciated is the monumental technological achievement of our Nation's National Missile Defense System along with all the other shorter range missile systems that now protect the Nation from attack and accidental launch. Sixteen years ago, campaigning, I would ask people what we would do if a nuclear missile were launched at us. Usually, someone would say we would shoot it down. That is the correct answer today, but not then. No such system had then been deployed but people were working on it.

Former Secretary of State Dean Acheson wrote a book, Present at the Creation, about the creation of our long lasting foreign policy framework. My friend, Dr. Julian Davidson, was present and creating at the creation of our colossal, highly technical and effective global missile defense system. It is accurate to call him the ''father of missile defense.'' And, like a good father, he nurtured the program to maturity for 50 years. As an Army Civilian and as a business professional, he was a constant and leading force for this amazing accomplishment. Launch vehicles in Alaska and California, radar detection systems worldwide, and incredibly complex computer systems allow this Nation to identify, track, and hit to kill a hostile or accidental missile aimed to damage our Nation.

People doubted it would work, mocked it as Star Wars, but the political center held and aided by the scientific and political skills of Julian and others the system is now in place. Trust me—it was a near run thing. Since Ronald Reagan, it has remained a sore spot for Vlademir Putin and a major strategic development.

This modest, unassuming, gentle but brilliant, strong and determined man carried the day. And, blessedly, he could take pride and satisfaction in actually seeing it proven and deployed. This was a truly historic achievement.

As a new Senator, elected in 1996, I was aware of Julian's importance to Huntsville and national defense. But as the years passed, I came to understand more about his remarkable career and why he was so loved and respected. For me, and for so many, his importance transcends the leadership he has provided to science and technology, to our Nation's being dominant in the world in missile defense technology and systems, and to our national security—it is personal. He touched so many lives in positive and important ways. My respect for his knowledge, his unbiased, sound insight, just continued to grow. I was in awe of this small man who had done so much, knew so much, and who was so admired in the Defense Department, the defense industry, and in Huntsville. I was honored that he became a true friend and he gave me his time and insight as he did for so many others.

Last year, I talked with Admiral Syring about his appointment to be the new MDA Commander, the agency Julian first directed. When I met with Admiral Syring, I asked that he do only one thing. I asked him to have a good visit with Julian and promised him he would enjoy and benefit from it. Admiral later said they had a wonderful afternoon.

Now, Julian did love politics and there was an unusual purity about his politics. It was an extension of his love for America, I think. First and foremost, Julian was a patriot. He was passionately committed to classical American values.

Julian felt that his country had been good to him, that it was a positive force in the world, and that it required civic support and direction. He was always there to give that support and direction.

Julian was proud of Davidson Technologies and the 200 engineers and people who worked with him there. He made it a premier missile technology and systems engineering firm in a very short time. His main goal was for the company to meet and exceed contract requirements, to be successful, and, importantly, so his people could prosper and be fulfilled and do their work with integrity. He was very proud that he had created a work environment second to none in Huntsville. The company was good to him and he was grateful.

Julian was exceedingly generous to Huntsville, the place he called home. The Davidson Center for Space Exploration is a dramatic example of that generosity. He and Dorothy were also great friends of the arts—making major gifts to the Davidson Center for the Arts, the Huntsville Symphony, the Child Advocacy Center and many other good causes. Their long and true partnership was exceedingly important in business and civic affairs. Extremely talented in her own right, Dorothy loved and admired Julian as he did her. This bond was a key to his success.

Dr. Deborah Barnhart, CEO of the Space and Rocket Center said, ''Dorothy and Julian Davidson are renaissance people who care passionately about the advancement of technology, the arts, and the Huntsville community.'' Truly so.

So, the gentle, humble man from Oakman, Walker County, AL, son of a store owner, went forth and accomplished great things. And he did it without bluster, without ego, and without selfishness. He did it with skill, hard work, good judgment, honest dealing and respect for his fellow man. He did it all with a full dose of that critical quality—integrity. He believed in work. He was blessed to continue his productive work until his last days.

We live in a magnificent universe, ordered by providence—too wondrous to relate. To an unusual degree, Julian Davidson was given the ability and will to develop complex systems that utilize the rules of the natural world to make our lives better and to actually control the missiles that protect us from attack, even a nuclear attack.

It is important for the Nation to celebrate Julian's marvelous life and accomplishments.●

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT DATED MARCH 2013 WITH THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS FOR 2013, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON MARCH 15, 2013—PM 6

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was referred to the Joint Economic Committee:

To the Congress of the United States:

This year's Economic Report of the President describes the progress we have made recovering from the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. After years of grueling recession, our businesses have created over six million new jobs. As a nation, we now buy more American cars than we have in 5 years, and less foreign oil than we have in 20 years. Our housing market is healing, and consumers, patients, and homeowners enjoy stronger protections than ever before.

But there are still millions of Americans whose hard work and dedication have not yet been rewarded. Our economy is adding jobs, but too many of our fellow citizens still can't find full-time employment. Corporate profits have reached all-time highs, but for more than a decade, wages and incomes for working Americans have barely budged.

Our top priority must be to do everything we can to grow our economy and create good, middle-class jobs. That has to be our North Star. That has to drive every decision we make in Washington. Every day, we should ask ourselves three questions: How do we attract more jobs to our shores? How do we equip our people with the skills needed to do those jobs? And how do we make sure that hard work leads to a decent living?

We can begin by making America a magnet for new jobs and manufacturing. After shedding jobs for more than a decade, our manufacturers have added about half a million new jobs over the past 3 years. We need to accelerate that trend, by launching more manufacturing hubs that transform hard-hit regions of the country into global centers of high-tech jobs and manufacturing. We need to make our tax code more competitive, by ending tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas, and rewarding companies that create jobs here at home. And we need to invest in the research and technology that will allow us to harness more of our own energy and put more people back to work repairing our crumbling roads and bridges.

These steps will help entrepreneurs and small business owners expand and create new jobs. But we also need to provide every American with the skills and training they need to fill those jobs. We should start in the earliest years by offering high-quality preschool to every child in America, because we know kids in programs like these do better throughout their academic lives. We should redesign America's high schools to better prepare our students with skills that employers are looking for right now. And because taxpayers can't continue subsidizing the soaring cost of higher education, we should take affordability and value into account when determining which colleges receive certain types of Federal aid.

We also need to reward hard work and declare that no one who works full-time should have to live in poverty by raising the minimum wage so that it's a wage you can live on. And it's time to harness the talents and ingenuity of hardworking immigrants by finally passing commonsense immigration reform—continuing to strengthen border security, holding employers accountable, establishing a responsible path to earned citizenship, reuniting families, and attracting the highly-skilled entrepreneurs, engineers, and scientists that will help create jobs.

As we continue to grow our economy, we must also take further action to shrink our deficits. We don't have to choose between these two important priorities—we just have to make smart choices.

Over the last few years, both parties have worked together to reduce the deficit by more than $2.5 trillion, which puts us more than halfway towards the goal of $4 trillion in deficit reduction that economists say we need to stabilize our finances. Now we need to finish the job. But we shouldn't do it by making harsh and arbitrary cuts that jeopardize our military readiness, devastate priorities like education and energy, and cost jobs. That's not how you grow the economy. We shouldn't ask senior citizens and working families to pay down the rest of our deficit while the wealthiest are asked for nothing more. That doesn't grow our middle class.

Most Americans—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—understand that we can't just cut our way to prosperity. That's why I have put forward a balanced approach to deficit reduction that makes responsible reforms to bring down the cost of health care for an aging generation—the single biggest driver of our long-term debt—and saves hundreds of billions of dollars by getting rid of tax loopholes and deductions for the well-off and well-connected. And we should finally pursue bipartisan, comprehensive tax reform that encourages job creation and helps bring down the deficit.

The American people don't expect their government to solve every problem. They don't expect those of us in Washington to agree on every issue. But they do expect us to put the Nation's interests before party interests. They do expect us to forge reasonable compromise where we can. Our work will not be easy. But America only moves forward when we do so together—when we accept certain obligations to one another and to future generations. That's the American story. And that's how we will write the next great chapter—together.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 2013*.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:41 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 803. An act 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.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4(b) of the World War I Centennial Commission Act (Public Law 112–272), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the World War I Centennial Commission: Mr. TED POE of Humble, Texas.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), as amended by section 1601 of Public Law 111–68, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center: Mr. FORTENBERRY of Nebraska.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 803. An act 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; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 582. A bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

S. 583. A bill to implement equal protection under the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution for the right to life of each born and preborn human person.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of March 14, 2013, the following reports of committees were submitted on March 15, 2013:

By Mrs. MURRAY, from the Committee on the Budget, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 8. An original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2013, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023.

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 Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 584. A bill for the relief of Jorge Rojas Gutierrez, Olivia Gonzalez Gonzalez, and Jorge Rojas Gonzalez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 585. A bill for the relief of Jose Alberto Martinez Moreno, Micaela Lopez Martinez, and Adilene Martinez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 586. A bill for the relief of Alfredo Plascencia Lopez and Maria Del Refugio Plascencia; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 587. A bill for the relief of Ruben Mkoian, Asmik Karapetian, and Arthur Mkoyan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 588. A bill for the relief of Robert Liang and Alice Liang; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 589. A bill for the relief of Joseph Gabra and Sharon Kamel; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 590. A bill for the relief of Claudia Marquez Rico; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 591. A bill for the relief of Esidronio Arreola-Saucedo, Maria Elna Cobian Arreola, Nayely Arreola Carlos, and Cindy Jael Arreola; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 592. A bill for the relief of Alicia Aranda De Buendia and Ana Laura Buendia Aranda; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 593. A bill for the relief of Guy Privat Tape and Lou Nazie Raymonde Toto; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 594. A bill for the relief of Javier Lopez-Urenda and Maria Leticia Arenas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 595. A bill for the relief of Shirley Constantino Tan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 596. A bill to establish pilot projects under the Medicare program to provide incentives for home health agencies to furnish remote patient monitoring services that reduce expenditures under such program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 597. A bill to ensure the effective administration of criminal justice; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. NELSON):

S. 598. A bill to prohibit royalty incentives for deepwater drilling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 599. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disallow a deduction for amounts paid or incurred by a responsible party relating to a discharge of oil; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 600. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform and reduce fraud and abuse in certain visa programs for aliens working temporarily in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 601. A bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. Res. 77. A resolution expressing the sense of Congress relating to the commemoration of the 180th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COONS, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

S. Res. 78. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Professional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. Res. 79. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 19

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) 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. 169

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 169, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize additional visas for well-educated aliens to live and work in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 210

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 210, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraudulent representations about having received military declarations or medals.

S. 217

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 217, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary of Education to collect information from coeducational elementary schools and secondary schools on such schools' athletic programs, and for other purposes.

S. 234

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 234, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 289

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. COWAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 289, a bill to extend the low-interest refinancing provisions under the Local Development Business Loan Program of the Small Business Administration.

S. 309

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 309, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) 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. 336

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 336, a bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 338, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation

fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 345

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 345, a bill to reform the Federal sugar program, and for other purposes.

S. 370

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 381

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 381, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the ''Doolittle Tokyo Raiders'', for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo.

S. 407

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 407, a bill to provide funding for construction and major rehabilitation for projects located on inland and intracoastal waterways of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 411

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 411, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 420

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 420, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the logical flow of return information between partnerships, corporations, trusts, estates, and individuals to better enable each party to submit timely, accurate returns and reduce the need for extended and amended returns, to provide for modified due dates by regulation, and to conform the automatic corporate extension period to longstanding regulatory rule.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 464

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 464, a bill to declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under article I, section 8, of the Constitution.

S. 470

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) 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. 480

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 480, a bill to improve the effectiveness of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System by clarifying reporting requirements related to adjudications of mental incompetency, and for other purposes.

S. 490

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 490, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow refunds of Federal motor fuel excise taxes on fuels used in mobile mammography vehicles.

S. 500

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 500, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply payroll taxes to remuneration and earnings from self-employment up to the contribution and benefit base and to remuneration in excess of $250,000.

S. 505

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 505, a bill to prohibit the use of drones to kill citizens of the United States within the United States.

S. 512

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 512, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to aid gifted and talented and high-ability learners by empowering the Nation's teachers, and for other purposes.

S. 536

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 536, a bill to require a study and report by the Comptroller General of the United States regarding the costs of Federal regulations.

S. 557

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 565

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 565, a bill to provide for the safe and reliable navigation of the Mississippi River, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. RES. 65

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, 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. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 65, supra.

S. RES. 75

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS) 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. 55

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 55 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. 72

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 72 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. 79

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 79 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. 80

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 80 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. 81

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 81 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. 107

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 107 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. 111

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 111 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 Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 584. A bill for the relief of Jorge Rojas Gutierrez, Olivia Gonzalez Gonzalez, and Jorge Rojas Gonzalez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing a private relief bill on behalf of Jorge Rojas Gutierrez, his wife, Oliva Gonzalez Gonzalez, and their son, Jorge Rojas Gonzalez, Jr. The Rojas family, originally from Mexico, is living in the San Jose area of California.

The story of the Rojas family is compelling, and I believe they merit Congress' special consideration for such an extraordinary form of relief as a private bill.

Jorge and his wife, Oliva, originally came to the United States in 1990 when their son Jorge Rojas, Jr. was just 2 years old. In 1995, they left the country to attend a funeral, and then re-entered the United States on visitor's visas.

The family has since expanded to include two sons, Alexis Rojas, now 20 years old, Matias, now 3 years old, a daughter Tania Rojas, now age 18, and a granddaughter, Mina Rojas, who is 3 years old.

The Rojas family first attempted to legalize their status in the United States when an unscrupulous immigration consultant, who was not an attorney, advised them to apply for asylum. Unfortunately, without proper legal guidance, this family did not realize at the time that they lacked a valid basis for asylum. The asylum claim was denied in 2008, leaving the Rojas family with no further options to legalize their status.

Since their arrival in the United States more than 20 years ago, the Rojas family has demonstrated a robust work ethic and a strong commitment to their community in California. They have paid their taxes and worked hard to contribute to this country.

Jorge is a hard-working individual who has been employed by Valley Crest Landscape Maintenance in San Jose, California, for the past 16 years. Currently, he works on commercial landscaping projects. Jorge is well-respected by his supervisor and his peers.

In addition to supporting his family, Jorge has volunteered his time to provide modern green landscaping and building projects at his children's school in California. He is active in his neighborhood association, where he worked with his neighbors to open a library and community center in their community.

Oliva, in addition to raising her three children, has also been very active in the local community. She volunteers with the People Acting in Community Together, PACT, organization, where she works to prevent crime, gangs and drug dealing in San Jose neighborhoods and schools.

Perhaps one of the most compelling reasons for permitting the Rojas family to remain in the United States is the impact that their deportation would have on their four children. Three of the Rojas children, Alexis, Tanya, and Matias are American citizens. Jorge Rojas, Jr. has lived in the United States since he was a toddler.

For Alexis, Tanya, Matias and Jorge Jr., this country is the only country they really know. Jorge Rojas, Jr., who entered the United States as an infant with his parents, recently became a father. He is now 24 years old and working at a job that allows him to support his daughter, Mina. Jorge Jr. graduated from Del Mar High School in 2007.

Alexis, age 20, graduated from Del Mar High School and is now a student at West Valley College in Saratoga, California. He is interested in studying linguistics. Tania, age 18, recently graduated from Del Mar High School and is in her first year at West Valley College. Their teachers describe them as ''fantastic, wonderful and gifted'' students.

It seems so clear to me that this family has embraced the American dream and their continued presence in our country would do so much to enhance the values we hold dear.

When I first introduced this bill, I received dozens of letters from the community in Northern California in support of this family. Enactment of this private bill legislation will enable the Rojas family to continue to make significant contributions to their community as well as the United States.

I ask my colleagues to support this private bill.

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. 584

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

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR JORGE ROJAS GUTIERREZ, OLIVA GONZALEZ GONZALEZ, AND JORGE ROJAS GONZALEZ.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151), Jorge Rojas Gutierrez, Oliva Gonzalez Gonzalez, and Jorge Rojas Gonzalez shall each be eligible for the issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section

204 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Jorge Rojas Gutierrez, Oliva Gonzalez Gonzalez, or Jorge Rojas Gonzalez enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), Jorge Rojas Gutierrez, Oliva Gonzalez Gonzalez, or Jorge Rojas Gonzalez, as appropriate, shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully in the United States and shall be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for the issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBERS.—Upon granting an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Jorge Rojas Gutierrez, Oliva Gonzalez Gonzalez, and Jorge Rojas Gonzalez, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 3, during the current or subsequent fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Jorge Rojas Gutierrez, Oliva Gonzalez Gonzalez, and Jorge Rojas Gonzalez under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)) or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Jorge Rojas Gutierrez, Oliva Gonzalez Gonzalez, and Jorge Rojas Gonzalez under section 202(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(e)).

(e) PAYGO.—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.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 585. A bill for the relief of Jose Alberto Martinez Moreno, Micaela Lopez Martinez, and Adilene Martinez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing private immigration relief legislation to provide lawful permanent resident status to Jose Alberto Martinez Moreno, Micaela Lopez Martinez, and their daughter, Adilene Martinez. This family is originally from Mexico but has been living in California for twenty years. I believe they merit Congress' special consideration for this extraordinary form of relief.

When Jose came to the United States from Mexico, he began working as a busboy in restaurants in San Francisco, California. In 1990, he started working as a cook at Palio D'Asti, an award-winning Italian restaurant in San Francisco.

Jose worked his way through the ranks, eventually becoming Palio's sous chef. His colleagues describe him as a reliable and cool-headed coworker, and as ''an exemplary employee'' who not only is ''good at his job but is also a great boss to his subordinates.''

He and his wife, Micaela, call San Francisco home. Micaela works as a housekeeper and a part-time cook at a restaurant in San Francisco. They have three daughters, two of whom are United States citizens. Their oldest child Adilene, age 24, is undocumented. Adilene graduated from the Immaculate Conception Academy and attended San Francisco City College. She is now studying nursing at Los Medranos College.

The Martinez's second daughter, Jazmin, graduated from Leadership High School and is now studying at California State University, Dominguez Hills. Jazmin is a United States citizen and has been diagnosed with asthma. According to her doctor, if the family returns to Mexico, the high altitude and air pollution in Mexico City could be fatal to Jazmin.

The Martinez family attempted to legalize their status through several channels.

In 2001, Jose's sister, who has legal status, petitioned for Jose to get a green card. However, the current green card backlog for siblings from Mexico is long, and it will be many years before Jose will be eligible to legalize his status though his sister.

In 2002, the Martinez family applied for political asylum. Their application was denied. An immigration judge denied their subsequent application for cancellation of removal because he could not find the ''requisite hardship'' required for this form of immigration relief. Ironically, the immigration judge who reviewed their case found that Jose's culinary ability was a negative factor weighing against keeping the family in the United States, finding that Jose's skills indicated that he could find a job in Mexico.

Finally, Daniel Scherotter, the executive chef and owner of Palio D'Asti, petitioned for legal status for Jose based upon Jose's unique skills as a chef. Jose's petition was approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; however, he cannot apply for permanent residency because of his immigration history.

Jose, Micaela, and their daughter, Adilene, have no other administrative options to legalize their status. If they are deported, they will face a several-year ban from returning to the United States. Jose and Micaela will be separated from their American citizen-children and their community.

The Martinez family has become an integral part of their community in California. They are active in their faith community and their children's schools. They volunteer with community-based organizations and are, in turn, supported by their community. When I first introduced this bill, I received dozens of letters of support from their fellow parishioners, teachers, and members of their community.

The Martinez family truly embraces the American dream. Jose worked his way through the restaurant industry to become a chef and an indispensable employee at a renowned restaurant. Adilene worked hard in high school and is now attending college.

I believe the Martinez family's presence in the United States allows them to continue making significant contributions to their community in California.

I ask my colleagues to support this private bill.

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. 585

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

SECTION 1. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), Jose Alberto Martinez Moreno, Micaela Lopez Martinez, and Adilene Martinez shall each be deemed to have been lawfully admitted to, and remained in, the United States, and shall be eligible for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) upon filing an application for such adjustment of status.

(b) APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsection (a) shall apply only if the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBERS.—Upon the granting of permanent resident status to Jose Alberto Martinez Moreno, Micaela Lopez Martinez, and Adilene Martinez, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 3, during the current or subsequent fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the birth of Jose Alberto Martinez Moreno, Micaela Lopez Martinez, and Adilene Martinez under section 202(e) or 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(e) and 1153(a)), as applicable.

(d) PAYGO.—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.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 586. A bill for the relief of Alfredo Plascencia Lopez and Maria Del Refugio Plascencia; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to offer legislation to provide lawful permanent residence status to Alfredo Plascencia Lopez and his wife, Maria del Refugio Plascencia, Mexican nationals who live in the San Bruno area of California.

I have decided to offer legislation on their behalf because I believe that, without it, this hardworking couple and their five children, all United States citizens, would face extreme hardship. Their children would either face separation from their parents or be forced to leave the only country

they know and give up on their education in the United States.

The Plascencias have been in the United States for over 20 years. They worked for years to adjust their status through appropriate legal channels, but poor legal representation ruined their opportunities. The Plascencia's lawyer refused to return their calls or otherwise communicate with them in any way. He also failed to forward crucial immigration documents, or even notify the Plascencias that he had them. Because of the poor representation they received, Alfredo and Maria only became aware that they had been ordered to leave the United States fifteen days prior to their scheduled deportation.

The Plascencias were shocked to learn of their attorney's malfeasance, but they acted quickly to secure legitimate counsel and to file the appropriate paperwork to delay their deportation to determine if any other legal action could be taken.

Since arriving in the United States in 1988, Alfredo and Maria have proven themselves a civic-minded couple who share our American values of hard work, dedication to family, and devotion to community.

Maria has distinguished herself as a medical assistant at a Kaiser Permanente hospital in the Bay Area. Not satisfied with working as a maid at a local hotel, she went to school, earned her high school equivalency degree, and improved her skills to become a medical assistant. She recently completed school to become a Licensed Vocational Nurse, and is scheduled to take the Nursing Board Examination.

Several Californians who wrote to me in support of Maria describe her as ''responsible,'' ''efficient,'' and ''compassionate.'' Kaiser Permanente's Director of Internal Medicine wrote to say that Maria is ''an asset to the community and exemplifies the virtues we Americans extol: hardworking, devoted to her family, trustworthy and loyal, [and] involved in her community. She and her family are a solid example of the type of immigrant that America should welcome wholeheartedly.''

Together, Alfredo and Maria have used their professional successes to realize many of the goals dreamed of by all Americans. They saved up and bought a home. They own a car. They have good health care benefits, and they each have begun saving for retirement. They are sending their daughters, Christina and Erika, to college and plan to send the rest of their children to college as well.

Allowing the Plascencias to remain in the United States would preserve their achievements and ensure that they will be able to make substantive contributions to the community in the future.

In addition, this bill will have a positive impact on the couple's United States citizen children, who are dedicated to pursuing their educations and becoming productive members of their community.

Christina is the Plascencias' oldest child. She is 22 years old, working and taking classes at Chabot College. She would like to be a paralegal. Erika, age 18, graduated from high school and is currently taking classes at Skyline College. Erika's teachers praise her abilities and have referred to her as a ''bright spot'' in the classroom.

Alfredo and Maria also have three young children: Alfredo, Jr., age 16, Daisy, age 11, and Juan-Pablo, age 6.

Removing Alfredo and Maria from the United States would be tragic for their children. The Plascencia children were born in America and through no fault of their own have been thrust into a situation that has the potential to dramatically alter their lives.

It would be especially tragic if Erika, Alfredo, and Daisy have to leave the United States. They are old enough to understand that they are leaving their schools, their teachers, their friends, and their home. They would leave everything that is familiar to them.

The Plascencia family would then be in Mexico without a means for supporting themselves and with no place to live. The children would have to acclimate to a different culture, language, and way of life.

The only other option would be for Alfredo and Maria to leave their children here with relatives. This separation is a choice that no parents should have to make.

I am reintroducing this legislation because I believe that the Plascencias will continue to make positive contributions to their community in California and this country. The Plascencia children should be given the opportunity to realize their full potential in the United States, with their family intact.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to support this bill.

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. 586

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

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR ALFREDO PLASCENCIA LOPEZ AND MARIA DEL REFUGIO PLASCENCIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151), Alfredo Plascencia Lopez and Maria Del Refugio Plascencia shall each be eligible for the issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Alfredo Plascencia Lopez or Maria Del Refugio Plascencia enter the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), Alfredo Plascencia Lopez or Maria Del Refugio Plascencia, as appropriate, shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of immigrant visas or the application for adjustment of status are filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBERS.—Upon the granting of immigrant visas or permanent residence to Alfredo Plascencia Lopez and Maria Del Refugio Plascencia, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 2, during the current or subsequent fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Alfredo Plascencia Lopez and Maria Del Refugio Plascencia under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)) or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Alfredo Plascencia Lopez and Maria Del Refugio Plascencia under section 202(e) of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(e)).

(e) PAYGO.—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.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 587. A bill for the relief of Ruben Mkoian, Asmik Karapetian, and Arthur Mkoyan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to reintroduce private relief legislation on behalf of Ruben Mkoian, Asmik Karapetian, and their son, Arthur Mkoyan. The Mkoian family has been living in Fresno, California, for over 15 years. I continue to believe this family deserves Congress' special consideration for such an extraordinary form of relief as a private bill.

The Mkoian family is originally from Armenia. They decided to leave Armenia for the United States in the early 1990s, following several incidents in which the family experienced vandalism and threats to their well-being.

In Armenia, Ruben worked as a police sergeant on vehicle licensing. At one point, he was offered a bribe to register stolen vehicles, which he refused and reported to his superior, the police chief. He later learned that a co-worker had gone ahead and registered the vehicles at the request of the chief.

Several disturbing incidents occurred after Ruben reported the bribe to illegally register vehicles. Ruben's store was vandalized; after he said he would call the police, he received threatening phone calls telling him to keep quiet. At one point, the Mkoians suffered the loss of their home when a bottle of gasoline was thrown into their residence, burning it to the ground. In April 1992, several men entered the family store and assaulted Ruben, hospitalizing him for 22 days.

Ruben, Asmik, and their 3-old son, Arthur, left Armenia soon thereafter

and entered the United States on visitor visas. They applied for political asylum in 1992 on the grounds that they would be subject to physical attacks if returned to Armenia. It took 16 years for their case to be finalized, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals denied their asylum case in January 2008.

At this time, Ruben, Asmik, and Arthur have exhausted every option to remain legally in the United States.

The Mkoians have worked hard to build a place for their family in California. Ruben works as a manager at a car wash in Fresno. He previously worked as a truck driver for a California trucking company that described him as ''trustworthy,'' ''knowledgeable,'' and an asset to the company. Asmik has completed training at a local community college and is now a full-time medical assistant with Fresno Shields Medical Group.

The Mkoians attend St. Paul Armenian Apostolic Church in Fresno. They do charity work to send medical equipment to Armenia. Asmik also teaches Armenian School on Saturdays at the church.

I would particularly like to highlight the achievements of Ruben and Asmik's two children, Arthur and Arsen, who were raised in California and have been recognized publicly for their scholastic achievements.

I first introduced a private bill for this family on Arthur's high school graduation day. Despite being undocumented, Arthur maintained a 4.0 grade point average in high school and was a valedictorian for the class of 2008. Arthur, now 22 years old, graduated from the University of California, Davis with a major in Chemistry. He maintained excellent grades and was on the Dean's Merit List.

Arthur's brother, Arsen, is 16 years old and a United States citizen. He currently attends Bullard High School in Fresno, where he does well in his classes, maintaining a 4.3 grade point average.

I believe Arthur and Arsen are two young individuals with great potential here in the United States. Like their parents, they have demonstrated their commitment to working hard—and they are succeeding. They clearly aspire to do great things here in the United States.

It has been more than 18 years since Ruben, Asmik, and Arthur left Armenia. This family has few family members and virtually no supporting contacts in Armenia. They invested their time, resources, and effort in order to remain in the United States legally, to no avail. A private relief bill is the only means to prevent them from being forced to return to a country that long ago became a closed chapter of their past.

When I first introduced a bill on behalf of the Mkoian family in 2008, I received written endorsements from Representatives George Radanovich, R–CA, and Jim Costa, D–CA, in strong support of the family. I also received more than 200 letters of support and dozens of calls of support from friends and community members, attesting to the positive impact that this family has had in Fresno, CA.

I believe that this case warrants our compassion and our extraordinary consideration. I respectfully ask my colleagues to support this private legislation on behalf of the Mkoian family.

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. 587

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

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR RUBEN MKOIAN, ASMIK KARAPETIAN, AND ARTHUR MKOYAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151), Ruben Mkoian, Asmik Karapetian, and Arthur Mkoyan shall each be eligible for the issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Ruben Mkoian, Asmik Karapetian, or Arthur Mkoyan enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), Ruben Mkoian, Asmik Karapetian, or Arthur Mkoyan, as appropriate, shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully in the United States and shall be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for the issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBERS.—Upon granting an immigrant visa or permanent resident status to Ruben Mkoian, Asmik Karapetian, and Arthur Mkoyan, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 3, during the current or subsequent fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Ruben Mkoian, Asmik Karapetian, and Arthur Mkoyan under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)) or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Ruben Mkoian, Asmik Karapetian, and Arthur Mkoyan under section 202(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(e)).

(e) PAYGO.—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.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 588. A bill for the relief of Robert Liang and Alice Liang; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to reintroduce private relief legislation for Robert Kuan Liang and his wife, Chun-Mei, ''Alice'', Hsu-Liang.

I first introduced a private bill for Robert and Alice in 2003. Since then this family has only further demonstrated their hard work ethic and commitment to realizing the American dream. I continue to believe that Robert and Alice merit Congress' special consideration and the extraordinary relief provided by private legislation.

Robert and Alice have been living in San Bruno, CA, for the last 27 years. Robert is a national and refugee from Laos, and Alice is originally from Taiwan. They have three children who are all United States citizens. I am concerned that forcing Robert and Alice to return to their home countries would tear this family apart and cause immense and unwarranted hardship to them and their children.

Robert and Alice have called California their home since they first entered the United States in 1983. They came here legally on tourist visas. They face deportation today because they remained in the United States past the terms of their visas, and because their attorney failed to handle their immigration case on a timely basis before federal immigration laws changed in 1996.

In many ways, the Liang family represents a uniquely American success story. Robert was born in Laos, but fled the country as a teenager after his mother was killed by Communists. He witnessed many traumatic experiences in his youth, including the attack that killed his mother and frequent episodes of wartime violence. He routinely witnessed the brutal persecution and deaths of others in his village in Laos. In 1975, he was granted refugee status in Taiwan.

Robert and his wife risked everything to come to the United States. Despite the challenges of their past, they built a family in California and established a place for themselves in the local community. They are homeowners. They own a successful business, Fong Yong Restaurant. They file annual income taxes and are financially stable.

Robert and Alice support their three children, Wesley, Bruce, and Eva, who are all American citizens. Wesley is now 21 years old and studying at City College of San Francisco. The younger children, Bruce and Eva, attend schools in the San Bruno area and continue to do well in their classes.

There are many reasons to believe that deporting Robert and Alice would have a harmful impact on the children, who have all of their ties to the United States. Deportation would either break this family apart or force them to relocate to a country entirely foreign to the one they know to be home.

The Immigration Judge who presided over Robert and Alice's case in 1997

also concluded that Robert and Alice's deportation would adversely impact the Liang children.

Moreover, Robert would face significant hurdles if deported, having fled Laos as a refugee more than 27 years ago. The emotional impact of the wartime violence Robert experienced at a young age was traumatic and continues to strain him. He battles severe clinical depression here in the United States. Robert fears that if he is deported and moves to his wife's home country, Taiwan, he will face discrimination on account of his nationality. Robert does not speak Taiwanese, and he worries about how he would pursue mental health treatment in a foreign country.

Robert and Alice have worked since 1993 to resolve their immigration status. They filed for relief from deportation; however, it took nearly five years for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, INS, to act on the case. By the time their case went through in 1997, the immigration laws had changed and the Liangs were no longer eligible for relief. I supported these changes, set forth in the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. But, I also believe there may be situations worthy of special consideration.

Robert and Alice Liang represent one such example. They are long-term residents of the United States. Their children are all U.S. citizens. The Immigration Judge that presided over the appeal of this case determined that Robert and Alice would have qualified for relief from deportation, in light of these positive factors, had the INS given their case timely consideration. Unfortunately, their immigration case took nearly five years to move forward.

A private bill is the only way for both Robert and Alice to remain in the United States together with their family. They have worked extraordinarily hard to make the United States their home. I believe Robert and Alice deserve the relief provided by a private bill.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to support this private relief bill on behalf of the Liangs.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the bill be included in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 588

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

SECTION 1. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or any order, for the purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), Robert Liang and Alice Liang shall be deemed to have been lawfully admitted to, and remained in, the United States, and shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255).

(b) APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsection (a) shall apply only if the applications for issuance of immigrant visas or the applications for adjustment of status are filed with appropriate fees not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBERS.—Upon the granting of immigrant visas to Robert Liang and Alice Liang, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 2, during the current or subsequent fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Robert Liang and Alice Liang under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)), or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Robert Liang and Alice Liang under section 202(e) of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(e)).

(d) PAYGO.—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.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 589. A bill for the relief of Joseph Gabra and Sharon Kamel; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today, I am reintroducing private relief legislation on behalf of Joseph Gabra and Sharon Kamel, a couple living with their family in Camarillo, CA.

Joseph and Sharon are nationals of Egypt who fled their home country over twelve years ago after being targeted for their religious involvement in the Christian Coptic Church in Egypt. They became involved with this church during the 1990s, Joseph as an accountant and project coordinator helping to build community facilities and Sharon as the church's training director in human resources.

Unfortunately, Joseph and Sharon were also subjected to threats and abuse. Joseph was jailed repeatedly because of his involvement with the church. Sharon's family members were violently targeted, including her cousin who was murdered and her brother whose business was firebombed. When Sharon became pregnant with her first child, she was threatened by a member of a different religious organization against raising her child in a non-Muslim faith.

Joseph and Sharon came to the United States legally seeking refuge in November 1998. They immediately notified authorities of their intent to seek protection in the United States, filing for political asylum in May 1999.

However, Joseph, who has a speech impediment, had difficulty communicating why he was afraid to return to Egypt, and one year later their asylum application was denied because they could not adequately establish that they were victims of persecution. Joseph and Sharon pursued the appropriate means for appealing this decision, to no avail.

It should be noted that sometime later Sharon's brother applied for asylum in the United States. He, too, applied on the basis of persecution he and his family faced in Egypt, but his application was approved and he was granted this status in the United States.

There are no other avenues for Joseph and Sharon to pursue relief here in the United States. If they are deported, they will be forced back to a country where they sincerely fear for their safety.

Since arriving in the United States more than twelve years ago, Joseph and Sharon have built a family here, including four children who are United States citizens: Jessica, age 14, Rebecca, age 13, Rafael, age 12, and Veronica, age 7. Jessica, Rebecca, and Rafael attend school in California and maintain good grades. Veronica is attending second grade at Camarillo Heights Elementary School.

Joseph and Sharon worked hard to achieve financial security for their children, and they created a meaningful place for their family in California. Both earned college degrees in Egypt. Joseph, who has his Certified Public Accountant license, has opened his own accounting firm.

Joseph and Sharon carry strong support from friends, members of their local church, and other Californians who attest to their good character and community contributions.

I am concerned that the entire family would face serious and unwarranted hardships if forced to relocate to Egypt. For Jessica, Rebecca, Rafael, and Veronica, the only home they know is in the United States. It is quite possible these four American children would face discrimination or worse in Egypt on account of their religion, as was the experience of many of their family members.

Joseph and Sharon have made a compelling plea to remain in the United States. These parents emphasize their commitment to supporting their children and making a healthy and productive place for them to grow up in California. I believe this family deserves that opportunity.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to support this private relief bill on behalf of Joseph Gabra and Sharon Kamel.

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. 589

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

SECTION 1. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), Joseph Gabra and Sharon Kamel shall each be deemed to have been lawfully admitted to, and remained in, the United States, and shall be eligible for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) upon filing an application for such adjustment of status.

(b) APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsection (a) shall apply only if the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBERS.—Upon the granting of permanent resident status to Joseph Gabra and Sharon Kamel, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 2, during the current or subsequent fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Joseph Gabra and Sharon Kamel under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)), or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives to the country of birth of Joseph Gabra and Sharon Kamel under section 202(e) of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(e)).

(d) PAYGO.—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.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 590. A bill for the relief of Claudia Marquez Rico; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to reintroduce private relief legislation for Claudia Marquez Rico. I first introduced a private bill for Claudia back in 2006. This young woman has lived in California for most of her life. She suffered tremendous hardship after the sudden death of her parents more than ten years ago. I believe she deserves the special relief granted by a private bill.

Claudia was born in Jalisco, Mexico. She was only 6 years old when her parents brought her, and her two younger brothers, to the United States.

Ten years ago, tragedy struck this family. Early in the morning on October 4, 2000, while driving to work, Claudia's parents were killed in a horrific car accident when their vehicle collided with a truck on a rural road.

Suddenly orphaned, Claudia and her siblings were fortunate enough to have a place to go. They were welcomed into the loving home of their aunt, Hortencia, and uncle, Patricio, who are both United States citizens. Hortencia and Patricio are active at Buen Pastor Catholic Church. Patricio is a youth soccer coach. This couple raised the Marquez children as their own, counseling them through the loss of their parents and helping them with their school work. They became the legal guardians of the Marquez children in 2001.

Claudia likely would have resolved her immigration status, were it not for poor legal representation. The death of the Marquez parents meant that Claudia and her siblings should have qualified for special immigrant juvenile status. Congress created this special immigrant status to protect children under extraordinary circumstances and spare them the hardship of deportation when a state court deems the children to be dependents as a result of abuse, abandonment, or neglect. In fact, Claudia's younger brother, Omar, was granted this special immigrant juvenile status, providing him legal permanent residency.

However, the lawyer for the Marquez children failed to secure this relief for Claudia. She has now reached the age of majority without having resolved her immigration status, making her ineligible for this special relief.

It is important to take note that the lawyer who handled this case was faced with charges on numerous counts of professional incompetence and moral turpitude for mishandling immigration cases. The California State Bar accused him of a ''despicable and far-reaching pattern of misconduct.'' As a result, the lawyer resigned from the Bar and is currently ineligible to practice law in California.

Claudia deserved a fair chance at resolving her immigration status, but her attorney's egregious behavior stripped her of this opportunity.

Claudia, nonetheless, finished school despite these adverse circumstances. She secured a job in Redwood City, California, and she currently lives with her younger sister, Maribel, in Menlo Park, where they care for their grandfather. Claudia also provides financial support to her two brothers, Jose and Omar, whenever necessary. She is still active in the local community, attending San Clemente Catholic Church in Hayward.

It would be an injustice to add to the Marquez family's misfortune by tearing these siblings apart. Claudia and her siblings have come to rely on each other in the absence of their deceased parents, and Claudia is clearly a central support of this family. Moreover, Claudia has never visited Mexico and has no close relatives in the country. She was so young when her parents brought her to the United States that she has no memories of Mexico.

I am reintroducing a private relief bill on Claudia's behalf because I believe her removal from the United States would go against our standard of fairness and would only cause additional hardship on a family that already endured so much.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to support this private relief legislation on behalf of Claudia Marquez Rico.

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. 590

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

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR CLAUDIA MARQUEZ RICO.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151), Claudia Marquez Rico shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Claudia Marquez Rico enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and, if otherwise eligible, shall be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Claudia Marquez Rico, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, during the current or subsequent fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Claudia Marquez Rico under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)) or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Claudia Marquez Rico under section 202(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(e)).

(e) DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Claudia Marquez Rico shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(f) PAYGO.—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.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 591. A bill for the relief of Esidronio Arreola-Saucedo, Maria Elna Cobian Arreola, Nayely Arreola Carlos, and Cindy Jael Arreola; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today, I offer private immigration relief legislation to provide lawful permanent resident status to Esidronio Arreola-Saucedo, Maria Elena Cobian Arreola, Nayely Arreola Carlos, and Cindy Jael Arreola. The Arreolas are Mexican nationals living in the Fresno area of California.

Mr. and Mrs. Arreola have lived in the United States for over 20 years. Two of their five children, Nayely, age 27, and Cindy, age 22, also stand to benefit from this legislation.

The other three Arreola children, Robert, age 21, Daniel, age 17, and Saray, age 16, are United States citizens. Today, Esidronio and Maria Elena and their two eldest children face deportation.

The story of the Arreola family is compelling and I believe they merit Congress' special consideration for

such an extraordinary form of relief as a private bill.

The Arreolas are facing deportation in part because of grievous errors committed by their previous counsel, who has since been disbarred. In fact, the attorney's conduct was so egregious that it compelled an immigration judge to write the Executive Office of Immigration Review seeking the attorney's disbarment for his actions in his client's immigration cases.

Mr. Arreola came to the United States in 1986 and was an agricultural migrant worker in the fields of California for several years. As a migrant worker at that time, he would have been eligible for permanent residence through the Special Agricultural Workers or SAW program, had he known about it.

Maria Elena was living in the United States at the time she became pregnant with her daughter Cindy. She returned to Mexico to give birth because she wanted to avoid any problems with the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Because of the length of time that the Arreolas were in the United States, it is likely that they would have qualified for suspension of deportation, which would have allowed them to remain in the United States legally. However, their poor legal representation foreclosed this opportunity.

One of the most compelling reasons for my introduction of this private bill is the devastating impact the deportation of Esidronio and Maria Elena would have on their children—three of whom are American citizens—and the other two who have lived in the United States since they were toddlers. For these children, this country is the only country they really know.

Nayely, the oldest, was the first in her family to graduate from high school and the first to graduate college. She attended Fresno Pacific University, a regionally ranked university, on a full tuition scholarship package and worked part-time in the admissions office. She graduated from Fresno Pacific University with a degree in Business Administration and is working on her graduate degree. Nayely recently got married and now has a newborn son.

At a young age, Nayely demonstrated a strong commitment to the ideals of citizenship in her adopted country. She worked hard to achieve her full potential both through her academic endeavors and community service. As the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services at Fresno Pacific University states in a letter of support, ''[T]he leaders of Fresno Pacific University saw in Nayely, a young person who will become exemplary of all that is good in the American dream.''

In high school, Nayely was a member of Advancement Via Individual Determination, a college preparatory program in which students commit to determining their own futures through achieving a college degree. Nayely was also President of the Key Club, a community service organization. Perhaps the greatest hardship to this family, if forced to return to Mexico, will be her lost opportunity to realize her dreams and further contribute to her community and to this country.

Nayely's sister, Cindy, also recently married and has a three-year-old daughter. Both Nayely and Cindy are barred from adjusting their status based on their marriages because they grew up in the United States undocumented.

The Arreolas also have other family who are United States citizens or lawful permanent residents of this country. Mrs. Arreola has three brothers who are American citizens, and Mr. Arreola has a sister who is an American citizen. They have no immediate family in Mexico.

According to immigration authorities, this family has never had any problems with law enforcement. I am told that they have filed their taxes for every year from 1990 to the present. They have always worked hard to support themselves.

As I mentioned, Mr. Arreola was previously employed as a farm worker, but now has his own business in California repairing electronics. His business has been successful enough to enable him to purchase a home for his family. He and his wife are active in their church community and in their children's education.

It is clear to me that this family has embraced the American dream. Enactment of the legislation I have reintroduced today will enable the Arreolas to continue to make significant contributions to their community as well as the United States.

I ask my colleagues to support this private bill.

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. 591

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

SECTION 1. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or any order, for the purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), Esidronio Arreola-Saucedo, Maria Elna Cobian Arreola, Nayely Arreola Carlos, and Cindy Jael Arreola shall be deemed to have been lawfully admitted to, and remained in, the United States, and shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255).

(b) APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsection (a) shall apply only if the applications for issuance of immigrant visas or the applications for adjustment of status are filed with appropriate fees not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBERS.—Upon the granting of immigrant visas to Esidronio Arreola-Saucedo, Maria Elna Cobian Arreola, Nayely Arreola Carlos, and Cindy Jael Arreola, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 4, during the current or subsequent fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Esidronio Arreola-Saucedo, Marina Elna Cobian Arreola, Nayely Arreola Carlos, and Cindy Jael Arreola under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)) or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Esidronio Arreola-Saucedo, Maria Elna Cobian Arreola, Nayely Arreola Carlos, and Cindy Jael Arreola under section 202(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(c)).

(d) PAYGO.—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.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 592. A bill for the relief of Alicia Aranda De Buendia and Ana Laura Buendia Aranda; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am reintroducing a private relief bill on behalf of the Buendias, a family who has lived in the Fresno area of California for more than 20 years. The beneficiaries of this bill include Alicia Aranda de Buendia and her daughter, Ana Laura Buendia Aranda. I believe this family merits Congress' special consideration.

Mrs. Buendia works season after season in California's labor-intensive agriculture industry. She currently works for a fruit packing company in Reedley, California. Mrs. Buendia and her husband have raised two outstanding children, Ana Laura, age 23, and Alex, age 21, who have both always excelled in school.

Ana Laura earned a 4.0 GPA at Reedley High School, and was offered an academic scholarship at the University of California, Berkeley. Unfortunately, she could not accept the scholarship because of her undocumented status.

Ana Laura nonetheless persisted. She enrolled at the University of California, Irvine and recently graduated with a major in Chicano Studies and Art.

Remarkably, the Buendias should have been able to correct their immigration status years ago. In 1999, it appeared they had succeeded when an Immigration Judge granted the family cancellation of removal based on the hardship their son, Alex, would face if deported to Mexico. However, the decision was appealed and ultimately overturned. At this point, the Buendias have exhausted their options to remain together as a family here in the United States.

In the more than 20 years of living in California, the Buendias have shown that they are committed to working to achieve the American dream. They

have a strong connection to their local community, as active members of the Parent Teachers Association and their church. They pay their taxes every year, paid off their mortgage, and remain free of debt. They have shown that they are responsible, maintaining health insurance, savings accounts, and retirement accounts.

Moreover, the Buendia children are excellent students pursuing higher education here in the United States. Without this private bill, these young adults will be separated from their family or forced to relocate to a country they simply do not know. I do not believe it is in the Nation's best interest to prevent talented youth raised here in the United States, who have good moral character and outstanding academic records, from realizing their future.

I respectfully ask my colleagues for their support of the Buendia family.

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. 592

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

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR ALICIA ARANDA DE BUENDIA AND ANA LAURA BUENDIA ARANDA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151), Alicia Aranda De Buendia and Ana Laura Buendia Aranda shall each be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Alicia Aranda De Buendia or Ana Laura Buendia Aranda enter the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), Alicia Aranda De Buendia or Ana Laura Buendia Aranda, as appropriate, shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully in the United States and shall be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for the issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBERS.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Alicia Aranda De Buendia and Ana Laura Buendia Aranda, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 2, during the current or next following fiscal year—

(1) the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Alicia Aranda De Buendia and Ana Laura Buendia Aranda under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)); or

(2) if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Alicia Aranda De Buendia and Ana Laura Buendia Aranda under section 202(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(e)).

(e) PAYGO.—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.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 593. A bill for the relief of Guy Privat Tape and Lou Nazie Raymonde Toto; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing a private relief bill on behalf of Guy Privat Tape and Lou Nazie Raymonde Toto. Mr. Tape and Ms. Toto are citizens of the Ivory Coast, but have been living in the San Francisco area of California for approximately 19 years.

The story of Mr. Tape and Ms. Toto is compelling and I believe they merit Congress' special consideration for such an extraordinary form of relief as a private bill.

Mr. Tape and Ms. Toto were subjected to numerous atrocities in the early 1990s in the Ivory Coast. After participating in a demonstration against the ruling party, they were jailed and tortured by their own government. Ms. Toto was brutally raped by her captors and several years later learned that she had contracted HIV.

Despite the hardships that they suffered, Mr. Tape and Ms. Toto were able to make a better life for themselves in the United States. Mr. Tape arrived in the U.S. in 1993 on a B1/B2 non-immigrant visa. Ms. Toto entered without inspection in 1995 from Spain. Despite being diagnosed with HIV, Ms. Toto gave birth to two healthy children, Melody, age 14, and Emmanuel, age 10.

Since arriving in the United States, this family has dedicated themselves to community involvement and a strong work ethic. They are active members of Easter Hill United Methodist Church.

Mr. Tape is employed as a security guard and unfortunately, in 2002, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. While his doctor states that the cancer is currently in remission, he will continue to require life-long surveillance to monitor for recurrence of the disease.

In addition to raising her two children, Ms. Toto obtained a certificate to be a nurse's aide and currently works as a Resident Care Specialist at a nursing home in San Pablo, California. Ms. Toto continues to receive medical treatment for HIV. According to her doctor, without access to adequate health care and laboratory monitoring, she is at risk of developing life-threatening illnesses.

Mr. Tape and Ms. Toto applied for asylum when they arrived in the U.S., but after many years of litigation, the claim was ultimately denied by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Although the regime which subjected Mr. Tape and Ms. Toto to imprisonment and torture is no longer in power, Mr. Tape has been afraid to return to the Ivory Coast due to his prior association with former President Laurent Gbagbo. As a result, Mr. Tape strongly believes that his family will be targeted if they return to the Ivory Coast.

One of the most compelling reasons for permitting the family to remain in the United States is the impact their deportation would have on their two U.S. citizen children. For Melody and Emmanuel, the United States is the only country they have ever known. Mr. Tape believes that if the family returns to the Ivory Coast, these two young children will be forced to enter the army.

This bill is the only hope for this family to remain in the United States. To send them back to the Ivory Coast, where they may face persecution and inadequate medical treatment for their illnesses would be devastating to the family. I have received approximately 30 letters from the church community in support of this family.

I ask my colleagues to support this private bill.

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. 593

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

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR GUY PRIVAT TAPE AND LOU NAZIE RAYMONDE TOTO.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151), Guy Privat Tape and Lou Nazie Raymonde Toto shall each be eligible for the issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Guy Privat Tape or Lou Nazie Raymonde Toto enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), Guy Privat Tape or Lou Nazie Raymonde Toto, as appropriate, shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully in the United States and shall be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for the issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBERS.—Upon granting an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Guy Privat Tape and Lou Nazie Raymonde Toto, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 2, during the current or subsequent fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Guy Privat Tape and Lou Nazie Raymonde Toto under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality

Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)) or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Guy Privat Tape and Lou Nazie Raymonde Toto under section 202(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(e)).

(e) PAYGO.—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.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 594. A bill for the relief of Javier Lopez-Urenda and Maria Leticia Arenas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to reintroduce a private relief bill on behalf of Javier Lopez-Urenda and Maria Leticia Arenas. Javier and Leticia, originally from Mexico, are the parents of three U.S. citizen children, Bryan, age 19, Ashley, age 15, and Nancy, age 9. This family lives in Fremont, California.

I first introduced a bill for Javier and Leticia in 2009, and I continue to believe they deserve Congress' special consideration for such an extraordinary form of relief as a private bill. Javier and Leticia are outstanding parents, volunteers, workers, and leaders in their community. Javier and Leticia came to the United States after each suffered the loss of a parent.

Leticia left Mexico at age 17 after her mother died from cancer. Javier came to the United States in 1990, at age 23, several years after the murder of his father in Michoacán, Mexico.

Javier had been living and working in the United States for 23 years when I first learned about this case. He originally entered the country looking for work to support his extended family. Today, Javier is a Maintenance Engineer at Full Bloom Baking Company in San Mateo, California, where he has been an employee for over 19 years. In fact, Javier was the second employee hired at Full Bloom when the company first began.

Javier's fellow co-workers at Full Bloom have written compelling letters to me about Javier's hard work ethic and valuable contributions. The company owners assert that with his help, the company grew to be one of the largest commercial bakeries in the Bay Area, today employing approximately 385 people.

They write that Javier is a mentor to others and maintains a ''tremendous amount of 'institutional knowledge' that can never be replaced.'' One of his co-workers wrote, ''Without Javier at the bakery, the lives of hundreds of people will change.''

Javier made attempts to legalize his status in the United States. At one point, he received an approved labor certification. However, his case could not be finalized due to poor timing and a lengthy immigration process. It took three years, for example, for his labor certification to be approved. By that time, Javier was already in removal proceedings and his case is now closed.

During consideration of Javier's case, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals acknowledged the difficult situation Javier faces. The Court wrote, ''We are not unmindful of the unique and extremely sympathetic circumstances of this case. By all accounts, Petitioner has been an exemplary father, employee, and member of his local community. If he were to be deported, he would be separated from his wife, three U.S. citizen children, and the life he has worked so hard to build over the past 17 years. In light of the unfortunate sequence of events leading up to this juncture and Petitioner's positive contributions to society, Petitioner may very well be deserving of prosecutorial grace.''

Unfortunately, the Court ultimately denied the case. Javier and his wife have no additional avenues for adjusting their status. A private bill is the only way for them to remain in the United States.

I believe it is important to consider the potentially harmful impact on Javier and Maria Leticia's three U.S. citizen children, Bryan, Ashley, and Nancy, should their parents be deported. Ashley, and Nancy are still in school in California, and Bryan is currently serving in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Javier owns their home in Fremont. He is the sole financial provider for his wife and children, while also providing some financial support to extended family members in Mexico. Javier and Leticia are good parents and play active roles in their children's lives. The Principal of Patterson Elementary School described Javier and Leticia as ''two loving and supportive parents who are committed to their children's success.''

All too often, deportation separates U.S. citizen children from their parents. In 2009, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security found that, in the last ten years, at least 108,434 immigrant parents of American citizen children were removed from this country. Other reports show that deporting a parent causes trauma and long-lasting harm to children.

Moreover, the deportation of Javier and Leticia would be a significant loss to the community. Leticia is currently volunteering and training for a job with Bay Area Women Against Rape in Oakland, which provides services to survivors of sexual assault. She also works as a certified health promoter at the Tiburcio Vazquez Health Center in Fremont.

Javier's community involvement is just as impressive. He has volunteered with the Women's Foundation of California, Lance Armstrong's Livestrong Foundation, the Saint Patrick Proto Cathedral Parish, the American Red Cross, and the California AIDS Ride.

Patricia W. Chang, a long-time community leader in California and current CEO of the Feed the Hunger Foundation, writes: ''Asking Mr. Urenda to leave the United States would deprive his children of their father, an upstanding resident of the country. It would deprive the community of an active participant, leader, and volunteer.''

Judy Patrick, President/CEO of the Women's Foundation of California, states that Javier ''is a model participant in this society.''

Clearly, Javier and Leticia have earned the admiration of their community here in the United States. They are the loving parents of three American children. Javier is a valued employee at Full Bloom Baking Company. This family shows great potential, and I believe it is in our Nation's best interest to allow them to remain here with their children and to continue making significant contributions to California and the Nation as a whole.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to support this private relief bill.

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. 594

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

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR JAVIER LOPEZ-URENDA AND MARIA LETICIA ARENAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151), Javier Lopez-Urenda and Maria Leticia Arenas shall each be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Javier Lopez-Urenda or Maria Leticia Arenas enter the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), that alien shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only to an application for issuance of an immigrant visa or an application for adjustment of status that is filed, with appropriate fees, within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Javier Lopez-Urenda and Maria Leticia Arenas, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by two, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)) or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 202(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(e)).

(e) PAYGO.—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.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 595. A bill for the relief of Shirley Constantino Tan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing a bill for the private relief of Shirley Constantino Tan. Ms. Tan is a Filipina national living in Pacifica, California. She is the proud mother of 16-year-old U.S. citizen twin boys, Jashley and Joreine, and the spouse of Jay Mercado, a naturalized U.S. citizen.

I believe Ms. Tan merits Congress' special consideration for this extraordinary form of relief because I believe her removal from the United States would cause undue hardship for her and her family. She faces deportation to the Philippines, which would separate her from her family and jeopardize her safety.

Ms. Tan experienced horrific violence in the Philippines before she left to come to the United States. When she was only 14 years old, her cousin murdered her mother and her sister and shot Shirley in the head. While the cousin who committed the murders was eventually prosecuted, he received a short jail sentence. Fearing for her safety, Ms. Tan fled the Philippines just before her cousin was due to be released from jail. She entered the United States legally on a visitor's visa in 1989.

Ms. Tan's current deportation order is the result of negligent counsel. Shirley applied for asylum in 1995. While her case appeal was pending at the Board of Immigration Appeals, her attorney failed to submit a brief to support her case. As a result, the case was dismissed, and the Board of Immigration Appeals granted Shirley voluntary departure from the United States.

Shirley never received notice that the Board of Immigration Appeals granted her voluntary departure. Shirley's attorney moved offices, did not receive the order, and ultimately never informed her of the order. As a result, Shirley did not depart the United States and the grant of voluntary departure automatically became a deportation order. She learned about the deportation order for the first time on January 28, 2009, when Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents took her into immigration custody.

Because of her attorney's negligent actions, Ms. Tan was denied the opportunity to present her case in U.S. immigration proceedings. Shirley later filed a complaint with the State Bar of California against her former attorney. She is not the first person to file such a complaint against this attorney.

In addition to the hardship that would come to Ms. Tan if she is deported, Shirley's deportation would be a serious hardship to her two United States citizen children, Jashley and Joreine, who are minors.

Jashley and Joreine are currently attending Terra Nova High School in Pacifica, California, where they continue to be excellent students on the honor roll. The children are involved in their school's music program, playing the clarinet and the flute. The children's teacher wrote a letter to me in which she described Shirley's involvement in Jashley and Joreine's lives, referring to Shirley as a ''model'' parent and describing her active role in the school community. In addition to caring for her two children, Shirley is the primary caregiver for her elderly mother-in-law.

If Ms. Tan were forced to leave the United States, her family has expressed that they would go with Shirley to the Philippines or try to find a third country where the entire family could relocate. This would mean that Jashley and Joreine would have to leave behind their education and the only home they know in the United States.

While Shirley and Jay are legally married under California law at this time, Shirley cannot legally adjust her immigration status through the regular family-based immigration procedures.

I do not believe it is in our Nation's best interest to force this family, with two United States citizen children, to make the choice between being separated and relocating to a country where they may face safety concerns or other serious hardships.

Ms. Tan and her family are involved in their community in Pacifica and own their own home. The family attends Good Shepherd Catholic Church, volunteering at the church and the Mother Theresa of Calcutta's Daughters of Charity. Shirley has the support of dozens of members of her community who shared with me the family's spirit of commitment to their community.

Enactment of the legislation I am introducing on behalf of Ms. Tan today will enable this entire family to continue their lives in California and make positive contributions to their community.

I ask my colleagues to support this private bill.

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. 595

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

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR SHIRLEY CONSTANTINO TAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151), Shirley Constantino Tan shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Shirley Constantino Tan enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Shirley Constantino Tan, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by one, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)) or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 202(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(e)).

(e) PAYGO.—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.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 597. A bill to ensure the effective administration of criminal justice; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, 50 years ago today, the Supreme Court issued its landmark decision in Gideon v. Wainwright. That case affirmed a fundamental principle of our democratic society, that no person, regardless of economic status, should face prosecution without the assistance of a lawyer. It is worth pausing today to celebrate Gideon and the extraordinary idea that in a free society the government which seeks to convict someone must also assume the cost of providing an effective defense.

In the last 50 years, we have come a long way in ensuring equal justice for all Americans and there is much about our criminal justice system in which to take pride. But we must also be honest and recognize that in too many courtrooms it is better to be rich and guilty than poor and innocent. The rich will have competent counsel, but those who have little often find their lives placed in the hands of underpaid court-appointed lawyers who are inexperienced, overworked, inept, uninterested, or worse.

The bottom line is that the promise made in Gideon remains unfulfilled. At

the core of this problem is the fact that too many States still lack adequate programs for providing effective representation. That failure results in miscarriages of justice, including wrongful convictions, in violation of our constitutional obligation to provide effective assistance of counsel. In his column yesterday in The New York Times, Lincoln Caplan noted, ''by well-informed estimates, at least 80 percent of state criminal defendants cannot afford to pay for lawyers and have to depend on court-appointed counsel.'' A recent article on the front page of USA Today correctly calls the problem a ''national crisis,'' highlighting one public defender's office in Pennsylvania that has four investigators to handle its 4,000 cases a year and where some lawyers have no desk or phone. A similar AP article which ran in the Washington Post cites additional examples of this ongoing failure of our criminal justice system, including one public defender in Indianapolis who was asked to represent 300 clients at a time. I know what it takes to work a case effectively from my time as a prosecutor, and no lawyer can provide effective counsel to 300 defendants at once.

We can no longer ignore the disturbing examples discussed in these articles. We are on notice that a constitutional right is consistently being violated and, if we are to call ourselves a country of laws, it is our obligation as a nation, and particularly as the Congress, to take action and make a change. That is why today, I am introducing the Gideon's Promise Act of 2013. This legislation takes important new steps to breathe life into Gideon and ensure the fairness of our criminal justice system for all participants.

I first introduced this legislation last Congress, as part of the reauthorization of the Justice For All Act. That law, passed in 2004, was an unprecedented bipartisan piece of criminal justice legislation. It was the most significant step Congress had taken in many years to improve the quality of justice in this country and to improve public confidence in the integrity of the American justice system. I plan to reintroduce the reauthorization of the Justice for All Act, again, later this spring and it will include this critical provision to ensure that our criminal justice system operates effectively and consistent with our constitutional obligations.

The Gideon's Promise Act takes several important new steps to improve the quality of the criminal justice system. First, it seeks to encourage States to adopt a comprehensive approach in using the Federal funds received through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, JAG, Program. This will help to ensure that their criminal justice systems operate effectively as a whole and that all parts of the system work together and receive the resources they need. Specifically, the bill reinstates a previous requirement of the Byrne JAG Program that States develop, and update annually, a strategic plan detailing how grants received under the program will be used to improve the administration of the criminal justice system. The requirement was removed from the Byrne JAG grant application several years ago, but groups representing States and victims have requested that it be reinstated in order to improve the efficient and effective use of criminal justice resources. The plan must be formulated in consultation with local governments and all segments of the criminal justice system. The Attorney General will also be required to provide technical assistance to help States formulate their strategic plans.

This legislation also takes important new steps to ensure that all criminal defendants, including those who cannot afford a lawyer, receive constitutionally adequate representation. It requires the Department of Justice to assist States that want help developing an effective and efficient system of indigent defense, and it establishes a cause of action for the Federal Government to step in when States are systematically failing to provide the representation called for in the Constitution.

This is a reasonable measure that gives the States assistance and time needed to make necessary changes and seeks to provide an incentive for States to do so. As a former prosecutor, I have great faith in the men and women of law enforcement, and I know that the vast majority of the time our criminal justice system does work fairly and effectively. I also know that the system only works as it should when each side is well represented by competent and well-trained counsel. That realization was reflected in the testimony of District Attorney Patricia Lykos of Houston that competent defense attorneys are critical to a prosecutor's job. Our system requires good lawyers on both sides. Incompetent counsel can result not only in needless and time-consuming appeals but, far more importantly, can lead to wrongful convictions and overall distrust in the criminal process.

In working on this legislation, I have also learned that the most effective systems of indigent defense are not always the most expensive. In some cases, making the necessary changes may also save States money.

I remain committed to ensuring that our criminal justice system operates as effectively and fairly as possible. Unfortunately, we are not there yet. Too often the quality of justice a defendant receives in our system depends on how much he or she can pay for an attorney. The Constitution requires that we do better. Americans need and deserve a criminal justice system that keeps us safe, ensures fairness and accuracy, and fulfills the promise of our Constitution for all people.

This bill will take important steps to bring us closer to that goal and I urge all Senators to support this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and three articles be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 597

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 ''Gideon's Promise Act''.

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

(a) STRATEGIC PLANNING.—Section 502 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3752) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'' before ''To request a grant''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) A comprehensive State-wide plan detailing how grants received under this section will be used to improve the administration of the criminal justice system, which shall—

''(A) be designed in consultation with local governments, and all segments of the criminal justice system, including judges, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, corrections personnel, and providers of indigent defense services, victim services, juvenile justice delinquency prevention programs, community corrections, and reentry services;

''(B) include a description of how the State will allocate funding within and among each of the uses described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of section 501(a)(1);

''(C) describe the process used by the State for gathering evidence-based data and developing and using evidence-based and evidence-gathering approaches in support of funding decisions; and

''(D) be updated every 5 years, with annual progress reports that—

''(i) address changing circumstances in the State, if any;

''(ii) describe how the State plans to adjust funding within and among each of the uses described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of section 501(a)(1);

''(iii) provide an ongoing assessment of need;

''(iv) discuss the accomplishment of goals identified in any plan previously prepared under this paragraph; and

''(v) reflect how the plan influenced funding decisions in the previous year.

''(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) STRATEGIC PLANNING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Attorney General shall begin to provide technical assistance to States and local governments requesting support to develop and implement the strategic plan required under subsection (a)(6).

''(2) PROTECTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Attorney General shall begin to provide technical assistance to States and local governments, including any agent thereof with responsibility for administration of justice, requesting support to meet the obligations established by the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall include—

''(A) public dissemination of practices, structures, or models for the administration of justice consistent with the requirements of the Sixth Amendment; and

''(B) assistance with adopting and implementing a system for the administration of justice consistent with the requirements of the Sixth Amendment.

''(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 to carry out this subsection.''.

(b) PROTECTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.—

(1) UNLAWFUL CONDUCT.—It shall be unlawful for any governmental authority, or any agent thereof, or any person acting on behalf of a governmental authority, to engage in a pattern or practice of conduct by officials or employees of any governmental agency with responsibility for the administration of justice, including the administration of programs or services that provide appointed counsel to indigent defendants, that deprives persons of their rights to assistance of counsel as protected under the Sixth Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

(2) CIVIL ACTION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Whenever the Attorney General has reasonable cause to believe that a violation of paragraph (1) has occurred, the Attorney General, for or in the name of the United States, may, in a civil action, obtain appropriate equitable and declaratory relief to eliminate the pattern or practice.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (2) shall take effect 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 9, 2013]

THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL: BADLY BATTERED AT 50

(By Lincoln Caplan)

A half-century ago, the Supreme Court ruled that anyone too poor to hire a lawyer must be provided one free in any criminal case involving a felony charge. The holding in Gideon v. Wainwright enlarged the Constitution's safeguards of liberty and equality, finding the right to counsel ''fundamental.'' The goal was ''fair trials before impartial tribunals in which every defendant stands equal before the law.''

This principle has been expanded to cover other circumstances as well: misdemeanor cases where the defendant could be jailed, a defendant's first appeal from a conviction and proceedings against a juvenile for delinquency.

While the constitutional commitment is generally met in federal courts, it is a different story in state courts, which handle about 95 percent of America's criminal cases. This matters because, by well-informed estimates, at least 80 percent of state criminal defendants cannot afford to pay for lawyers and have to depend on court-appointed counsel.

Even the best-run state programs lack enough money to provide competent lawyers for all indigent defendants who need them. Florida set up public defender offices when Gideon was decided, and the Miami office was a standout. But as demand has outpaced financing, caseloads for Miami defenders have grown to 500 felonies a year, though the American Bar Association guidelines say caseloads should not exceed 150 felonies.

Only 24 states have statewide public defender systems. Others flout their constitutional obligations by pushing the problem onto cash-strapped counties or local judicial districts.

Lack of financing isn't the only problem, either. Contempt for poor defendants is too often the norm. In Kentucky, 68 percent of poor people accused of misdemeanors appear in court hearings without lawyers. In 21 counties in Florida in 2010, 70 percent of misdemeanor defendants pleaded guilty or no contest—at arraignments that averaged less than three minutes.

The Supreme Court has said that poor people are entitled to counsel ''within a reasonable time'' after a case is initiated. But defendants, after their arrest, can spend weeks or even months in jail without a lawyer's help. In a Mississippi case, a woman charged with shoplifting sat in jail for 11 months before a lawyer was appointed.

The powerlessness of poor defendants is becoming even more evident under harsh sentencing schemes created in the past few decades. They give prosecutors, who have huge discretion, a strong threat to use, and have led to almost 94 percent of all state criminal cases being settled in plea bargains—often because of weak defense lawyers who fail to push back.

The competency of lawyers is, of course, most critical in death penalty cases. In dozens of states, capital cases are routinely handled by poorly paid, inexperienced lawyers. And yet, only very rarely are inmates ever granted a new trial because of incompetent counsel.

In a Georgia death penalty case last year, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled that even though the main defense lawyer drank a quart of vodka each night of the trial, there was no need for a retrial. The lawyer was himself preparing to be criminally prosecuted for stealing client funds, and presented very little evidence about the defendant's intellectual disability. But the court said the defendant had a fair trial because proof that he killed a sheriff's deputy outweighed any weakness in his legal representation.

In an infamous 1996 Texas death-penalty case, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals upheld a defendant's death sentence even though his lead counsel slept during the trial.

The Supreme Court has made it possible for courts to uphold such indefensible lawyering. In 1984, in Strickland v. Washington, the court said that for a defendant to be entitled to a new trial, he must show both that his lawyer's advice was deficient and that the deficiency deprived him of a fair trial—a very high hurdle. And the court's majority defined competency as requiring only that the lawyer's judgment be ''reasonable under prevailing professional norms.''

Justice Thurgood Marshall, writing in dissent, said the result of this empty standard ''is covertly to legitimate convictions and sentences obtained on the basis of incompetent conduct by defense counsel.'' That is exactly what has happened in the past three decades. In fact, incompetent counsel for poor defendants is so widespread that under this standard the prevailing professional norm has been reduced to mediocrity.

After 50 years, the promise of Gideon v. Wainwright is mocked more often than fulfilled. In a forthcoming issue of The Yale Law Journal, Stephen Bright, president of the Southern Center for Human Rights in Georgia, and Sia Sanneh, a lawyer with the Equal Justice Initiative in Alabama, recommend that all states have statewide public defender systems that train and supervise their lawyers, limit their workloads and have specialized teams in, for example, death-penalty cases.

There is no shortage of lawyers to do this work. What stands in the way is an undemocratic, deep-seated lack of political will.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 17, 2013]

50 YEARS AFTER LANDMARK RULING, LAWYER'S HELP IS LEGAL FICTION FOR MANY ACCUSED OF CRIME

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON.—It is not the happiest of birthdays for the landmark Supreme Court decision that, a half-century ago, guaranteed a lawyer for criminal defendants who are too poor to afford one.

A unanimous high court issued its decision in Gideon v. Wainwright on March 18, 1963, declaring that states have an obligation to provide defendants with ''the guiding hand of counsel'' to ensure a fair trial for the accused.

But in many states today, taxpayer-funded public defenders face crushing caseloads, the quality of legal representation varies from county to county and people stand before judges having seen a lawyer only briefly, if at all.

''There is no denying that much, much needs to be done,'' Attorney General Eric Holder said Friday at a Justice Department event to commemorate the anniversary.

Clarence Earl Gideon had been in and out of jail in his nearly 51 years when he was arrested on suspicion of stealing wine and some money from vending machines at a Panama City, Fla., pool hall in 1961. Gideon asked the judge for a lawyer before his trial, but was turned down. At the time, Florida only provided lawyers for indigent defendants in capital cases.

A jury soon convicted Gideon and the state Supreme Court upheld the verdict on appeal. Then, from his Florida prison cell, Gideon scratched out his Supreme Court appeal in pencil on prison stationery. It arrived at the court early in 1962, when the justices were looking for a good case to take on the issue of indigent defense. The court appointed Washington lawyer Abe Fortas, a future justice, to represent him.

Just two months after hearing arguments, Justice Hugo Black wrote for the court that ''in our adversary system of criminal justice, any person hauled into court, who is too poor to hire a lawyer, cannot be assured a fair trial unless counsel is provided for him. This seems to us to be an obvious truth.''

Five months later, Gideon got a lawyer and a new trial, and the attorney poked holes in the prosecution's case. A jury quickly returned its verdict: not guilty.

So that was the promise of Gideon—that a competent lawyer for the defense would stand on an equal footing with prosecutors, and that justice would prevail, at least in theory.

A half-century later, there are parts of the country where ''it is better to be rich and guilty than poor and innocent,'' said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D–Vt., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a former prosecutor. Leahy said court-appointed lawyers often are underpaid and can be ''inexperienced, inept, uninterested or worse.''

Regardless of guilt or innocence, few of those accused of crimes are rich, while 80 percent say they are too poor to afford a lawyer.

People who work in the criminal justice system have become numb to the problems, creating a culture of low expectations, said Jonathan Rapping, a veteran public defender who has worked in Washington, D.C., Atlanta and New Orleans.

Rapping remembers walking into a courtroom in New Orleans for the first time for a client's initial appearance before a judge. Several defendants in jump suits were shackled together in one part of the courtroom. The judge moved briskly through charges against each of the men, with a lawyer speaking up for each one.

Then he called a name and there was no lawyer present. The defendant piped up. ''The guy said he hadn't seen a lawyer since he was locked up 70 days ago. And no one in the courtroom was shocked. No one was surprised,'' Rapping said.

Complaints about the quality of representation also are difficult to sustain, under a high bar that the Supreme Court set in a 1984 case. The relatively few cases in which a lawyer's work is deemed so bad that it violates

his client's rights typically have an outlandish set of facts that would be funny if the consequences weren't tragic. ''You see too many instances of ineffective assistance of counsel, too many instances where you think, 'Was this lawyer crazy?' '' Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan said at the Justice Department event.

She recounted a case from last term in which a lawyer advised his client to reject a plea deal with a seven-year prison term and go to trial The lawyer said prosecutors could not prove a charge of intent to murder because the victim had been shot below the waist. 'The defendant was convicted and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Kagan was part of the 5–4 decision in the defendant's favor.

In some places, lawyers are overwhelmed by their caseloads. A public defender in Indianapolis lasted less than a year in his job after being asked to represent more than 300 defendants at a time, said Norman Lefstein, former dean of the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law.

''A lawyer with an S on his chest for Superman couldn't represent these people. He simply couldn't do it. There are only so many hours in a day. But it's not just caseload. It's the other support services that go along with it,'' including investigators, said Lefstein, who has studied problems in indigent defense for decades.

In Luzerne County, in northeastern Pennsylvania, the chief public defender told the local court he would stop accepting certain cases because his office had too many clients, too few lawyers and not enough money. A judge's ruling in June acknowledged the lack of money and manpower, but forbade the defender's office to turn away cases. The judge's ruling was encouraging, Leftein said, but on his last visit to Wilkes-Bane in January he found ''the caseloads are worse than ever.''

Eighteen states, including California, Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania, leave the finding of indigent defense entirely to their counties, said Rhoda Billings, a former chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court who has looked at the issue for the American Bar Association. Those states ''have a significant disparity in the appointment of counsel'' from one county to the next, Billings said.

Public defenders in those counties often report to elected officials or their appointees, rather than independent boards that are insulated from politics. But even programs run at the statewide level are not free of political influence, Billings said, citing the case of a New Mexico public defender fired by the governor.

The lack of independence raises questions about whether decisions are being made in the best interests of clients, Rapping said.

The avalanche of cases and politics come together to present a formidable obstacle to alleviating some of the problems that afflict the system in some states. Politicians do not like asking voters for money for indigent defense.

''Arguing for more money to defend criminals is not the easiest way to win a close election,'' said former Vice President Walter Mondale. As Minnesota's attorney general in the early 1960s, Mondale recruited 21 other states to join in a brief urging the court to rule as it did and rejected a plea from Florida to support limits on states' responsibilities to poor defendants.

Heralded for its powerful statement about the right to a lawyer, the Gideon decision also left states on their own to pay for the provision of counsel, Lefstein said. ''It came as an unfunded mandate to 50 state governments and that problem endures,'' he said, noting that in England, Parliament provides money to local governments to pay for legal representation of the poor.

''The federal government does next to nothing to support indigent defense in the United States,'' Lefstein said.

Since becoming attorney general more than four years ago, Holder has shown a commitment to the issue. He established an ''Access to Justice'' program and made Harvard Law School professor Laurence Tribe its initial director. The department also has sent a few million dollars to defense programs across the country. He announced nearly $2 million in new grants on Friday.

The right announced by the Supreme Court 50 years ago only covers criminal cases. It has never been extended to civil matters, although as Mondale pointed out, they can lead to people losing their homes, their families, being confined in a mental institution or being thrown out of the country.

To people in those situations, he said, the distinction between criminal and civil law ''doesn't make much of a difference.''

[From USA Today, Mar. 12, 2013]

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL. OR DO YOU?

50 YEARS AFTER THE U.S. SUPREME COURT ENSHRINED THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO A LAWYER, BUDGET REALITIES ARE UNDERMINING JUSTICE IN AMERICA

(By Rick Hampson)

WILKES-BARRE, PA.—The first face visitors see when they walk into the public defender's office here is a photo of Clarence Gideon, the drifter, drinker, gambler and thief who became a hero of American jurisprudence.

It was in his case, Gideon v. Wainwright, that the Supreme Court ruled 50 years ago this month that everyone accused of a serious crime has a constitutional right to a lawyer, whether they can afford it or not.

When he was charged with breaking into a pool hall outside Panama City, Fla., Gideon asked for a court-appointed lawyer. After the judge said no, he represented himself, was found guilty and sentenced to five years. From prison, he appealed to the Supreme Court, which took his case and ordered a new trial.

If he came back today, Clarence Gideon might rue the quality of legal representation he'd receive. He might not get any at all.

Such was the fate last year of some indigent criminal defendants who walked in the public defender's door here and past Gideon's gaze. They were told that, because of a shortage of staff lawyers, the office was turning down all but the most serious new cases. They were given a letter to show the judge.

Al Flora, Luzerne County chief public defender, says that ethically and legally he had no choice: His overburdened lawyers couldn't take on new clients and do justice to those they already had. He sued county officials—his bosses—to let him hire more lawyers and to stop them from retaliating against him.

The situation in Luzerne County reflects what experts say is a national crisis in indigent legal defense that has thwarted Gideon's promise of legal equality.

Many public defenders are overwhelmed by caseloads, and financially pressed states and counties are levying fees and applying means tests for granting counsel. ''We're not calling the anniversary a celebration,'' says Edwin Burnette of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. ''There's nothing to celebrate.''

Flora is not the only rebel. The Florida Supreme Court is considering a similar attempt by the Miami-Dade County public defender's office to limit its caseload. Last year, the Missouri Supreme Court authorized public defenders with unmanageable caseloads to decline new cases, and the American Bar Association urged states and counties not to fire public defenders who do.

The problem is money. An explosion in the number of criminal cases has overwhelmed the indigent defense system, which represents about 80% of all accused.

The right to counsel is stronger than ever; it was expanded by the Supreme Court during its last term. Although few in state and county government quarrel with the principle of Gideon, few are eager to cover the ever-growing tab for its realization.

That worries advocates on each side of Gideon, including Bruce Jacob, the former Florida assistant attorney general who argued the state's case before the Supreme Court, and former vice president Walter Mondale, who as attorney general of Minnesota in 1963 filed a brief supporting Gideon.

''We're not close to fulfilling the promise of Gideon,'' Jacob says. Although more defendants see a lawyer than 50 years ago, he says, many advocates don't have time to give clients ''effective representation.''

Any celebration of the anniversary should be ''subdued,'' Mondale says, because ''we've missed the mark, and we may be going backwards.''

Others, while conceding the problem, take a more positive view. ''For the most part, public defenders and prosecutors get it right,'' says Scott Burns, director of the National District Attorneys Association. ''Gideon would celebrate this anniversary.''

'I AM ENTITLED . . . TO COUNSEL'

Clarence Gideon was jailed before he was old enough to drive and behind bars for much of his young adulthood. By the time he was 51, he'd been convicted of five felonies, including thefts from a government armory and a country store.

His biographer, Anthony Lewis, described him as a ''used-up man'' who looked 15 years older than his age. In a letter, Gideon admitted ''the utter folly and hopelessness'' of much of his life.

On Aug. 4, 1961, facing trial on a charge that would send him back to prison, Gideon told the judge, ''The United States Supreme Court says I am entitled to be represented by counsel.''

The only problem: It had not, and he was not.

Beginning with Betts v. Brady (1942), the court had refused to declare a blanket constitutional right to counsel in non-capital state felony trials unless defendants faced ''special circumstances,'' such as youth, illiteracy or unusually complex issues.

Undeterred, the imprisoned Gideon mailed the court a petition for a new trial. Handwritten in pencil on lined prison paper, it began with anachronistic legalese: ''Comes now the petitioner . . .''

The court received many petitions like it every week from prisons around the country, but Gideon had two things in his favor.

First, he had raised the constitutional issue at trial, which meant he could use it to appeal.

Second, he didn't claim special circumstances, and—whether Gideon knew it or not—a majority of the justices already were inclined to jettison Betts v. Brady in favor of a flat constitutional right to counsel.

All the court needed was a case on which to rule. And here came Gideon.

On March 18, 1963, the court ruled unanimously that Gideon's conviction was unconstitutional because he'd been denied his request for counsel.

Justice Hugo Black wrote that in our adversarial justice system, the ''noble idea (that) every defendant stands equal before the law . . . cannot be realized if the poor man charged with a crime has to face his accusers without a lawyer.''

The case was sent back to Florida, which had quickly established a network of public defenders. But Gideon insisted on a private practitioner, Fred Turner. It was a shrewd choice.

Turner interviewed Gideon in jail and spent several days investigating. He checked out the pool hall. He drove to the town where the prosecution witness had been earlier on the night of the crime. He picked pears with the witness's mother in her yard. He became convinced the witness was the perpetrator.

The jury took just over an hour: Not guilty. Gideon went out and got a hamburger.

The jailbird's name became synonymous with freedom. In Florida alone, 976 prisoners were released because of Gideon; an additional 500 got a new trial.

After his release, Gideon stayed out of trouble. He died of cancer in 1972 at 61, too soon to see himself played by Henry Fonda in the 1980 TV movie Gideon's Trumpet.

His gravestone in Hannibal, Mo., bears a message drawn from a letter he wrote in prison. It reflects his belief that he was part of something bigger than himself: ''I believe each era finds an improvement in law,'' Gideon wrote. ''Each year brings out something new for the benefit of mankind.''

ALL WE CAN DO IS TRIAGE

After the inspirational Gideon v. Wainwright poster in the reception area, it's all downhill in the Luzerne public defender's office.

The walls are scuffed, the carpets stained. File folders are stacked on the floor. ''It's a mess,'' admits Al Flora, leading a tour. ''Half the time the secretaries can't find the right file.'' As a result, clients sometimes aren't notified of their court dates.

Some of the office's 21 lawyers have no desk or personal phone. The top of a file cabinet serves as a desk for one lawyer. A nightstand in a corner accommodates another.

The office, which handles about 4,000 cases a year in this northeastern Pennsylvania county of 320,000, has only four investigators and four secretaries. Lawyers often have to type their own briefs. They have little time to take depositions or seek discovery of prosecution evidence.

A third of Flora's lawyers have never tried a case. They're smart and energetic, he says, but so inexperienced that if given a full caseload, ''they'd crack. . . . All we can do is triage cases.''

He says some public defenders ''don't want to talk about the problem. I decided to go the other way. This has to stop.''

Traditionally, Southern states have had the worst record of giving poor defendants counsel. But Jonathan Rapping, founder of the Southern Public Defender Training Center, says the problem now is more acute in Northeastern jurisdictions with shrunken industrial bases and chronic fiscal woes.

That describes Luzerne County, which gets no state funds for public defenders. Last year, Flora's $2.7 million budget was cut 7%, and later—until a judge intervened—a hiring freeze blocked him from filling five lawyers' slots that were budgeted.

In six months, he turned away more than 500 applicants for legal counsel, an approach that antagonized county officials. John Dean, a county attorney, has accused Flora of regarding the county as ''nothing more than a checkbook'' and suggested he handle more cases himself.

In June, a judge told Flora to resume taking all comers and told the county to let Flora hire more lawyers. Since then, the county has paid for a computerized case management system and promised to find more office space.

AN EROSION OF JUSTICE

In the past 18 months, a third of the office's lawyers have left. One was Ed Olexa, 38. He'd read Gideon in law school but didn't bargain for what he found when he became a public defender four years ago.

Although he was a $34,000-a-year part-timer—19 hours a week—he usually had 150 to 170 cases, far in excess of the maximum recommended by the American Bar Association for full-time defenders. The cases took up 40 to 50 hours a week. Along with his private cases, he worked up to 70 hours a week.

He often was scheduled to appear before two or three different judges at the same time in different places around the county. He'd meet clients for the first time in the courtroom—some straight from jail, still in handcuffs—and go before the judge with only the complaint and a hurried conversation with his client as background.

That, he says, was the worst: No time to establish rapport with clients or get the details that can win an acquittal. No time to do what Turner did for Gideon. Instead, he spent his time asking judges for more time. ''It offended my sense of justice,'' he says.

And his clients'. He won't discuss their specific complaints but says, ''The best attorney in the world would be incompetent under those circumstances.''

Over time, most experts say, the costs are clear. Poor people arrested for misdemeanors plead guilty and go free rather than wait to see a public defender, even though a conviction on their record might hurt their chances for employment, loans or housing. At worst, the innocent go to jail, and the guilty go free.

The Luzerne chief public defender is a part-time post; the county plans to make it full time. Flora has applied.

''I want to see it done right,'' he says. ''I believe people who are impoverished and can't afford a lawyer deserve one. If we can't provide that, then what kind of society do we really have?''

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. NELSON):

S. 598. A bill to prohibit royalty incentives for deepwater drilling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce, with my distinguished colleague, Senator BILL NELSON, the Deepwater Drilling Royalty Relief Prohibition Act.

Specifically, the bill prohibits the Interior Department from waiving royalty payments due to American taxpayers as compensation for the oil industry's exploitation of Federal oil and gas resources in waters exceeding 400 meters of depth.

It is necessary because Congress has established a number of royalty-relief programs for oil and gas production in our deepest Federal waters.

However, as the BP Deep water Horizon catastrophe showed, encouraging this most dangerous and often dirty form of oil drilling is not in the public interest.

The disastrous impacts of the Deepwater Horizon explosion illustrate the enormous environmental and safety risks of offshore drilling—particularly in deep waters. 11 people died and 17 others were injured when the Deepwater Horizon caught fire. 5 million barrels of oil gushed into the Gulf of Mexico.

It took 9,700 vessels, 127 aircraft, 47,829 people, nearly 2 million gallons of toxic dispersants, and 89 days to plug the well and stop the flow of oil. And the scope of the disaster was tremendous. Oil slicks spread across the Gulf of Mexico, forcing the closing of 40 percent of Gulf waters to all commercial and recreational fishing. Pelicans and other wildlife struggled to free themselves from crude oil. Wildlife responders collected 8,183 birds, 1,144 sea turtles, and 109 marine mammals killed or negatively affected by the spill. Many more perished and sank to the ocean depths without detection.

More than 650 miles of Gulf coastal habitats—including salt marshes, mudflats, mangroves, and sand beaches—were oiled. Tar balls spoiled the pristine white sand beaches of Florida, while wetlands were coated with toxic sludge. Oyster beds could take years to recover.

The plumes of underwater oil created zones of toxicity for aquatic life. Recent studies have determined the BP spill was ''definitely linked'' to ''widespread signs of distress'' and the slow death of deepwater coral within seven miles of the blowout site.

The response techniques, such as the use of dispersants, may have their own toxic consequences to both wildlife and the spill response workers. A recent report asserts that the mixture of toxic dispersants and crude oil has now weathered into tar product, and that the ''unholy mix'' is allowing potentially carcinogenic concentrations of organic pollutants to remain in the environment.

The impacts of an oil spill are so dramatic and devastating, it seems clear to me that this is not an area in which we should be subsidizing development.

In 1969, off Santa Barbara, California, a natural gas blowout caused an unprecedented oil spill.

The drilling technology 40 years ago was not able to prevent a disaster, nor could it stop the flow of oil, which went on for more than 11 days. Unfortunately, today's technology also cannot prevent well-head blowouts or quickly stop the flow of oil.

The Deepwater Horizon drill rig was less than 10 years old when it caused a devastating blow out. A similar rig that caused the 2009 spill in the Montara oil and gas field in the Timor Sea—one of the worst in Australia's history—was even newer, designed and built in 2007. That spill continued unchecked for 74 days.

The failures that led to these catastrophes were human and technological. But they demonstrate that we are a long way from spill-free offshore oil and gas production technology.

In deep waters, the risks are higher and the scope of the damage even greater, because drilling in deep water presents even more challenges than drilling in shallow water or on shore. This was demonstrated during the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

Methane hydrate crystals form when methane gas mixes with pressurized cold ocean waters—and the likelihood

of these crystals forming increases dramatically at a depth of about 400 meters. These crystals interfere with response and containment technologies. They formed in the cofferdam dome that was lowered onto the gushing oil in the Gulf, which failed to stop the oil in the early days of the spill.

When a remotely operated underwater vehicle bumped the valves in the ''top hat'' device, the containment cap had to be removed and slowly replaced to prevent formation of these crystals again.

In order to drill at deeper depths, many technical difficulties must be overcome. The ocean currents on the surface and in the water column exert torque pressure on the pipes and cables, which are longer and heavier.

The water temperature decreases closer to the sea floor, but the temperature of the ground under the ocean increases the deeper the well—sometimes reaching temperatures in excess of 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

The ocean pressure increases dramatically at depth, but the pressure in a well can exceed 10,000 pounds per square inch.

Drills must be able to pass through tar and salts, and the well bores must remain intact.

The volume of drilling mud and fluids is greater, the weight of the cables heavier, and many technical procedures can only be accomplished with the use of remotely operated vehicles thousands of feet below the surface.

American taxpayers should not forego revenue in order to incentivize offshore drilling at these dangerous depths. It is not good environmental policy, and it's not good energy policy either. We need to move to cleaner renewable fuels.

I believe that global warming presents a serious environmental and economic threat—and scientists agree that the biggest culprit of global warming is manmade emissions produced by the combustion of fossil fuels like oil and coal.

Taxpayer-funded incentives should be utilized to develop and deploy clean energy technologies that address this crisis, instead of encouraging the fossil fuels at the root of the problem through oil and gas royalty relief.

Congress has worked to move in this direction. In 2007, we passed the Ten in Ten Fuel Economy Act which will raise fuel economy standards for passenger vehicles to 54 miles per gallon by 2025.

Over the past four years, renewable energy generation in the United States has more than doubled—due in large part to Federal tax incentives, financing mechanisms, and a vastly improved permitting process. In 2012, a whopping 44 percent of new electric generating capacity added to the grid was wind power.

The Federal government is helping the United States adopt a cleaner energy future.

Royalty relief for dangerous oil and gas development, however, is not advancing this goal.

Let me make one final point: oil companies—the primary recipients of royalty relief—do not need taxpayer help. They are already reaping record profits.

Higher gasoline prices are causing families pain at the pump, but they are a boon to the world's five largest oil companies. BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, and Shell made a combined $118 billion in profits in 2012, or an average of almost $500 for each car in America.

Moreover, the big three publicly owned U.S. oil companies—ExxonMobil, Chevron, and ConocoPhillips paid effective federal tax rates in 2011 of 13 percent; 19 percent; and 18 percent respectively. Yet we continue to use taxpayer dollars to add to their bottom line. This is unacceptable.

Oil reserves under Federal waters are a public resource. When a private company profits from those public resources, American taxpayers should also benefit.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and ensure that royalties owed to the taxpayers are not waived to incentivize risky off-shore drilling. In these critical economic times, every cent of the people's money should be spent wisely.

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. 598

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 ''Deepwater Drilling Royalty Relief Prohibition Act''.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON ROYALTY INCENTIVES FOR DEEPWATER DRILLING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior shall not issue any oil or gas lease sale under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) with royalty-based incentives in any tract located in water depths of 400 meters or more on the outer Continental Shelf.

(b) ROYALTY RELIEF FOR DEEP WATER PRODUCTION.—Section 345 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15905) is repealed.

(c) ROYALTY RELIEF.—Section 8(a)(3) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) through (C) or any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not reduce or eliminate any royalty or net profit share for any lease or unit located in water depths of 400 meters or more on the outer Continental Shelf.''.

(d) APPLICATION.—This section and the amendments made by this section—

(1) apply beginning with the first lease sale held on or after the date of enactment of this Act for which a final notice of sale has not been published as of that date; and

(2) do not apply to a lease in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 77—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

Mr. MENENDEZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 77

Whereas 2013 marks the 180th anniversary of the March 20, 1833 signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand (formerly known as Siam), which initiated diplomatic relations between the two countries during the administration of President Andrew Jackson and the reign of King Rama III;

Whereas Thailand was the first treaty ally of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region and remains a steadfast friend of the United States with shared values of democracy, rule of law, universal human rights, human security, open societies, and a free market;

Whereas in December 2003, the United States designated Thailand as a major ally outside the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which improved the security of both countries, particularly by facilitating joint counterterrorism efforts;

Whereas for more than 30 years, Thailand has been the host country of Cobra Gold, the United States Pacific Command's annual multinational military training exercise, which is designed to ensure regional peace and promote regional security cooperation;

Whereas Thailand has played a leading role in the development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by helping the regional group develop into a more cohesive and comprehensive entity that ensures regional security and prosperity and serves as a valued partner in Asia for the United States;

Whereas on December 5, 2012, the people of Thailand celebrated the 85th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-serving monarch, who is loved and respected for his lifelong dedication to the social and economic development of the people of Thailand;

Whereas on July 3, 2011, the Royal Thai Government held nationwide parliamentary elections, the results of which affirmed Thailand's commitment to the democratic process;

Whereas approximately 500,000 people of Thai descent live in the United States, joining in the pursuit of the American Dream;

Whereas Thailand is a valued trading partner of the United States, with bilateral trade totaling approximately $40,000,000,000 per year; and

Whereas the bonds of friendship and mutual respect between the United States and Thailand are strong:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 180th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand;

(2) offers sincere congratulations to the Kingdom of Thailand and the people of Thailand for their affirmation of the value of democracy;

(3) commemorates the 85th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand and offers sincere congratulations and

best wishes for the continued prosperity of the Kingdom of Thailand; and

(4) looks forward to continued, enduring ties of friendship between the peoples of Thailand and the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 78—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH AND WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COONS, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 78

Whereas the social work profession has been instrumental in achieving advances in civil and human rights in the United States and across the world for more than a century;

Whereas the primary mission of social work is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic needs of all people, especially the people who are most vulnerable;

Whereas the programs and services provided by professional social workers are essential elements of the social safety net in the United States;

Whereas social workers have a critical impact on adolescent and youth development, aging and family caregiving, child protection and family services, health care navigation, mental and behavioral health treatment, assistance to members and veterans of the Armed Forces, nonprofit management and community development, and poverty reduction;

Whereas social workers function as specialists, consultants, private practitioners, educators, community leaders, policymakers, and researchers;

Whereas social workers influence many different organizations and human service systems and are employed in a wide range of workplaces, including private and public agencies, hospices and hospitals, schools, clinics, businesses and corporations, military units, elected offices, think tanks, and foundations;

Whereas social workers seek to improve social functioning and social conditions for people in emotional, psychological, economic, or physical need;

Whereas social workers are experts in care coordination, case management, and therapeutic treatment for biopsychosocial issues;

Whereas social workers have roles in more than 50 different fields of practice;

Whereas social workers believe that the strength of a country depends on the ability of the majority of the people to lead productive and healthy lives;

Whereas social workers help people, who are often navigating major life challenges, find hope and new options for achieving their maximum potential; and

Whereas social workers identify and address gaps in social systems that impede full participation by individuals or groups in society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Professional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day;

(2) acknowledges the diligent efforts of individuals and groups who promote the importance of social work and observe Professional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day;

(3) encourages the people of the United States to engage in appropriate ceremonies and activities to promote further awareness of the life-changing role that social workers play; and

(4) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of caring individuals who have chosen to serve their communities through social work.

SENATE RESOLUTION 79—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY

Mr. BURR (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 79

Whereas the Take Our Daughters To Work Day program was created in New York City as a response to research that showed that, by the 8th grade, many girls were dropping out of school, had low self-esteem, and lacked confidence;

Whereas, in 2003, the name of the program was changed to ''Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day'' so that boys who face many of the same challenges as girls could also be involved in the program;

Whereas the mission of the program, to develop ''innovative strategies that empower girls and boys to overcome societal barriers to reach their full potential'', now fully reflects the addition of boys;

Whereas the Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Foundation, a nonprofit organization, has grown to become one of the largest public awareness campaigns, with more than 37,400,000 participants annually in more than 3,000,000 organizations and workplaces in every State;

Whereas, in 2007, the Take Our Daughters To Work program transitioned to Elizabeth City, North Carolina, became known as the Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Foundation, and received national recognition for the dedication of the Foundation to future generations;

Whereas every year, mayors, governors, and other private and public officials sign proclamations and lend their support to Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work;

Whereas the fame of the Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work program has spread overseas, with requests and inquiries being made from around the world on how to operate the program;

Whereas 2012 marked the 20th anniversary of the Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work program;

Whereas Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day will be observed on Thursday, April 25, 2013; and

Whereas Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work is intended to continue helping millions of girls and boys on an annual basis through experienced activities and events to examine their opportunities and strive to reach their fullest potential: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the goals of introducing our daughters and sons to the workplace; and

(2) commends all the participants in Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the vital role the participants play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 126. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 46 submitted by Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) and intended to be proposed to the 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.

SA 127. Ms. AYOTTE 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 128. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 43 submitted by Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. INHOFE) and intended to be proposed to the 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 129. Mr. LEAHY 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 130. Mr. REID 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 131. Mr. REID 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 132. Mr. REID 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 133. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 95 submitted by Mr. NELSON and intended to be proposed to the 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 134. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY) 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 135. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 933, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 126. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 46 submitted by Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) and intended to be proposed to the 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 lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, 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 $205,000,000, with the amount to be allocated among accounts funded by that title in a manner determined appropriate by the Secretary of Defense.

SA 127. Ms. AYOTTE 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 $205,000,000, with the amount to be allocated among accounts funded by that title in a manner determined appropriate by the Secretary of Defense.

SA 128. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 43 submitted by Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. INHOFE) and intended to be proposed to the 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 the amendment, add the following:

(d) EXEMPT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 255(g)(1)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act (2 U.S.C. 905(g)(1)(A)) is amended—

(A) by inserting after the item relating to the Foreign Military Sales Trust Fund the following:

''Governmental Accounting Standards Board.'';

(B) by inserting after the item relating to the Postal Service Fund the following:

''Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (95–5376–0–2–376).'';

(C) by inserting after the item relating to the Salaries of Article III judges the following:

''Securities Investor Protection Corporation (95–5600–0–2–376).''; and

(D) by inserting after the item relating to the Soldiers and Airmen's Home, payment of claims the following:

''Standard Setting Body (95–5377–0–2–376).''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect as though included in the amendments made by title IX of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–240; 126 Stat. 2370).''

SA 129. Mr. LEAHY 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 lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following: ''Notwithstanding section 1101, section 7054(b) in division I of Public Law 112–74 shall be applied for purposes of this division by inserting before the period in paragraph (2) '; or (3) such assistance, license, sale, or transfer is for the purpose of demilitarizing or disposing of such cluster munitions'.''.

SA 130. Mr. REID 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, add the following:

This section shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

SA 131. Mr. REID 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, add the following:

This section shall become effective 2 days after enactment.

SA 132. Mr. REID 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:

This section shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

SA 133. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 95 submitted by Mr. NELSON and intended to be proposed to the 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 1, strike line 2 and all that follows through page 2, line 2, and insert the following:

SEC. _____. The Secretary of the Army is authorized to increase the authorization amounts for a water resources development project using amounts made available under this Act only if—

(1) the applicable water resources development project was authorized on or before the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) the increased authorization amount for the applicable water resources development project is only to adjust for inflation;

(3) 100 percent of the increased authorization amount will be non-federally funded;

(4) the increased authorization amount is necessary to meet contractual bids for the project; and

(5) the increased authorization amount is included in the applicable budget of the United States Government submitted by the President under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

SA 134. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY) 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: ''Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, funds made available for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives by this or any other Act may be expended in fiscal year 2014 or any fiscal year thereafter to promulgate or implement any rule requiring a physical inventory of any business licensed under section 923 of title 18, United States Code.''.

SA 135. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY) 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: ''Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, funds made available for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives by this or any other Act may be expended in fiscal year 2013 or any fiscal year thereafter to promulgate or implement any rule requiring a physical inventory of any business licensed under section 923 of title 18, United States Code.''.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on

Tuesday, March 19, 2013, at 2:30 p.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Can We Do More to Keep Savings in the Retirement System.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Michael Kreps of the committee staff on (202) 224–6572.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in executive session on Wednesday, March 20, 2013, at 10 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to mark-up S. ___, Animal Drug and Animal Generic Drug User Fee Reauthorization Act of 2013 and S. 330, HIV Organ Policy Equity Act.

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the Committee at (202) 224–5375.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 18, 2013, at 2 p.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''How Comprehensive Immigration Reform Should Address the Needs of Women and Families.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 66, and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 66) designating the first week of April 2013 as ''National Asbestos Awareness Week.''

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is a very important resolution. Thousands and thousands of people died from asbestos exposure. It is a dreadful product. People who have been exposed to it can get sick 30, 40, 50 years later. People who washed somebody's clothes who worked with asbestos can get sick and die. So I appreciate very much Senator BAUCUS and the others who sponsored this legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that 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. 66) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of Thursday, February 28, 2013, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 79.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 79) supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 79) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 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 19; that following the prayer and 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; further, the time during adjournment, recess, and morning business count postcloture on the substitute amendment to H.R. 933; finally, the Senate recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. tomorrow to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my sincere hope that we can reach an agreement to complete action on the continuing appropriations bill on Tuesday so we can begin consideration of the budget resolution. Remember, Easter recess is staring us in the face. We have to get this done before we leave. If it spills over into next week, despite the fact that we have Passover starting on Monday, we are going to complete our work in this body before the Easter recess.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business, I ask unanimous consent the Senate adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:45 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 19, 2013, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CHRIS SWARTWOOD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chris Swartwood for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Chris Swartwood is a 12th grader at Jefferson County Open School and received this award because him determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Chris Swartwood is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Chris Swartwood for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of him future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for several votes taken on the House floor last week as I was directed by my doctor to not fly back from my District. As a result, I missed rollcall Votes Nos. 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74 and 75.

Had I been present, on rollcall Vote No. 63 I would have voted 'aye'; on rollcall Vote No. 64 I would have voted 'no'; on rollcall Vote No. 65 I would have voted 'no'; on rollcall Vote No. 66 I would have voted 'present'; on rollcall Vote No. 67 I would have voted 'aye'; on rollcall Vote No. 68 I would have voted 'no'; on rollcall Vote No. 69 I would have voted 'no'; on rollcall Vote No. 70 I would have voted 'no'; on rollcall Vote No. 71 I would have voted 'no'; on rollcall Vote No. 72 I would have voted 'aye'; on rollcall Vote No. 73 I would have voted 'aye'; on rollcall Vote No. 74 I would have voted 'aye'; and on rollcall Vote No. 75 I would have voted 'no'.

HONORING LOREN DUKE ABDALLA FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Loren Duke Abdalla. Duke is the great-grandson of Chief Running Bull of the Yankton Sioux. He enlisted in the Marine Corp in 1943, and for his courageous service, Duke earned a Purple Heart and a rank of Corporal.

In September of 1944, at the Battle of Peleliu, Duke's machine gun team was shelled. Duke lost his machine gunner and two ammo carriers, while himself taking shrapnel that left him with holes in both legs. Rather than being sent home, Duke recovered and then quickly was promoted to leader of 3rd Squad, 1st Platoon, A Company.

Beginning April of 1945, Duke and A Company began an assault on Okinawa. In early May, Duke demonstrated true bravery in a series of heroic maneuvers and actions. Over the course of the day, Duke carried a wounded fellow Marine to safety and successfully neutralized six machine gun nests, clearing the way for U.S. forces to advance. Duke lost his entire squad after clearing four of the nests, but he continued on and cleared the final two by himself.

Duke and his fellow Marines fought valiantly and withstood fierce counterattacks from enemy forces. Their commitment and selfless dedication to their country was emblematic of the effort put forth by ''The Greatest Generation'' during the world's time of greatest need.

I thank Loren Duke Abdalla for his service to this nation. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to Duke and to all those brave men and women who sacrifice so much for the good of this country.

CHEYAYN TUCKER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cheyayn Tucker for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Cheyayn Tucker is an 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cheyayn Tucker is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cheyayn Tucker for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING DR. ANNE MARION TAYLOR, 2013 SLOAN RESEARCH FELLOW

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Anne Marion Taylor of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, for receiving the 2013 Sloan Research Fellowship from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Dr. Taylor, a Biomedical Engineer at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will receive a two–year, $50,000 grant to expand her research in Neurosciences.

The fellowship is designed to provide supplemental funding and support to enhance the careers of its young recipients. This prestigious honor is reserved only for the best and brightest to highlight the newest generation of scientific leaders by opening new doors for those in the pursuit of scientific innovation.

Dr. Taylor researches neurosciences and biomedical engineering to find ways to better understand cellular mechanisms involved in cognition. As a result of Dr. Taylor's studies, we now have commercially available devices that have led to breakthroughs in the study of synapse development.

I congratulate Dr. Taylor for this impressive achievement and thank her for her dedicated work at UNC School of Medicine.

CASSIE BROWN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cassie Brown for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Cassie Brown is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cassie Brown is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cassie Brown for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

LONNIE NUTT MEMORIAL

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the memory of Lonnie Lee Nutt, a City of Marietta, Georgia firefighter, and fallen hero. On the evening of March 7th—at the young age of 49—Nutt was in the line of duty, assisting the victim of a car accident when he tragically suffered a fatal heart attack.

For nearly 20 years, Nutt selflessly served and protected his community as a firefighter, inspector, investigator, and most recently as a firefighter engineer.

He was a tested veteran and deeply respected by his colleagues. But more importantly, he was a devoted husband to his wife Rosa, and loving father to his daughter Cassandra.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest felt condolences to his family and friends, his fellow firefighters, and the Marietta community for their loss during this most difficult time.

CANADA ALBIN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Canada Albin for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Canada Albin is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Canada Albin is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Canada Albin for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

A RECOGNITION OF MR. ROB WHITE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Mr. Rob White, for his contributions to the innovation community of the Bay Area. Rob recently announced that he is stepping down as CEO of the iGate Innovation Hub and as Director of Economic Development for the City of Livermore, California. As cofounder of the iGate hub, Rob was instrumental in establishing a broad regional partnership that is helping leverage public investments at the Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratories into economic development that benefits the growth of small businesses focused on bringing new green energy technologies to market.

Just last year, the White House named Rob a Champion of Change for Local Innovation, acknowledging him as "a thought leader in government led collaborative networks, public policy assessment in support of entrepreneurship, and economic development frameworks that focus on technology growth and innovation." Under Rob's leadership, iGate received an award for Regional Collaboration from the International Economic Development Council, the Thomas H. Muehlenbeck Award for Excellence in Local Government from the Alliance for Innovation; and the Outstanding Partnership Award from the Federal Laboratory Consortium, Far West Region.

Rob has worked for more than two decades in researching, assessing, and developing the ecosystem for regional innovation networks. His tireless support of small businesses, focusing on green transportation and clean-energy technologies, is already helping transform the economic climate in the Tr-Valley area and the region at large.

On a more personal note, Mr. Speaker, Rob has played a vital role in assisting me in the development of my economic policy and strategy. I was honored when he agreed to serve on my Economic Development Advisory Committee and I have learned a great deal from him. I want to thank Rob for his contributions to the East Bay. I wish him the best of luck as he begins this new chapter of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on March 15, I missed three recorded votes. Had I been present, on rollcall No . 73, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 74, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 75, H.R. 803, the SKILLS Act, I would have voted "no."

BREANNA WILSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Breanna Wilson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Breanna Wilson is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Breanna Wilson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Breanna Wilson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING LAILA GORING

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a very special member of my team, Laila Goring. Laila is a University of Hawai'i student and former soldier who has been serving in my office as an intern this spring. Friday was her final day on Capitol Hill.

In her work, she has truly displayed the aloha spirit and a heart for servant leadership. She has set the bar high for our internship program, and I hope many more students like Laila will serve and learn in my office.

A congressional internship should not be about grabbing coffee or making copies, but about learning and growing in an environment that encourages service. Our students have so much to offer, and we have the opportunity to cultivate the next generation of leaders by demonstrating firsthand the value of public service.

Mahalo nui loa, thank you very much, Laila, and we wish you the best of luck as you continue to pursue your goals.

CHRIS McNABB

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chris McNabb for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Chris McNabb is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Chris McNabb is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Chris McNabb for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING ANDREW A. ATHENS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Andrew A. Athens for his lifetime of philanthropic service, most notably to the Greek Community and Orthodox Church.

Known as the leader of millions of Greeks living outside of Greece, Mr. Athens served as the President of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad, SAE, since its founding in 1995. In 2006, Mr. Athens was named President Emeritus by the Sixth World Assembly of SAE.

Since its founding, SAE has worked to promote Hellinism, support the efforts of the Greeks worldwide, and strengthen ties between Greece and the countries of residence of Greek expatriates.

During his tenure with SAE, Mr. Athens has travelled to every continent to further SAE's mission. He also worked closely with other notable Hellenes in the Coordinated Effort of Hellenes. He has met with nearly every U.S. President and leader in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on Hellenic and Orthodox issues. It is with Mr. Athens' care and dedication that SAE has thrived.

Mr. Athens was also a proud founder of Hellenicare, a Primary Health Care Initiative and humanitarian effort. Under his direction, a total of seven medical care centers were opened in Hellenic areas of the Republic of Albania, Armenia, Georgia, and Ukraine. These centers provide free medical services for those who would otherwise have no access to high quality medical treatment.

A decorated U.S. Army Captain, Mr. Athens was honored with the Bronze Star and the U.S. Army Commendation Medal for his service in World War II. He has also led a successful career in business, founding the Metron Steel Corporation, which continues to be one of the largest steelworks in the country.

Mr. Athens has been honored with more than 42 awards, medals and distinctions for his service to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my friend Andrew A. Athens for his remarkable service and his lifelong commitment to enriching the lives of others. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2009, the day I took office, the national debt was $10,627,961,295,930.67.

Today, it is $16,723,061,528,495.80. We've added $6,095,100,232,565.13 to our debt in 4 years. This is $6 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a Balanced Budget Amendment. We must stop this unconscionable accumulation of debt.

CHELSEY BOCK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chelsey Bock for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Chelsey Bock is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Chelsey Bock is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Chelsey Bock for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary merit of the Seattle Seahawks today, March 18, 2013.

The Seattle Seahawks finished the 2012 season with an overall record of 11–5, including a perfect home field record of 8–0 in an entertaining season. Included in their 11–5 record, they dominated with back to back 50 point games against their opponents.

They advanced to the playoffs, winning the NFC wild card and fighting through two rollercoaster playoff games—the spirit of the ''12th man'' supporting and driving them forward. With six Seahawks players, one being their rookie quarterback, on the roster for the 2013 Pro Bowl, they helped ensure a NFC victory.

Seattle demonstrated great cohesion and teamwork throughout the season, being ranked number one in the NFL in scoring defense. The offense set single season records for total rushing yards, average rushing yards and per carry average during the 2012 regular season.

Coach Pete Carroll has been an inspirational leader rebuilding the Seahawks and strengthening team unity. He has also been instrumental working with youth in our communities through A Better Seattle, a partnership to help create a culture for safety and peace while reducing violence in our communities.

As the Chairman of the Charitable/Exempt Organizations Tax Reform Working Group, I am pleased that, in addition to Coach Carroll, there are so many players from my hometown sports team that have Charitable Foundations. Their passion for giving back to their community exemplifies the spirit of the Pacific Northwest.

Mr. Speaker, I again offer my appreciation for the community spirit of Seattle Seahawks and congratulations for an outstanding and entertaining 2012 season and look forward to their 2013 season. Go Hawks.

CASEY BARRETERO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Casey Barretero for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Casey Barretero is a 9th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Casey Barretero is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Casey Barretero for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

SEQUESTRATION CUTS HARMING AMERICANS

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, the people of this Nation are looking to this Congress for help. My constituents and the constituents of every elected representative here sent us to Congress to take action on their behalf.

They are worried about how they will keep a roof over their heads, food on their plates, the lights turned on, and get back and forth from work. They are holding out some hope that we might actually do what they sent us here to accomplish. They have told us they want Social Security and Medicare to continue. They want to keep their health benefits and hope to hear that this Nation's resources will be used to restore our infrastructure, create jobs and educational opportunities, strengthen our economy and restore confidence in our leadership as a nation.

They expect elected officials to build, and not to tear down. They want to unify this Nation and not divide it into two camps of the super-rich and the struggling poor. They have told us this in so many ways, especially during the last election. But instead, they are witnessing what seems to be a full-scale assault at every level of government on American life as we know it. From the U.S. Capitol to State capitols even in Georgia, extremists seem determined to reverse our climb toward recovery and drive this Nation into a ditch.

Our first priority should be trying to improve the lives of the middle class, the working class, and low-income Americans, not negotiating lay-offs, freezing salaries, scapegoating government employees, eliminating civil rights protections and collective bargaining. Public servants at every level of government are under constant attack, and in these urgent times we are reducing service to communities and teetering on the edge of economic instability. At the same time that we are reducing

the number of livable-wage jobs, we are gutting re-training and reemployment opportunities. These policies will pull the rug out from under people's lives in the name of some kind of pseudo-fiscal discipline that legislators declare will do this Nation some good.

For yet another week, the Republican-led Congress has turned its back on the number one issue in this country—jobs. Instead of brainstorming a way to fix the massive problems sequestration presents, the House is considering legislation which guts 40 years of bipartisan engagement in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs. This bill would consolidate or eliminate successful initiatives like YouthBuild, the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program, Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations, and Community-Based Job Training Grants.

Last week, House Republicans also passed H.R. 890, the partisan welfare bill that would overturn the Obama Administration proposal to allow States the flexibility to move more Americans from welfare to work.

Looking forward to the week ahead, this Congress will move closer to making massive sequestration cuts permanent for millions of Americans. Instead of alleviating suffering, these bills will add to the woes of my constituents and Americans across the country.

We need to come together to find a way to help the people in this country keep their jobs and become gainfully employed, not slashing and cutting when there is no emergency that really warrants these measures. We must not balance the budget on the backs of the poorest and most vulnerable Americans, especially when closing common-sense loopholes could easily raise the revenue we need.

Every day, millions of Americans go to bed hungry because they have fallen into poverty. They were evicted from their homes and have lost their jobs. This Congress has turned a blind eye to their suffering and seems to be determined to pile on more. When will we do the work of policy and put aside partisan politics? How can we look our constituents in the eye, knowing these changes will do them harm?

We are here to help solve the problems of America, not create more problems for this country. Legislators can do better; we must do better.

BRIANNA ESQUIBEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brianna Esquibel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brianna Esquibel is an 8th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brianna Esquibel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Brianna Esquibel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND INVESTING IN LIFELONG SKILLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration 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:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, today's legislation is a missed opportunity. As our economy recovers, job training services are more essential than ever, and we should be reauthorizing the Workforce Investment Act to ensure that these services are delivered efficiently and effectively. Unfortunately, H.R. 803 will not do that.

This bill establishes a single block grant for Workforce Investment Act funds, creating a one-size-fits-all model and jeopardizing services for the most at-risk populations, including workers with disabilities, older workers, disabled veterans, and youth. It also weakens Workforce Investment Boards by eliminating representation requirements for community-based organizations, community colleges, and labor. Without these important stakeholders, Boards will lose vital expertise in training and placement.

While Democrats believe the Workforce Investment Act needs to be updated to meet today's job training needs, H.R. 803 is not the way to do it. I support the substitute offered by Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. MILLER that would streamline programs and improve accountability without threatening services for underserved populations. It would authorize the President's Community College Fund to expand the role of community colleges in job training and allow them to offer specialized skills and recognized credentials. It would increase access for work experience programs, including summer employment, internships, and pre-apprenticeship programs, so workers can receive training on the job. And it would establish common reporting and performance measures across all programs so we can better assess what is working. It is a better approach and I regret that the Republican Majority did not work with us to incorporate these ideas into the final bill.

Unfortunately, H.R. 803 on the floor today is a step backwards, dismantling protections and access for underserved populations and weakening community involvement in job training and placement. I urge my colleagues to vote against this legislation and come together to in a bipartisan way to responsibly reform our workforce development programs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, on March 14, 2013, I was unavoidably absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 70, 71, and 72. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 70, 71, and 72.

On March 15, 2013, I was unavoidably absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 73, 74, and 75. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 73 and 74, and I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 75.

BRANDON HELLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brandon Heller for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brandon Heller is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brandon Heller is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Brandon Heller for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SYLVIA MEHAS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleague, Mr. NUNES, we pay tribute to the life of Sylvia Mehas who passed away on March 9, 2013 at the age of 94. Sylvia will be remembered in the hearts of many as a passionate woman who loved her heritage, family, and faith.

Sylvia grew up in an immigrant family that was from a small village in Greece. Her roots were from the old country; therefore, strong values and morals were instilled in Sylvia early on. Sylvia knew the importance of hard work, and she understood that a little tough love was necessary every once in a while. Her children: Tulla, Peter, and Georgia, appreciate their mother for the lessons she taught them and for the principles that are now ingrained in them.

Sylvia was married to her late husband, George, for over 53 years. Together, they

were very involved in their church, St. George Parish. George served as a President, and Sylvia taught Sunday school, and served on the parish council for five years as Treasurer and Vice President. In addition, Sylvia was a founding member of the church choir. She sang in the choir for 25 years. Sylvia's Greek Orthodox faith was the foundation for her life, so she cherished the opportunities she had to serve at the church.

Fresno's Greek community was an integral part of Sylvia's life. She was co-chair of the Annual Grecian Food Festival, chair of the Greek Community Booth for Passport Fresno and Downtown Fresno Centennial, and she was a member of the Daughters of Penelope, where she served as President and District Lt. Governor.

Civic engagement was also very important to Sylvia. She served on numerous boards and committees. She was a past President of the Federation of Republican Women and an elected member of the Republican Central Committee. Sylvia was proud of her beliefs, but she was not against hearing other peoples' thoughts and arguments. She was happy to sit and talk with anyone. Sylvia served on the Fresno Grand Jury, Fresno County Solid Waste Committee, Fresno City Urban Design Task Force, Fresno City Citizen's Commission, Fresno County Reorganization Committee, and Fresno Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee and Local Government Committee.

Beyond her participation in the community, Sylvia also ran two successful businesses with George. The Fresno Malt Shop and the Athenian Restaurant were staples in downtown Fresno. Sylvia and George worked hard to keep them up and running because they understood the important lessons they were teaching their children about hard work.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join Mr. NUNES and myself in paying tribute to the life of Sylvia Mehas. Sylvia's leadership, guidance, and kindness will be greatly missed by many.

50 YEARS LATER, WE MUST WORK TO FULFILL THE PROMISE OF GIDEON

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Gideon v. Wainwright. This Supreme Court case established that all Americans have a right to counsel in criminal trials—even if they cannot afford it. The Gideon decision was clear: American citizens moving through the criminal justice system deserve appropriate representation under the law.

Unfortunately, fifty years after this case was decided, that promise of Gideon has not been fully realized. Today, ever increasing numbers of American citizens fall through the cracks in our justice system, sitting behind bars because they did not have access to legal representation.

On this important anniversary, we must commit ourselves to ensuring that all Americans have meaningful access to legal representation so that they are not left at the mercy of a justice system that is difficult to navigate and weighted against them. As Michelle Alexander's explains in The New Jim Crow, "tens of thousands of poor people go to jail every year without ever talking to a lawyer." An article by Karen Houppert in this Sunday's Washington Post describes how "one man, accused of burglary, sat in jail for more than a year while waiting for an attorney to be assigned to him." I believe that those situations are unconscionable. Wealth should not be required buy access to a responsive justice system. All Americans should have ready, meaningful access to an attorney when their futures and interests are at risk.

We must make sure that the services aimed at assisting the poor are adequately funded. Attorney General Holder has quite accurately referred to the "crisis" facing services that provide legal services to the poor. Today, public defenders have caseloads that are often hundreds of cases above the numbers recommended by the American Bar Association. With staff stretched that thin, the level of service provided in any one case inevitably suffers. As is noted in The New Jim Crow, "...those who do meet with a lawyer for a drug offense often spend only a few minutes discussing their case and options before making a decision that will profoundly affect the rest of their lives." We must make sure that the attorneys who are assisting low-income individuals have the ability and resources to do so in a way that is meaningful and effective.

We must also commit ourselves to broadening the scope of cases that warrant a right to legal counsel. Gideon applies only to criminal cases—legal issues like home foreclosures, job loss, spousal abuse and parental custody are not covered. Individuals in these situations may lose their homes, their livelihoods, or worse, because they do not have access to representation.

While these cases are "civil" in nature, they often carry a very real risk of jail time. I believe that Gideon should be applicable in these situations, because individuals facing a potential loss of liberty deserve the right to representation.

The Legal Services Corporation, which provides civil legal services to people who cannot otherwise afford them, received $70 million less in fiscal year 2012 than it did at its peak funding. This comes as the Legal Services Corporation is more strained than ever, helping low-income families dealing with the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression. According to the New York Times, over 60 million Americans qualify for the Corporation's services, but 80% of the legal needs of the poor go unmet. Those numbers are disheartening and unacceptable and must be addressed.

I urge my colleagues to read the attached articles and to work to restore the meaning of the Gideon decision by ensuring that all individuals have meaningful access to legal counsel.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 15, 2013]

INDIGENT CLIENTS SUFFER AS PUBLIC DEFENDERS STRUGGLE TO KEEP UP WITH CASELOADS

(By Karen Houppert),

In 1961, an itinerant man named Clarence Earl Gideon was accused of breaking into a pool hall in Florida and stealing some liquor, as well as money from a jukebox and a cigarette machine. He asked the judge in his burglary trial for a lawyer. He was too poor to hire one himself, Gideon said, but he needed help with his case. The judge said the state was under no obligation to provide him with an attorney. So Gideon represented himself, badly, and ended up in prison. But he fought his conviction—all the way to the Supreme Court, insisting that there was no such thing as a "fair trial" if both sides didn't have representation.

Monday marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision in that case, Gideon v. Wainwright, which established the constitutional right to free counsel for poor people accused of serious crimes. Most Americans are familiar with this result, thanks to television and movies; police officers say as they arrest someone: "You have a right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you."

In the 1960s, complying with the ruling seemed quite possible. Sure, it would be expensive for local governments that had to oversee and fund such efforts. But the number of indigent folks accused of crimes was smaller and, arguably, more manageable. Cities and counties established public-defender offices, staffed by salaried lawyers who were paid by the city, county, state or some combination of these; they also developed a roster of private attorneys whom judges appointed on an as-needed basis, paying an hourly rate; and some contracted with a single law firm or attorney for all local public defense.

It sort of worked.

But over time the war on drugs, the "three strikes" laws and the lock-'em-up mentality of politicians have led to indigent clients flooding the courts. Courts are overburdened, and across the country, lawyers for the poor are routinely buried beneath crushing caseloads and working in underfunded offices. Without adequate resources, it's hard to hire the investigators, experts or paralegals to mount a good defense. The stakes are high—for the man on death row to the teen picked up for marijuana possession.

Attorney General Eric Holder decried the "crisis" in indigent defense when he spoke to the American Bar Association last year. Programs across the country were "underfunded and understaffed," he said. Citing "insufficient resources, overwhelming caseloads and inadequate oversight," he worried about a breakdown: "Far too many public defender systems lack the basic tools they need to function properly."

The problems have been well documented. A 2009 investigation by the Constitution Project, the National Legal Aid & Defender Association and the National Right to Counsel Committee concluded that the system of providing counsel for the poor was broken and that defendants' constitutional rights were routinely violated. The groups drew from news articles, law reviews and myriad panicked reports that cities, counties and states had generated. Their report, "Justice Denied: America's Continuing Neglect of Our Constitutional Right to Counsel," documented instances in which public defenders carried as many as 500 active felony cases at a time (the American Bar Association recommends 150) and as many as 2,225 misdemeanor cases (the ABA recommends 400).

The recent economic crisis has exacerbated the problem. In New Orleans last year, the chief public defender had to lay off a third of his staff. Hundreds of people languished in jail for months, waiting for a lawyer to be appointed. One man had been there two months for possessing a joint. Another man, accused of burglary, sat in jail for more than a year while waiting for an attorney to be assigned to him.

These shortcomings greatly affect people's lives every day. In Washington state in 2004,

a 12- year-old was accused of molesting his 5–year-old neighbor after the boys had played a game that, the younger one said, involved the older boy putting his hands down his pants. The 12–year-old's overworked public defender advised his client to quickly plead guilty. The lawyer carried 240 other criminal cases, never spoke to a witness, hired no investigator, spoke to no experts, met with his client's family for less than two hours and failed to speak to his client alone once; the court ordered the 12–year-old to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life, be tested for sexually transmitted diseases and attend sex rehab workshops. Six years later, on appeal, the state Supreme Court determined that the boy's counsel had been inadequate, and Washington is making strides in reforming indigent defense.

But plenty of cases are rushed through courts around the country, with equally disturbing results. The crisis in our courts raises questions about how we as a nation define ''justice.'' Will we pay lip service to the notion that everyone has a lawyer to represent them in court? Will we provide a warm body in a suit and tie to stand next to a defendant? Or do we equate ''justice'' with fairness—and provide folks who are accused of crimes with meaningful representation? Is the country committed to a level playing field, the adversarial system of justice in which both sides are properly armed to argue and from which truth emerges? Are we committed to making the system work as it is designed to?

In the 1800s, Mark Twain joked that ''the law is a system that protects everybody who can afford a good lawyer.'' In many ways, unfortunately, that remains true today.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 16, 2013]

RIGHT TO LAWYER CAN BE EMPTY PROMISE FOR POOR

(By Ethan Bronner)

Billy Jerome Presley spent 17 months in a Georgia jail because he did not have $2,700 for a child support payment. He had no prior jail record but also no lawyer. In Baltimore last fall, Carl Hymes, 21, was arrested on charges of shining a laser into the eyes of a police officer. Bail was set at $75,000. He had no arrest record but also no lawyer. In West Orange, N.J., last summer, Walter Bloss, 89, was served with an eviction notice from the rent-controlled apartment he had lived in for 43 years after a dispute with his landlord. He had gone to court without a lawyer.

Fifty years ago, on March 18, 1963, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled in Gideon v. Wainwright that those accused of a crime have a constitutional right to a lawyer whether or not they can afford one. But as legal officials observe the anniversary of what is widely considered one of the most significant judicial declarations of equality under law, many say that the promise inherent in the Gideon ruling remains unfulfilled because so many legal needs still go unmet.

Civil matters—including legal issues like home foreclosure, job loss, spousal abuse and parental custody—were not covered by the decision. Today, many states and counties do not offer lawyers to the poor in major civil disputes, and in some criminal ones as well. Those states that do are finding that more people than ever are qualifying for such help, making it impossible to keep up with the need. The result is that even at a time when many law school graduates are without work, many Americans are without lawyers.

The Legal Services Corporation, the Congressionally financed organization that provides lawyers to the poor in civil matters, says there are more than 60 million Americans—35 percent more than in 2005—who qualify for its services. But it calculates that 80 percent of the legal needs of the poor go unmet. In state after state, according to a survey of trial judges, more people are now representing themselves in court and they are failing to present necessary evidence, committing procedural errors and poorly examining witnesses, all while new lawyers remain unemployed.

''Some of our most essential rights—those involving our families, our homes, our livelihoods—are the least protected,'' Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson of the Texas Supreme Court, said in a recent speech at New York University. He noted that a family of four earning $30,000 annually does not qualify for legal aid in many states.

James J. Sandman, president of the Legal Services Corporation, said, ''Most Americans don't realize that you can have your home taken away, your children taken away and you can be a victim of domestic violence but you have no constitutional right to a lawyer to protect you.''

According to the World Justice Project, a nonprofit group promoting the rule of law that got its start through the American Bar Association, the United States ranks 66th out of 98 countries in access to and affordability of civil legal services.

''In most countries, equality before the law means equality between those of high and low income,'' remarked Earl Johnson Jr., a retired justice of the California Court of Appeal. ''In this country for some reason we are concerned more with individuals versus government.''

With law school graduates hurting for work, it may appear that there is a glut of lawyers. But many experts say that is a misunderstanding.

''We don't have an excess of lawyers,'' said Martin Guggenheim, a law professor at New York University. ''What we have is a miserable fit. In many areas like family and housing law, there is simply no private bar to go to. You couldn't find a lawyer to help you even if you had the money because there isn't a dime to be made in those cases.''

Even in situations where an individual is up against a state prosecutor and jail may result, not every jurisdiction provides lawyers to the defendants. In Georgia, those charged with failing to pay child support face a prosecutor and jail but are not supplied with a lawyer.

Mr. Presley lost his job in the recession and fell way behind on support payments for his four children. In 2011, he was jailed after a court proceeding without a lawyer in which he said he could not pay what he owed. He was brought back to court, shackled, every month or two. Each time, he said he still could not pay. Each time, he was sent back.

A year later, he contacted a public defender who handles only criminal cases but who sent his case to the Southern Center for Human Rights. Atteeyah Hollie, a lawyer there, got him released that same day, helped him find work and set up a payment plan.

An important service lawyers can provide defendants like Mr. Presley is knowledge of what courts want—receipts of medical treatment, evidence of a job search, bank account statements. On their own, many people misstep when facing a judge.

In Adel, Ga., a town of 5,000, child support court meets monthly. On a recent morning, a dozen men in shackles and jail uniforms faced Chuck Reddick, a state prosecutor, on their second or third round in court.

''In most cases, they simply can't pay,'' said John P. Daughtrey, who was sheriff here until losing an election in November. ''An attorney could explain to the judge why jail is not the solution and how to fix it. As a sheriff, I want criminals in my jail, not a debtor's prison.''

Mr. Reddick and Judge Carson Dane Perkins of Cook County Superior Court in Adel both said they would welcome lawyers for defendants because it would make the process clearer and smoother.

''If we could extend the right to a lawyer to civil procedures where you face a loss of liberty, that would be good,'' Judge Perkins said. ''Lawyers can get affidavits from employers and help make cases for those who can't pay.''

The Southern Center for Human Rights has filed a class-action suit seeking a guarantee of a lawyer for such cases in Georgia. Sarah Geraghty, a lawyer there, said the center had received thousands of calls from Georgians facing child support hearings. Among them was Russell Davis, a Navy veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder who was jailed three times and lost his apartment and car while in jail.

Georgia also offers a case study on the mismatch between lawyers and clients at a time when each needs the other. According to the Legal Services Corporation, 70 percent of the state's lawyers are in the Atlanta area, while 70 percent of the poor live outside it. There are six counties without a lawyer and dozens with only two or three.

Mr. Bloss, who faced eviction in New Jersey, went to legal services, which won for him the right to stay in his apartment while his case is under appeal.

In Baltimore, where Mr. Hymes was accused of shining a laser at a police officer and assigned bail of $75,000, first bail hearings do not include a lawyer. Tens of thousands are brought through Central Booking every year, facing a commissioner through a glass partition, who determines whether to release the detainee on his own recognizance or assign bail and at what level.

''For the poor, bail is a jail sentence,'' said Douglas L. Colbert, a law professor at the University of Maryland. A study he conducted on 4,000 bail cases of nonviolent offenders found that two and a half times as many detainees were released on their own recognizance and bail was set at a far more affordable level if a lawyer was at the hearing.

Mr. Hymes was relatively lucky. When he eventually faced a judge with the help of a public defender, bail was slashed to $200 cash. It took his family a few weeks to pay. A student of Mr. Colbert's, Iten Naguib, acted as an intermediary.

''If there had been an attorney involved at the initial stages,'' Ms. Naguib said, ''Mr. Hymes would likely have been released much earlier.'' .

THE HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when out-of-towners (especially those from up North) land in Houston in the month of March, the traditional Texas stereotype comes to life. Many Texans sport their Cowboy hats and boots year round, but even more so this month, because this is the time that we celebrate Texas history. March 2nd is Texas Independence Day and on March 6th, we remember the Alamo. March is also the month of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. There is something special about all the pomp and circumstance that takes place on the streets of downtown Houston. It starts out with the trail

riders and parade through downtown Houston. This year was a little different than years past and did not take place on Texas Avenue, but to me the old route will always symbolize the rich history of the rodeo. Texas Avenue is wider than other streets downtown. This was to accommodate the early longhorn cattle drives coming into town headed to the rail station.

There's a long history behind the Houston rodeo. It started in 1931 when a handful of men had an idea to get together and have a ''Fat Stock Show.'' Each year after, the show got a little bit bigger. While the show was originally held in the modest confines of the Sam Houston Coliseum, it has since had several distinguished homes. I remember the first year it moved to the ''Eighth Wonder of the World,'' the Astrodome before finding home at Reliant Park, and when the king of country music, George Strait, thanked the Astrodome for hosting so many amazing years of Houston Rodeo by singing a ''Cowboy Rides Away.'' It is amazing to think that in 1931, a few men just wanted to show off their livestock and help educate people about agriculture in Texas. Today, their simple idea has turned into the world's largest livestock exhibition, the world's largest regular-season rodeo, top musical performers, and one of Houston's most popular and profitable events. As a kid, I remember seeing Roy Rogers and Elvis at the Rodeo Spectacular.

The Houston Livestock Show provides an impressive economic boost. Last year, over 2 million people came to the Houston Rodeo. Aside from having a great time at the show, this pilgrimage to the rodeo draws people to our great city and boosts the Houston economy. The show alone brings in over $320 million and create over 7,000 full time jobs. That is something to be proud of.

The Houston Rodeo's ''founding fathers'' in 1931 also wanted to establish a charitable event that provided for the educational and scientific advancement of Texas agriculture. They succeeded. Today, over its history, the Rodeo has given $330 million to Texas' youth through scholarships, research, endowments, calf scramble participants, junior show exhibitors, school art participants and other educational youth programs. All the work behind the scenes is done by hundreds of volunteers.

A Texas-sized thank you to all of those who make the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo what it is today. The Show is the world's largest livestock exhibition, world's largest barbecue cook-off, world's richest regular-season rodeo and the entertainment lineup is nothing to sneeze at either. This year, some music greats like Tim McGraw, Toby Keith and Dierks Bentley just to name a few, performed. Whether one is a volunteer, local Go Texan member, youth livestock participant, employee, organizer, sponsor or attendee—those contributions go well beyond the three weeks of the Rodeo. It's a Western celebration for us in Houston, Texas. It's almost like our Mardi Gras, just with boots and cowboy hats. The rodeo is truly something for everyone. After all, it's our cultural duty ''to Rodeo Texas.'' For there is no place like Texas. And that's just the way it is.

SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS ALTERNATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Congressional Black Caucus Alternative Budget for Fiscal Year 2014. As we debate the various budget proposals this week, the CBC has developed a budget that will reduce the deficit, continue to foster growth in our economy, and strengthen our Nation's safety net.

The CBC's budget would raise $1 trillion in new revenue and avoid the drastic sequestration cuts that took effect March 1. In addition to raising new revenue, our budget protects and strengthens critical domestic programs: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and SNAP. These are critical programs that the American people depend upon, and are slashed beyond recognition in the Ryan budget.

In addition, a key factor in creating jobs is the continued investment in our Nation's infrastructure. The CBC's budget invests in rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, as well as in transit and workforce development programs. These investments are crucial to bolstering our economy and protecting working families.

These priorities stand in stark contrast to those in the Ryan Budget. The Ryan Budget fails to replace the drastic spending cuts, cuts which would cost 750,000 jobs a year. The Republican budget also transfers the burden of the discretionary sequester to non-defense programs, further gutting the funding needed to pursue innovation and research, and to staff our country's air traffic controllers and food safety inspectors. By slashing these critical investments, we jeopardize domestic economic growth and the wellbeing of American families.

Mr. Speaker, the American people spoke loudly in November concerning the fiscal policies we should pursue. The American people rejected the Ryan Budget, and the misplaced priorities of the GOP.

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 Tuesday, March 19, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

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 Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider S. 601, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States.

SD–406

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 Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Veterans Affairs mental health care, focusing on ensuring timely access to high-quality care.

SR–418

10:30 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the future of drones in America, focusing on law enforcement and privacy considerations.

SD–226

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 Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Sarah Jewell, of Washington, to be Secretary of the Interior.

SD–366

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

Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider 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.
SD–226

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Asia, focusing on democracy, good governance and human rights.
SD–419

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

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ernest J. Moniz, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Energy.
SD–366

APRIL 11

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–G50

APRIL 17

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.
SH–216

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

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1873–S1911

Measures Introduced: Eighteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 584–601, and S. Res. 77–79. **Page S1892**

Measures Reported:

Reported on Friday, March 15, during the adjournment:

S. Con. Res. 8, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2013, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023. **Page S1892**

Measures Passed:

National Asbestos Awareness Week: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 66, designating the first week of April 2013 as ''National Asbestos Awareness Week'', and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S1911**

Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 79, supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day. **Page S1911**

Measures Considered:

Department of Defense, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act—Agreement: Senate resumed 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, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S1874–87**

Pending:

Reid (for Mikulski/Shelby) Modified Amendment No. 26, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S1874**

Toomey Amendment No. 115 (to Amendment No. 26), to increase by $60,000,000 the amount appropriated for Operation and Maintenance for the Department of Defense for programs, projects, and activities in the continental United States, and to provide an offset. **Page S1874**

Durbin Amendment No. 123 (to Amendment No. 115), to change the enactment date. **Page S1874**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 63 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. 38), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on Reid (for Mikulski/Shelby) Modified Amendment No. 26. **Page S1882**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, March 19, 2013; and that the time during adjournment, recess and morning business count post-cloture on Reid (for Mikulski/Shelby) Modified Amendment No. 26 (listed above). **Page S1911**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, the Economic Report of the President dated March 2013 with the Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers for 2013, received during adjournment of the Senate on March 15, 2013; which was referred to the Joint Economic Committee. (PM–6) **Page S1891**

Messages from the House: **Page S1891**

Measures Referred: **Page S1891**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S1873, S1891**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1892–94**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1894–S1909**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1889–91**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1909–10**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Pages S1910–11**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1911**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—38) **Page S1882**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 7:45 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday,

March 19, 2013. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1911.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine how comprehensive immigration reform should address the needs of women and families, after receiving testimony from Ai-jen Poo, National Domestic Workers Alliance, New York, New York; Karen Panetta, The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers—United States of America, Medford, Massachusetts; Mee Moua, Asian American Justice Center, on behalf of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice, and Susan F. Martin, Georgetown University, both of Washington, D.C.; and Jennifer Ng'andu, National Council of La Raza, Arlington, Virginia.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 12 public bills, H.R. 1232–1243; and 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 37; and H. Res. 123–126 were introduced. **Pages H1567–68**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1568–69**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Con. Res. 18, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service (H. Rept. 113–18);

H. Con. Res. 19, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby (H. Rept. 113–19);

H. Res. 115, providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress (H. Rept. 113–20) and;

H. Res. 122, providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 115) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–21). **Page H1567**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Wenstrup to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1551**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:11 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H1552**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest chaplain, Rev. Andrew Walton, Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC. **Page H1552**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 284 yeas to 103 nays with 1 answering "present", Roll No. 76. **Page H1557**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:15 p.m. and reconvened at 5:04 p.m. **Page H1554**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and agree to the following measures:

Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service: H. Con. Res. 18, to authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 388 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 77 and **Pages H1554–55, H1557–58**

Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby: H. Con. Res. 19, to authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 386 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 78. **Pages H1555–56, H1558–59**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:24 p.m. and reconvened at 6:31 p.m. **Page H1556**

Recess: The House recessed at 8:22 p.m. and reconvened at 9:06 p.m. **Page H1556**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1556.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1557, H1557–58 and H1558. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS, COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY OVERSIGHT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a hearing on District of Columbia Courts, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency Oversight. Testimony was heard from Nancy M. Ware, Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency; Eric T. Washington, Chair, Joint Committee on Judicial Administration, and Chief Judge, District of Columbia Court of Appeals; and Lee F. Satterfield, Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SAVING SENIORS AND OUR MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS FROM AN ENTITLEMENT CRISIS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Saving Seniors and Our Most Vulnerable Citizens from an Entitlement Crisis''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ESTABLISHING THE BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013; AND PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSE OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H. Con. Res. 25, establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023; and House Resolution 115, providing for the expense of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress. The Committee granted, by voice vote, a structured rule for H. Con. Res. 25. The rule provides four hours of general debate with three hours confined to the congressional budget equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget and one hour on the subject of economic goals and policies equally divided and controlled by Rep. Brady of Texas and Rep. Carolyn Maloney of New York or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution and provides that it shall be considered as read. 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, and shall not be subject to amendment. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report except that the adoption of an amendment in the nature of a substitute shall constitute the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment. The rule provides, upon the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment, for a final period of general debate, which shall not exceed 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget. The rule permits the chair of the Budget Committee to offer amendments in the House pursuant to section 305(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to achieve mathematical consistency. The rule provides that the concurrent resolution shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question of its adoption. Testimony was heard from Chairman Ryan (WI) and Representatives Van Hollen, Mulvaney, Scott (VA), Woodall, Jackson Lee, Ellison, and Grijalva.

The rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from March 22, 2013 through April 8, 2013: (a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; (b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment; and (c) bills and resolutions introduced during the period addressed by this section shall be numbered, listed in the Congressional Record, and when printed shall bear the date of introduction, but may be referred by the Speaker at a later time. The rule provides that the Speaker may appoint members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2 of the resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I. The rule provides that each day during the period addressed by section 2 of the resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

The rule provides a closed rule for H. Res. 115. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the resolution. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read. The rule provides one motion to recommit without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representative Nugent.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2013

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

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, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

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, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Richard Cordray, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and Mary Jo White, of New York, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine bipartisan solutions for housing finance reform, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance and Investment, to hold hearings to examine streamlining regulation, improving consumer protection and increasing competition in insurance markets, 3 p.m., SD–538.

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, 10:30 a.m., SR–253.

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", 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the President's 2013 trade agenda, 10:30 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs, to hold hearings to examine Syria's humanitarian crisis, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine keeping savings in the retirement system, 2:30 p.m., 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, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

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, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, hearing on Department of Energy, Environmental Management, 10 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing on Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request for the U.S. House of Representatives Officers, 9:30 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing on General Services Administration Oversight, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, hearing on Top Management Challenges at the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education: Perspective from the Inspector Generals, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science, and Related Agencies, hearing on National Science Foundation Budget; and Youth Violence Research, 10 a.m., H–309 Capitol.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operation, and Related Programs, hearing for public and outside witnesses, 12:30 p.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, hearing on Indian Health Oversight, 1:30 p.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing on Quality of Life in the Military, 2 p.m., H–140 Capitol.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science, and Related Agencies, hearing on Federal Bureau of Investigation Budget, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing on Equipping, Modernizing, and Sustaining the National Guard and Reserve Components as an Operational Force in a time of Budget Uncertainty, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on the U.S. Nuclear Deterrent: What Are the Requirements for A Strong Deterrent in an Era of Defense Sequester?, 3:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled "American Energy Security and Innovation: The Role of Regulators and Grid Operators in Meeting Natural Gas and Electric Coordination Challenges", 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled ''Health Information Technologies: Harnessing Wireless Innovation'', 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Sustainable Housing Finance: An Update from the Federal Housing Finance Agency on the GSE Conservatorships'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa; and Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, joint subcommittee hearing entitled ''After the Withdrawal: The Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan'' (Part I), 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, hearing entitled ''Homeland Security Grants: Measuring Our Investments'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, hearing entitled ''DHS Information Technology: How Effectively Has DHS Harnessed IT to Secure Our Borders and Uphold Immigration Laws?'', 2 p.m., 311 Cannon

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigation, hearing entitled ''The Electronic Communications Privacy Act, Part 1'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Release of Criminal Detainees by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement: Policy or Politics?'', 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environment Regulations, hearing on H.R. 1126, to facilitate the completion of an appropriate national memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs, hearing entitled ''Authorization, standards, and procedures for whether, how, and when Indian tribes should be newly recognized by the federal government: Perspective of the Department of the Interior'', 11 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee, hearing entitled ''DOD and DHS: Implementing Agency Watchdogs' Recommendations Could Save Taxpayers Billions'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation and Regulatory Affairs and the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and the Census joint subcommittee hearing entitled, ''Sequestration Oversight: Understanding the Administration's Decisions on Spending Cuts and Furloughs'', 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements entitled ''The Department of Energy's Strategy for Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas'', 3 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Threats from Space: A Review of U.S. Government Efforts to Track and Mitigate Asteroids and Meteors, Part 1'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce; and Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, joint subcommittee hearing entitled ''Consistently Inconsistent: Challenges for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses'' 2 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Investigations and the Small Business Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce, hearing entitled ''Consistently Inconsistent: Challenges for Service-Owned Small Businesses'', 2 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Tax Reform and Tax Provisions Affecting State and Local Governments'', 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

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, 3 p.m., SVC–210.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 19 through March 22, 2013

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 933, Department of Defense, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Armed Services: March 19, 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, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

March 19, 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, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: March 19, business meeting to consider the nominations of Richard Cordray, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and Mary Jo White, of New York, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine bipartisan solutions for housing finance reform, 10 a.m., SD–538.

March 19, Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance and Investment, to hold hearings to examine streamlining regulation, improving consumer protection and increasing competition in insurance markets, 3 p.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: March 19, Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard, to hold hearings to examine developments and opportunities in United States fisheries management, 10:30 a.m., SR–253.

March 20, Subcommittee on Science and Space, to hold hearings to examine assessing the risks, impacts, and solutions for space threats, 10 a.m., SR–253.

March 20, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine aviation safety, focusing on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) progress on key safety initiatives, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: March 19, 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'', 10 a.m., SD–366.

March 21, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nomination of Sarah Jewell, of Washington, to be Secretary of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: March 20, business meeting to consider S. 601, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: March 19, to hold hearings to examine the President's 2013 trade agenda, 10:30 a.m., SD–215.

March 20, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine reforming the delivery system, focusing on the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: March 19, Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs, to hold hearings to examine Syria's humanitarian crisis, 10 a.m., SD–419.

March 20, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine counterterrorism policies and priorities, focusing on addressing the evolving threat, 2:15 p.m., SD–419.

March 21, Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, to hold hearings to examine Asia, focusing on democracy, good governance and human rights, 10:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: March 19, to hold hearings to examine keeping savings in the retirement system, 2:30 p.m., SD–430.

March 20, Full Committee, 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), 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: March 20, to hold hearings to examine Hurricane Sandy, focusing on getting the recovery right and the value of mitigation, 10 a.m., SD–342.

March 21, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Homeland Security at 10 years, focusing on a progress report on management, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: March 19, 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, 10 a.m., SD–226.

March 19, Full Committee, 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, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

March 20, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the future of drones in America, focusing on law enforcement and privacy considerations, 10:30 a.m., SD–226.

March 20, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine building an immigration system worthy of American values, 2 p.m., SD–226.

March 21, Full Committee, business meeting to consider 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 Veterans' Affairs: March 20, to hold hearings to examine Veterans Affairs mental health care, focusing on ensuring timely access to high-quality care, 10 a.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: March 19, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

March 21, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, March 20, Full Committee, hearing on the following measures: H.R. 634, the ''Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act of 2013''; H.R. 677, the ''Inter-Affiliate Swap Clarification Act''; H.R. 742, the ''Swap Data Repository and Clearinghouse Indemnification Correction Act of 2013''; H.R. 992, the ''Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act''; H.R. 1003, to improve consideration by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission of the costs and benefits of its regulations and orders; H.R. 1038, the ''Public Power Risk Management Act of 2013''; and legislation regarding the ''Swap Jurisdiction Certainty Act,'' 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, March 19, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, hearing on Department of Energy, Environmental Management, 10 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

March 19, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing on Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request for the U.S. House of Representatives Officers, 9:30 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

March 19, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing on General Services Administration Oversight, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 19, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, hearing on Top Management Challenges at the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education: Perspective from the Inspectors General, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

March 19, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science, and Related Agencies, hearing on National Science Foundation Budget; and Youth Violence Research, 10 a.m., H–309 Capitol.

March 19, Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operation, and Related Programs, hearing for public and outside witnesses, 12:30 p.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

March 19, Subcommittee on Interior, hearing on Indian Health Oversight, 1:30 p.m., B–308 Rayburn.

March 19, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing on Quality of Life in the Military, 2 p.m., H–140 Capitol.

March 19, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science, and Related Agencies, hearing on Federal Bureau of Investigation Budget, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, hearing on Children's Mental Health, Oversight, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing on National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Oversight, 10 a.m., H–140 Capitol.

March 20, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing on Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure, 10 a.m., H–405 Capitol. This is a closed hearing.

March 20, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, hearing on Major Construction Projects of the Department of Energy Oversight, 10 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing on Judiciary Oversight, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, hearing on Education: Perspective from the Inspectors General, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Agriculture, hearing on Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science, and Related Agencies, hearing on National Aeronautics and Space Administration Budget, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science, and Related Agencies, hearing for Members of Congress and outside witnesses, 9:30 a.m., H–309 Capitol.

March 21, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, hearing on Federal Transit Administration Oversight, 10 a.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies, hearing on USDA Inspector General Oversight, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, March 19, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing on Equipping, Modernizing, and Sustaining the National Guard and Reserve Components as an Operational Force in a time of Budget Uncertainty, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 19, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on the U.S. Nuclear Deterrent: What Are the Requirements for A Strong Deterrent in an Era of Defense Sequester?, 3:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

March 20, Full Committee, hearing on the Posture of the U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Southern Command, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing on an Update on Military Suicide Prevention, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, March 20, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1120, the ''Preventing Greater Uncertainly in Labor-Management Relations Act'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, March 19, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled ''American Energy Security and Innovation: The Role of Regulators and Grid Operators in Meeting Natural Gas and Electric Coordination Challenges'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

March 19, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled ''Health Information Technologies: Harnessing Wireless Innovation'', 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Health Information Technologies: How Innovation Benefits Patients'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing on ''Our Nation of Builders: The Strength of Steel'', 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Health Information Technologies: Administration Perspectives on Innovation and Regulation'', 9 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, March 19, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Sustainable Housing Finance: An Update from the Federal Housing Finance Agency on the GSE Conservatorships'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled ''State of Community Banking: Is the Current Regulatory Environment Adversely Affecting Community Financial Institutions?'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, March 19, Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa; and Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, joint subcommittee hearing entitled ''After the Withdrawal: The Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan'' (Part I), 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Crisis in Syria: The U.S. Response'', 9:45 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, hearing on ''Hezbollah's Strategic Shift: A Global Terrorist Threat'', 1:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, hearing entitled ''Cyber Attacks: An

Unprecedented Threat to U.S. National Security'' 9 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, March 19, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, hearing entitled ''Homeland Security Grants: Measuring Our Investments'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

March 19, Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, hearing entitled ''DHS Information Technology: How Effectively Has DHS Harnessed IT to Secure Our Borders and Uphold Immigration Laws?'', 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

March 20, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, hearing entitled ''Measuring Outcomes to Understand the State of Border Security'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

March 20, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technology, hearing entitled ''Cyber Threats from China, Russia and Iran: Protecting American Critical Infrastructure'', 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, March 19, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigation, hearing entitled ''The Electronic Communications Privacy Act, Part 1'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

March 19, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Release of Criminal Detainees by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement: Policy or Politics?'', 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, markup on H.R. 367, the ''Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2013''; and H.R. 982, the ''Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency (FACT) Act of 2012'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet, hearing entitled ''The Register's Call for Updates to U.S. Copyright Law'', 3:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, March 19, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environment Regulations, hearing on H.R. 1126, to facilitate the completion of an appropriate national memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

March 19, Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs, hearing entitled ''Authorization, standards, and procedures for whether, how, and when Indian tribes should be newly recognized by the federal government: Perspective of the Department of the Interior'', 11 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

March 20, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 527, the ''Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act''; H.R. 254, the ''Bonneville Unit Clean Hydropower Facilitation Act''; H.R. 291, the ''Black Hills Cemetery Act''; H.R. 507, the ''Pascua Yaqui Tribe Trust Land Act; H.R. 588, the ''Vietnam Veterans Donor Acknowledgment Act of 2013''; H.R. 678, the ''Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act''; 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; H.R. 1033, the ''American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act of 2013''; and H.R. 1159, the ''Cabin Fee Act of 2013'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

March 21, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, hearing on H.R. 910, the ''Sikes Act Reauthorization Act of 2013''; and H.R. 1080, to amend the Sikes Act to promote the use of cooperative agreements under such an Act for land management related to Department of Defense readiness activities and to amend title 10, United States Code, to facilitate inter-agency cooperation in conservation programs to avoid or reduce adverse impacts on military readiness activities, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

March 21, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled ''America's Mineral Resources: Creating Mining and Manufacturing Jobs and Securing America''; H.R. 1063, the ''National Strategic and Critical Minerals Policy Act of 2013''; H.R. 687, the ''Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2013''; H.R. 697, the ''Three Kids Mine Remediation and Reclamation Act''; H.R. 761, the ''Critical and Strategic Minerals Production Act''; H.R. 767, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to modify the Pilot Project offices of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project; H.R. 957, the ''American Soda Ash Competitiveness Act''; and H.R. 981, the ''Resource Assessment of Rare Earths Act of 2013'', 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, March 19, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''DOD and DHS: Implementing Agency Watchdogs' Recommendations Could Save Taxpayers Billions'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

March 19, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation and Regulatory Affairs and the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and the Census joint subcommittee hearing entitled, ''Sequestration Oversight: Understanding the Administration's Decisions on Spending Cuts and Furloughs'', 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

March 19, Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements entitled ''The Department of Energy's Strategy for Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas'', 3 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

March 20, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the following: legislation concerning the ''Federal Information Technology Acquisition and Reform Act''; H.R. 1211, the ''FOIA Oversight and Implementation Act of 2013''; H.R. 1163, the ''Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2013''; H.R. 1162, the ''Government Accountability Office Improvement Act''; legislation concerning Presidential and Federal records; H.R. 328, the ''Excess Federal Building and Property Disposal Act of 2013''; H.R. 1133, the ''Presidential Library Donation Reform Act''; H.R. 1104, the ''Federal Advisory Committee Reform Act''; H.R. 249, the ''Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act of 2013''; H.R. 882, the ''Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2013''; H.R. 313, the ''Government Spending Accountability Act of 2013''; and legislation concerning the ''DC CFO Act'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, March 19, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Threats from Space: A

Review of U.S. Government Efforts to Track and Mitigate Asteroids and Meteors, Part 1'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled ''Improving EPA's Scientific Advisory Processes'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Technology, hearing entitled ''Examining the Effectiveness of NIST Laboratories'', 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, March 19, Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce; and Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, joint subcommittee hearing entitled ''Consistently Inconsistent: Challenges for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses'' 2 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

March 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Entrepreneurial Assistance: Examining Inefficiencies and Duplication Across Federal Programs'', 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on Health and Technology, hearing entitled, ''Protecting Small Businesses Against Emerging and Complex Cyber-Attacks,'' 10 a.m. 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, March 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Focusing on People: A Review of VA's Plans for Employee Training, Accountability, and Workload Management to Improve Disability Claims Processing'', 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, March 19, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Tax Reform and Tax Provisions Affecting State and Local Governments'', 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

March 20, Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing entitled ''Challenges of Achieving Fair and Consistent Disability Decisions'', 10 a.m., B–318 Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures, hearing entitled ''Financial Products Tax Reform'', 1:15 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, March 21, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Ongoing Intelligence Activities'', 9 a.m., HVC–304. This is a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: March 19, 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, 3 p.m., SVC–210.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 19

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 933, Department of Defense, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 19

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Begin consideration of H. Con. Res. 25—Establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023 (Subject to a Rule).

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