United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2013 No. 153

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 30, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KEVIN CRAMER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

MILITARY BUDGET WOES

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day in America when Army Secretary John McHugh says that, in today's fiscal environment, the best case scenario for our military's budget is treacherous. Army Chief of Staff Ray Odierno said budget cuts hamper the military's ability to train its own troops.

While there is waste and overlap in every Federal agency—the Pentagon's budget not excluded—there is much to be said for Congress' doing its primary job of governing: passing a budget. For the last 4 years, we have seen the constraints that continuing resolution after continuing resolution have placed on our military.

Earlier this year, we saw the rigid requirements that harmed the Department of Defense when President Obama's sequester took place. Before these cuts, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said our defense program was already underfunded by 5 percent with modernization underfunded by 10 percent. Thankfully, Congress took quick action that allowed the DOD to operate under a budget in order to meet all of their fiscal requirements and have more flexibility as they absorbed the across-the-board sequester cuts.

General Odierno revealed this week that just two Army brigades are combat-ready and that training has come to a halt. This is a terrifying reality given that only 2 months ago President Obama addressed Congress and the public, asking for support for a military attack on Syria. We absolutely cannot send our troops who are not trained, not equipped, and not prepared into harm's way. Our military readiness should never, ever be threatened like this. As the world's superpower, our Armed Forces must be ready to deploy thousands of troops should the need arise.

As the military continues finding ways to operate under current spending levels, it is also downsizing in Afghanistan and is preparing for future programs with no certainty of any financial stability. Our Nation has serious financial problems. Our deficit is growing; our spending is increasing; and it seems that, in nearly every budget battle, our military is thrown in as a bargaining chip. This is not the American way, and it must become a thing of the past. Other government agencies have bloated budgets with wasteful, overlapping programs, fraudulent spending, and blatant abuse of taxpayer dollars. All the while, our military budget is being stripped to its bare bones.

The last time I checked, Mr. Speaker, we were still a Nation at war. Now is not the time to gut essential programs for our warriors and their families. We owe it to our military to have them operate under regular order, pass and conference our appropriations bills so our fighters can continue to be the best and the most prepared in the world.

Texas' 25th District is home to Fort Hood, the Army's premier installation to train and deploy heavy forces, and it is one of the largest military installations in the world. Fort Hood ranks highest in terms of future capability and support, and it can sustain more than 50,000 soldiers and their families.

I urge my colleagues in Congress to honor our commitment to these troops and to put an end to the financial uncertainty in the military. Let's simply do just the right thing.

May God bless our troops. May God bless America.

And always in God we trust.

BUDGET CONFEREES

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, budget conferees are now meeting—or will be meeting shortly—to negotiate a budget for the remainder of this fiscal year, and they have a real opportunity to look beyond that mission and to lay the groundwork for a long-term solution to our deficits that is balanced and restores certainty to our economy.

What we do not need are more gimmicks and partisan games like we will have today, frankly. We are going to have a vote on the resolution which is disapproving of the raising of the debt limit. Everybody knows that is not a real vote, and almost everybody on this

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floor knows that, if we pursued that policy, it would be damaging to America, to the military, as was just brought up, and to our Nation. Every Republican leader has said that not increasing the debt limit is an alternative that ought to be pursued. Yet, we have this vote. That resolution has already been rejected by the Senate, and it stands no chance of surviving a Presidential veto. It is, frankly, simply political cover and a waste of our time.

The keys to any budget solution, Mr. Speaker, must be compromise and a seriousness of purpose. Americans want to see that seriousness, and they want to see much, much, much less of the political gamesmanship, some of which we will practice today, unfortunately.

Republicans and Democrats, I believe, in looking beyond a small fix and toward negotiating a long-term solution, will find that we actually agree on many things. We agree that gradual reforms are better than sudden ones. We agree that sequestration is not a sensible approach to achieving deficit savings.

Let me say as an aside: no matter how many times it is said on this floor that the sequester is President Obama's policy, it will not make it fact. It is dead, flat wrong.

The sequester is incorporated in the Republican budget that was passed in this House just some months ago. No Democrat voted for that budget, because they believed the sequester—as the previous speaker said, but he voted for the budget which implemented the sequester—is harming our national security and harming our domestic security and harming our economy and harming the growth of jobs.

In fact, sequestration—which I point out to people starts with ''s,'' which stands for ''stupid''—is a terrible approach that was never meant to come into practice. Many of us all agree that, in replacing the sequester, we will need to find savings through revenue policies and reforms to mandatory spending that could pay dividends for the budget and the economy in the future.

The key to compromise, of course, is balance. Every American understands that. Every husband, every wife, every parent understands that compromise is essential within a family, within a business, within a community, and, yes, within a country. The key to compromise is balance, which is what both the Domenici-Rivlin and Bowles-Simpson bipartisan commissions embraced as a framework for agreement.

A balanced compromise is critical because Democrats and Republicans are going to have to work together to pass any agreement through both Chambers and have it signed into law. Democrats are ready to make the tough decisions necessary to set our fiscal house in order, but we have made it clear that we will not allow the most vulnerable Americans to carry the burden of deficit reduction, and it is not necessary that they do so.

Our goal remains a balanced approach to deficit reduction and an agreement that restores certainty to our economy. My Republican colleagues and friends said much about restoring certainty, particularly in the 2010 election. Unfortunately, for our economy, for our businesses, for our people, we have done anything but restore certainty. In fact, we have governed by crisis—30 days, 90 days, 180 days, a year. Arbitrary deadlines were put in place, which brought the country to the brink of default and to the brink of closing down government. In fact, of course, just recently, we did, in fact, shut down the government.

Now, my Republican colleagues say we wanted that to happen on our side of the aisle. Ironically, 198 Democrats voted to open the government. That is to say, every Democrat who was voting on this floor voted to open government. Of my colleagues who say they didn't want to shut down government, 144 of them voted to keep the government shut down, Mr. Speaker, and 87 of them voted to open up the government.

So the American public is not fooled as to who wanted to shut down government, but it was a bad policy, and it led to uncertainty in our economy. Reaching an agreement only for this fiscal year, in addition, will mean more left to do, more of sequester left to replace, and more confidence to instill.

I hope the conferees will take a broader view and will send us a budget worthy of this Nation, worthy of the Nation it will serve—one that reflects our priorities to grow our economy, creates jobs, gives opportunity to our people, ensures that our national security is protected and that our Nation's long-term competitiveness is enhanced.

Mr. Speaker, that is what we ought to do. That is what the American people expect us to do. That is what the American people hope we will do. Let's warrant the faith and confidence of the American people by keeping faith with them and with our country.

LOWER LEVEL OPERATIVES TO BLAME

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, is the administration aware of the actions that are taking place in the administration?

A little history:

Fast and Furious:

> Everyone knows the President did not know about this tactic until he heard about it through the news media.

A quote from White House Press Secretary Jay Carney.

So lower level operatives blamed. No accountability.

Benghazi: 5 days after the attack, the administration still blamed it on a video. We learned later that the White House was told that this was a terrorist attack within 3 days of the attack.

So when did the President find out this was a terrorist attack?

In any event, no accountability. Video blamed. No one in the administration was held accountable, and the killers have not been brought to justice.

The Department of Justice's wiretapping of the Associated Press:

> Other than press reports, we have no knowledge of any attempt by the Justice Department to seek phone records of the Associated Press.

Once again, this was from White House Press Secretary Jay Carney.

Lower level operatives blamed. No accountability.

The IRS scandal: The investigation was not a matter that should be conveyed to the President.

That was Jay Carney once again.

Lower level operatives blamed. No accountability.

ObamaCare Web site disaster: Secretary Sebelius claims the President was not aware of the Web site problems until the Web site was launched.

Once again, lower level operatives blamed. No accountability.

NSA spying on foreign leaders? U.S. officials claimed the President did not know about this. The President refuses to say whether he knew or not.

But anyway, lower level operatives officially blamed.

NSA spying on Americans: The President claims he did not know the extent of the spying on Americans.

Lower level operatives blamed. No accountability.

Mr. Speaker, exactly who is running the country—lower level operatives? Has the government gone wild? Is there a shadow government operating without the knowledge of the White House? Is the President out of tune with what is taking place in his own administration or is he aware of those actions?

If the President were unaware of all of this, the White House needs to hold people accountable, to hold these lower level operatives accountable for their actions—their improper actions, their bungling, their incompetence. The White House needs to fix this out-of-control government immediately.

The White House needs to take responsibility for the actions of his administration and quit blaming others and lower level operatives. That is the White House's responsibility. After all, to quote the constitutional law professor, ''The buck stops with me.''

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1015

SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA PROGRAM

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last night, I was at National Airport awaiting Delta Flight 3395, 9:52 p.m.

Shortly after 10 p.m., Janis Shenwari, his wife, and two small children emerged to be greeted by Captain

Matt Zeller. They had been kept under wraps as they made their way from Afghanistan to the United States. There was just one television camera there to record this happy ending as Captain Zeller wrapped Janis in a big bear hug.

It was a happy ending to a story with many ups and downs, all too familiar for those of us who had been working with the Special Immigrant Visa program to secure the flight to safety from Iraq and Afghanistan for those foreign nationals who worked with Americans as drivers, as interpreters, as guides. Janis was an interpreter who saved the life of Captain Matt Zeller in a firefight.

He, for 5 years, has been stuck in sort of a bureaucratic limbo as Captain Zeller dedicated his time and energy to secure the release of a man he referred to as his brother. It happened—despite the fact that there was a false start where Janis had been given the visa, sold his possessions, prepared his family, only to have it revoked at the last minute—we think because the Taliban learned of this and leaked false information that he was, in fact, a collaborator.

His arrival to safety in the United States was testimony to a little bipartisan cooperation—some people in the much maligned faceless bureaucracy who went the extra mile, who administered a couple of polygraph tests to him and, within 3 hours after the end of the government shutdown, reissued the visa and sent Janis and his family on their way to safety. They woke up this morning in their own little apartment in Arlington to a new life, but thousands who risked their lives for Americans are still held hostage, at risk themselves in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Earlier this month, in the midst of all the chaos surrounding the government shutdown and the harsh rhetoric on the floor, we were able to keep alive the visa program for Iraqis. We brought it back to life after it expired September 30. I would hope the same show of bipartisan support and bureaucratic activity, cooperation, and tenacity necessary to protect the visa program, and to make it work in the case of Janis, could be brought to bear to make sure that this program is extended for several years to allow escape to safety for other Iraqis in Afghanistan; that we can smooth the working of the agencies to expedite the granting of these visas from a trickle of a few dozen to a steady stream for the thousands whose lives are at risk because they helped Americans and they put their trust in us.

I think, as important as the lives of these people and their families are, and keeping our word, there is also a larger lesson, illustrating what can happen if we here in Congress are willing to work together. Yesterday, former House Minority Leader Bob Michel harkened back to an earlier era of extraordinary cooperation and civility that he enjoyed with Speaker Tom Foley.

Last night at the airport, I saw an example in this one family alive and well and safe of that same civility and cooperation. Who knows where that example might lead us next if we are willing to follow it?

REMEMBERING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

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

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, Monday, November 11, will be Veterans Day. Veterans Day is very, very special to all Americans, but more so to me.

I am a veteran. Part of the reason I ran for Congress was I wanted to talk about veterans' issues. I was concerned about the VA. I was concerned about the claims that have gone so long. I was concerned about, particularly, the Vietnam veterans that have their claims in a stack that haven't been addressed and yet the clock is ticking. They are dying. In 5 years, some insurance person can probably tell you how many of those Vietnam veterans are going to be dead.

We have an obligation in this House as Americans to look after those that gave so much for our country, those that gave their lives, people in this House here that gave their limbs, they have been wounded, still carry shrapnel in their body, still have a cloth and have NyQuil and wake up with a nightmare dreaming about a firefight in a way, or the DMZ, or what have you. The memories never go away.

We have an obligation to all Americans because, quite frankly, we are going to have another war in the future—I hope it is not in my lifetime—but there is always going to be a conflict, and we are going to call upon the military to do their job, and they will do their job. It is our responsibility to make sure we take care of those men and women that have given so much for their country.

Many, many years ago, in a place far, far away, I was a platoon commander. I had a lot of marines, great troops. Many of them never came back. Lance Corporal Borey, Lance Corporal Doran—I can go on and on. I am not here to impress you with my memory because it is no great feat. It is something when you were there with those people and you saw what happened; you realize the significance of Veterans Day and how we can never forget those people that gave so much.

So other than that day that is coming up very, very shortly, if you see a veteran, if you see somebody in the military, just say to them, thank you, because you care and you also remember.

REMEMBERING SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, a week ago Monday, October 21, was the 1-year anniversary of the death of my friend, Senator George McGovern of South Dakota.

We shared the same last name, but we weren't related. I interned for him when I was in college and he was in the United States Senate. I embraced his liberalism. I admired his service to our country in World War II, where he served as a bomber pilot, and I respected very much his politics, the way he did politics, understanding the importance of reaching across the aisle, of working to build coalitions to solve big problems. In particular, I admired the work that he did to end hunger, working with people like Senator Bob Dole, a Republican from Kansas. He even worked with President Richard Nixon, who defeated him in the 1972 election, winning 49 States over Senator McGovern.

President Nixon held the first and only White House conference on food and nutrition. That conference helped spur a whole bunch of legislative activity aimed at improving nutrition for everybody in this country and aimed at ending hunger, which was a problem. George McGovern and Bob Dole, and even Richard Nixon, believed that in the richest country in the history of the world nobody ought to go hunger. I think of Senator McGovern often, especially now when I see what is happening in this Congress.

On Friday, November 1, a couple of days from now, the moneys that were put into the SNAP program, formerly known as food stamps, to help provide additional resources for people to buy food in this country, those reinvestment moneys will come to an end. There will be a $5 billion cut in the SNAP program on Friday. Every single beneficiary will see a reduction in their food benefit. That includes 22 million kids, 9 million elderly people and disabled, and it includes 900,000 veterans.

We say we want to support our veterans, but many of them have come back and found it difficult to find a job or found it difficult to find a job that pays a living wage, and they rely on the SNAP program so they can put food on the table for their families. Yet, on Friday, 900,000 veterans who are on the SNAP program will see a reduction in their benefit. A family of three will see a reduction of about $30 per month in their benefit. That is about 16 meals a month for a family of three.

That is an awful thing that is about to happen, but what is more awful is what is coming down the road. This House of Representatives passed a farm bill that includes, on top of this $5 billion cut, an additional $40 billion in cuts in the SNAP program. That would mean 3.8 million people currently receiving the benefit will be thrown off the program.

Hundreds of thousands of children who rely on the free breakfast and lunch program will lose that benefit. I have been to many schools where I have seen kids staring off into space

because they haven't had anything to eat. You can't learn if you are hungry.

That $40 billion cut that this House of Representatives voted for would throw 170,000 veterans off the program entirely.

Today, we are going to have the first meeting of the conference committee on the farm bill. I am privileged enough to be one of the conferees. I am going to tell my colleagues that I want very much for there to be a farm bill. I represent a lot of agriculture in Massachusetts. My farmers want a farm bill. Farmers all across the country want a farm bill. We need a farm bill for this country. I am willing to be flexible and I am willing to compromise and I am willing to accept things that maybe I don't like entirely because that is the way you compromise.

What I am not willing to do, and what every Member of this House should not be willing to do, is to support a farm bill that makes hunger worse in this country. As we speak, there are 50 million Americans who are hungry—50 million; 17 million are kids. We all should be ashamed.

Who is to blame for this? We all share the blame because hunger is a political condition. We can solve this. We know what to do. We just don't have the political will. We kind of turn a blind eye to the problem of hunger in America.

It is a problem, by the way, that not only costs dearly in terms of human suffering, but it costs us all in terms of kids who can't learn in school and avoidable health care costs.

We need a farm bill, Mr. Speaker, but let the price of that farm bill not be to increase hunger in America. Let's remember George McGovern, let's remember Bob Dole, let's remember people who understood the importance of combating hunger in America.

SUGAR VALLEY AIRPORT'S SPIRIT OF AVIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the poem ''Impressions of a Pilot'' opens with the line: ''Flight is freedom in its purest form.''

How perfectly that captures the allure of sky and space for so many who dreamed to conquer that frontier. Freedom and flight are inextricably linked.

This past Saturday, many young North Carolinians got to experience that freedom in a brand new way at Davie County Sugar Valley Airport. What a joy it was to be there.

A dedicated team of volunteers at the airport hosted ''The Spirit of Aviation: The Next Generation'' to introduce local students to the many career and recreational opportunities available to them through aviation.

Children and teens from local counties spent the day exploring aircraft, trying their hand at flight simulators, listening to aviation innovators, and even taking flight themselves in ''young eagle'' flight expeditions.

□ 1030

Their faces were alight with excitement as they experimented with the physics of flight and felt the contagious enthusiasm of skilled aviators who, after years, still find freedom in the blue's high tide.

The Spirit of Aviation Day at Sugar Valley revealed to young people new career possibilities for their lives, and didn't just stoke the dream of aviation, but presented a step-by-step path students might take to see aviation dreams become a reality.

What stands out to me more than anything else is that this day of discovery and imagination was made possible by a community independently committed to encouraging the next generation of aerial pioneers—whether pilots, mechanics, or engineers.

Yes, the spirt of volunteerism and community service is alive and well in North Carolina. In fact, it is thriving; and every time I am home visiting nonprofits and meeting the people who make up their various support networks, I am proud of the Tar Heel State. The initiative and benevolent entrepreneurialism displayed by Carolinians contributes new chapters often to the collective record of American service.

The accomplishment of volunteers at the Sugar Valley Airport is just one example.

In 2010, a group of North Carolinians came together through Winston-Salem's nonprofit Human Service Alliance and bought the Sugar Valley Airport. Their hope was that the airport would facilitate the promotion of aviation, both as a sport and career field ripe with competitive jobs.

In 3 short years, with a dedicated team of volunteers supplying 100 percent of the vision, manpower, support, and direction, the airport has come to serve as a hub for flight enthusiasts and learning center for those considering the pursuit of pilot or mechanic work. In any given week, the airport may host Boy Scouts, civil air patrol cadets, experimental aviation enthusiasts, leading women pilots, and aviation ground school students.

North Carolinians take great pride in our ''first in flight'' distinction. It was on our Outer Banks that Wilbur and Orville Wright pushed the limits of gravity and completed history's first recorded controlled powered airplane flights.

With the commitment of the team at the Sugar Valley Airport, I can confidently say that our State, the home of Kitty Hawk, is intent on being the home of great aviators and pioneering aviation contributions for years to come.

Guidance and encouragement from Sugar Valley's seasoned pilots, mechanics, and generous volunteers will continue to open a new world of opportunity to children in North Carolina.

In this world above the clouds, our children are free to dream, free to soar, and free to conquer the wild blue yonder and much, much more.

THANK YOU, EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, last week the Export-Import Bank transferred to the United States Treasury more than $1 billion. The Export-Import Bank does not draw on the U.S. Treasury; it contributes to it. The Export-Import Bank has never drawn on the U.S. Treasury.

Instead, the Export-Import Bank does the following: it creates jobs. By independent assessment, more than 255,000 jobs are created by the bank, jobs that otherwise would not exist. The Export-Import Bank helps small businesses. Indeed, 87 percent of all transactions of the bank directly benefit small businesses.

But I ask you not to take my word for it. I would invite each and every Member of the House to go to the Web site and check the data about the number of transactions in their State and in their congressional district, and how that has helped to grow the economy.

The fact of the matter is that every single developed or developing nation in the world has some form of export assistance, be it direct loan guarantee or direct loans. And theirs, by the way, are proportionally larger as a percent of GDP on average than ours. If we were to discontinue it, it would be the equivalent of unilaterally disarming in an increasingly competitive global economy.

So, one more time: last week, the Export-Import Bank reduced our Nation's deficit by more than $1 billion. The Export-Import Bank creates jobs. It helps small businesses. The Export-Import Bank makes America stronger.

Thank you, Export-Import Bank.

STOP BUREAUCRACY FROM CRUSHING OUR OPPORTUNITIES

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, first, I appreciate being recognized for these 5 minutes, although it is always dangerous when a Member starts walking towards the microphone and they are doing it because something hit their desk and it annoyed them.

We have been working on something in our office to try to explain an intense frustration I have, and that is Washington and its embracing of delusional math. Look, I have only been here 3 years, and I have come to the conclusion that the single biggest problem I see is not the right-left continuum, but those who own calculators

and those who don't; those who live in a world where math actually has a value. And this will make sense, hopefully, in a moment.

I am right now holding a CBO report, the ''2013 Long-Term Budget Outlook.'' Yet I have not heard someone else come to this microphone, but there is just the beginning of a paragraph that should terrify you:

> Federal debt as a percentage of GDP in 2038 under the extended baseline is projected to be about twice as large as the amount estimated in last year's report.

Do you understand what this report is saying? That because of the policies from this administration, the policies coming out of our bureaucracies and the things we need to actually deal with in this House, the numbers are almost twice as bad as they were last year. That is the speed we are going to hit 100 percent of debt to GDP. And the thing you need to understand is that it is worse than in the long-term budget outlook forecast because there are delusions built into that, because we here as a body instruct the Congressional Budget Office saying, Follow current law; that's what you need to budget off of.

How many of us here come January when the SGR is up, and many of you will know it as ''doc fix,'' are going to hold the numbers, hold the current law with the understanding at the end of about a dozen years, doctors who see Medicare patients are going to be paid 73 percent less. So we will walk onto the floor here probably in December or January and fix the SGR so doctors are compensated so they continue to see their Medicare patients, and we blow up the numbers in the long-term budget forecast, and we do that on lots of things. So when you actually do the adjustment for math reality, policy reality, the long-term budget numbers are much, much worse than we talk about around here.

And now to my point.

A year and a half ago, we actually did something bipartisan. We did something called the JOBS Act. In the scale of things, it was small; but there were some neat things in there. One of the things I fixated on was something called ''crowdfunding,'' an opportunity to help the truly little entrepreneur. This was only up to $1 million, and it was using this thing called the Internet to be able to raise money so if you are the cupcake shop or the mechanic shop, or you have some idea where you can begin getting some angel investment and get going, well the SEC took a year and a half to do what was supposed to be a simple rule set, so they are a year late.

And here is what they brought us: this is the law, these handful of pages, six, seven pages is the crowdfunding portion of the JOBS Act. Here is the 550-page proposed rule-set.

So if we are in a world where we have crushing debt screaming towards us, and some of that is coming now because we are being told that the new normal is a 2 percent GDP growth, we need to be doing things that accelerate that economic growth, or we are in incredible trouble.

So as the House, bipartisan, we passed the JOBS Act, which is one of the little increments that is supposed to reach out and help grow the economy, and then the bureaucracy hands us crushing rules that make it almost impossible to use.

So for whoever is listening, watching, caring about things like the crowdfunding rules that are before the SEC, you have 90 days from now. Please go online, make comments, help them understand that this is supposed to be helping the next generation of small entrepreneurs in this country, and don't make it 550 pages of bureaucratic legalese. It can be simpler. We can handle this. We can do great things in this country, but we can't do it if the bureaucracy continues to crush our opportunities.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we close out the month to recognize October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Even as Congress has struggled with the basic task of funding our Federal Government, we are mindful that we have pressing problems and important work to do to raise awareness and help women survive this deadly disease.

Over the last few decades, these public efforts have helped educate people and promote awareness about breast cancer, but we must remain vigilant in the fight because there is so much more to be done.

The statistics are sobering: one in eight women will get breast cancer in her lifetime. This disease strikes women—and some men—of all backgrounds, races, ethnicities, and ages. While all women are at risk, many still think it can't happen to them, especially young women. But I know all too well that it can. In 2007, when I was just 41 years old, I learned I had breast cancer.

While we have made significant advances on some fronts, recent studies show that more and more young women are being diagnosed with breast cancer, and metastasis rates are not going down.

I believe we have a responsibility as Members of Congress to take Breast Cancer Awareness Month one step further and turn awareness into action. We must take action to implement the Affordable Care Act and continue to ensure that every single person in this country has access to the information they need to make informed decisions about their health.

We must take action to ensure women get the preventative services and screenings they need, while understanding their risks and treatment options.

With this in mind, in 2009 I sponsored the Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act, or the EARLY Act. The EARLY Act focus on equipping young women with the tools they need to take charge of their health.

Currently, the Centers for Disease Control is developing evidence-based interventions and working with advocacy organizations on programs that provide support services for young breast cancer survivors and their families, as well as a national education and awareness campaign to help young women understand their risk and take charge of their health.

Even with the CDC's work under the EARLY Act, we must do more to assist those women who survive breast cancer, and I am developing new legislative efforts on this front. I am working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Young cancer survivors face very different life challenges than older survivors—from fertility preservation issues to the long-term health and neurocognitive effects of cancer treatments. With cancer care, one size does not fit all. The young face many more years as survivors and have unique challenges that arise that are not experienced by survivors who are diagnosed later in life.

There was good news from the Supreme Court earlier this year when they took some action to help improve our ability to detect, diagnose, and treat breast cancer. This past June, the Justices ruled unanimously that a company cannot patent naturally occurring genes. This decision paves the way for more companies to offer genetic tests for gene mutations that significantly increase the risk of developing diseases like breast or ovarian cancer. Thanks to this ruling, more women will have access to affordable testing and second-opinion testing about their risks and courses of treatment.

Like many others before me, when I was diagnosed with breast cancer and later identified as a BRAC2 gene mutation carrier, I had to make life-altering decisions without the benefit of a second opinion or even a second test. That will now be a thing of the past thanks to the Supreme Court decision.

Again, though, there is still so much more to be done. We must work to guarantee that insurers, including programs like Medicare, cover testing where appropriate and preventative surgery where necessary.

And there is still work left to be done to fully implement the Affordable Care Act. While implementation of any major change comes with great changes—and we have certainly had some of those—it also comes with great reward. For example, I am thrilled that this coming January, with the opening of the health insurance marketplaces, no woman will ever have to worry

again about being dropped from her health coverage when battling breast cancer.

□ 1045

Before the Affordable Care Act, too many Americans were just one diagnosis away from having to face cancer without affordable, quality coverage that could not be taken away.

A case in point is my friend Mary Ann Wasil of the Get in Touch Foundation. She wrote me a few weeks ago to say her life literally depends on the Affordable Care Act. Mary Ann is battling advanced breast cancer. She is currently on COBRA insurance. When that runs out, she would surely be uninsurable without the Affordable Care Act. Mary Ann's chemotherapy treatment for the month of July alone was $110,000. Simply put, without coverage she could not afford the treatment she needs. Her note to me said: ''This is real for me. It is life or death for me.''

This is why the Affordable Care Act is so important for breast cancer warriors like Mary Ann.

I have had so many women come up to me, Mr. Speaker, and confess that they haven't had a mammogram in years because before the Affordable Care Act, they could not afford the expensive copays and deductibles or feared the prohibitive costs of treatment. They were literally afraid to get a diagnosis because they were worried they couldn't afford treatment.

That worry is a thing of the past. Education and awareness is only half the battle. For breast cancer or any serious disease, access to affordable, quality health insurance is a necessity. It is not a privilege. It is a right for every American. Looking forward, we must work together to help women know their risks, discover cancer early, and access the best treatment possible.

As we continue to learn more and help more young women, let us commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness Month with a renewed dedication to support our mothers, sisters, daughters, and sister-friends. Together, let's eradicate breast cancer once and for all.

THE AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the American Hellenic Institute, known as AHI.

This year, AHI will be holding its 12th annual conference in my hometown of Miami. The conference provides an opportunity for the Greek American community to reflect on its role in American society and to advance and, indeed, strengthen U.S.-Greek relations.

This will also include an awards banquet in which two members of the Miami area will be recognized for their service to the south Florida community and for promoting Hellenic ideals and values. This year's recipients of the Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award are Gus Andy and John Haralambides.

John, who passed away, sadly, earlier this year, was the embodiment of all that AHI stands for. His legacy will forever live on through his deeds and through the school that he founded, the Archimedean Academy. I have had the privilege of being at that school, and I can account for its academic curriculum, which is simply outstanding.

I congratulate the American Hellenic Institute, Gus Andy, and the family and friends of John for this important and meaningful recognition.

IN RECOGNITION OF TONY ARGIZ

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and congratulate my good friend, Tony Argiz, who has been selected by the American Jewish Committee in south Florida to receive its 2013 National Human Relations Award.

Tony has been an active member of our south Florida community for many years, so this honor is well deserved. He continues to play a vital role in enhancing and promoting the important relationship between the United States and Israel.

This Human Relations Award is presented to leaders whose work within the community reflects the mission of the AJC, building bridges of understanding, and promoting freedom and democracy throughout the world. As Tony Argiz understands, in this dangerous time, we must stand together with our ally, the Democratic Jewish State of Israel, and continue to work together to preserve this oasis of freedom in a desert of oppression.

Congratulations to Tony Argiz and to the American Jewish Committee in south Florida.

PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, involved citizens help our communities on important issues in order to raise awareness on human trafficking and help put an end to domestic violence.

Domestic violence and human trafficking are widespread human rights violations that continue to plague our world, cutting across racial lines, ethnic lines, geographic borders. As a wife, mother, grandmother, and a female Member of Congress, I realize the profound responsibility that I have to work together with my congressional colleagues to pass legislation in a bipartisan manner that would speak to the very heart of each and every woman.

As long as young girls and women across the globe continue to struggle to break through the shame and the silence that surrounds domestic violence and sexual trafficking, we must continue to put these issues on every national and global agenda. This year, Congress reauthorized the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the Violence Against Women Act, two critical pieces of legislation to address the needs of these vulnerable members of our global society.

I recently cosponsored two important resolutions to raise awareness on the need to protect women from the horrible attacks that they face. I will soon introduce legislation to amend current U.S. law that unintentionally facilitates domestic violence by forcing the return of a child in international child abduction cases despite a recognized risk to the child or the parent.

But the reality is, Mr. Speaker, that government alone cannot combat these horrendous crimes against girls and women. We need your help. As a community, we have the obligation to fight these crimes and protect girls and women from domestic violence and human trafficking. Awareness is key in stopping these human rights abuses. These crimes are on the rise, but together we can make a difference. We must make a difference.

Be the difference today in your community.

THE HOMEOWNER FLOOD INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to discuss the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, a bipartisan bill to delay further implementation of flood insurance rate increases that took effect on October 1, 2013, under the National Flood Insurance Program.

Congress last year, on a bipartisan basis, passed the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. The measure included long overdue reforms to strengthen the financial solvency and administration efficiency of the National Flood Insurance Program. The rationale for the 2012 law was the need for the National Flood Insurance Program to more accurately reflect flood risk.

Historically, most low-risk States subsidize high-risk coastal States. Similarly, low-risk areas within States tended to subsidize those areas with higher risk, which were more prone to flooding.

The linchpin of the 2012 law was to use true actuarial rates in order to prevent very low-risk areas from subsidizing moderate- to high-risk areas.

The unintended consequence has been drastic premium increases for those plans that were traditionally subsidized by the National Flood Insurance Program. Under the 2012 law, Congress mandated that the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, complete an affordability study to further evaluate any unintended consequences as a result of the changes. This study was to be completed before the rate increases went into effect, which was crucial to understanding the full scope of the new risk model.

FEMA has failed to complete the affordability study that was required

under the law. Additionally, it remains a huge concern that FEMA does not have the data it needs to accurately determine risk under this new policy regime and is incapable of creating a new mapping system that truly reflects true actuarial rates.

While 80 percent of policyholders will not see increases as a result of the new policy, a small portion of properties are being hit with staggering increases. This is a serious concern for communities and individuals across the country, including many from the Fifth District of Pennsylvania, which I am proud to represent.

I joined yesterday with colleagues on both sides of the aisle as an original cosponsor of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, legislation to delay, for 2 years, the higher rates brought on by the 2012 law until there is an affordability study completed by FEMA. The bill also makes structural changes at FEMA to assure that there is an advocate for homeowners when flood maps are drawn or adjusted.

Mr. Speaker, improving the financial viability of the Nation's Flood Insurance Program while ensuring that the program protects those it was designed to support is something every Member of Congress should support. I encourage my colleagues to join in this commonsense effort to protect and improve our Nation's Flood Insurance Program by cosponsoring the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Once again, we come to ask wisdom, patience, peace, and understanding for the Members of this people's House.

On this day, we ask Your blessing on the men and women, citizens all, whose votes have populated this people's House. Each Member of this House has been given the sacred duty of representing them.

Today, we mourn the loss of former Congressman Ike Skelton, a true public servant and staunch supporter of our military. May he and his family find solace and peace at this time. Bring each of us, at last, to that place where our hearts will rest in You.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. LANKFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in 2009, President Obama made a promise his administration had no intention of keeping:

> If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor, period. If you like your health plan, you will be able to keep your health care plan, period. No one will take it away, no matter what.

Today's Washington Post bestows upon this moment of rhetorical splendor, and others like it, four Pinocchios for the grievousness and frequency of their erring.

It turns out, by design, the Affordable Care Act is diminishing private health insurance plans, particularly in the individual market.

The Post concludes:

> The President's promise apparently came with a very large caveat: ''If you like your health care plan, you will be able to keep your health care plan—if we deem it to be adequate.''

For millions, Washington has deemed their personal health care preferences deficient, and come January they won't have access to the plans they had before.

Americans deserve better.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

My first real job back in 1993 was at a domestic violence shelter. I was in college studying to become a social worker. During my time at the shelter, I helped women and children at our shelter escape the cycle of abuse. Some women came through our doors again and again before finally getting free.

That is why I worked hard to pass the Violence Against Women Act for these very families. Yet too often, women in our country escape their abusers for only a short time. Some abusers track down women and children in order to keep the cycle of abuse going.

VAWA helps these families stay safe from their abusers, like Jane, who lives in Phoenix with her three kids. Jane and her kids fled their home State and moved to Arizona to escape their abuser. He had been chasing Jane and the kids for years, following them from home to shelter to their next home. Jane couldn't get away from him. When she came to Arizona, Arizona's Address Confidentiality Program provided her with an alternative address to use legally instead of her real address. It prevented her abuser from finding her. Thanks to VAWA Jane is safe.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we will all double down to end domestic violence in this country.

HONORING RUTH HERRINK

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and the spirit of a true community leader, Ruth Herrink. Ruth served as the editor and publisher of the King George Journal in King George County, Virginia.

Ruth passed away on Saturday, October 12, at the age of 87 after decades of service to her community.

Ruth was ''indomitable,'' in the words of her daughter, Jessica, and ''always wanted to promote things that were positive for the community.''

The communities in and around King George County and our great Commonwealth of Virginia have lost an eminent spirit that connected and energized those around her.

Ruth's daughter, Jessica, will assume her mother's duties at the King George Journal and no doubt has a difficult, yet wonderful, challenge ahead of her to continue in the spirit of Ruth's intentions for the community.

My condolences extend to Ruth's family and the entire community of King George County.

To truly honor Ruth, we can all learn from her example and her passion to truly improve her community and the lives of those around her.

PROTECT THE ECONOMY AND SUPPORT AMERICAN JOBS

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare for the district work period, I urge my colleagues to dial down the partisan rhetoric that shut down our government and take the time to listen to the folks you came to Washington to represent.

Americans have been saying they want us to do all we can to protect the economy and support American jobs, not threaten them.

This week, I introduced H.R. 3327, the Veterans Work Opportunity Act, and H.R. 3328, the American Work Opportunity Act, which aim to get more veterans and unemployed Americans back to work by offering tax credits to businesses who will hire them.

Next week, I will be meeting with small business owners, manufacturers, and constituents around my district as part of my Second Congressional District Economic Development Tour. Here we will discuss what Congress can do to support our communities and grow American jobs.

The family businesses I represent in Kankakee and the manufacturers I represent in Chicago both say the same thing: ''Business as usual in Washington doesn't help business back home.'' I couldn't agree more.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 3327 and H.R. 3328 and work civilly to get our economy back on track.

OBAMACARE WEB SITE

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, the ObamaCare Web site has been a nuisance. People spend hours of wasted time trying to get on it, trying to get information they cannot get information on.

This has moved far beyond just a nuisance of trying to get on a Web site. Now people are discovering the new cost increases that are happening, and over a million people have already received a cancelation notice for their insurance.

Let me just give you a couple of those from my district:

The Evans Law Firm has 17 people involved in their small law firm. That firm received a cancelation notice, not because their insurance was not up to the standards that the President has set, but because it grouped together with other policies, and now that is no longer going to be available to them, so they have to go out on the market. The cheapest they have found so far is a 25 percent increase to them.

Another business owner has notified me they are going to pay a 13.5 percent increase in their insurance next year because their current insurance doesn't have pediatric care in it. None of the employees there have children, so of course they haven't had insurance for pediatric care. This would be the equivalent of having a car in your driveway and waking up the next morning and some government official has switched the car to a better car and you get the bill for the more expensive car because they didn't like your car.

This does not help the families at home.

OBAMACARE WEB SITE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have heard some of the testimony of Secretary Sebelius and to understand that we should be in this business, all of us, in serving the American public to fix problems and make, in essence, things work—put the wheels on.

We are going to ensure that this Web site is fixed by the end of November, the beginning of December—the same kind of problems that happened with Medicare part D.

In actuality, rather than using anecdotal stories, let me tell you that the President was, in fact, right that you can grandfather and keep your same insurance. But if your same medical insurance was similar to a subprime mortgage loan that had no value whatsoever, as most Americans know, and you are getting an improved medical coverage insurance, then you get new insurance.

As in California and other places where States have their own insurance exchange, we have seen a 29 percent decrease in insurance premiums.

The real issue is what we are doing in sequester and budgeting and the loss of the researchers at the NIH. It is a disgrace. We need to get to work on serious issues so that we can put this country back to work.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As a former prosecutor, I believe we should do everything in our power to raise the awareness of domestic violence and to protect and empower the victims of these crimes.

In the seven counties I represent in northeast Ohio, over 1,500 people sought shelter last year to escape domestic violence. Sadly, some of them were children.

For these women and children, it is crucial that we in Congress pass laws to protect them. That is why I was one of the first supporters of the Violence Against Women Act earlier this year. It is a bill that provides critical services for victims of violence and provides law enforcement officials the resources to better protect and assist them.

Together we must stand up against domestic violence and enforce a zero tolerance policy both here in Washington and at home in our communities.

I thank my colleagues for joining me in this bipartisan effort to raise the awareness of this important issue.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

(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 rise today in solemn recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

While we have made great strides in fighting domestic violence, we still have a long way to go. Over one-third of women have experienced rape, violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

As a former prosecutor, who has worked with hundreds of women victims of domestic violence, I know that holding their batterer responsible is important to them, but almost more important is making sure that we have the victim services necessary after the batterer is held responsible. That is more important for their pathway to healing.

I am proud to support the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization. Back home in the East Bay, we are fortunate to have places for women to go for those victim services. For example, Ruby's Place, in Hayward, California, is a shelter helping hundreds of domestic violence survivors. I visited Ruby's Place in April. I saw the care, compassion, and concern that the employees there showed to women and families who are desperately in need of assistance.

Shelters like Ruby's Place provide a lifeline to women across the country, and those places count on the Federal Government to help them.

Hopefully, recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month is one important step to helping places like Ruby's Place.

OBAMACARE: AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, today, the Secretary of Health and Human Services said to Americans that we deserve better than what we have gotten with ObamaCare. America sure does deserve better.

This is the first time in the history of our country that American citizens have been forced to purchase a product that they do not want and which they

cannot afford on a Web site that does not work. But let me say, it is not just the ObamaCare Web site that is broken.

President Obama has repeatedly told American families: If you like your current health insurance, you can keep your coverage. Just this week, it was revealed that President Obama and his staff have known for over 3 years that millions of Americans will lose their current health insurance because of ObamaCare.

Furthermore, families in my district and across the country are feeling the sticker shock from soaring premiums. They are seeing reduced benefits, and they are being forced to make difficult financial decisions. Mr. Speaker, my constituents and families across America do indeed deserve better.

□ 1215

FAKE VOTES PUT POLITICS AHEAD OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, later today the House of Representatives will vote on legislation that would reject the debt ceiling increase that was passed by Congress earlier this month. This vote makes no sense.

Make no mistake, voting to reject the debt ceiling increase is a vote to default, and these are the same Members who just a couple of weeks ago decried the notion of America defaulting on its obligations and voted earlier this year for a budget resolution that spends $700 billion more than it takes in in revenue. The logical consequence of this action is to raise the debt ceiling.

Mr. Speaker, to achieve growth, the American economy needs stability and certainty, not fake votes that put politics ahead of the American people. Let's end this nonsense and get back to the work of creating jobs and nation-building right here in America.

OBAMACARE WEB SITE

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, folks back home are frustrated, confused and, quite frankly, scared about this disastrous health care law.

Last week, Stephen from Plano sent me an email sharing his firsthand experience with the marketplace exchange. In short, operators on the 1–800 line had no answers to his questions. They simply reiterated he should wait until later that evening or the next day to apply since the systems were having technical issues.

Unfortunately, the problems go far beyond an unworkable Web site. Even with 3 years of preparation and spending more than 1 billion taxpayer dollars, ObamaCare has failed to give the American people what they were promised.

Mr. Speaker, the American people were promised affordable health care, not for a select few, but for all. Now more than ever, we must work together to delay this law. Americans want, need, and deserve better.

STOP THE OBSTRUCTION AND BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, the healthcare.gov Web site glitches are truly unacceptable, and they must be fixed as quickly as possible.

However, the majority party is not talking about fixing the Web site. They are fixated on criticizing the Affordable Care Act instead of helping the American public understand the act and receive the benefits of true affordable care.

Countless hours in committees, over 40 votes to repeal and delay, and millions of taxpayer dollars have been spent on delaying, defunding and undermining this law. Throwing sticks into the spokes of the law will not help to make it better. I urge my colleagues to stop the obstruction and to be part of the solution.

STANDING AGAINST RELIGIOUS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS

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

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, last week Egyptian gunmen attacked a wedding at the Coptic Christian Church of the Virgin Mary, killing four and wounding many others. Among those killed were two young girls, a 12-year-old and an 8-year-old. As a father of six, I can't imagine the horror and pain of those families having to bury their two young children.

We have to ask: What was their offense? What was their crime, this 12-year-old and this 8-year-old? Their crime was, their offense was that they were practicing their faith, that they were Christians.

Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks, Secretary John Kerry is going to be visiting Egypt. I call on Secretary Kerry to highlight during his visit the religious freedom abuses that have been occurring throughout Egypt. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has already named Egypt as a country of particular concern for religious freedom violations.

I call on every Member of this House to stand up against those who are attacking Christians around the world. It is our duty to stand with those who have been abused for practicing their faith.

CONGRATULATING MINNESOTA LYNX WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Minnesota Lynx basketball team. We are so proud that they, for the second time in 3 years, won the 2013 Women's National Basketball Association championship.

They swept the playoffs, winning every game decisively. And I was glad that ESPN broadcast the finals so everyone could see Olympian Maya Moore sink some beautiful three-point shots. She was joined in outstanding play by two other gold medal-winning Olympians, Seimone Augustus and Lindsay Whalen.

Former Gopher Janel McCarville's no-look behind-the-back pass and between the legs backwards-bounce-pass assist were two of the most exciting plays of the season.

I am proud of the Minnesota Lynx, but I am even more proud of Title IX. In 1973, this country made sure of equality for women in education, and that includes sports. The result is women in athletics that are amazing and entertaining.

I congratulate the Minnesota Lynx.

HONORING MAYOR JAMES R. BUCK

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

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say thank you to a friend of mine, Mayor James R. Buck, who has dedicated 45 years of service to the city of Grandville in the Second District; and the last 29 he served as mayor.

Mayor Buck has been recognized countless times for his leadership and commitment to west Michigan. Most recently, he received the Michigan Municipal League's Michael A. Guido Leadership and Public Service Award.

In addition to his role as mayor, Jim serves as the chairman of the Grand Valley Metro Council, which plays a leading role in fostering public and private cooperation to enhance quality of life in west Michigan.

Under the steady leadership of Mayor Buck, Grandville has grown and thrived. Grandville would not be the city it is today without Jim, and his impact will be felt forever and be recognized by all.

I want to personally thank my friend, Jim Buck, for his dedication and service to our community. Your long days and hard hours have helped put Grandville on the map as a destination to do business, visit and, most importantly, live. Mayor Buck, thank you for what you have done, not only for Grandville, not only for west Michigan, but for all of Michigan and our country. Enjoy the time off. Thanks, Jim.

SUPPORTING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. In the past, no group has been more negatively impacted by rising health care costs than seniors.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, some of the financial burdens have been alleviated. The Affordable Care Act has already helped to close the Medicare part D doughnut hole by saving 6.6 million seniors more than $7 billion on prescription drugs. It also provides a free annual wellness visit and coverage for key preventive services that many seniors avoid because of high cost.

As for waste and fraud in Medicare, the Affordable Care Act strengthens the system and gives more effective tools to identify and remove the unnecessary costs.

The Affordable Care Act not only provides essential quality care; it does so while lowering costs for our aging population. I am proud to stand with my colleagues and the President to support the Affordable Care Act.

TRAIN WRECK OF PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE PLAN CONTINUES

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, the train wreck of the President's health care plan continues. The President promised that ''if you like your plan, you can keep it,'' period. But millions of Americans are getting cancelation letters this month.

Mia from Taneytown in Carroll County wrote my office saying:

> I recently became aware that my insurance will terminate the plan I currently participate in. I was told to find another insurance plan that fits my budget and needs. The problem is none of the insurance carriers can compare to the quality and cost of my current insurance. However, I am being told that I am being forced by law to pick a new plan, or else I will be penalized by the U.S. Government. I have never been more disgusted with my government than I am now. My husband and I work very hard for the money we have. We have a daughter who is 8 months old, but my premium costs to cover myself and her will almost triple. How is this affordable? It is hard enough to pay a mortgage, gas, and day-to-day living.

Mr. Speaker, the President misled the American people. Mia lost her plan, and her insurance costs tripled. Americans deserve better.

RECOGNIZING VALIANT SERVICE OF WORLD WAR II MERCHANT MARINERS

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the passage of H.R. 2189, a bipartisan bill that will finally recognize the valiant service of Merchant Mariners that operated domestically during World War II.

It has been my honor for the past three Congresses to introduce legislation that would recognize these brave Americans and correct an injustice that has remained for over 70 years.

I would like to congratulate a wonderful North Carolinian, Mr. Don Horton, who has been the driving force behind my legislative effort for the past three Congresses. Tragically, Don's commitment to this legislation was due to the loss of his brother, William Lee Horton, Jr., on 31 March 1942 as a result of a German U-boat attack on his tugboat off the coast of Virginia.

Many of the Horton family served on these tugboats and barges during World War II in support of the war. Don Horton has become the foremost expert on this forgotten segment of World War II and has worked tirelessly to see mariners like his brother gain the recognition as veterans that they rightly deserve and earned through service to their country.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, after 70 long years, these mariners have a chance to receive the recognition they deserve for their service to our country. I implore my colleagues in the Senate to consider this legislation as quickly as possible and support its passage.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, the American people are looking for results from Washington, D.C. Even though we have a divided government, I still believe we can and must work together to solve the many challenges facing our great Nation.

More than anything, we must work together in the coming months to help put more Americans back to work and kick-start our sluggish economy. We can work together to reform our Tax Code and make it simpler and easier to understand and comply with. We can work together to build a national energy policy that safely utilizes all of America's resources, putting people to work and keeping energy costs down.

We can work together to support education, research, infrastructure, immigration reform. Yes, and even pass a farm bill.

We can work together to reform important programs like Medicare and Social Security so we can preserve and protect them for the future generations while balancing our budget and controlling spending.

Today, our economy may be stagnant, but our optimism and determination have never been greater. Let's work together to renew the prosperity and opportunity for all Americans in our great Nation.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Unconscionably, domestic violence has reached pandemic proportions, affecting one out of every three women in the United States.

As an emergency medicine doctor, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of domestic violence. I have treated the beaten and bruised bodies of countless women who were victims of domestic violence, and I have been inspired by their unbroken spirits.

I am proud of the work that many are doing to prevent domestic violence and keep women safe throughout my district and our country, like Shelter from the Storm in the Coachella Valley.

Domestic violence is a leading threat for women. On average, four women are murdered by their intimate partner every day in the United States. A woman is battered in the U.S. every 15 seconds. That equals 240 domestic violence episodes in one hour.

No woman should ever suffer domestic violence, and those who are victimized should know that they have access to the care and services they need to seek justice. We must continue to work together to take steps to prevent domestic violence, stand up for those who are victims, and hold perpetrators accountable to the full extent of the law.

To my patients in my district and women victims across the country, please, never give up.

□ 1245

KEEPING OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today having come from a hearing in which we heard about some of the issues with Veterans Affairs, such as $762,000 spent on a conference while our veterans had to wait for their disability claims to be processed.

In my home State of North Carolina, the delay is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker. We are having families that are having to wait almost 2 years to have their claims processed. This is unacceptable. If it were just an extravagant conference, we could overlook it, yet a senior official in an email says, ''Well, bottom line, you don't have to worry about a thing.''

Mr. Speaker, it has come to the time where we can tell our veterans they don't have to worry about a single thing, where their claims are processed, and where we truly keep our commitment to our veterans.

VETERANS EDUCATION COUNSELING ACT

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, more than 2.5 million Americans have served our country in Iraq and Afghanistan. They placed themselves in harm's way so we could live safely at home.

The benefits veterans receive for their service hardly repays them for the sacrifices that they have made. Nonetheless, they need the help. This is why we must ensure veterans can access every benefit they have earned, benefits like educational counseling.

While the VA does a great job providing vocational rehab, many veterans aren't aware of the educational counseling they are entitled to as part of their GI benefits. That is why I am introducing the Veterans Education Counseling Act. It directs the VA to differentiate between these two benefits and makes the application process available online. This helps every veteran make the right choice for their lives and their future.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in passing this bill.

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, much attention has been focused recently on the flawed rollout of ObamaCare. Sadly, a potential bigger problem has now emerged.

Once consumers battle their way through the glitchy Web site, much of the highly sensitive personal information sent to the insurers is wrong. According to The Washington Post and Wall Street Journal, the ObamaCare Web site is sending garbled data to insurers, claiming, for example, that some enrollees have three spouses or that someone has signed up for three separate insurance plans or has enrolled and then unenrolled and then reenrolled multiple times in one day. In short, you could fight your way through the Web site, fill out all the forms correctly, and end up with the wrong insurance, the wrong subsidy, and the wrong coverage.

Now is the time to end this madness. The individual mandate must be delayed by a year, and President Obama and Senator REID must be willing to sit down with Republicans and discuss real reforms to what is quickly becoming a national disaster.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ENROLLMENT

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I stand here first to salute those who advocate against domestic violence and those who advocate for more stroke awareness—health care issues.

I also stand here not only as a Member of Congress, but as a person who has navigated the online health care insurance marketplace system, so let me note some facts.

Yes, there have been problems. Unfortunately, the Web site was not prepared to handle the huge volume of interest, but President Obama has made it clear that the delays on the Web site are unacceptable and they will be fixed.

Since the marketplace has opened, healthcare.gov has had over 20 million unique visitors. And while the site is being improved, consumers should keep in mind what we haven't heard from my colleagues, that there are four ways they can apply for coverage: by phone, online, by mail with a paper application, or with the help of an in-person assistant.

I say to you, let us not forget the point that millions of Americans are now able to choose an insurance plan that will make the most sense for them and for their family.

POLICE SHOOTINGS IN NEW MEXICO

(Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank the brave men and women in law enforcement who risk their lives every day to keep us safe.

In the past week alone, seven law enforcement officials in New Mexico have been shot and wounded. It is a pattern of senseless violence that has become all too familiar in this Nation.

On Saturday, in Albuquerque, a man armed with an assault rifle and a bulletproof vest ambushed officers, stole a police cruiser, and led them on a dangerous chase. Three Albuquerque police officers and a Bernalillo County sheriff's deputy were shot. Thankfully, they are all expected to make a full recovery.

But from that terrifying situation, stories of immense heroism and courage emerged. Officers sprang into action to resolve the situation quickly, prevent more harm, and help their brothers and sisters who had been shot; firefighters from a nearby station ran into danger to help the injured; and New Mexicans have stepped up to donate thousands of dollars to help the officers and their families during this difficult time.

To the first responders in New Mexico and all over the Nation, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

LET'S GET TOGETHER

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, we have a couple of things going on today.

Number one, the House will be discharged at the end of the day to go back to a district work period, and we know what we are going to hear at home. What we are going to hear is: Why can't you people do your jobs? Why can't you get together and come together and come up with a budget so that American businesspeople can plan, so that Americans can decide what to do with their futures, instead of doing what has been happening for years on end, these continuing resolutions and things like the sequester? The sequester alone is going to cost 1 million jobs next year in this country if we don't replace it.

The other thing that is going on today is the opening of the work of the conference committee on the budget. Twenty-nine Senators and Representatives from this House are getting together and trying to do just that—come up with a budget, come up with something sensible, and forge the compromises that Americans expect us to reach.

I say, let us speed them on their work. Good luck to them. Let's hope they come up with something Americans can appreciate.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT ACT

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

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly urge my colleagues' support for the Early Childhood Education Professional Improvement Act, H.R. 3357, which I introduced earlier this week with Congressman JARED POLIS. Our bill would establish a framework of incentives and standards for the much-needed education and development of pre-K teachers.

Equality of opportunity cannot be achieved without ensuring that all American children have access to high-quality pre-K. By the age of 2, affluent children already know 30 percent more words than low-income children. These disparities are then exacerbated when affluent children attend high-quality pre-Ks and poorer ones don't even attend pre-K at all.

Senior military leaders, budget wonks, economists, and education advocates all agree that pre-K reform is essential and necessary for a strong and prosperous America. Furthermore, it is the most cost-effective investment in education we can make.

Let's do this now, and let's do this right. Let's work together for high-quality pre-K for our children.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO HOUSE DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 4(b) of

House Resolution 5, One Hundred Thirteenth Congress, and the order of the House on January 3, 2013, of the following Members to the House Democracy Partnership:

Mr. ROSKAM, Illinois, Chairman
Mr. FORTENBERRY, Nebraska
Mr. BOUSTANY, Louisiana
Mr. CONAWAY, Texas
Mr. BUCHANAN, Florida
Mr. CRENSHAW, Florida
Mr. WILSON, South Carolina
Mrs. BROOKS, Indiana
Mr. LATHAM, Iowa
Mrs. BLACK, Tennessee
Mr. RIBBLE, Wisconsin

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3003, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:

Mr. PITTS, Pennsylvania
Mr. ADERHOLT, Alabama
Mr. GINGREY, Georgia
Mr. BURGESS, Texas

SWAPS REGULATORY IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 391, I call up the bill (H.R 992) to amend provisions in section 716 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act relating to Federal assistance for swaps entities, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 391, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 992

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 ''Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act''.

SEC. 2. REFORM OF PROHIBITION ON SWAP ACTIVITY ASSISTANCE.

Section 716 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 8305) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''insured depository institution'' and inserting ''covered depository institution''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) COVERED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term 'covered depository institution' means—

''(A) an insured depository institution, as that term is defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813); and

''(B) a United States uninsured branch or agency of a foreign bank.'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the heading for such subsection, by striking ''INSURED'' and inserting ''COVERED'';

(B) by striking ''an insured'' and inserting ''a covered'';

(C) by striking ''such insured'' and inserting ''such covered''; and

(D) by striking ''or savings and loan holding company'' and inserting ''savings and loan holding company, or foreign banking organization (as such term is defined under Regulation K of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (12 C.F.R. 211.21(o)))'';

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

''(d) ONLY BONA FIDE HEDGING AND TRADITIONAL BANK ACTIVITIES PERMITTED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any covered depository institution that limits its swap and security-based swap activities to the following:

''(A) HEDGING AND OTHER SIMILAR RISK MITIGATION ACTIVITIES.—Hedging and other similar risk mitigating activities directly related to the covered depository institution's activities.

''(B) NON-STRUCTURED FINANCE SWAP ACTIVITIES.—Acting as a swaps entity for swaps or security-based swaps other than a structured finance swap.

''(C) CERTAIN STRUCTURED FINANCE SWAP ACTIVITIES.—Acting as a swaps entity for swaps or security-based swaps that are structured finance swaps, if—

''(i) such structured finance swaps are undertaken for hedging or risk management purposes; or

''(ii) each asset-backed security underlying such structured finance swaps is of a credit quality and of a type or category with respect to which the prudential regulators have jointly adopted rules authorizing swap or security-based swap activity by covered depository institutions.

''(2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

''(A) STRUCTURED FINANCE SWAP.—The term 'structured finance swap' means a swap or security-based swap based on an asset-backed security (or group or index primarily comprised of asset-backed securities).

''(B) ASSET-BACKED SECURITY.—The term 'asset-backed security' has the meaning given such term under section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)).'';

(4) in subsection (e), by striking ''an insured'' and inserting ''a covered''; and

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking ''an insured depository'' and inserting ''a covered depository''; and

(B) by striking ''the insured depository'' each place such term appears and inserting ''the covered depository''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY), the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING), and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 992, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, America's economy remains stuck in the slowest, weakest, nonrecovery recovery of modern times. Millions of our fellow countrymen remain unemployed, underemployed. Many because of ObamaCare just had their hours cut, and millions lie awake at night wondering how they will make ends meet.

Regrettably, those who create jobs in America for our constituents are drowning in a sea of red tape which is preventing them from hiring new workers. I still vividly remember the day when one of my constituents in east Texas came to me as he shut down his small business due to red tape and he said, Congressman, it got to the point where I just thought my government didn't want me to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, today we have an opportunity to ensure that businesses succeed in America, succeed in hiring new workers. Today, just like yesterday, Mr. Speaker, Republicans and Democrats can again pass bipartisan legislation that will help grow our economy. This legislation is H.R. 992, and I commend the bipartisan group of members who introduced the bill: Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. MALONEY.

As chairman of the Financial Services Committee, I also want to thank the members of the committee who joined together and approved this bill on an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 53–6. Mr. Speaker, the vote was 53–6. This bipartisan bill will relieve manufacturers, farmers, ranchers, and Main Street businesses of unintended consequences of one section of the Dodd-Frank Act.

Many Americans may not realize it, but farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and other employees use a financial product called a derivative to manage risk and protect themselves from extreme fluctuations in the price of things like fuel, fertilizer, and commodities.

For example, a company like John Deere will do an interest rate swap as they finance a tractor for a farmer in east Texas in my district, and that derivative is directly linked to the cost of that tractor for my constituent.

Companies like Southwest Airlines who operate in my hometown of Dallas, Texas, they will use derivatives to lock in cheaper fuel prices when the price of crude oil is on the rise. This keeps the cost of flying more affordable for customers, like the grandmother in Mesquite, Texas, who travels to visit her grandchildren in Kansas City.

Perhaps a farmers co-op in Nebraska will use derivatives to finance fixed-price diesel for truckers who haul cattle. Perhaps a hospital in Los Angeles may use derivatives to hedge against

the rising interest rates when financing a big investment like more beds or new lifesaving technology.

Although not one single patient, not one single farmer, not one single grandmother, not one single trucker caused the financial crisis, they were all swept into section 716 of Dodd-Frank.

Section 716 requires financial institutions to push out almost all of their derivatives business into separate entities. This not only increases transaction costs, which are ultimately paid by the consumers, it also makes our financial system less secure by forcing swap trading out of regulated institutions.

□ 1245

In fact, Mr. Speaker, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said section 716 ''would make the U.S. financial system less resilient, weaken our financial stability, and make our economy more susceptible to systemic risk.''

To those who are loath to ever amend Dodd-Frank, no less of an authority than Barney Frank himself, former chairman of the committee, said: ''It addresses the valid criticisms of section 716 without weakening the financial reform laws, important derivative safeguards or prohibitions on bank proprietary trading.''

So again, Mr. Speaker, no law is perfect. We would be derelict in our duty if we didn't put the American people back to work and pass this law.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON), the ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. PETERSON. I thank the gentlelady.

I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 992, commonly known as the swap push-out bill. This bill would effectively gut important financial reforms and put taxpayers potentially on the hook for big banks' risky behavior.

In 2008, I voted against the TARP because I didn't think the Federal Government should be bailing out the mess both regular banks and so-called investment banks like Goldman Sachs got themselves into with derivatives trading.

Section 716 of the Dodd-Frank law ensures that, hopefully, we won't find ourselves in that situation again. The provision is a modest measure designed to prevent the Federal Government from bailing out or subsidizing bank activity that is not related to the business of banking.

Originally, section 716, a Senate provision, would have forced banks to spin all of their swap activity into a separate affiliate. The House version of Dodd-Frank had no such requirement.

In a compromise, the final version of section 716 allows the banks to hold on to swaps for hedging purposes and swaps related to the business of banking, primarily, interest rate swaps and foreign exchange swaps.

Under Dodd-Frank, banks are required to move commodity swaps, including energy and agriculture swaps, non-cleared, non-investment grade credit default swaps, credit default swaps on asset-backed securities, and equity swaps to a separate affiliate. This represents barely 10 percent of the world of the swap market. So banks can keep 90 percent in the bank.

Apparently this isn't good enough for some of these big banks, which is why we are here today with H.R. 992, trying to gut the Dodd-Frank provisions and keep playing in 99 percent of the swap market, which is pretty much the status quo.

H.R. 992 also makes it easier for banks to hide commodity manipulation from regulators. In recent months, we have seen JPMorgan charged with settling cases of alleged energy market manipulation and the start of an investigation of Goldman Sachs for aluminum manipulation.

The Federal Reserve is even reconsidering its decision letting banks get involved with owning commodities. Until the big banks are held accountable for the activities in the commodity swaps market, I am reluctant to repeal limits Congress already has put in place.

Since the passage of Dodd-Frank, it is clear that Wall Street has not learned its lesson. The loss experienced by JPMorgan through derivatives trading in the ''London Whale'' incident is proof of that. At some point, another bank is going to find itself in similar trouble and run to the government with its hands out for assistance.

Frankly, I think the American people are sick and tired of the banks asking for taxpayer help when they get in trouble from risky trading activities.

In the past, I have joined our Democratic Agriculture Committee members in support of legislation to change Dodd-Frank, and I have supported those efforts because those bills reaffirmed what Congress intended with the original law, like protecting derivatives end-users.

Well, these end-users also share my concerns. The Commodity Markets Oversight Coalition, representing commodity-dependent industries, businesses and end-users that rely on functional, transparent and competitive commodity derivative markets as a hedging and price discovery tool, they also oppose H.R. 992.

H.R. 992 repeals a key, if modest, reform component of Dodd-Frank. My colleagues are certainly free to vote as they wish, but I urge them to be careful because people will remember this vote.

I urge my colleagues, if they are smart, to oppose H.R. 992 so we don't put our taxpayer dollars at risk for bank swap activities that are not related to their banking business.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased now to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN), the chief Republican sponsor of the Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act which, again, passed our committee on a strong bipartisan basis of 53–6.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today with tremendous pride, not because the bill we are debating is my own, but because we have the chance to help Main Street businesses and roll back one of the unintended consequences of Dodd-Frank.

From its first addition, the Lincoln amendment, also called the swaps push-out or spin-off provision, has been hotly debated. Section 716 of Dodd-Frank initially prohibited all swaps activities. However, the conference process yielded some measure of compromise by exempting foreign exchange and interest rate swaps back in.

By doing this, the conferees acknowledged that swaps are not inherently disruptive. In fact, swaps are a prudent and necessary activity for many businesses.

When oil prices spike or corn prices plummet, farmers and manufacturers rely on financial products like swaps to weather the uncertainty. Many of these businesses use banks as counterparties, where they have longstanding relationships with trusted institutions. Limiting banks' ability to serve their customers will cost these customers more as they are forced to find new, less stable partners.

Section 716, as it stands now, would force certain swaps out of Federal, prudential regulators' supervision and push them into affiliated entities that are not subject to the same oversight and regulation. This is why some of the loudest critics of the push-out provision have been Federal regulators, like the Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke and Paul Volcker.

I know Ranking Member WATERS and many members of the House from both sides of the aisle share these concerns. Moving swaps out of banks, while intended to reduce risk, may actually increase it.

This is one of the reasons I introduced H.R. 992. The Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act leaves the most opaque swaps spun-off to affiliates, the kind of swaps that exacerbated the 2008 crisis. Those are still forced out.

However, banks will be allowed to provide other types of swap contracts to their customers, such as equity, credit, and commodity swaps, which are very important to my home State, Illinois.

All of these activities are subject to the new swaps regime created by title VII, including reporting and registration requirements, clearing, margin, and business conduct standards. These activities would also be subject to a finalized Volcker Rule, meaning they would generally be for legitimate hedging purposes or client facing, not proprietary.

In the committee report from the last Congress, former Chairman Barney Frank, Ranking Member WATERS, and other minority members of the committee noted that this bill ''addresses

the valid criticisms of section 716 without weakening the financial reform law's important derivative safeguards or prohibitions on bank proprietary trading.''

This is every bit as true of the bill we are considering today as it was in the last Congress. H.R. 992 addresses the valid criticisms of section 716, ''concerns . . . about whether pushing . . . swaps out of banks is the best way to mitigate against future system failure,'' to quote Ranking Member WATERS.

This bill strengthens regulatory oversight of these products. H.R. 992 does not weaken title VII's derivatives safeguards or the prohibition of bank proprietary trading.

H.R. 992 will keep costs lower for Main Street businesses that use swaps to hedge risks. H.R. 992 will help prevent derivatives market displacement and help promote U.S. competitiveness.

This bill addresses nonpartisan concerns with a bipartisan solution. I thank my Democratic colleagues for being willing to consider targeted fixes to Dodd-Frank. We can find common ground on financial regulation. We can work together for the American people, and we can fix Dodd-Frank without dismantling its important accomplishments.

So I ask my colleagues to support this bill. Talk to your hospitals, bankers, and farmers. They will tell you that swaps are an important, common business tool. Forcing higher costs on these transactions will only stifle job creation and economic growth.

H.R. 992 is a sound bill and strikes, in the words of Ranking Member WATERS, the ''right balance.''

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

The financial crisis of 2008 wreaked untold havoc on the U.S. economy. This disaster, which was intensified by the use of derivatives, set back hard-working Americans for generations. At the same time, it bailed out many of the Nation's largest banks.

The Dodd-Frank Act sought to put our financial markets back together by, for example, creating comprehensive oversight and reforms for derivatives markets, as well as prohibitions on banks betting with taxpayers' resources.

H.R. 992 would undo some of these reforms before our regulators, Wall Street's cops, have a chance to finish them, especially the Volcker Rule. Congress passed the Volcker Rule to stop banks from using customer deposits, backed by the taxpayer, for trades intended to only benefit the bank and not its customers. The rule, when finalized, will define legitimate bank activities like hedging and market making, but prevent other behavior that would leave the taxpayer and the economy hurting.

In the same vein, Congress passed the Lincoln amendment, the provision that H.R. 992 would gut, to insulate the taxpayer by ''pushing out'' certain derivatives from the insured bank, while also making broad exceptions for swaps that bank customers overwhelmingly use.

The Bipartisan Policy Center also recognized a connection between the Volcker Rule and the Lincoln amendment, noting that a ''well-executed Volcker Rule would simultaneously accomplish the intended goal of the Lincoln amendment.''

In case America forget, JPMorgan reminded all of us of the importance of setting limits on bank activity. In 2012, 4 years after the crisis, JPMorgan Chase's ''London Whale'' caused the bank to lose more than $6 billion in a few months. What were purportedly hedges using complicated derivatives transactions were later transformed by the bank's focus on profit into what would likely be banned under Volcker.

The sense of urgency to separating the taxpayer-supported bank from the investment bank is shared across the aisle. Let me just tell you, in March of this year, Representative JEB HENSARLING said that, ''Certainly, we have to do a better job ring-fencing, firewalling, whatever metaphor you want to use, between an insured depository institution and a noninsured investment bank.''

Yet, 3 years after the passage of Dodd-Frank, and 5 years after the financial crisis, we still do not have a ban on the very behavior that hurt our economy.

Instead, H.R. 992 eliminates one taxpayer protection, the Lincoln amendment, by now allowing banks to engage in 99 percent of the swaps market without the taxpayer knowing how robust the monitoring and oversight of such activities will be.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 992 is a step backward in repairing our economy. This view is shared by the Commodity Markets Oversight Coalition, a nonpartisan alliance of American industries, businesses, consumers, and derivatives users.

Similarly, the White House, the AFL–CIO, CalPERS, the Teamsters, Public Citizen, and Americans for Financial Reform all strongly oppose H.R. 992.

Former Republican chairman of the FDIC, Sheila Bair, who strongly defended taxpayers during the crisis, noted immediately after the Financial Services Committee passed H.R. 992, ''Repeal of section 716 moves in the wrong direction. In an area as complex as this, I wish, I just wish Congress would at least wait for the regulators.''

I do too. Vote ''no'' on H.R. 992.

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

□ 1300

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am happy to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW).

Mr. CRENSHAW. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let me just simply say, as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, my subcommittee has oversight over the SEC and is charged with funding the SEC; and their budget has increased about 200 percent over the last 10 years. That is more than most agencies. That is a lot of money, and a lot of that is caused by all of the rules and regulations that they are asked to pass over and over again. Dodd-Frank is part of that problem.

I think this bill seeks to alleviate that problem by saying, look, we can protect investors. We can have orderly and fair capital markets; but we don't need to go overboard on regulation. Certainly derivatives are complicated financial instruments. They need regulation. But that is what this bill provides. And I would say that the great overwhelming majority are not responsible for the financial crisis.

If we pass this legislation, we can help save those people that use these instruments. We can also help the SEC not have to draft so many unnecessary rules and regulations, and that will save taxpayers as well.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts, Representative LYNCH, the ranking member of the subcommittee on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Mr. LYNCH. I thank the gentlelady for yielding, and I want to associate myself with her earlier remarks on this bill, as well as the remarks of Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 992, the misleadingly named Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act. If you need to know one thing about this bill, it is that a vote for this bill is a vote to provide taxpayer funding and backing for the kind of reckless derivative trading that brought our economy to the brink of catastrophic collapse. It is as simple as that.

The bill before us today would repeal the provision in the Dodd-Frank reform law that requires too-big-to-fail banks to push their risky derivative dealings out of banks that receive taxpayer support and into separately capitalized subsidiaries.

This bill is not a regulatory improvement. It is a giveaway to Wall Street, and it is an abdication of the duty of this body to protect taxpayers from Wall Street speculators.

I want to point out a couple of things that have been, I think, misleading here. Dodd-Frank already allows banks to keep derivatives that they use for bona fide hedging purposes or for traditional banking activities within the insured bank. Interest rate and foreign exchange swaps, which make up 90 percent of swaps volume, are the most likely to be used by end-users to manage their risk; and those are already exempt from the push-out under section 716. So end-users can already benefit from 90 percent of the swaps that are out there.

Moving risky derivatives activity outside of the insured banks will ensure that the risks to the banks—those that are traditional and measurable—and the speculative derivative risks, which are totally unmeasured and unexpected, those are not commingled, which make bank risks easy to understand for regulators and actually leads to better regulation.

Finally, I want to call my colleagues' attention to an article about this very bill that appeared yesterday in The New York Times on the front page of the Business section.

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

Ms. WATERS. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. LYNCH. I appreciate that.

Go read yesterday's New York Times. It says on the front page of the Business section, To Wall Street, Washington, D.C., ''might seem like enemy territory. But even as Federal regulators and prosecutors extract multibillion-dollar penalties from the Nation's biggest banks, Wall Street can rely on at least one ally here'' in Washington. And that ally is the House of Representatives.

We ought to change our position, stand with the taxpayers, stand with the investors, stand with the people that we were elected here to represent and tell Wall Street where to go on this. They get enough breaks as it is. We ought to stand up for the American people and protect them for a change.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I am now pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT), the chairman of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Capital Markets and GSEs.

Mr. GARRETT. I thank the chairman.

> I think the compromise language we are considering today strikes the right balance, and I urge my colleagues to support that approach, and I thank the Members for working together to help us to get to this point.

Mr. Speaker, those are not my words. Those are the words of the ranking member last year when similar language and similar legislation was coming down and she supported this legislation. So I want to associate myself with her support of this legislation.

And why did she do so? Well, because she also said, The provision that we are talking about was something in the bill with section 716 that said ''the House Members were able to consider less carefully than other sections of Dodd-Frank, since the provision didn't come through under regular order in our Chamber.''

In other words, she recognized the fact that this provision in the bill was added late in the dead of night and had never come through committee for consideration.

She also realized, and I quote again, that ''legitimate concerns have been raised about whether pushing a significant portion of swaps out of banks is the best way to mitigate against future systemic risk.''

So, again, I wish to associate myself with those words of the ranking member who, in the past, has supported the very same legislation that we have here before us today.

And why do she and I both support this legislation? Because it is good for Main Street. It is good for farmers. It is good for small ranchers. It is good for small businesses. She recognized then, as I do now, that what we need to do is to try to spur on our economy, make sure that there are not impediments, that we don't overly complicate things in the banking sector, in the financial sector and what have you—that would do what? That would put our country at a competitive disadvantage with other countries around the world and, by so doing, make it harder—yes, harder—for our farmers, ranchers, Main Street businesses, and the like to be able to get the credit they need and to pay their bills and what have you.

So I concur with her that we need to pass this legislation today.

Ms. WATERS. I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker and Members, the gentleman talked about being in step with me and what I supposedly said when we first dealt with this issue in the Financial Services Committee. And he is correct.

But when do you learn? After JPMorgan, am I to understand that nobody has learned a lesson? When do they learn that Volcker is still not in place yet? So all I will say is that I have an opinion that must be recognized.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), who happens to be the cochair of the Progressive Caucus of Congress, is the deputy whip, and also serves on the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, we are a day in front of Halloween, and here we are handing out treats to the likes of JPMorgan Chase, Citi, and Bank of America.

You know, it is fitting on this day that we should be doing the people's business. Yet here we are handing out treats and goodies to huge banks so that they can be allowed—large financial institutions that never were held accountable—so that these institutions can be allowed to use cheap, federally supported, guaranteed, bank-backed deposits to invest in derivatives, very similar to what got our economy in this mess in the first place.

Wasn't the Great Recession scary enough? Weren't we in enough trouble? Didn't we learn anything from the ''London Whale'' fiasco?

This bill, the swaps push-out bill, undermines key sections of the Wall Street Reform bill, the so-called Dodd-Frank bill, under section 716.

Now, this bill, which is supposed to protect investors and consumers—in fact, right now, it seems like the ink is barely dry on it, and here they are trying to weaken it already. Congress passed and the President signed this law to ensure that investment banks use their own money, not the people's money, to buy derivatives, invest in hedge funds, or other risky activities.

Why did we make that requirement? Well, it wasn't to punish anyone. It was to safeguard the public trust. We made this change because we wanted to protect Americans from what I would call a zombie market, given the Halloween theme here, from destructive economic rampages like the global financial crisis which lost us 12 million jobs and over $16 trillion in wealth. We are still experiencing anemic economic growth following the Great Recession, and we do not need more trouble like this swaps bill.

Vote ''no.''

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds to help my colleagues, who apparently haven't found time to read the underlying section 716, subsection (i), which reads in part:

> No taxpayer funds shall be used to prevent the receivership of any swap entity resulting from swap or security-based swap activity of the swaps entity.

I would encourage my colleagues to actually read the bill.

Now I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from the volunteer State of Tennessee (Mr. FINCHER).

Mr. FINCHER. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 992, the Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act. Simply put, we do not want to make the consumer pay more. That is what will happen if we force banks to push out certain swaps into separate nonbank affiliates.

Chairman Bernanke was right about section 716: it increases costs. Section 716 will also drive businesses overseas where foreign regulators have not passed similar rules for derivatives, taking with them American jobs and revenue.

We must weigh the costs and benefits of every rule or regulation and ensure we do not destabilize markets or place American consumers, end-users, and financial institutions at a competitive disadvantage.

With that, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 992.

Ms. WATERS. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I am now very pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY).

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I am going to do something I don't ordinarily do. I am going to read something:

> I just want to reassure people, passing this bill—particularly as amended—will not in any way, shape, or form reduce sensible regulation of derivatives. It will not increase any exposure to the financial system from derivatives. It was an unnecessary and, I think, somewhat unwise amendment. The bill before us, particularly as amended, will restore this to what I think is the appropriate balance.

Not my words. Not the words of the gentleman from Texas. Not even the

words of Mr. Bernanke, Mr. Volcker, or one of my colleagues' favorite economists, Mark Zandi. Those are the words of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Frank), the guy whose name is on the bill, who supported this exact same initiative in the last Congress.

There is plenty for us to disagree about, Mr. Speaker. Why we continue to fight about things that pass out of committee 53–6, that will pass here today on the floor by an overwhelming margin, I have no idea. But there should be some things that we could come together and agree on. And this, H.R. 992, is certainly one of them, and I encourage full support of the bill.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a statement from Ms. Sheila Bair who formerly chaired the FDIC. She said:

> Derivatives have many legitimate functions, but they can be high risk and poorly understood because of their complexity by bank managers and even regulators, as we saw with the ''London Whale'' debacle. So keeping them outside of insured banks and making the market fund them is the way to go. This will increase market discipline and protect the FDIC.

She said:

> I'm concerned that Members of Congress act on these issues without full understanding of the ramifications. If we are going to revisit derivatives regulation, I'd go in the direction of more market discipline and disclosure, rather than letting big derivatives dealers use insured deposits to support their high-risk operations.

The Executive Office of the President sent over a statement that includes these words:

> Wall Street Reform represents the most comprehensive set of reforms to the financial system since the Great Depression, and its derivatives provisions constitute an important part of the reforms being put in place to strengthen the Nation's financial system by improving transparency and reducing risks for market participants.

Again, let me refer you to Representative HENSARLING who said:

> Certainly, we have to do a better job ringfencing, fire-walling—whatever metaphor you want to use—between an insured depository institution and a noninsured investment bank.

I ask for a ''no'' vote on this bill.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, again, I continue to be amazed at those who wish to decry the possibility of a Federal bailout in debating this bill. I wonder where their voices were yesterday when all of them, seemingly—the voices we hear today—defended the Federal Housing Administration from actually receiving a taxpayer bailout, the first in history.

□ 1315

So when taxpayers actually have to pay, we hear choruses of ''Que Sera, Sera.'' But when a private institution loses their money that the taxpayers didn't have to pay for, all of a sudden the sky is falling.

I understand that the ranking member, obviously, has the opportunity to change her mind; but clearly she was for it before she was against it.

When I hear many of my colleagues decry the lack of bipartisan legislation, I don't understand why Members would try to oppose it now. It passed overwhelmingly, 53–6.

For those who say this is somehow gutting Dodd-Frank, apparently they didn't consult with the former chairman of this committee, Barney Frank, who is on record saying that this addresses the valid criticisms of section 716 without weakening the financial reform law's important derivatives safeguards.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, to get America back to work. It is time to make commonsense, bipartisan reforms. I respect every right of every Member to change their mind, but I hope something that passed 53–6 to put America back to work, that soon this full House will pass this legislation; and I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act, H.R. 922, is a commonsense, bipartisan bill that changes the application of Dodd-Frank, but does not undermine the systemic protections the law was intended to create. H.R. 992 amends section 716 of the Dodd-Frank Act to correct an unintended consequence of a poorly vetted provision that was dropped into the Senate version of the bill late in the process, with no notice and no debate.

Section 716 prevents banks that write certain types of swaps from utilizing any type of Federal banking assistance, including accessing the Federal Reserve's discount window and obtaining FDIC insurance. It would have the practical effect of requiring banks to push important swap activity into special-purpose, separately capitalized entities.

While in theory section 716 may seem like a reasonable response to the 2008 financial collapse, in practice, these entities are less well capitalized, less well regulated, and unable to officially reduce risks by netting the effects of multiple hedging transactions.

Across our Nation, farmers, ranchers, and other businesses rely on the risk-mitigating tools of the financial industry. Commodity price exposure, interest rate risks, and other business uncertainties are routinely managed through swaps and other derivatives products. Requiring banks to separate some of these swaps into special-purpose, affiliate institutions will wind up costing the end-users who rely on these tools more for no actual reduction in system-wide risk.

Moreover, the swap push-out requirements adopted in section 716 of the Dodd-Frank Act have not been considered in any other foreign jurisdiction, putting our banks and end-users who rely on them at a competitive advantage throughout the global economy.

H.R. 992 restores an appropriate balance to risk-mitigation services allowed by banks. It continues to prohibit structured finance swaps—like those that were made famous by AIG—from the books of banks, but it ends the need for banks to push commodity and other swaps with significantly lower risk profiles into separate legal entities.

As I said earlier, H.R. 992 has broad bipartisan support. I would like to thank two members of my subcommittee and coauthors of this bill, Congressman RICHARD HUDSON and Congressman SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, for their good work in finding a bipartisan solution to this significant problem. I wish that all of Congress was as hardworking, deliberative, and cordial as the members of the Ag Committee.

As I close, I would like to do so with the words of one of our former colleagues and a man who is widely regarded as knowing a thing or two about Dodd-Frank, former Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank.

In remarks made about an earlier version of this legislation, he said:

> I want to reassure people passing this bill, particularly as amended, will not in any way, shape, or form reduce sensible regulation in derivatives; it will not increase any exposure to the financial system from derivatives.

If this legislation made good sense to the coauthor of Dodd-Frank, it ought to be a no-brainer for this House to pass. I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation. It is a bipartisan piece of legislation that will put an end to the needless uncertainty that section 716 is causing our farmers, ranchers, and small businessmen across this Nation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the ranking Democratic member of the Subcommittee on Capital Markets and also the former chairman of the Financial Institutions Subcommittee on the Financial Services Committee.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 992. This bill passed overwhelmingly out of the Financial Services Committee earlier this year with broad bipartisan support with a vote of 53–6.

The whole point of the Dodd-Frank reforms was to improve the safety and soundness of our financial system; and H.R. 992, the bill before us, will help us do just that.

This bill does not expose the taxpayer to any additional risk. In fact, it includes a ban on taxpayer bailout of any swaps or any use of taxpayer money. Under H.R. 992, truly risky swaps will still be pushed out of commercial banks while at the same time bank regulators can see all of the bank's swaps activities.

As well intended as section 716 is, it turns out it would actually hinder the oversight of regulators of the derivatives market. That is why Barney

Frank, the former chairman of the Financial Services Committee and, of course, the Frank in Dodd-Frank, said during the debate in the last Congress of this same bill that is before us now, H.R. 922:

It will not in any way, shape, or form reduce sensible regulation of derivatives; it will not increase any exposure to the financial system from derivatives.

The economist of Moody's, Mark Zandi, also supports this bill and has said that section 716, as written, actually increases systemic risk and creates major inefficiency in the markets.

Even Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke opposed section 716, as written, stating that the way it forces these activities out of insured depository institutions ''would weaken both the financial stability and strong regulation of derivative activities.''

So Ben Bernanke has said that our bill before us will protect safety and soundness. Barney Frank agrees. Mark Zandi of Moody's agrees. I agree. And I urge my colleagues to agree with us and support safety and soundness of our financial institutions by supporting H.R. 992.

MINORITY VIEWS

112TH CONGRESS

The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act requires, for the first time, the regulation of over-the-counter derivatives, previously opaque transactions that helped bring our financial system to the brink of disaster. The vast majority of derivatives must now be centrally cleared and publicly reported, and be backed by margin and capital to ensure that swap dealers and major swap users can honor their commitments. In addition, the reform law also prohibits banks from placing bets with federally insured deposits through the ''Volcker Rule''. Both measures serve as important safeguards as we rebuild trust in our financial system. As amended, H.R. 1838 would repeal portions of Section 716 of the financial reform law, also known as the ''push-out provision.'' Section 716 prohibits banks from engaging in several types of derivatives. Questions have been raised about this provision by economists and regulators including FDIC's Sheila Bair, who are concerned that it might interfere with a bank's ability to use derivatives to diminish risk. Section 716 was not part of the original House-passed version of the financial reform law. During the Full Committee markup, Democrats worked with the Majority to amend H.R. 1838 to continue the prohibition of complex swaps employed by AIG with devastating effect. H.R. 1838, as amended, addresses the valid criticisms of Section 716 without weakening the financial reform law's important derivative safeguards or prohibitions on bank proprietary trading.

Barney Frank, Wm. Lacy Clay, Gwen Moore, James A. Himes, Rubén Hinojosa, André Carson, Gary L. Ackerman, Al Green, Stephen F. Lynch, David Scott, Maxine Waters, Carolyn B. Maloney, Melvin L. Watt, Luis V. Gutierrez, Gary C. Peters, Ed Perlmutter, Michael E. Capuano, and Gregory W. Meeks.

NOVEMBER 14, 2011.

Hon. SPENCER BACHUS,

Chairman, House Financial Services Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BACHUS, As the Committee considers legislation proposing changes to the financial reform law, I wanted to bring your attention to a specific concern in Title VII and share my views on the related legislation. As I noted at the time of its passage, and have stated since, I believe the Dodd-Frank reforms were important measures taken to strengthen elements of our financial system and bring more confidence into the markets and institutions. While some of the reforms are currently in place, many still need to be finalized in the rule-making process. With any measure as far-reaching and robust as this law is, refinements to it can prove necessary over time, especially given the broad array of complex issues addressed.

The Title VII provisions in Dodd-Frank are among the most meaningful reforms but with far-reaching implications to the economy. Greater transparency in derivatives transactions and clearing requirements are notable improvements that will be realized as they become operational. How financial institutions interact with their counterparties to provide access to capital and manage risk is a critical feature of our system for all market participants.

As the legislation was being considered, one provision that was among the more notable was—Section 716, or the Lincoln swaps push-out proposal. This part of the law effectively requires that financial firms conduct certain derivatives transactions outside of the bank institution and in some other entity within the company. I have significant concerns with this part of the law because of its potential to increase systemic risk, create major inefficiencies in markets, and likely have a major impact on U.S. competitiveness.

One of the primary objectives of the financial reforms enacted after the 2008 failures was to provide for a way to resolve large financial firms should a similar crisis develop in the future. The resolution authority section of the law was crafted to do so, but Section 716 works against that goal. It does so because it causes firms to segment the derivatives with individual counterparties and requires that another entity be created to engage in the pushed-out transactions. Creating new operations, and expending additional capital to make them robust enough, is in contrast to the resolution planning objectives of eliminating entities and simplifying structure. During the winding down of either the financial institution or of the counterparty, the breaking up of the derivatives activities creates additional risks because separate entities will not be able to net their exposures as they can if they are facing one entity only. As noted by some of the prudential regulators in letters objecting to this provision, Section 716 would create significant complications and counter the efforts to resolve such firms in an orderly manner.

For those who argue the Lincoln provision is needed to guard against any future taxpayer bailout based on derivatives, it is important to note that this goal is accomplished by the resolution authority section of the law, thus making Section 716 unnecessary. Indeed, many provisions in the law limit derivatives risk without the need for the push-out provision. The entirety of Title VII is intended to create central counterparties to remove bilateral risk, to create extensive margin requirements on uncleared swaps where bilateral risk may still exist, and to fully enhance risk management of derivatives. Additionally, there are prohibitions on the Federal Reserve creating any assistance program that does not have broad-based applicability—so the regulators cannot subjectively choose one entity anymore for any sort of capital infusion.

With respect to competiveness, no other foreign jurisdiction has indicated it will likely consider a measure like Section 716. As such, U.S. financial firms will most certainly be at a competitive disadvantage relative to their foreign competitors because Section 716 does not apply to those foreign firms. U.S. firms transacting with counterparties in this country and abroad provide critical risk management tools through derivatives transactions that are much needed and will not disappear. It is wise for firms with greater regulatory supervision to play a role in this system. However, the ability to net such transactions off each other will be lost because the counterparties will have to interact with a different entity once these derivatives are pushed out. Counterparties will face higher costs and greater operational inefficiencies that will tie up capital. The likely result will be a substantial loss of market share for U.S. firms as these transactions would be shifted to foreign banks.

As the Committee examines legislation related to the derivatives reforms, I strongly urge consideration and support legislation that would repeal Section 716 as a way to address these concerns. I appreciate your attention to this matter and would welcome any further discussion on the topic if you would find that helpful.

Sincerely,

MARK ZANDI.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON), my colleague on the Ag Committee and coauthor of the bill.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, given the bicameral and bipartisan support for our bill and the overwhelming consensus about the systemic risk created by the section we are working to reform today, I am genuinely surprised we are even here debating this today.

Nevertheless, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 992, the Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act, which my Democrat friend from New York, SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, and I have worked together on in the House Agriculture Committee.

As my colleagues are aware, our bipartisan bill amends a provision in the Dodd-Frank Act which was included at the 11th hour to ''get 60 votes in the Senate'' as former House Financial Services Chairman Barney Frank indicated during a markup of the bill back in February, 2012.

This section we reform with our bill was mischaracterized as an effort to prevent ''risky'' swaps activities in the bank. While we believe this provision was proposed in good faith, it simply does not prevent the risk that its authors intended. Moreover, this provision of the bill will cause many American financial institutions to operate at a significant disadvantage to their foreign competitors.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker have both publicly raised concerns about section 716.

In the 112th Congress, the House Financial Services Democrats, including Chairman Frank and current Ranking Member MAXINE WATERS, endorsed H.R. 1838, agreeing that this measure addressed the valid criticisms of section 716 without ''weakening the financial reforms law's important derivative

safeguards or prohibitions on bank proprietary trading.''

The bill before us today is virtually identical to H.R. 1838 from the last Congress.

Mr. Speaker, to echo what Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said at a hearing on February 27:

Section 716, as drafted, will not reduce risk and will likely increase costs of people who use the derivatives and make it more difficult for the bank to compete with foreign competitors who can provide a more complete set of services.

It is crystal clear: this section needs to be reformed.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill and look forward to my Senate colleague, KAY HAGAN, passing her companion bill in the Senate so we can get this commonsense reform completed.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE
FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2010.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER J. DODD,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: You have asked for my views on section 716 of S. 3217. This section would prevent many insured depository institutions from engaging in swaps-related activities to hedge their own financial risks or to meet the hedging needs of their customers, and would prohibit nonbank swaps entities, including swap dealers, clearing agencies and derivative clearing organizations, from receiving any type of Federal assistance.

The Federal Reserve has been a strong proponent of changes to strengthen the regulatory framework and infrastructure for over-the-counter (OTC) derivative markets to reduce systemic risks, promote transparency, and enhance the safety and soundness of banking organizations and other financial institutions. Title VII and Title VIII of S. 3217 include important provisions designed to achieve these goals. For example, Title VII would require most derivative contracts to be cleared through central clearinghouses and traded on exchanges or open trading facilities, require information concerning all other derivatives contracts to be reported to trade repositories or regulators, and provide the regulatory agencies significant new authorities to ensure that all swaps dealers and major swap participants are subject to strong capital, margin, and collateral requirements with respect to their swap activities. Title VIII also includes provisions designed to help ensure that centralized market utilities for clearing and settling payments, securities, and derivatives transactions (financial market utilities), which are critical choke points in the financial system, are subject to robust and consistent risk management standards—including collateral, margin, and robust private-sector liquidity arrangements—and do not pose a systemic risk to the financial system.

I have also frequently made clear that we must end the notion that some firms are ''too-big-to-fail.'' For that reason, the Federal Reserve has advocated the development of enhanced and rigorous prudential standards for all large, interconnected financial firms, and the enactment of a new resolution regime that would allow systemically important financial firms to be resolved in an orderly manner, with losses imposed on the Federal Reserve to provide emergency, secured credit to nondepository institutions only through broad-based liquidity facilities designed to address serious strains in the financial markets, and not to bail out any specific firm.

S. 3217 makes important contributions to the goals of reducing systemic risk, eliminating the too-big-to-fail problem, and strengthening prudential supervision. I am concerned, however, that section 716 is counter-productive to achieving these goals.

In particular, section 716 would essentially prohibit all insured depository institutions from acting as a swap dealer or a major swap participant—even when the institution acts in these capacities to serve the commercial and hedging needs of its customers or to hedge the institution's own financial risks. Forcing these activities out of insured depository institutions would weaken both financial stability and strong prudential regulation of derivative activities.

Prohibiting depository institutions from engaging in significant swaps activities will weaken the risk mitigation efforts of banks and their customers. Depository institutions use derivatives to help mitigate the risks of their normal banking activities. For example, depository institutions use derivatives to hedge the interest rate, currency, and credit risks that arise from their loan, securities, and deposit portfolios. Use of derivatives by depository institutions to mitigate risks in the banking business also provides important protection to the deposit insurance fund and taxpayers as well as to the financial system more broadly. In addition, banks acquire substantial expertise in assessing and managing interest rate, currency, and credit risk in their ordinary commercial banking business. Thus, banks are well situated to be efficient and prudent providers of these risk management tools to customers.

Importantly, banks conduct their derivatives activities in an environment that is subject to strong prudential Federal supervision and regulation, including capital regulations that specifically take account of a bank's exposures to derivative transactions. The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision has recently proposed tough new capital and liquidity requirements for derivatives that will further strengthen the prudential standards that apply to bank derivative activities. Titles I, III, VI, VII and VIII of S.3217 all add provisions further strengthening the authority of the Federal banking agencies and other supervisory agencies to address the risks of derivatives. Section 716 would force derivatives activities out of banks and potentially into less regulated entities or into foreign firms that operate outside the boundaries of our Federal regulatory system. The movement of derivatives to entities outside the reach of the Federal supervisory agencies would increase, rather than reduce the risk to the financial system. In addition, foreign jurisdictions are highly unlikely to push derivatives business out of their banks. Accordingly, foreign banks will have a competitive advantage over U.S. banking firms in the global derivatives marketplace, and derivatives transactions could migrate outside the United States.

More broadly, section 716 would prohibit the Federal Reserve from lending to any swaps dealer or major swap participant—regardless of whether it is affiliated with a bank—even under a broad-based 13(3) liquidity facility in a financial crisis. Experience over the past two years demonstrates that such broad-based facilities can play a critical role in stemming financial panics and addressing severe strains in the financial markets that threaten financial stability, the flow of credit to households and businesses, and economic growth. These facilities will be less effective if participants must choose between continuing (or unwinding) derivatives positions and participating in the market-liquefying facility.

I am concerned that section 716 in its present form would make the U.S. financial system less resilient and more susceptible to systemic risk and, thus, is inconsistent with the important goals of financial reform legislation. We look forward to continuing to work with the Congress as you work to enact strong regulatory reform legislation that both addresses the weaknesses in the financial regulatory system that became painfully evident during the crisis, and positions the regulatory system to meet the inevitable challenges that lie ahead in the 21st century.

Sincerely,

BEN BERNANKE.

New York, NY, May 6, 2010.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: A number of people, including some members of your Committee, have asked me about the proposed restrictions on bank trading in derivatives set out in Senator Lincoln's proposed amendment to Section 716 of S. 3217. I thought it best to write you directly about my reaction.

I well understand the concerns that have motivated Senator Lincoln in terms of the risks and potential conflicts posed by proprietary trading in derivatives concentrated in a limited number of commercial banking organizations. As you know, the proposed restrictions appear to go well beyond the proscriptions on proprietary trading by banks that are incorporated in Section 619 of the reform legislation that you have proposed. My understanding is that the prohibitions already provided for in Section 619, specifically including the Merkley-Levin amended language clarifying the extent of the prohibition on proprietary trading by commercial banks, satisfy my concerns and those of many others with respect to bank trading in derivatives.

In that connection, I am also aware of, and share, the concerns about the extensive reach of Senator Lincoln's proposed amendment. The provision of derivatives by commercial banks to their customers in the usual course of a banking relationship should not be prohibited.

In sum, my sense is that the understandable concerns about commercial bank trading in derivatives are reasonably dealt with in Section 619 of your reform bill as presently drafted. Both your Bill and the Lincoln amendment reflect the important concern that, to the extent feasible, derivative transactions be centrally cleared or traded on a regulated exchange. These are needed elements of reform.

I am sending copies of this letter to Secretary Geithner and to Senators, Shelby, Merkley, Levin and Lincoln.

Sincerely,

PAUL VOLCKER.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas, (Mr. Al Green), who is also the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation on the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, not everyone supports this legislation. Ranking Member WATERS was mentioned. But she spoke eloquently today as to why she opposes H.R. 992. Mr. Frank is not here to speak for himself. So we cannot say that he, today, would support H.R. 992.

It may be that we have the AFL–CIO opposing H.R. 992, as well Public Citizen, and the Commodity Markets Oversight Coalition. It may be that we have them opposing it because we understand, as do many others, that this

weekend marks the 84th anniversary of the stock market crash of 1929. It was that stock market crash that gave us Glass-Steagall in 1933.

Glass-Steagall provided the firewall between commercial banking and investment banking. It didn't let you use tax dollars in the sense that they are insured by FDIC to engage in investment banking.

Well, it seems ironic that it took us 66 years to repeal Glass-Steagall, 66 years to repeal that firewall that separated commercial banking from investment banking, and has taken us now little more than 3 years to repeal, by way of evisceration, section 716 of Dodd-Frank.

Section 716 provides a firewall. It is the firewall to protect investors—taxpayers, if you will—from those investors who engage in derivatives. This derivatives market that we are talking about is $600 trillion to approximately $1.2 quadrillion. No one really knows. Only God knows how big it is.

But what we are doing is exposing tax dollars to this derivatives market, and it is my hope that we will not pass this legislation because it will set us back.

Let's give section 716 an opportunity to function. Glass-Steagall functioned for 66 years. Let's not repeal section 716 in a little more than 3 years.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER), also a member of the committee.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act.

As a lifelong farmer and small business owner, I understand the need for farm cooperatives and manufacturing companies to manage their risks. H.R. 992 reforms section 716 of Dodd-Frank to ensure businesses can manage their long-term commodity and equity risks.

Missouri is the Show Me State, and I ask the opposition to show me how section 716 benefits my constituents and decreases overall risk in the U.S. financial markets.

Since the beginning, Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Geithner have opposed section 716 of Dodd-Frank. Show me how section 716 decreases overall risk to the financial markets when Chairman Bernanke clearly stated:

> It's not evident why section 716 makes the company as a whole safer. And what we do see is that it will likely increase the costs of people who use the derivatives.

□ 1330

Since Dodd-Frank became law, no equivalent provisions have been adopted in any other foreign jurisdictions that are working through their own derivatives reforms.

Show me how placing U.S. firms at a competitive disadvantage with international banks will ultimately benefit manufacturers in my district managing their interest rate risks.

H.R. 992, however, would prevent financial institutions from forcing much of the derivatives business outside the bank.

Show me why banks, which are a more heavily regulated and a more highly capitalized entity than a standalone affiliate, are not a better platform for regulators to monitor swap activity and to protect U.S. financial markets.

Farmers in Missouri must contend with a multitude of weather and financial risks. They use swaps to manage their long-term price risks on everything from the crops they grow to the fuel that runs their equipment.

Show me why we should allow section 716 to increase the costs to my farmers, who merely want to manage their long-term price risks through commodity swaps so they can focus on their real job—feeding America.

H.R. 992 is a much-needed change that improves the U.S. financial system for small businesses, farmers, and job creators. Again, I support H.R. 992, and I urge my colleagues to vote for this legislation. Together, let's show the American people we are for smart reforms in order to allow manufacturers, businesses, and farmers to manage their risks in a commonsense way.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut, Representative JIM HIMES, a leader on the Financial Services Committee and the chief Democratic cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. HIMES. I want to thank Mr. SCOTT for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, derivatives are complicated things. They are probably one of the more complicated things that we deal with in this Chamber, so it is worth describing in simple terms what H.R. 992 does.

It abides by principles that I think we can all agree make some sense, which are those things which contributed to the meltdown of 2008—the terrible mortgages, the derivatives that were based on those mortgages, the proprietary trading. Those things that contributed to the meltdown of 2008 should be either made unlawful or should be much more closely regulated than they were in the past; but those things that were not related in any way, shape, or form and that did not contribute to the meltdown of 2008 we should take a little lighter hand on.

H.R. 992 says that those derivatives—the currency derivatives, the commodity derivatives, the equity swaps, all of these complicated things that weren't anywhere close to the meltdown of Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers and the challenges at Citibank and at JPMorgan Chase—will not be subject to a very aggressive measure saying that banks cannot trade in those derivatives.

Now, banks trade in derivatives because they support their clients and trade. I emphasize ''trade'' because one of their clients will borrow $100 million to build in Japan. That exposes him to yen risk. Maybe I don't want to take yen risk, and maybe the same guy who lent me the money can help me offload that risk. That is the idea.

H.R. 992 in no way allows for the risky derivatives—the collateralized bond obligations, all of those real estate derivatives—to come back into the banking environment, and it in no way permits, as the chairman has said a number of times, a bailout of banks because of derivatives.

Even though we have spent a lot of time on this today, it makes sense to spend a second on the history of this bill:

Section 716 requires the full push-out of derivatives. Regulators recognize that this is dangerous, and they are very vocal about it. Then-Ranking Member Barney Frank takes a suggestion from then-Representative Nan Hayworth to repeal section 716. The then-ranking member says, Let's not repeal it. Let's allow for the plain vanilla, common derivatives to remain in the banks and push out the dangerous ones. The Democratic staff helps draft this amendment, and I am personally asked to offer this amendment to Nan Hayworth's bill. She accepts it. A voice vote is passed, and the bill is passed in the last Congress. The minority views supported it. We all supported it. This year, exactly the same bill comes before us, and we have ginned up the press, and we have ginned up the bloggers. This has become a gift to Wall Street.

What is different? What is different from what passed happily and in a bipartisan fashion in the last Congress relative to this Congress—the London Whale? JPMorgan claims that they were hedging. Hedging is permitted whether we pass this or not. The London Whale has nothing to do with this.

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

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, what has changed is that we no longer do the hard work of finding finely balanced regulation like we do in water or in air. In financial services—in Dodd-Frank today—we have a morality play: either you repeal Dodd-Frank in its entirety because it is awful or you may not touch a word in the law.

Folks, we are about finding that balance. In as much as we go in front of each other and say that this is a giveaway to Wall Street, that doesn't help explain whether we should allow commodity swaps or not. What that does is impugn our motives as individuals, and it does not inform the debate. This is well-balanced regulation that passed overwhelming bipartisanly. Let's get away from this morality play and do our jobs by finding finely balanced regulation.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), a member of the committee.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you to my colleagues for standing here on this floor today to talk

about this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 992. It has been introduced by my friends RICHARD HUDSON from North Carolina and RANDY HULTGREN from the great State of Illinois.

I cannot respond to my colleagues who ask about what happened here in the last term, because I wasn't here; but I can tell you from my seat here in the U.S. House that this bill is a good bill and needs to be passed. It seeks to fix yet another unintended consequence of Dodd-Frank while still protecting against risky derivatives activities. This bill amends section 716, also known as the Dodd-Frank pushout provision.

If implemented, section 716 would actually force banks to push out certain derivatives like ag-based swaps and equity swaps, which are very important to my agricultural-based district, and it would effectively drive up transaction costs. According to Ben Bernanke, this would actually make the U.S. financial system riskier.

This bipartisan legislation passed the Ag Committee 31–14 and the Financial Services Committee 53–6. Let me repeat that. This bipartisan legislation passed 31–14 out of the House Ag Committee, and it passed 53–6 out of Financial Services. This is commonsense legislation that will help all Americans.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois, Representative BRAD SCHNEIDER. He is a member of the Small Business Committee, and he certainly understands the value of this legislation to Main Street businesses.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Thank you for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 992 resolves a widely recognized, unintended consequence in section 716 of Dodd-Frank. I join in asking my colleagues to support this bill in an effort to strengthen Dodd-Frank and to actually improve transparency and oversight in our financial system.

The overall goal of Dodd-Frank is to provide a sound, robust financial system following the upheaval of our financial markets in 2008. I support Dodd-Frank, and I am fully committed to realizing its goals, but no piece of legislation is perfect. This body has recognized that and has passed measures to correct adverse, unintended consequences that were identified after Dodd-Frank was signed into law, and that is what we are doing again here today.

This bill does not undermine the intent or overall implementation of Dodd-Frank. However, section 716, as it is currently written, could impede those very efforts. By indiscriminantly pushing out routine swap trades from heavily regulated banks to separate, less regulated firms, section 716 actually inserts more risk into our system. It could also make the use of certain risk-mitigating derivatives so expensive that businesses will stop using them to hedge uncertainty, resulting in higher costs for consumers and more financial instability.

Former FDIC Chairwoman Sheila Bair, former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, and, most recently, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke have all stated that this provision, as written, is problematic. If our foremost experts have concerns with it, why must we maintain this unduly risky provision?

This bill provides the soundness Dodd-Frank intended for our banking system while still prudently limiting the risks and costs. It also ensures manufacturers and our farmers still have the ability to hedge against price fluctuations—a practice that is integral to their operations and also benefits consumers.

I thank the gentlemen for their work on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this legislation.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is left on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 4½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Georgia has 4¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. CONAWAY. I now yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD).

Mr. CRAWFORD. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, contrary to the intent of section 716 to reduce risk in the financial system, it does exactly the opposite. It creates more risk, and it places an undue burden on financial institutions for conducting legitimate hedging activities. This legislation would take an important step to ensure that Dodd-Frank is living up to its goal to reduce systemic risk, a goal on which both parties agree.

Even former Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank—the namesake of the bill in question—endorsed this bill last Congress, saying that it will not in any way, shape, or form reduce sensible regulation in derivatives. I rarely agreed with Congressman Frank, but I certainly share the goal of regulating the financial system in a sensible way, and I think that is the key.

H.R. 992 would prevent financial institutions from forcing their derivatives business outside the banking structure to an entity that is far less regulated than the bank. So, while some may believe that section 716 provides more regulation, they are mistaken. Again, it is the other way around. All we are asking is to allow financial institutions to mitigate their risks so we can have a stronger banking system.

A stronger financial system makes America more competitive economically; it creates jobs; and it provides stability for the consumer. I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. I am ready to close, and I ask my colleague, Mr. CONAWAY, if he has any more speakers.

Mr. CONAWAY. I have no further requests for time. I will be the final speaker.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in closing, we have before us perhaps the most single important bill facing the viability, the financial security, and the stability of the financial system within the United States and throughout the world. We are dealing here with a $712 trillion piece of the world economy.

Now, my friends who are in opposition to this certainly have some legitimate points. There is no question about that. We had a meltdown. Banks and members on Wall Street did wrongdoing, but this isn't the bill with which to punish them for doing that wrongdoing. We punish them for wrongdoing by working with the regulators and by putting, in fact, in motion not just civil penalties and not just financial penalties but criminal action, but we do that in another place, at another time. We have already approached that with the CFTC—to use criminal actions if any of these kinds of shenanigans happen again.

We are here to make sure that our banking system and that our economy, which have to work on the world stage, have not a disadvantage. If you push out these commodity swaps or the security swaps, we are doing a great disservice not just to the banks but to our end users.

Take commodities. When you look at them, Mr. Speaker, commodities are things like aluminum. They are agribusiness products. In 40 out of our 50 States, the largest part of their economies is agribusiness. Let us take something like Coca-Cola. The Coca-Cola Company has to deal with aluminum for cans—or Pepsi Cola or any of those in our beverage industry. They have to mitigate their risks. If you push them out of where they have to do their business in the same banks with interest rate swaps—by the way, the interest rate swaps are the critical pivot swap to mitigate that risk.

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You are going to push commodities out. You are going to push the farmers out. You are going to push all the manufacturers, the automobile industry. All of these people that use commodities will not be able to do business in that same bank where the interest rates are, where the currency fluctuation rates are.

When you have that, you are putting us at a great disadvantage. This is why Chairman Bernanke said that this is a problem. This adds to the systemic risk when you push out these individual commodities into another area. It creates uncertainty.

The other thing that it does: it puts our banking system at a huge disadvantage competitively because these

foreign banks, they are not pushing their swaps out, and that means that the United States banking system could see a migration of swap activities out in the world. We are the leader of the world. We have got to act like that.

That is what H.R. 992 will do. It will be that force that will help our banking system be the true leader in this world and not at a disadvantage.

With great respect to those in opposition to this, it is written into law in section 716 that no taxpayer money can be used for bailouts.

You talk about the FDIC. You cannot use that because that is the bank's money that they put up to ensure deposits. None of that goes into swaps. Certainly we can't use proprietary trading. The Volcker Rule settles that where they cannot make any kind of money or make profit on the deposits of ordinary citizens. Nowhere is there any taxpayer liability.

This is a good bill. I urge everybody in this House of Representatives to realize our economic security is at stake and let's pass H.R. 992.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank my good friend, DAVID SCOTT, who is ranking member on the committee that he and I lead, for the good work on this bill, supporting it today, as well as the other work that we have done with respect to our committee. I also want to thank RICHARD HUDSON and SEAN MALONEY for their work on bringing this together.

A couple of points, and then I will close.

One, the ''London Whale'' has been mentioned more than one time as a reason why we should not go forward with H.R. 992. That shows a fundamental misunderstanding of the trades associated with the ''London Whale.'' Those trades are on cleared exchanges and occur within the bank and would have been unaffected by section 716 had it, in fact, been implemented.

One of the telling points is the prudential regulators on this particular section of the law have put off the actual implementation of this law until at least July of 2015. So if time is of the essence, if the disaster is around the corner, then I think the prudential regulators would have recognized that and would have moved a little more hastily than to put it off for 2 years.

There is no bogeyman here, Mr. Speaker. This is good sense, bipartisan—we hope it will be bicameral—legislation that corrects a really unintended consequence—poorly drafting a bill in 2010, when Dodd-Frank was passed. It didn't intend to have these kind of consequences, and this simply addresses that.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the bill. Let's pass this on and get it done over in the Senate.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, another day, another attempt to weaken the Dodd-Frank Act. Just 5 years ago, the financial industry required a $700 billion taxpayer bailout and nearly destroyed our economy. We learned in the aftermath that risky derivative products, like swaps, were a major factor contributing to the crisis. As a result, Congress passed common sense reforms to prevent American taxpayers from once again being on the hook for trading losses by the country's largest banks. One of these new reforms was embodied in section 716, known as the ''swaps push out rule.'' Banks can no longer use federally-insured deposits to recklessly gamble in the most exotic types of derivatives.

Unfortunately, H.R. 992 would roll back these reforms and simply restore the status quo for Wall Street. This is ill advised and wrong for American taxpayers. If we need proof that swaps push out is necessary, look no further than last year's ''London Whale'' incident which cost JP Morgan $6 billion and could have been much worse.

I ask my colleagues to oppose H.R. 992.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 992, the Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act.

Part of the problem that led to the 2008 financial meltdown was that banks were taking huge risks by exposing themselves to risky swaps and derivatives. We passed the Dodd-Frank Act in part to address this problem by forcing depository institutions to spin off their swaps and derivatives activities to separately capitalized affiliates. H.R. 992, if passed, would nullify that part of Dodd-Frank and again allow banks to engage in the type of reckless behavior that caused the gravest economic calamity since the Great Depression.

Voting in favor of H.R. 992 is tantamount to unlearning the lessons of the recent past. I find it absolutely appalling that five years on, we're considering legislation to permit the very type of bad behavior that necessitated the Dodd-Frank Act in the first place. I urge my colleagues to vote down H.R. 992, if only out of good common sense.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, while I recognize the many legitimate uses of derivatives in today's financial marketplace, I also believe it is critically important that derivatives be properly regulated so that end-users and consumers can reap their benefits without putting the larger economy at risk. For that reason, I think we need to tread carefully before making material modifications to the regulatory regime for derivatives established in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act—and this note of caution is equally applicable to what might be described as piecemeal changes to Title VII of Dodd-Frank, given the inherently complex and interrelated nature of these sophisticated financial instruments.

In that regard, the Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act would substantially revise Section 716 of the Dodd-Frank Act to permit a broader array of derivatives transactions—including those involving commodity swaps, equity swaps and certain credit default swaps—to occur inside federally backed financial institutions, rather than in separately capitalized subsidiaries as required under current law. Impacted institutions argue that this existing ''push out'' requirement for these categories of derivatives places them at a disadvantage relative to their foreign competition by increasing the cost of those transactions and by effectively preventing the netting of positions between themselves and their customers. Additionally, proponents of H.R. 992 argue that Section 716 confers no meaningful additional protection to taxpayers in light of the stronger capital, margin and clearing requirements created by Dodd-Frank, and that it might even work at cross purposes with the Orderly Liquidation Authority created in Title II of the legislation.

I am not opposed to making commonsense adjustments to improve the real world workability of the Dodd-Frank law. I want our financial institutions to be able to compete effectively for customers everywhere they operate. And I am not in favor of regulation that is either unnecessary or not accomplishing its intended objective in a cost-effective way.

It is possible that Section 716 will prove to be that kind of regulation, but right now it is too soon to tell. Of particular importance when evaluating the ultimate value of Section 716 is the final scope of the forthcoming Volcker rule. If the final Volcker rule provides a strict definition of what activities constitute bona fide ''hedging'' and ''market making'', then proponents' arguments for this legislation will be strengthened. If, on the other hand, the final Volcker rule includes an overly broad definition of these activities, then the protections intended by Section 716 could become more important.

Accordingly, I will be voting ''no'' on today's legislation, but remain open to revisiting this issue once the Volcker rule and other relevant rulemakings are finalized and in place.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 391, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. I am opposed.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Brownley of California moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 992, to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 4, after line 15, insert the following:

SEC. 3. PREVENTING OIL AND BIOFUEL PRICE MANIPULATION.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall limit the authority of the bank regulatory agencies and other regulators to examine a covered depository institution's compliance with laws prohibiting the manipulation of commodity markets, particularly the excessive speculation and manipulation of oil and biofuel prices, and to limit the activities of covered depository institutions in such markets.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

Mr. CONAWAY. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to H.R. 992, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

My amendment is a simple, straightforward improvement that I believe both sides can agree is absolutely necessary and that I believe is also supported by the majority of the American people.

If my amendment passes, it will ensure that the American people, consumers, families, and businesses are protected from reckless speculation that is driving up the price of gas at the pump.

Specifically, my amendment ensures that nothing in this act would limit the ability of regulators to go after excessive speculation and manipulation of oil and biofuels. It simply clarifies that bank regulators have the authority to stop manipulation in the commodity markets.

This amendment also protects the wallets and pocketbooks of all Americans by ensuring that banks will not be given a free pass to destabilize commodity markets and drive up energy prices for all Americans at the pump.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, speculation in the energy sector is a very real, a very present, and a very serious problem. Volatility in oil markets since 2008, and more recently in biofuels, leads to dramatic price swings, causing pain for every American who depends on gasoline at the pump.

In September, The New York Times reported that prices for biofuel credits had recently surged 20-fold in just 6 months.

Because of these problems, many Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle have called for investigations in both oil and biofuel price manipulation.

In fact, just last week, on October 22, 15 of our colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, asked the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission to look into whether fraud and manipulation was playing a role in the biofuel credit price swings.

The concerns of many Americans extend far beyond biofuels.

Earlier this year, both the E.U. and U.S. authorities began looking at oil price manipulation, which not only affects the price at the pump but also artificially increases prices on everything from food to manufactured goods.

According to the Energy Information Agency, 71 percent of the price of a gallon of gas and 63 percent of the price of diesel is directly related to the price of crude oil. Thus, there is no doubt that speculators who drive up the price of crude oil are impacting the price at the pump.

Every time there is a gas hike, it hurts working families struggling to make ends meet. It hurts commuters driving to work and to school, including most of my constituents in Ventura County. It hurts small, mid-size, and large businesses, driving up the price of doing business and impacting their ability to invest in new equipment and hire new workers. It hurts our military, including those at Naval Base Ventura County, costing more to move troops and supplies. It hurts seniors, many of whom live on fixed incomes and cannot afford an increase in retail grocery prices. It hurts the specialty crop growers in my district, including the strawberry, avocado, citrus, and lettuce growers, whose bottom line is so closely tied to the price of energy. It also hurts our overall national economy and threatens to slow job creation.

That is why it is so important that regulators retain the authority to prevent bad actors from taking excessive, or even manipulative positions, using swaps.

I believe that many Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle are honestly concerned about speculation in our energy markets. Let's do something today to stop it.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the motion to recommit.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I don't really understand the motion to recommit because regulators already have the power that is described here. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I find the matter to be irrelevant and not a particularly good use of the House's time. For those reasons alone, it ought to be opposed.

It is getting in the way of one of the strongest, most bipartisan pieces of legislation that has come to the House. It passed the Financial Services Committee by an overwhelming vote of 53–6. It will help grow the economy. It will put people back to work. It will reduce systemic risk.

I want to thank all of the sponsors, especially the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. HULTGREN, for his leadership on this very valuable piece of legislation.

It is time to oppose the motion to recommit and it is time to pass the Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of the bill, if ordered, and passage of House Joint Resolution 99.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 190, nays 223, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 568]

YEAS—190

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

NAYS—223

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon

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

NOT VOTING—17

Aderholt
Campbell
Cárdenas
Cicilline
Cooper
Davis, Rodney
Goodlatte
Hanna
Herrera Beutler
Israel
Keating
Lujan Grisham (NM)
McCarthy (NY)
Pelosi
Rush
Tierney
Waxman

□ 1419

Messrs. RENACCI, BILIRAKIS, COFFMAN, and SMITH of Texas changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. McCOLLUM, and Mrs. CAPPS changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 568 I was unavoidably detained and would have voted "no" on Motion to Recommit.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 568 I was unavoidably detained.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 568 I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 292, noes 122, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 569]

AYES—292

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Beatty
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carney
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clarke
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Engel
Esty
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallego
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Wasserman Schultz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—122

Andrews
Bass
Becerra
Bishop (NY)
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Capps
Capuano
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Conyers
Costa
Courtney
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Enyart
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Frankel (FL)
Gabbard
Garamendi
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings (FL)
Higgins
Holt
Honda
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Langevin
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Massie
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Michaud
Miller, George
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ryan (OH)
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—16

Aderholt
Campbell
Cárdenas
Cicilline
Cooper
Hanna
Herrera Beutler
Israel
Keating
King (IA)
McCarthy (NY)
Pelosi
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Tierney
Watt

□ 1427

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 569, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION RELATING TO DEBT LIMIT INCREASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 99) relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to suspend the debt limit, as submitted under section 1002(b) of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 on October 17, 2013, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 222, nays 191, answered ''present'' 2, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 570]

YEAS—222

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

NAYS—191

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

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—2

Massie
Ribble

NOT VOTING—15

Aderholt
Bass
Black
Campbell
Cicilline
Cooper
Green, Gene
Hanna
Herrera Beutler
Israel
Keating
McCarthy (NY)
Pelosi
Rush
Tierney

□ 1436

Mr. SMITH of Texas changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the joint resolution was passed.

Stated against:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 570, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 62

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

That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Wednesday, October 30, 2013, Thursday, October 31, 2013, or Friday, November 1, 2013, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

Sec. 2. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF THE LATE ISAAC NEWTON SKELTON

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, 2 days ago, what one newspaper called perhaps one of the gentlemen of Congress, Ike Skelton, died here in Washington. For those of us here in the Missouri delegation, as well as those who were involved with Congressman Skelton on the Armed Services Committee, we are here to convey to the body that our colleague, our friend, has, indeed, died, and we who had the opportunity to know and serve with him are, of course, very saddened by his unexpected death.

Ike Skelton was 81 years old. He served here for 34 years and served all of that time on the Armed Services Committee and, of course, becoming the chair of Armed Services. He was a man of great humility, a man of great distinction, and was to be honored in 2 weeks at the Truman Library in Kansas City.

We think that he has been such a significant player in Washington that we, indeed, had to stand up and express our pain over his passing.

Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL is here from the other side, and we are asking, at this time, for the Members to stand in silence in memory of Isaac Newton Skelton.

A MOMENT OF TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE ISAAC SKELTON

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we have just observed a moment of silence for Isaac Skelton. My good friend, EMANUEL CLEAVER, Ike's good friend, Senator MCCASKILL, LACY CLAY, and others who are here from the Missouri delegation, I want to rise with them, not in a moment of silence, but in a moment of tribute. We will perhaps have an opportunity to speak a longer time.

Yesterday, many of us had the opportunity to participate in a memorial service for Tom Foley. Tom Foley was the Speaker of this House.

A gentleman spoke who is, I think, one of the most revered members that has served in this body, Robert Michel. Bob Michel was Tom Foley's friend. Bob Michel was the leader of the Republican side of the aisle. They were friends, colleagues, and cooperated with one another to the benefit of this institution and its Members, and the Dean of the House adds, correctly, to the benefit of our country and all its citizens.

Bob Michel observed the civility that each one of them displayed and the willingness to reach out across the aisle and to make things happen positively for our country and for our citizens.

We lost another individual within the last weeks, Bill Young, who was a similar personality, and added luster to this Congress by his service and his civility.

Major Owens was another whom we lost. Four people who made this institution a better place.

Ike Skelton was my brother. He and I were Sigma Chi's. His son was a Sigma Chi. His father was a Sigma Chi. So we had a very special bond to start out with.

In addition, his first wife, Susan, who died too early, as mine did, came out and knocked on doors for me, Mr. Speaker, in Bowie, Maryland, just down the road here a piece. So I had a special bond with Ike, but also an extraordinary great respect for the way he conducted himself as a representative of the people of his district in Missouri, and the respect that he gave to each of us and the respect that he received in return.

How sad it is that these giants, Tom Foley, Bill Young, Ike Skelton, and, yes, Major Owens, passed from this body, passed from this life, but how joyful it is the extraordinary contributions each of them made to this House, which we should revere and love, the people's House.

Ike Skelton was of the people, for the people, and certainly by the people.

Mr. WOLF. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I would be glad to yield to my friend.

Mr. WOLF. I want to just thank the gentleman for speaking. Ike lived in northern Virginia when he was here, and I would see him many times on the weekend. The second when it crossed the screen that he had died, I felt very, very badly.

To second what the gentleman said, many nights as I was driving home, I would see a car, Ike Skelton and Bill Emerson. They carpooled together. Bill Emerson, a Republican Member from our side, Ike from your side. They carpooled together. They were the best of friends. Ike was one of the finest people that I have served with since I have been in this House.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

□ 1445

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MONTH

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the most important person in my life, my grandmother, always told me that you never hurt somebody you claim you love. This simple, but powerful, statement is one to reflect on this month, October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

When I came to Congress, I met a remarkable woman named Yvette Cade from Maryland who was the victim of horrible domestic abuse. After being denied a protective order by a judge, Yvette's estranged husband came into her place of employment, poured gasoline on her, and set her on fire. This incident changed her life forever but does not hold her back, and now she advocates for other domestic abuse victims.

Domestic violence affects all races, religions, and economic groups. I am working along with my friend from California, JIM COSTA of the Victims' Rights Caucus, to make sure that Congress deals with this issue not just in October but every month of the year. Domestic violence is never the fault of the victim. It is the fault of the perpetrator.

Mr. Speaker, you never hurt somebody you claim you love.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TADEUSZ MAZOWIECKI, PREMIER OF POLAND

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is with gratitude but heavy heart that I, on behalf of the people of the United States, the Polish Caucus of this House, and our region of Ohio, in particular, extend deepest sympathy to the people of Poland on the passing of ex-Premier of Poland Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

During his exceptional and transformative life, Premier Mazowiecki played a leading role in ushering in the first era of liberty that Poland had been afforded in modern history. Poland has assumed a pivotal and leading role in the European Union. History is still recording its rich, elegiac, and poignant history in the struggle to defeat tyranny and give rebirth to freedom.

As The New York Times reported this week, Premier Mazowiecki became the first non-Communist to head an Eastern Bloc nation since the late 1940s. Solidarity in Poland grew with his engagement as Poland led the anti-Communist movement in occupied Europe. Premier Mazowiecki's leadership of Poland at a time of critical change toward a democratic state has secured for him a permanent place in the history of a free Poland in Europe. He lived to see Poland's admission to NATO and Poland's growing cooperation within the world of nations.

An accomplished literary figure, intellectual, and Roman Catholic thinker and writer, Premier Mazowiecki embodied the meaning of a renaissance man. His imprisonment by the Communist Party for his progressive beliefs never dampened his spirit. He was a freedom fighter in word and deed.

Mr. Speaker, may his legacy inspire future generations to live with the courage and intellectual rigor he demonstrated in each decade of his life; and may white eagles fly over his memory and Poland's historic accomplishments as she walks with free nations in liberty's march.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 28, 2013]

TADEUSZ MAZOWIECKI, EX-PREMIER OF POLAND, DIES AT 86

(By Douglas Martin)

Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who went from editing small Roman Catholic intellectual publications to becoming prime minister of Poland—and the first non-Communist to head an Eastern bloc nation since the late 1940s—died on Monday in Warsaw. He was 86.

The Polish government announced the death. President Bronislaw Komorowski, ordered flags on government buildings to be flown at half-staff.

Mr. Mazowiecki, a journalist by profession, worked quietly for years to ease restrictions on individual rights and helped form the Solidarity trade union movement, which gained the leadership of Poland's national legislature in August 1989. By the end of that year, the Berlin Wall had fallen, Communist governments in Moscow's other satellite states had collapsed and the Cold War division of Europe was over.

In a message of condolences, Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, who grew up in Communist East Germany, said that Mr. Mazowiecki made ''an unforgotten contribution to overcoming authoritarian injustice and to the unity of Europe.''

In the summer of 1980, a chain of labor disturbances rocked Poland. The focus was the Gdansk shipyard, where Lech Walesa led a strike to demand higher pay and the restitution of a fired worker. Mr. Mazowiecki (his

full name is pronounced tah-DAY-oosh mahzoh-VYET-skee) helped broaden it into an antibureaucratic social movement that became known as Solidarity.

He and his friend Bronislaw Geremek, a historian, persuaded 64 leading intellectuals, scholars, scientists and cultural figures to sign a petition that read in part: ''In this struggle the place of the entire progressive intelligentsia is at their side. That is the Polish tradition, and that is the imperative of the hour.''

Mr. Walesa thanked Mr. Mazowiecki and told him that he had a continued need for help from intellectuals in addressing government officials. Mr. Mazowiecki helped write the historic Aug. 31 agreement that ended the strike and established Solidarity by guaranteeing workers' rights to form independent trade unions with the right to strike.

The Communist government nonetheless felt threatened by Solidarity's mounting influence, and declared martial law on Dec. 13, 1981, making Solidarity and other pro-democracy groups illegal. As tanks rolled through Warsaw, Mr. Mazowiecki was arrested and imprisoned for more than a year. After his release, he was again one of Mr. Walesa's closest advisers.

The Polish economy worsened, and in 1988 Mr. Walesa and Mr. Mazowiecki coordinated a strike at the Gdansk shipyard. That strike brought no concessions. But a second, bigger strike brought the Communists to the negotiating table.

The Polish primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, appointed Mr. Mazowiecki a mediator, and he arranged the series of talks between the Communists and Solidarity that led to plans for quasi-free parliamentary elections in which a newly legal Solidarity would be allowed to participate.

In the June 1989 vote, Solidarity won overwhelmingly in the districts it was allowed to contest and, after parliamentary maneuvering with minor parties, was able to form a government. Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, head of the Communist government, asked Mr. Walesa for three candidates, of which he would select one as a Solidarity prime minister. He chose Mr. Mazowiecki. Many believed the Vatican influenced his choice, given Mr. Mazowiecki's role as an influential editor of Catholic weeklies and monthlies that promoted the social gospel underlying Solidarity's ideology.

Mr. Mazowiecki's V-for-victory sign to the chamber on appointment became the symbol of Poland's triumph over Communism.

The Communists retained control of the armed services, the police and the secret service, and Mr. Mazowiecki had to pledge to keep Poland in the Warsaw Pact, Moscow's military alliance. Still, he said in 2004, ''I had this very strong conviction that we will make it, that we will be able to build the foundations for a democratic state.''

He promised no ''witch hunts'' against the old government, saying it was ''right and wise'' to offer democracy to all Poles. When asked if he would be a Catholic prime minister or a prime minister of Solidarity, he replied: ''Is there any contradiction between the two? I would like to reconcile the two.''

At first, Mr. Mazowiecki told an interviewer, he was ''terrified.'' With Poland facing staggering foreign debt, hyperinflation and a bankrupt treasury, he had reason to be. He had no choice but to accept harsh, unpopular conditions—including a wage freeze and an end to consumer subsidies—to secure a $700 million loan from the International Monetary Fund.

With no economic experience and little charisma, he was defeated when he ran for president in 1990. Mr. Walesa was elected.

Tadeusz Mazowiecki was born on April 18, 1927, in the city of Plock, in central Poland. His brother died in a Nazi concentration camp in World War II.

Mr. Mazowiecki studied law at the University of Warsaw but did not graduate. In 1953 he began editing a Catholic weekly, but was eventually fired because of his opposition to the Communist government. He started an organization of Catholic intellectuals and a new Catholic monthly.

In 1961 he was elected to the Polish Parliament, where he led the opposition to the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 and unsuccessfully pushed for an investigation of the police massacre of striking Gdansk shipyard workers in 1971. As a result, he was barred from running for re-election in 1972. He then devoted himself to building alliances between the intelligentsia of the left and the fledgling Polish labor movement.

Mr. Mazowiecki, a tall, gaunt man with large, sad eyes, went on to hold various official and unofficial posts in Poland's government. In 1992 he was appointed envoy of the United Nations to war-torn Bosnia. He resigned in 1995 over what he regarded as the international community's insufficient response to atrocities there.

He was married twice; both wives died. He had three sons, Wojciech, Adam and Michal.

NEW HEALTH CARE REFORM PRODUCTS

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, over the past few months, I have come to the House floor to sound the alarm regarding the emptiness of the promises the President made when he sold his health care law, promises such as: if you like your health care plan, you can keep it, and that premiums would drop by $2,500. Those promises, Mr. Speaker, are now on the ash heap of history.

Here is what I am hearing from my district: a woman from Allegheny County recently showed me the letter she got from her insurance company. The letter begins, ''This is to inform you that we will discontinue your health care plan on December 31, 2013.''

A father in the north hills of Pittsburgh tells me his family's coverage is also being terminated next year.

Another woman from the north hills wrote to tell me that she gets insurance through her employer, a small business, but that her share of the premiums are tripling.

When a product comes with a promise that is broken, you take it back and look for a new product. The Empowering Patients First Act and the American Health Care Reform Act are just some examples of possible new health care reform products that we can look at. There are solutions that empower consumers and not Washington elites, and they are a good place to start.

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to join my colleagues in offering condolences on the passing of the gentleman from Missouri, Ike Skelton. He was a wonderful Member, a mentor, and a dear friend. And let me say how much he will sadly be missed. He is in our thoughts and prayers, as is his family, in this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, as cochair of the Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus, today I rise to commend the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security, the National Cybersecurity Alliance, the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, and other organizations working to improve cybersecurity in the United States on the 10th anniversary of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Throughout October, these organizations and public and private sector partners have worked tirelessly to create events and initiatives across the country to educate Americans about cybersecurity and increase the resiliency of our Nation's cyber-infrastructure.

Cyberspace today is inextricably linked to every aspect of our daily lives; and efforts such as these are crucial to creating a safe, secure, and resilient cyber-environment. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating all who have made Cybersecurity Awareness Month a success.

CONGRATULATING MARY PATRICIA HECTOR

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an everyday hero, a young constituent of mine who has set an example we would all do well to follow.

Mary Patricia Hector, a 15-year-old from Lithonia, Georgia, refused to sit idly by while children across the Nation died in playgrounds, while funerals outnumbered graduation ceremonies, and where violence beget more violence.

Mary Pat channeled her outrage into a campaign to combat youth gun violence aptly named Think Twice. Her campaign encourages youths to think twice before picking up a gun. Mary Pat's work earned her the Peace First Prize, a prestigious peace-making award. I am proud of her achievements, and I am glad to have the privilege of representing her.

Like those before me, I also pray that my good friend from Missouri, former Chairman Ike Skelton, rest in peace.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition and the Safe Climate Caucus, I rise to call for

urgent congressional action on climate change.

We must follow the examples of my home State of California, Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia. These leaders came together Monday and signed the Pacific Coast Action Plan on Climate and Energy. The action plan will help them to collectively reduce carbon pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, which will not only help the environment and public health but will also strengthen our economy.

This is a small, but significant step to act on climate change. These leaders are taking these important steps because they know the consequences of inaction. They recognize that the effects of climate change cross borders freely. Republicans and Democrats should follow this good example of action, and our leadership should move forward to combat climate change.

I, too, want to give my sympathy and my prayers with the loss of a great leader, Chairman Ike Skelton. And I know on behalf of my predecessor, my former boss, my colleague Congressman Skelton was a personal friend, and I know that he would want me to say today that he misses him.

May his soul rest in peace.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

BENGHAZI

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, last week, a new national poll was released by a respected pollster, Patrick Caddell, a Democrat, and John McLaughlin, a Republican, making clear that the American people still don't feel they know the truth about what happened in Benghazi nearly 14 months ago.

According to the poll commissioned by Secure America Now, 63 percent of Americans ''think the Obama administration is covering up the facts about Benghazi''; and only 29 percent of registered voters say the Obama administration has been honest about Benghazi. Think about that for a moment. A supermajority of Americans believe they have been misled by their government about what happened in Benghazi. This is remarkable.

The American people know how significant it is that Ambassador Stevens, the President's personal envoy to Libya, was the first Ambassador killed in the line of duty in four decades on September 11, 11 years to the day that nearly 3,000 people were killed by al Qaeda terrorists.

The American people intuitively understand that a plot of this scale was not spontaneously inspired, as claimed by the administration's now infamous talking points. The American people also know that it is remarkable that no effort was made by Washington to rescue the Americans in Benghazi or dispatch a hostage rescue team after the Ambassador went missing that night.

I think the American people also wonder just what the CIA was doing in Benghazi. Was it involved in the collection and transfer of weapons to foreign countries? Possibly to support the Syrian rebels? And could some of those weapons have fallen into the wrong hands, like the Syrian jihadists?

It is too easy to say that this is ''classified information'' and expect the American people to look away. Four Americans were killed that night, several were wounded, and no one came to help them.

□ 1500

Was it because the CIA was conducting a covert operation and if something went wrong, that was just the price of doing business? Were the CIA activities in Benghazi part of the reason the consulate and annex were targeted?

These are legitimate questions the American people are asking that deserve clear answers.

The McLaughlin-Cadell poll also found that 62 percent of the American people support creating a ''special bipartisan committee with broad powers to get to the truth about the attacks in Benghazi.''

Eighty percent of Republicans and 58 percent of independents support the idea. Notably, nearly half of Democrats said it was important to create a bipartisan committee to learn the truth.

The bottom line is Americans from across the political spectrum recognize that not only are they not being told the truth, but they feel Congress needs to change its approach to the investigation by creating a special committee.

Why is it that, despite more than a year of investigations in five separate committees, the American people feel they still don't know the truth about what happened?

Perhaps it is because, despite more than a year of investigations by five committees, most of the questions raised about that night remain unanswered.

Perhaps it is because, despite more than a year of investigations by five committees, hardly any of the key witnesses responsible for the government's response that night—or lack thereof—have publicly testified.

Perhaps it is because, despite more than a year of investigations, none of the survivors that could help answer key questions have publicly testified before Congress.

Perhaps it is because, despite more than a year of investigations, so few committee hearings have been held publicly.

Or perhaps it is because, despite more than a year of investigations, what little the American people have learned has come from news reports from CNN, CBS, FOX, and other news organizations and not from congressional hearings or testimony.

I think all these factors have contributed to the sense among the American people that Congress has failed in its oversight responsibility.

The American people know they haven't been told the full story about what happened that night, and they believe they have been intentionally misled by the administration.

I have come to the floor today to once again call on my leadership to create a House select committee on Benghazi.

I am often asked what is holding up the creation of this select committee. The simple answer is because the Speaker has not agreed to it. I like the Speaker. He has a tough job, and he may have good reasons for not wanting to establish a select committee, but I don't know what it is. And more importantly, I don't think the American people know what it is.

Let me be clear: my criticism is not with the chairmen of committees that are looking into this. They are all good men. They have worked very hard. Their hands are tied. They are required, though, to stay within their jurisdictional lanes, examining only what they are allowed to investigate according to their committee charter.

What happened in Benghazi is interrelated. The ''lanes'' crisscross. The White House, the State Department, the CIA, and the Defense Department were all involved, resulting in overlapping, but uncoordinated, investigations.

Benghazi was a terrorist attack. We need a team effort to find out what happened, why it happened, and how we are going to bring the perpetrators to justice. Any of these chairmen would be capable of leading the select committee, and other members of their committees would be very good to serve as well. They would do a good job. I have confidence in them.

And let me be clear: I have no intention of chairing or serving on the select committee. I will not serve on the select committee. I just want to learn the truth, just like the American people.

There is a history in Congress that when things overlap between committees and transcend jurisdictions, select committees were established. Two well-known examples are Watergate and Iran Contra. And I will submit a list of the past select committees over the past 50 years at the end of my statement.

A select committee would take members from each committee with their individual expertise—and many of the members from these various committees have tremendous expertise—and have them work on this investigation

day in and day out, with no other distractions. It would also prevent the administration from saying one thing to one committee of jurisdiction and something else to another.

I am reminded of the poem ''Blind Men and the Elephant,'' which is said to originate in India. In the poem, six blind men touch a part of an elephant and each has a different description of what the elephant must look like. They argue at great length among themselves. The poem ends by saying that while each is partly right, they are all wrong.

The moral of the poem is that, independently, people may think their understanding of the situation is correct; yet they don't know the truth until the full picture comes into focus.

Each of the five committees may not be seeing the entire picture of what happened that night. Regular order has limited the committees from going beyond their jurisdictions. One group ought to have the responsibility to get to the bottom of all parts of this tragedy. One group needs to lay out a roadmap to obtaining and reporting that information to the American people so we can restore confidence that Congress has a serious oversight plan on Benghazi.

Remember, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. We need to see the whole of this tragedy.

My bill to create a select committee, H. Res. 36, now has 178 cosponsors—more than three-quarters of the Republican Conference and more than a supermajority of the majority.

Nearly three-quarters of the Republican members who serve on the committees already investigating Benghazi now support a select committee. That means a plurality of the members who have been directly involved in committee investigations believe a select committee would be a more effective approach.

The bill has been endorsed by the American Legion, representing so many vets who have sacrificed and given their time and effort to serve this country; the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, which represents the diplomatic security agents that were present in Benghazi—the people who represent them and who were present in Benghazi support the select committee; groups representing the highly respected Special Ops community, who serve this Nation so well; and the editorial page of The Wall Street Journal.

Perhaps, most important, it is being endorsed by some of the family members of the Benghazi victims, like Sean Smith's mother and Ty Woods' father, who want to know the truth about what happened to the children that night and why their country fell short in its response.

Nothing will bring their children back, but we can at least provide them with the clear answers and assign accountability for those responsible for intelligence failures and the inept response that night.

The best way to do this is to break down the stovepipes between the five committees, hold public hearings, and issue subpoenas to all the survivors from Benghazi, those who were in Tripoli, and those who were in Washington responding that night.

We need a public hearing with the principals involved in the decision-making process in Washington on September 11, 2012, including former Secretary Panetta, former Secretary of State Clinton, former CIA Director Petraeus, former White House adviser and current CIA Director John Brennan, and former AFRICOM Commander General Ham, as well as the White House.

We also need a similar hearing with each of their deputies and others who were witness to the calls for help and the decisions surrounding the response not to help.

Unless we hear from these people publicly, the American people will never learn the truth about whether there were warnings prior to the attack, what calls for help were made that night, whether the CIA security team was in fact delayed in leaving to respond to the initial attack at the consulate, and what the response was from Washington, among many other questions.

Also, the American people should know of the bravery of the men who were there in Benghazi.

Until these key individuals are sitting side by side at the witness table answering questions under oath in public, we will never get a clear picture of who made the decisions that night and why.

Again, the hearings must be in public. The American people can handle the truth. Failure to get these answers means there will never be any accountability, which further erodes public confidence in government.

Absent a select committee, the Congress will fail to learn the truth about what happened that night because the administration will continue to use the jurisdictional barriers between each committee to continue to slow-walk or deny information.

There are a number of new developments in recent weeks that make a select committee more timely than ever.

First, our colleague, MIKE ROGERS, chairman of the Intelligence Committee, confirmed earlier reports, telling Fox News that the plot against the consulate and the CIA annex in Benghazi appears to have been weeks, if not months, in the making and that at least two of the plot's leaders had close connections to senior al Qaeda leadership.

Nearly a year ago, I circulated a memo to all members prepared by respected terrorist analyst Thomas Joscelyn detailing the apparent connections and likely coordination between al Qaeda affiliates in Libya, Egypt, Tunisia, and Yemen that resulted in threats and attacks on U.S. diplomatic facilities in those countries the week of September 11, 2012. Unfortunately, the committees have not held public hearings looking at the connection between these threats.

Last week, Fox News' Catherine Herridge first reported that:

> At least two of the key suspects in the Benghazi terror attacks were at one point working with al Qaeda senior leadership, the sources familiar with the investigation tell Fox News. The sources said one of the suspects was believed to be a courier for the al Qaeda network and the other a bodyguard in Afghanistan prior to the 2001 terror attacks.

Catherine Herridge went on and said:

> The direct ties to the al Qaeda senior leadership undercut earlier characterizations by the Obama administration that the attackers in Benghazi were isolated extremists—not al Qaeda terrorists—with no organizational structure or affiliation.

And then, on Sunday, CBS' ''60 Minutes'' aired a segment by Lara Logan, further explaining what happened that night and the increasingly clear connection to al Qaeda. And I am very grateful for ''60 Minutes'' covering this story.

Logan reported:

> Just a few weeks ago, Abu Anas al-Libi was captured for his role in the Africa bombings and the U.S. is still investigating what part he may have played in Benghazi. We've learned that this man, Sufian bin Qumu, a former Guantanamo Bay detainee and a longtime al Qaeda operative, was one of the lead planners, along with Furaj al-Chalabi, whose ties to Osama bin Laden go back more than 15 years. He is believed to have carried documents from the compound to the head of al Qaeda in Pakistan.

It is particularly notable how al-Chalabi reportedly delivered documents from U.S. facilities in Benghazi to the head of the al Qaeda in Pakistan, establishing a direct link between the Benghazi attacks and the most senior leadership of al Qaeda.

Among the other revelations in the ''60 Minutes'' segment was that al Qaeda stated its intent to attack Americans in Benghazi, along with the Red Cross and the British mission, well in advance of September 11.

Lieutenant Colonel Andy Wood, the top American security official in Libya in the months leading up to the attack, told CBS that both the State Department and the Defense Department were well aware of the threat and the attacks on the Red Cross and British missions. He said it was obvious to the Americans in Libya that it was only a matter of time until an attack on the U.S. facilities.

□ 1515

When the terrorists stormed the consulate property they said, ''We're here to kill Americans, not Libyans,'' and they spared the lives of Libyan guards.

Confirmation of that information I detailed on the House floor in July, noting:

> A quick reaction force from the CIA annex ignored orders to wait, and raced to the compound, at times running and shooting their way through the streets just to get there.

The Americans faced a ''professional enemy'' as they encountered waves of

intense fighting on the CIA annex in Benghazi during the early morning of September 12. Mortars fired during the final wave of the assault hit the roof of the annex three times in the dark. Lieutenant Colonel Wood described hitting a target like that as ''getting the basketball through the hoop over your shoulder'' and that it took ''coordination, planning, training, and experienced personnel'' to pull off such a ''well-executed attack.''

Two Delta Force operators who fought at the CIA annex, apparently as part of the impromptu team that flew in from Tripoli with Glen Doherty during the attack without permission from Washington, have ''been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Navy Cross—two of the military's highest honors.'' We owe them a debt of gratitude.

The U.S. already knew that senior al Qaeda leader Abu Anas al Libi was in Libya and was ''tasked by the head of al Qaeda to establish a clandestine terrorist network inside the country; al Libi was already wanted for his role in bombing two U.S. Embassies in Africa'' where constituents from my congressional district were killed. Notably, the administration made no mention of his connection to the Benghazi attacks in its announcement of his capture last month.

Some of the key questions that remain unanswered are why the CIA security team was ordered not to respond to the attack at the consulate and ''why no larger military response ever crossed the border into Libya—something U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Greg Hicks realized wasn't going to happen just an hour into the attack.''

It is particularly noteworthy that Logan addressed the pressure on witnesses she encountered during her investigation, saying:

> An extraordinary amount of pressure on the people involved not to talk and an extraordinary amount of pressure on anyone in the government—the military side, the political side—not to say anything out of official channels.

This is consistent with the concerns I have repeatedly raised on the House floor about efforts by this administration to silence survivors and witnesses to the Benghazi attacks and response.

What are they afraid of these witnesses sharing with the American people, and how can the Congress stand by and allow this to happen knowing full well it is taking place?

CNN in July reported:

> Since January, some CIA operatives involved in the Agency's mission in Libya have been subjected to frequent—even monthly—polygraph examinations, according to a source with deep inside knowledge of the Agency's workings. The goal of the questioning, according to sources, is to find out if anyone has been talking to the media or to Congress.

That was reported by CNN in July.

In a separate piece in July, FOX News reported:

> At least five CIA employees were forced to sign additional nondisclosure agreements this past spring in the wake of the Benghazi attack.

That is what FOX News said in July of this year.

As someone who represents thousands of Federal employees and contractors, including many who work for the CIA, the FBI, the State Department, and the Defense Department, I know from years of firsthand experience how agencies can sometimes use various forms of pressure and intimidation to keep employees from sharing information of concern with Congress.

I know the Benghazi survivors and other witnesses that night from those agencies need the protection of a ''friendly subpoena'' to compel their testimony before Congress, particularly on matters as sensitive as this, in order to protect them. So far, the committees have failed to provide this protection to allow survivors and other witnesses to share their stories publicly so the American people can hear them.

Based on disclosures in recent news reports, I now believe that the Benghazi plot represents a significant intelligence failure by the United States at several levels. Understanding these failures, as well as the government's inexplicable response during and after the attack, is critical to preventing future attacks.

I want to outline a number of the apparent intelligence failures leading up to the attack, which I believe a select committee investigation would confirm:

First: The State Department and CIA failed in their assessments of the militia groups working for the Americans in Benghazi, including the February 17 Martyrs Brigade, responsible for guarding the consulate property which abandoned the Americans and may have even facilitated access to the compound for the terrorists;

According to a May 21 article by Eli Lake at the Daily Beast:

> CIA officers were responsible for vetting the February 17 Martyrs Brigade, the militia that was supposed to be the first responders on the night of the attack, but melted away when the diplomatic mission was attacked;

Second: The State Department, the Defense Department, and the CIA apparently failed to adjust their security postures to support the Americans in Benghazi based on the growing number of attacks on Western targets in Benghazi during the summer of 2012;

To date, no one has explained or been held accountable for why the U.S. submission was so poorly secured despite pleas for assistance by the Embassy staff in Tripoli to Washington;

No one has adequately explained why the Defense Department's emergency response team was on a routine training mission in Croatia during the week of September 11 when it should have been on alert to respond, especially given the threats to the U.S. Embassies in Cairo and Egypt earlier in the day before the Benghazi attack. So the emergency response team was on a training mission in Croatia at the very time and on the very date that everyone knows, September 11. Given the threats to the Embassy, it is shocking that this is the case;

Third: The intelligence community apparently failed to understand the size and scope of the attack brewing in Benghazi in the months leading up to September 11;

As Chairman ROGERS acknowledged to FOX News' Catherine Herridge last week, this was a well-coordinated attack that was many weeks, if not months, in the making;

Earlier this year, CNN reported on the number of foreign fighters who arrived in Benghazi to participate in the attack in the days leading up to September 11. A witness in the ''60 Minutes'' report noted how black al Qaeda flags were openly flying in the months before the attack, and he also noted the announced threat against U.S., British, and Red Cross facilities;

How did the government miss these warnings or were they just simply ignored?

Fourth: The intelligence community seems to have more broadly failed to understand and anticipate how al Qaeda was metastasizing in North Africa;

This administration has been quick to take credit for the raid that killed Osama bin Laden in May 2011, and declared throughout the 2012 Presidential campaign that as a result of its efforts that ''core al Qaeda'' has been decimated. However, the facts don't support the administration's narrative;

In a CNN report on Monday:

> Terrorist attacks hit a record high in 2012, and ''more than 8,500 terrorist attacks killed more than 15,500 people last year as violence tore through Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.'' Increasingly, this includes North African countries likely Libya;

CNN also said:

> ''Despite the death of Osama bin Laden and the capture of other key al Qaeda leaders, the group has exported its brand of terrorism to other militant Muslims.'' These groups include affiliates like Ansar al Sharia in Libya;

Additionally, following a report on Benghazi, CBS' Lara Logan noted earlier this week:

> It became evident to us during the course of our research—this is what she said—that very little is known publicly about the true nature of al Qaeda's network in Libya, and that has consequences beyond Benghazi and beyond Libya. It has consequences that speak to the national security interests of the United States of America;

Most of these affiliate terrorist groups have sworn an allegiance to al Qaeda and appear to closely coordinate their activities and plots with the core al Qaeda leadership, including Ayman al-Zawahiri, bin Laden's successor.

To dismiss or minimize the relationship with al Qaeda's senior leadership is misguided and, I believe, dangerous as we have seen over the last several years. I fear that this administration's insistence in treating core al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan differently

than groups like Ansar al Sharia in Libya has led to a dangerous mischaracterization of the threat and that it has apparently resulted in the failure to anticipate attacks like the one that was carried out in Benghazi;

Fifth: It appears that documents were taken from the consulate and CIA annex in Benghazi in the wake of the attacks;

As I said earlier, ''60 Minutes'' reported that terrorist Faraj al Chalabi, whose ties to bin Laden go back nearly two decades, is ''believed to have carried documents from the compound to the head of al Qaeda in Pakistan.''

What was taken from the consulate and annex and given to al Qaeda's leadership? We don't know;

Additionally, as Lara Logan noted following the report:

> We did not expect that we would find the U.S. compound in the state that we found it. There was still debris and ammunition boxes and a whiteboard that had the day's assignments for the security personnel at the compound as of September 11, 2012;

Clearly, in the chaos of the fighting and evacuation that night, information was left behind at the facilities that may have consequences for Americans operating in the region.

I also believe the administration's response to the Benghazi attack over the last year has been nothing short of shameful and that it also merits a full investigation by a select committee.

From the first hours of the attack, when it became apparent that no help was coming to assist those under attack—either from U.S. forces or from our allies in the region—to the failure of the FBI to gain access to key suspects in Tunisia and Egypt over the last year, this administration has sent a signal to terrorists that the U.S. will not strongly respond to an attack on Americans abroad.

The failure to either arrest or kill any of the scores of terrorists responsible for the attacks more than a year later is inexcusable and reflects an unwillingness by this administration to bring diplomatic pressure to bear on countries harboring these terrorists.

I am increasingly convinced that this administration is more comfortable in using the ongoing FBI investigation as an excuse not to answer questions than it is in bringing these terrorists to justice.

As I said on the House floor in July of last year, Tunisia detained the first suspect in the Benghazi terrorist attacks, Ali Harzi, after he was deported from Turkey in the weeks following the attacks.

Tunisia, despite being a beneficiary of more than $300 million of U.S. foreign aid—American taxpayer money of over $300 million goes to Tunisia—refused to allow the FBI access to this suspect for nearly 5 weeks.

□ 1530

It was only after congressional threats to cut off the aid that the government of Tunisia reconsidered its position.

Ultimately, the FBI interrogation team returned to Tunisia and was allowed just 3 hours to interview Harzi with his lawyer and a Tunisian judge present.

Not long after the FBI interview, Harzi was inexplicably released by Tunisian authorities, and his release was celebrated by Ansar al Sharia terrorists.

Last month, it was confirmed that Harzi has been involved in at least one assassination of a Tunisian political leader.

In another equally concerning case in Egypt, the FBI has been denied access to Muhammed Jamal, an al Qaeda-connected terrorist who ran training camps in Egypt and eastern Libya prior to the Benghazi attack.

Several of Jamal's associates are believed to have participated in the Benghazi plot, and terrorism analysts believe that Jamal may have communicated directly with Zawahiri and al Qaeda leadership about this and other terrorist attacks.

Although Jamal has been in Egyptian custody for more than a year on other terrorism-related charges, the U.S. has never been provided access to him under both the Morsi government and now the current military government.

I personally delivered a letter to former Ambassador Patterson in Cairo asking then-President Morsi to provide the FBI access to Jamal and his documents. I don't believe the Ambassador ever delivered the letter, and if she did, she never told me. That in itself is very, very troubling.

Jamal's connection to the Benghazi attack is particularly noteworthy given that both the U.S. and the United Nations formally, both the U.S. and the United Nations, formally designated him as a terrorist earlier this month.

However, in another example of this administration's aversion to discussing terrorist connections to the Benghazi attack, the U.N. designation clearly notes Jamal's connection to the Benghazi attack, whereas the State Department designation omits it. So the U.N. designation clearly notes Jamal's connection to the Benghazi attack; the State Department omits it. The UN says, and our State Department omits it?

I believe there has been pressure from the administration to omit this type of information from U.S. intelligence products, sending conflicting signals to both our allies and to countries that may have Benghazi suspects of interest to the FBI. I have a lot of confidence in the FBI if they are just allowed to do their job.

But if we are unwilling to identify their involvement in the attacks, it further erodes U.S. credibility in asking for access to these individuals. This willful blindness is disingenuous and, I believe, ultimately dangerous.

In early January, when I offered an amendment to create a select committee to the House rules package for the 113th Congress, Speaker BOEHNER told the Republican Conference that he didn't believe that we had ''reached the threshold'' for a select committee. He suggested that we might get to the threshold, but the committees of jurisdiction just needed more time.

That may have been the case in January, but nearly 11 months later, I think the broad support that has built up over the last year makes it clear we have more than passed the threshold for a select committee now.

I believe, and I believe the American people believe, that the threshold has clearly been reached in terms of cosponsors, endorsements, and new revelations from the press reports, and a deep concern the American people have for this issue.

I was particularly struck by the comments made by Ambassador Stevens' deputy, Greg Hicks, in the 60 Minutes segment on Sunday:

> For us, for the people that go out onto the edge to represent our country, we believe that if we get in trouble, they are coming to get us, that our back is covered. To hear that it is not, it is a terrible, terrible experience.

It is not enough for the administration to just say there is nothing more that could have been done, especially given that evidence indicates that they didn't try much at all to assist the Americans under fire in Benghazi.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for a unified, bipartisan select committee. Let's get to the truth once and for all so we can find out what happened and restore the American people's confidence in congressional oversight and confidence in government.

I yield back the balance of my time.

HOUSE SELECT AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES
(1963–PRESENT)

House Select and Special Committees	Date of creation
Select Committee on Government Research	September 11, 1963
Select Committee to Study the Factors Relating to the General Welfare and Education of Congressional Pages.	September 30, 1964
Select Committee on Standards and Conduct	April 3, 1967
Select Committee on the Seating of Adam Clayton Powell in the 90th Congress.	January 10, 1967
Select Committee on the House Beauty Shop	December 6, 1967
Select Committee to Regulate Parking on the House Side of the Capitol.	March 13, 1969
Select Committee on Crime	July 1, 1968
Select Committee on the House Restaurant	July 10, 1969
Select Committee to Investigate All Aspects of United States Military Involvement in Southeast Asia.	June 8, 1970
Select Committee on Committees I (Bolling)	January 31, 1973
Permanent Select Committee on Aging	October 2, 1974
Select Committee on Intelligence (Nedzi and Pike)	February 19, 1975
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence	July 14, 1977
Select Committee on the Outer Continental Shelf (Ad Hoc).	January 11, 1977
Select Committee to Study the Problem of United States Servicemen Missing in Action in Southeast Asia.	September 11, 1975
Select Committee on Professional Sports	May 18, 1976
Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control	July 29, 1976
Select Committee on Assassinations	September 17, 1976
Select Committee on Ethics	March 9, 1977
Select Committee on Congressional Operations	March 28, 1977
Select Committee on Energy (Ad Hoc)	April 21, 1977
Select Committee on Population	September 28, 1977
Select Committee on Committees II (Patterson)	March 20, 1979
Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families	September 29, 1982
Select Committee on Hunger	February 22, 1984
Select Committee to Investigate Covert Arms Transactions with Iran.	January 7, 1987
Select Committee to Investigate Fire Safety in the Capitol and House Office Building.	May 10, 1988
Select Committee on U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial Concerns with the People's Republic of China.	June 18, 1998
Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina.	September 15, 2005

HOUSE SELECT AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES (1963–PRESENT)—Continued

House Select and Special Committees	Date of creation
Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.	March 8, 2007
Select Committee to Investigate the Voting Irregularities.	August 2, 2007

Source: Committees in the US. Congress 1947–1992 by Garrison Nelson; Committees in the US. Congress 1993–2010 by Garrison Nelson.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, ending domestic violence is not a quixotic quest; it is a noble calling. This is why we have filed H. Res. 392, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should continue to raise awareness of domestic violence and its devastating effects on individuals, families, and communities, and support programs designed to end domestic violence in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to tell you that we will have a number of speakers.

At this time, I yield to the Congresswoman from the Fourth District of Maryland, the Honorable DONNA EDWARDS. She serves on Science, Space, and Technology; Transportation and Infrastructure; she cochairs the Women's Caucus; and she is the chair of the Democratic Women's Working Group. She also cofounded the National Network to End Domestic Violence in 1994. She was its executive director.

Ms. EDWARDS. I thank the gentleman. I know that you join with your colleague, Mr. POE of Texas, in hosting this hour so that we can have an opportunity to remember why it is that we identify and commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and to make a commitment from this day forward, and from this coming year to the next time we have this observance, to do what we can to end domestic violence. I think, after all, that is the goal.

I can't remember, Mr. GREEN, when I first became interested in domestic violence, or even aware of domestic violence, but I look back to the times when I was growing up. I grew up in a military family. We lived in very close quarters. We shared a wall in that military family housing with our neighbor. In our neighbor's house, there was clearly something going on. My sister and I shared a bedroom, and we could hear what was going on, and it was violent. It was clearly violent.

I don't know that I understood that at the time, Mr. Speaker, but I have come to understand it as an adult. It frames my commitment, lifelong commitment, to ending domestic violence.

I remember at that time the military police being called. They would come and they would drive the gentleman around the block, and then he would be delivered right back home. Then a few nights later, the exact same thing would happen again.

I remember my sister and I seeing the woman who lived next door, and we were friends with their children, and I remember seeing her. I was always intrigued by her dark glasses and her great makeup and the scarves that she wore around her neck. It wasn't until later that I understood that she was covering her black eye, she was covering the bruises on her neck, she was covering the bruises on her face from having been a victim of domestic violence. It was many, many years, in fact, as an adult where I came to really process and understand what was going on.

I think because domestic violence affects so many around the country, and most particularly it affects women, that there is almost a chance that in any given family or at a family reunion or family gathering, if you probe just enough, you will find someone who has experienced domestic violence.

Very sadly, you will also find many young children who have witnessed domestic violence. I think that we have only to look at the children who are growing up in homes where mostly their mothers are being abused, and then we wonder why it is that when we look at the population of young people who are incarcerated, and when you ask them one by one—and I have done this, I have visited incarcerated youth—almost to a one they will tell you that either they have been the victims of violence or they grew up in a violent home.

I think, Mr. Speaker, it must resonate with us that we have to ask ourselves why it is that we continue to have violence, and what it is that we can do to get to the root cause of that violence.

So in addition, during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, to identify the fact that we lose about $8 billion a year in productivity that is lost because of domestic violence—lost time off of work, medical expenses, and the rest—we know that it is a social ill that is very pervasive.

We also know that there are other kinds of crimes that are associated with domestic violence—stalking is one of those, sexual assault within a relationship.

Mr. Speaker, we also are aware that our young women, ages 16 to 24, are more likely than not to experience some form of violence in those relationships.

So earlier this year—and it took us some time to get there, Mr. Speaker—we did finally reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. The Violence Against Women Act, which was first authorized in 1994—I was a part of that, helped to lead that effort on the outside, where our leaders in Congress were leading on the inside, leaders like our now Vice-President JOE BIDEN, who was in the Senate and who took this bull by the horns and led us to the passage of the first Violence Against Women Act that was signed into law by President Clinton.

It was the first time ever that the Federal Government came forward and said, we have a real commitment to ending domestic violence by providing resources for shelters and services, training law enforcement, making sure that our judges were equipped to handle these cases in court, providing advocacy services for those who are experiencing violence, and going through the system.

Over each successive couple of years, we have reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act. We did that just recently. As I have said, in these tough economic times, it has been very difficult. All of a sudden, domestic violence became partisan and political.

I am glad to say, Mr. Speaker, that we did finally reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act again. We are providing those resources to those who experience violence.

But it should also come as no surprise that as we engage in the fiscal debates that we have here in the Congress, that because of sequester and shutting down the government even, that many of those shelters and services and programs are, in fact, experiencing a really difficult time at the same time that they are experiencing more demand.

I don't say that, Mr. Speaker, to call out one side or the other, but I am glad we are back at a point where in this Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we take the politics out of domestic violence, and we say to women, whether you are Republicans, Democrats, or Independents, or you don't think about politics at all, that we care about ending domestic violence, we care about the fact, Mr. Speaker, that more women are placed in a much more dangerous circumstance when there is a weapon in the home and that weapon is used to either kill or harm or threaten the lives of those who are in the home. That is something that we can do something about.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say, this last year, we lost a really powerful advocate for those who experience domestic violence. When Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey died earlier this year, we remembered him in a lot of ways as a leader, Mr. Speaker, but on this Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I would like the Nation to remember Senator Lautenberg because he was the one who spearheaded the domestic violence firearm prevention that said that if you are committing domestic violence and you have a domestic violence offense, that you cannot purchase or possess a weapon. The Federal Government and the Congress recognized the importance of removing a weapon from a home where there is domestic violence. Senator Lautenberg was the champion.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close—I know that we have other speakers—and just say that this Member of Congress, and I know that our colleagues here today, remain committed to ending domestic violence, to making sure that women can achieve their fullest potential by living in a home that is free of violence.

□ 1545

And, in fact, as we look around the world, whether it is in Afghanistan or Iraq or it is in South or Central America or in Africa, in many nations women experience violence in relationships in their homes. But, Mr. Speaker, if we can end that violence in the home, then we would do a lot to make certain that children are growing up healthy and able to have healthy relationships and that women are able to achieve their fullest potential.

So I join you today in calling attention to Domestic Violence Awareness Month and to redoubling our commitment to end domestic violence. I say a special thank you and salute to an organization that I started—now I don't know—15 to 20 years ago, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, and all of the networks of advocates around the country who are committed to the same things that we are. And if only we can provide the resources that they need to do their work, I am convinced that we can end this scourge.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank you very much for your testimony. Actually, it is something that I believe will benefit a good many persons who are viewing this today.

I would like to share just a few stories, if I may. Mr. Speaker, I practiced law in Houston, Texas, and my practice was one that involved a good deal of civil work. In the early 1970s, I can recall females coming to my office to receive assistance from a lawyer to file charges based upon abuse that had been imposed upon them.

In some of the cases, the damage done to the person was physical and immediately seen; but as you talked to the person, you could see that this person had been suffering for years. Literally years of suffering would emerge from this person in a 30-minute, 1 hour, 1½ hour visit. And they would plead with me, Please help me get the charges filed. The plea was there because at that time it was considered a family issue. When women would go in to file charges, the police would say, Well, we will look at it. We will see if we can get somebody out there. But they didn't always respond to the evident need. The need was evident because of what the eye could see.

Many of the women who would come in would bring a minister or some other person to corroborate the story. There was this belief that your physical appearance alone was not enough evidence to support the filing of charges.

Unfortunately, society had so developed at that time that we would take this victim to intake and we would help with the filing of the charges and we would help get charges filed. The unfortunate circumstance was that the culture at that time was such that other family members would visit with the victim and encourage the victim to drop the charges; family members seeing and knowing about the abuse not only on this occasion for which charges were being filed, but also the abuse that had occurred through the years. And family members would quite often prevail; and, as a result, charges would sometimes be dropped.

I regret that we went through this time in our history where women were not treated with the dignity and respect that they should be accorded. A lot of that has gone away, and I will say more about a lot of this in just a moment, but there is still enough of it for us to band together and for us to answer the clarion call for help that these women present to us on a daily basis.

I am honored to tell you that we have with us now another Member of Congress from the 40th District of California. She serves on the Appropriations Committee, and I am honored to yield to the Honorable LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by commending Congressman GREEN for his leadership in helping to highlight the tragedy of domestic violence in our country and for arranging today's Special Order.

While it is true that we have made some progress toward addressing violence against women, the fact remains that nearly one-third of women in the United States still report being physically or sexually abused by a partner in their lifetime. Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking lead to severe social health and economic consequences for women and our communities, with the estimated cost of violence exceeding $70 billion each year.

Our Nation's economic crisis has hammered home the sad truth that financial concerns often keep victims in abusive relationships. Studies indicate that economic independence is a key predictor of whether a victim will be able to break the cycle of violence and leave her abuser.

Far too often, it is difficult for victims to maintain employment in the aftermath of domestic violence, especially if they require time off for medical appointments, court appearances, and for their own safety. As a result, women who experience domestic violence are more likely than other women to be unemployed, to suffer from health problems that impact employability and job performance, to report lower personal income, and to rely on welfare. These poor economic outcomes often perpetuate the abuse.

For the last 16 years, I have introduced legislation that would help ensure victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking have the financial independence they need to break free from their abusers.

The Security and Financial Empowerment Act, or SAFE Act, would allow survivors to take unpaid time off from work to make necessary court appearances, seek legal assistance, and get help with safety planning without the fear of losing their job. The SAFE Act would prohibit employers or insurance providers from basing hiring or insurance coverage decisions on an individual's history of abuse, and ensure eligibility for unemployment benefits should a survivor be forced to leave her job due to circumstances stemming from domestic violence.

The SAFE Act empowers victims of domestic violence with greater employment protections and increased economic stability to break the all-too-common cycle of dependence and abuse.

As Domestic Violence Awareness Month comes to an end, let us not forget the victims of domestic violence. I ask my colleagues to join me in ensuring financial freedom for those suffering from domestic abuse by cosponsoring the SAFE Act, and I encourage my colleagues to support Congressman GREEN's H. Res. 392 to make sure that we continue to highlight this tragedy of domestic violence in our country so that one day there will be no domestic violence; it will be unnecessary for us to be here in the Halls of Congress talking about this tragedy.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank the gentlelady. I want to thank the gentlelady for the work she has done here in Congress over the years to eliminate domestic violence.

This has been a bipartisan effort, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to tell you that S. 47, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, this bill passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support. In the House the vote was 286–138. It passed the Senate with bipartisan support. It was 78–22. The bill had this bipartisan support because it embraced women not only who are known to us as people from our communities, but also there were some communities that were embraced that have not been traditionally a part of the bill.

It helped American Indian women because at one time tribal courts could not take on persons who had sexually assaulted women because they were non-Indians. Well, the bill addressed this. It also addressed the LGBT community which had not been included. It doesn't matter what your sexual preference is, domestic violence can be imposed upon you. And when you are hurt, you need help. This bill provided the help needed for women regardless of race, creed, color, origin. Regardless of your sexual preference, you can get help pursuant to S. 47, which received bipartisan support.

I wanted to tell you that annually my friend from the State of Texas, the Honorable TED POE, works with me and I with him. We alternate years of taking the lead on this issue. He has had a

career that has paralleled mine. When he was a prosecutor, I was a defense attorney. He became a district court judge in Texas right around the time I became the judge of a justice court. Here in Congress, we have sought to work together on many bills and many pieces of legislation, but I am proudest of what we do on domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is one where he and I have collaborated to work together to make sure that we get this issue exposed to the public so we can continue the process of elimination. I am proud to tell you that he represents the Second Congressional District of Texas, serves on Foreign Affairs as well as the Judiciary Committee, and I am proud to tell you that I consider him a friend, not in the sense that we politely say it here in Congress when we say ''my friend.'' I consider him a friend in the sense that he and I have developed a real kinship and relationship. Although we don't always agree, we always try to work together for the good of our State, city, and for the good of women who are being impacted by domestic violence.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate those comments.

It is true, Congressman GREEN, you and I, our careers have mirrored. We spent time at the courthouse together, you as a defense lawyer, me as a prosecutor. We became judges at about the same time. We got elected to Congress at the same time. We have known each other now almost 40 years, and I want to thank you for all that time you have been serving the community of Texas. And our districts match each other in the Houston area. We share the same common boundary.

I also think it is appropriate that we are wearing purple ties. If I remember correctly, if you take red and you take blue and you mix them together, you get purple. How appropriate because this is a bipartisan endeavor where we are trying to show the horrors of domestic violence nationwide. It is not a Democrat issue; it is not a Republican. It is an American issue. And I guess it is a purple issue, if we can use that phrase.

As you have mentioned, spending time at the courthouse, I saw a lot of these types of cases, and we have come a long way. And, yes, it is true, I remember the days when domestic violence, when some spouse would beat up another spouse, no matter how bad the injuries, unless it was death, many times the police would say, This is a family problem. It is not a criminal problem; it is not a public problem. It is a family problem. They have to deal with it.

Because of that, many women, primarily, were rejected from prosecuting their spouse when they beat them up. As Congressman GREEN mentioned, the days of spouse filing charges and then being pressured by sometimes the batterer or family members to drop the charges, and then charges would be dropped. I found that frustrating as a prosecutor, and you found it frustrating when you were trying to help those women get those cases filed.

We finally did something in Texas that made a whole lot of sense. We took the spouse, the victim, out of the prosecution process. So it was the State of Texas versus the guy, and the spouse really had no control over the prosecution. The spouse certainly couldn't drop the charges. It took it off of her burden, and made those people who wanted the case dropped to deal with the State rather than the victim. That was a good thing because then those people started getting prosecuted.

□ 1600

JIM COSTA, a Democrat from California, he and I started the Victims' Rights Caucus when I came to Congress. It is a bipartisan caucus, a purple caucus, of both sides that advocate on the part of victims with about 85, 90 members.

One of the things that we are very concerned about, of course, is spouses that are victims of crime. I say that because when somebody beats up someone in the family, it is not the fault of the victim; it is the fault of the person that does the assaulting. The victim is not to blame. We have to get it through to our culture—and I think we are gradually doing that—to understand it is not the victim's fault. It is the person who commits the crime, commits the assault.

The most influential person in my life was my grandmother. God bless her. She lived to 99 years of age. She told me a lot of things and was very wise.

You would be glad to know, Congressman GREEN, she was an old-fashioned Texas Yellow Dog Democrat. She never forgave me for being a Republican. Anyway, we got past that.

She said that you never hurt somebody you claim you love. That was a true statement when she told me, and it is still a true statement. You never hurt somebody you claim you love, especially in the family situation. That is something that we need to live by and hold people accountable when they violate that important rule of life.

You mentioned the Violence Against Women Act. That is a good piece of legislation. I supported that for the reasons you mentioned, but also it does something else. It helps the immigrant community. Too often we find in Houston, where we have a lot of immigrants from all over the world, that someone that is in the United States, if they are assaulted by someone else that is in the United States, both undocumented, the batterer tells the victim, If you call the police, I am going to send you back to where you came from. He can't do that, but she thinks he can do that, so she doesn't call the police, and this guy gets away with hurting her. Plus, she continues to be victimized.

We changed that law because of VAWA. They can come forward. They can get a special visa. They can testify. This person can get prosecuted as they should. It is a good piece of legislation, and we certainly should be enforcing the rules under the VAWA law.

People that I have come in contact with over the years have impacted me. Of course, many of those have been victims of crime, many of those victims of domestic violence. One that I met after I came here to Congress was a wonderful lady that lives real close to us. She lives over in Maryland, Yvette Cade. She has made her story public, so I will use her name.

Yvette Cade was estranged from her husband. Her husband was under a protective order to leave her alone. She didn't have a lawyer. She didn't have someone like you, Mr. GREEN, representing her. She had to represent herself. When the protective order came to be renewed, she represented herself in the courtroom, and the judge denied the protective order. It was withdrawn.

Soon after the judge made that horrible decision, the estranged husband found her over at the video store where she worked supporting herself. He walked in carrying a jar of gasoline, and he poured it over Yvette Cade, and he set her on fire, that wonderful, precious lady. It is all on videotape from the store.

I don't know how she did it, but she survived. A passerby saw what happened. He helped her. He put the fire out. She has had numerous surgeries, and she is alive. Today, she advocates on behalf of victims who are abused in the family. She is quite a remarkable person, and she is a victim of crime.

Our culture needs to treat these people in a special way, whether it is to prosecute the criminal or to take care of them when their physical and mental needs need to be met. We are doing a better job of that. This month, we recognize those wonderful people who have been abused.

We still have the problem of convincing them that the crime is not their fault. They are embarrassed so often. As I told victims of crime as a prosecutor and even as a judge: You don't need to be embarrassed for what happened to you. The person who did it needs to be embarrassed.

It was part of our responsibility, I think, in the criminal justice system to make sure that happened. I won't go into all those types of cases that you are familiar with in unique sentencing, Mr. GREEN, but we made sure that the criminal knew that he was to blame and the victim was not to blame for that conduct.

After hearing 25,000 felony cases at the courthouse—and, Congressman GREEN, I am not going to relate all 25,000 of them, but I would like to mention another one. When we think of domestic violence, we need to remember not only the spouse, but we need to

think about the children that are involved, too, because many times they are the victims of domestic violence.

There was a young girl who was a second-grader, and, like a lot of kids today, she rode the bus back and forth to elementary school. I will call her ''June.'' One afternoon, she is riding the schoolbus home, and she wouldn't get off the bus. She just sat there, and she was literally gripping that bar that is on the seat in front of you. Finally, the schoolbus driver came back and tried to talk to her and asked her, Why won't you get off the bus? This is your home. This is where you live.

June replied, I don't want to get off, because I am only safe when I am on the bus going to school, at school, and when I am on the bus going home. Bad things happen when I get off the bus.

You see, she went back into a situation where she was constantly battered by the ''live-in boyfriend'' is what I am going to call him. Because of the bus driver and doing what she did, they called the police and an investigation took place. That person was prosecuted; but, more importantly, June is safe and her mother is safe.

We need to understand that victims of domestic violence live, many times, quiet lives of desperation and fear. It is our responsibility as Congress to eliminate that the best we can, to provide services for victims, to let them understand that crime is not their fault, that it is the fault of the perpetrator. On the other end, we need to make sure those perpetrators get the justice that they deserve at the courthouse and they are held accountable for those actions that they commit against someone in their family.

Mr. Speaker, Grandma was right. You never hurt somebody you claim you love.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank my colleague very much, and I thank you for your many words expressing what you actually witnessed. Yours was a testimony, not just a recitation, from something that was accorded you by some other person. You were there to see what happened, and you and I know that there is still great work to be done.

In our State of Texas, in 2012, domestic violence caused 11,994 adults to need shelter, Mr. Speaker. It caused 14,534 children to need shelter, Mr. Speaker. It caused 36,831 adults to need nonresidential services, counseling, legal assistance. It caused 15,694 children to need nonresidential services. Unfortunately, 26.2 percent of the adults were denied shelter because of a lack of space.

Mr. Speaker, there is still great work to be done, and I am honored to ask, at this time, another colleague to speak. However, would you kindly advise me as to the amount of time I have left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOHO). The gentleman from Texas has 25 minutes remaining.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask so that Members may be aware. We have a few Members left to speak, and we want to make sure that every Member has some time.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask the Honorable BARBARA LEE to move to the podium and consume an appropriate amount of time. She is my very dear friend from the great State of California, the 13th Congressional District, who sits on Appropriations and who has been a longtime champion of protecting women and protecting people and is truly a champion for the least, the last, and the lost.

I might also add, Mr. Speaker, that she was the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and I was proud to serve under her leadership.

Ms. LEE of California. First, let me thank Congressman AL GREEN for that very humbling introduction, for your tremendous leadership, and for bringing us all together with, of course, Congressman POE, and for really pulling together this Special Order in recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is so critical that we continue to raise the level of awareness in a bipartisan manner until we rid our country and the world of abuse and domestic violence.

As someone who unfortunately understands domestic violence on a very personal level, a deeply personal level, I know how traumatic the experience is, and, yes, I know what the support system and how important the support system is needed to emerge as a survivor. I also know that domestic violence is not only physical, but it is also emotional. It is brutal. It is dehumanizing to the battered and the batterer, and without strong and enforceable criminal laws and services, one's life can be shattered and destroyed. I know this from personal experience.

Also, as a psychiatric social worker by profession, battered women's syndrome will totally destroy a woman's life if we don't address the counseling and mental health services that will really help women rid themselves of the syndrome which comes as a result of a lifetime of abuse.

As a member of the California Legislature, I was very proud to write California's Violence Against Women Act and many domestic violence bills that were actually signed into law, Congressman GREEN, by a Republican Governor, Governor Pete Wilson, and I continue to make this a priority in my congressional work.

In my district, there are several agencies, such as A Safe Place, which is a victim-centered agency. Agencies such as this, they do wonderful work on a minimum budget on issues and services and housing related to and for victims of abuse; and we need to enhance and raise the level of funding because they do wonderful work, as I said, with minimal resources.

We know that staying in a shelter or working with an advocate significantly improves the victim's quality of life. It is my hope that we use Domestic Violence Awareness Month to recommit ourselves to fighting the scourge of domestic violence against men and women.

We have made accomplishments over the decades on this issue, including the passage of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and the Violence Against Women Act, which we fought hard to get reauthorized earlier this year under the bold and tremendous leadership of Congresswoman GWEN MOORE and Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI.

These pieces of legislation have led to an increase of nearly 51 percent in domestic violence reporting by women and a 37 percent increase in reporting for men. This is truly a significant impact. Yet, sadly, challenges remain.

Around the world, nearly one in three women have been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Here in the United States, as many as one in four American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or a boyfriend at least once in their lives.

In my home State of California, the statistics are even more staggering. According to the Women's Health Survey, approximately 40 percent of California women experience physical, intimate partner violence in their lifetime. Of these women, three out of four of them had children under the age of 18 at home.

Children who see or experience domestic violence have a much greater chance to either become victims or perpetrators as adults. They are also more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution, and commit other crimes.

Beyond the cost to children, domestic violence affects the economy with as many as half of domestic violence victims reporting the loss of a job due at least in part to domestic violence. In fact, domestic violence costs employers in the United States as much as $13 billion each year, and it costs our health care system upwards of $5.8 billion, including $4 billion in direct health care expenses.

When we talk about the state of employment and the cost of health care, especially for women, the economic impacts of domestic violence and what we must do to eradicate it must be part of that conversation.

□ 1615

We must prioritize investments in programs that domestic violence survivors rely on when escaping their abuser, including domestic violence programs and other programs of the safety net.

When we fail to make the proper investments, women bear the consequences. Thousands of requests for domestic violence services go unmet. Thousands of calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline go unanswered. In times of economic downturn, the rates of domestic violence tend to increase. That is why this reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act was so very important.

Not only were we able to increase outreach to victims on college campuses and expand protections for victims living on tribal lands, but for the first time, first time, we extended access to protections for immigrant and LGBT victims.

So as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I am going to continue to fight for robust funding at all levels, so that we can continue to provide victims with the services they need. With strong investments, we can address this crisis and end domestic violence, once and for all.

Although we have made great progress, we cannot claim victory. October is a critical time to raise awareness of what continues to be a pervasive issue in our country.

But we must remember that for women, children and men who are experiencing or who have experienced domestic violence, every day must be a day of awareness. So we must support all of the legislation and funding efforts that will indicate that finally, mind you, finally, we will not need Domestic Violence Awareness Month ever again because we have put an end to domestic violence.

Thank you again, Mr. GREEN.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank you—and I also thank you for raising the issue of domestic violence against men. We talk quite often about it being against women, and there is good reason. The overwhelming empirical evidence connotes that women are the largest group of victims of domestic violence, so I thank you for broadening the issue for us. Thank you very much.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to tell you that we have a Congressman from the State of Florida—I was reared in Florida, went to Florida A&M University.

He serves the 18th District of Florida, serves on Financial Services, and he is committed to working across the aisle. He makes a concerted effort to achieve bipartisanship. He is a champion for fair play.

I also want you to know that he understands that, as we do this, as we try to end this scourge on society known as domestic violence, that it is more than simply an issue of violence; it also has economic components to it. He has tried to cause us to understand some of these components, but also, that it is a moral issue.

I would now ask my friend, who accorded me this tie that is purple—the color purple in the tie, as I understand it, represents courage, survival, honor and dedication, dedication to ending domestic violence. Of course, purple is being worn today to spread awareness of domestic violence.

I now yield as much time as he may consume to my friend, the Honorable PATRICK MURPHY.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Thank you, Mr. GREEN, for organizing this special hour.

I also want to thank Mr. POE, Ms. EDWARDS and Mrs. ELLMERS for their leadership on this important issue.

I rise today to speak out against domestic violence and to demand that Congress act in a bipartisan manner to fight back against this plague on our country. The domestic violence statistic rates in our country are staggering. One out of every three women will be the victim of domestic violence in their lifetime. Four are murdered by their intimate partner every day in the United States.

Further, a woman is battered in the United States every 15 seconds. You do the math; that is 240 incidents every hour.

We, as a society, have a responsibility to work to protect the most vulnerable among us, and must do everything we can to address these unacceptable rates of domestic violence. That is why one of the first pieces of legislation I cosponsored as a Member of Congress was the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.

Protecting people from violence by their partners should not be a partisan issue, and it was appalling in the last Congress that such vital legislation got caught up in this partisan gridlock.

With that in mind, I am thrilled to see Members from both sides of the aisle speaking today on this important issue. You will notice both Democrats and Republicans wearing purple pins or purple ties to highlight October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Domestic violence is not a partisan issue, and not just a woman's issue. It is a family issue, it is a community issue, it is an economic issue and a moral issue. That is why I specifically recruited male colleagues to participate in this Special Order hour, and you will see many of them here today wearing purple ties.

We, as men, can help draw awareness not only to how important it is to work toward ending domestic violence, but also to the fact that domestic violence is an issue that we have a responsibility to engage and not to dismiss as only a women's issue.

As role models and other males, we have a crucial part in this fight, and stopping domestic violence will only occur when the main perpetrators of these crimes, which are men, learn to stop hurting their partners. We, as men, not only can, but we must make addressing this issue a priority.

On International Women's Day, I hosted a roundtable discussion at a shelter in my district called SafeSpace, where I heard from both survivors and advocates about the challenges they face to keep women and children safe, and the importance of Federal funding to keep these programs operating. This roundtable highlighted the urgency of working together to address this pressing issue.

I am honored to have Jill Borowicz, the CEO of the shelter that hosted this important roundtable, here in attendance with us today and want to take this opportunity to thank her for her work on behalf of all the survivors of domestic abuse.

Unfortunately, what we are doing here today almost was not able to take place, due to the government shutdown. Jill knows all too well what the shutdown did back home and what the effects of it were on our district and across the country.

One of the less-talked about effects of the shutdown was its impact on shelters and services like SafeSpace that were forced to close their doors and suspend services for more than a week because VAWA funds were unaccessible.

Let me repeat: the government shutdown directly prevented women and children who were facing the threat of domestic violence from receiving services and shelter. This is unconscionable.

While the crisis may have been manufactured, the shutdown was very real, and the consequences were also real. It has shown that partisanship and dysfunction in Congress are a serious threat to the prevention of domestic violence. I hope we can all agree that this should no longer be tolerated.

I look forward to working together with my colleagues, both male and female, and Members from both parties to continue to fund important programs that help provide assistance and shelter to the victims of domestic violence, resources to law enforcement to help them adequately address these issues on the ground, and investments in programs that can help stop and break the vicious cycle of domestic violence in our communities.

Again, I want to thank Mr. GREEN for his leadership on this issue. It is important we bring this to the forefront. No matter where you are from or what party you are from, this is something that needs to be discussed.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank my fellow Floridian. I, of course, am from Texas now, but my roots are in Florida, and I thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 12 minutes remaining.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored at this time to recognize another Texan, a Texan from the 23rd District, who served 22 years, Mr. Speaker, in the State house, a Texan who serves on the Agriculture Committee, a Texan who is a strong supporter of domestic awareness, who voted for the reauthorization of the VAWA, and I might say, a Texan who started his career in Congress extending his hand across the aisle. He is one who not only preaches bipartisanship, he practices it.

I am honored to yield as much time as he may consume to my friend, the Honorable PETE GALLEGO.

Mr. GALLEGO. Thank you so much. I appreciate very much, Congressman GREEN, your leadership on this issue. It is incredibly important.

As I listened to Congressman MURPHY and others talk on this issue, and you realize that one out of every three

women will feel the impact of domestic violence in her lifetime, you have to realize that, even among the people in this room, we know people who have been impacted by domestic violence.

All of us have a mom. Many of us have sisters. Domestic violence can impact anyone. Even though it is not openly spoken about many times, even though it is not openly addressed in our society, and even though many feel that it is something that could never happen to them, the truth is, it could happen to anybody, and it could happen to people other than women. Fourteen percent of the victims of domestic violence are men.

In 2012, in Texas alone, 114 people were killed. In the district that I represent, from El Paso to San Antonio, there were eight cases of domestic violence.

Everyone here, many of you have met my son, who has become the center of my universe. I will tell you that children are incredibly important. They are certainly important to me and to the Members of this Chamber, the Members of this body.

The truth is that kids are also impacted by violence because, many times, the child is also assaulted. In fact, according to a Task Force report, in several instances, the young children at the scene of the crime were also attacked, and, in fact, they were stabbed or strangled or shot or kidnapped, or some violence was committed on the children.

These numbers are heartbreaking. There are far too many people impacted. The sad part is that most of the time there are many signs of trouble. You can see it. There is a time in the life of every problem where it is big enough to see but still small enough to solve.

Researchers and service providers have already identified some common characteristics that help predict the risk factor as a precursor to intimate partner murders. Stalking, for example.

Stalking ranks as a top indicator of risk. Nationally, 76 percent of those cases involve at least one episode of stalking within a year prior to the murder. One in six women report having experienced stalking which made them feel very fearful or believe that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed.

Intimate partner violence manifests itself from dehumanizing attitudes and beliefs, and it results in cruelty, brutality, degradation of the victims' physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.

Ninety-nine percent of all woman who have died as a result of domestic violence never stayed in a shelter. Ninety-five percent had no contact with a certified domestic violence center within 5 years of their death.

There is help out there. We just need to get people to the help, and the only way that we can do that is if more people are aware of the resources that are available to victims of domestic violence.

As I said, all of us, statistically, we are going to know someone who has been impacted by domestic violence, and it is very important that we all work together to make sure that they all have the help that they need.

On any given day in the U.S., over 60,000 women and kids—60,000, think about that—60,000 women and kids are residing in domestic violence shelters. The shelters provide a critical, critical, critical service. It is up to us, our States, our communities and our fellow citizens to make a difference, to make sure that we step up to the plate and keep these resources available, keep the help where we need the help, so that we can stop those hearts from breaking, we can mend those lives, and we can help those kids.

I had the great privilege, as Mr. GREEN alluded to, of serving in the Texas Legislature for a long time, including service as chairman of the committee of jurisdiction, the Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence, and I carried a lot of legislation for victims of domestic violence.

I am very proud of those activities. I am very proud of that opportunity to be of service, and I hope that all 435 Members of this body and the 100 Members on the other side of this building will, all together, in a very bipartisan fashion, stand up and say, Let's put an end to domestic violence.

Thank you so much for your time.

□ 1630

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank my colleague from the State of Texas.

I would also mention to my colleague that, unfortunately, one study concluded that 10,401 domestic violence victims reached out for help but were turned away because of a lack of resources. There is still great work to be done, and I thank you for continuing to do this great work. God bless you.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, we have another Texan, from the 18th Congressional District in Houston, Texas, who serves on Homeland Security as well as Judiciary. We are going to ask that our friend, the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE, move to the podium.

And how much time remains, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I ask that Members govern themselves accordingly, with 6 minutes left.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the gentleman from Texas for his service and for his commitment to an issue that is so vital and important to the Nation, and that is, the protection of all Americans from domestic violence. There is a long history of the journey of this Congress to responding to the cry of women and men, both in the civilian life and in the United States military.

I rise today to acknowledge and commemorate Domestic Violence Prevention Month. I remember the journey that we took in getting to the Violence Against Women Act with our former colleague, the late chair of the Judiciary Committee, Chairman Hyde. I remember in the early stages of the 1990s the attempt to reauthorize this legislation.

The good news was that Chairman Hyde, a Republican, Ranking Member CONYERS, and Senators on both sides of the aisle joined together in one big room to come together and acknowledge the importance of protecting women; and then, of course, to acknowledge that violence, domestic violence, is a disease, an epidemic that spreads beyond the question of whether you are male or female.

The loss of life that has come about because people have not found a refuge is staggering. And for those of us who have heard firsthand stories—as a member of the Houston area Women's Center, the board that, if you will, had supervision over local Women's Centers, where women could go. I have known and have seen stories that would argue so vigorously for more funding and more recognition and more laws that would protect these women.

So I am glad that even though the journey was even longer to get the Violence Against Women Act passed in the last Congress that we ultimately, after the many petitions that we were involved in, saw a bipartisan vote in the House and the Senate—much longer in the House—that allowed it to go to the President's desk.

So my remarks, as I summarize, are to say that this is an ongoing cause. Domestic violence comes from tension and pressure, but it results in violence that culminates with the loss of life. Time after time, women and children suffer a loss of life through violence by a spouse or a loved one; and, of course, we know that it occurs with men. Time after time, women in the United States military suffer from the act of violence, domestic violence, or violence against women.

So I want to thank the gentleman for giving me the opportunity to at least acknowledge that this is a somber occasion, and there is great need for continued support.

My last sentence, Mr. GREEN: you mentioned resources. I hope as we leave this floor that we will all reinforce the elimination of the sequester and a budget process that will allow the funding of vital programs like the Violence Against Women Act.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank the gentlewoman.

And because time is of the essence, I will move quickly to the gentleman from the 41st District of California, the Honorable MARK TAKANO.

Mr. TAKANO. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I stand today with my colleagues in recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The unfortunate reality is that domestic violence is something that affects every community in America, as

it touches every race, class, gender, and sexual orientation. Millions of domestic violence incidents are reported each year, and many more go unreported. Too often, domestic violence remains within the confines of the household, as many victims do not contact law enforcement or go public, often out of fear.

When it was first observed 26 years ago, Domestic Violence Awareness Month sought to shine a light on this tragic reality by educating the public, empowering the victims, and punishing the offenders. And in the 26 years since, we have made great progress, partly due to the Violence Against Women Act, which provides critical support to programs for victims and their families, as well as resources for law enforcement and community organizations.

With a 51 percent increase in reporting by women and a 37 percent increase in reporting by men, the results have been nothing short of incredible. Domestic violence is wrong, and no victim should be hesitant to report it. I encourage every American who feels threatened or who knows someone in a dangerous situation to contact law enforcement or a community organization. Together, we can strive to end domestic violence abuse in our communities.

I yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I do thank you for your indulgence. You have been liberal with the time.

And I want to remind persons that while we do this on an annual basis in the month of October, we do want to make domestic violence awareness an everyday activity.

I yield back the balance of my time.

HEALTH CARE AND VOTER REGISTRATION ENROLLMENT

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, this has been an interesting week for a number of reasons. I would like to call to attention a letter that was written by Chairman DARRELL ISSA, my friend from California, to Secretary Kathleen Sebelius at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services this week.

The first paragraph, after saying, ''Dear Madam Secretary'' says:

> The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is investigating the insurance exchange application, online at www.healthcare.gov, established by the Department of Health and Human Services. As part of this investigation, we are writing to request information related to voter registration data collected during the application process.

On further down, the letter says:

> While HHS and its contractors continue to struggle with the task of processing applications for health insurance coverage, the agency uses the Web site to collect voter registration information. Once an applicant completes the online application for health care coverage, a dialogue box appears asking, ''Would you like to register to vote?'' In light of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, also known as the Motor Voter Act, which requires any agency that provides public assistance to provide individuals with an opportunity to register to vote, the Department decided to include the voter registration option on the health care application. The inclusion of this voter registration may give applicants the impression that registering to vote is somehow tied to receiving health care benefits, such as insurance subsidies.
>
> Given the well-documented flaws with the health care application process, the public lacks confidence that HHS has the ability to safeguard applicants' voter information. Documents reviewed by the committee show that applicants may submit personal information over the Internet during the application process without encryption, potentially exposing personally identifiable information to interception and abuse.

Further down it says:

> Further, it is unclear how HHS uses the voting information it collects once a user submits this data on the Web site. Applicants rightly expect that only State election officials will have access to their information. Voter registration contains important personal details that are valuable to various individuals and organizations.

Toward the end, Chairman ISSA says:

> These facts raise questions as to what happens when the same individual expresses the desire to register to vote multiple times. HHS does not appear to have the capacity to differentiate between duplicates and first-time applicants.
>
> In short, it is unclear what happens to voter registration information once HHS receives it. Applicants have an expectation that the Federal Government is not transmitting private information to third parties, knowingly or unknowingly.

But interesting questions were raised by my friend Chairman ISSA. It should also be noted that the chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, my friend from Utah, JASON CHAFFETZ, also signed that letter. So that has certainly caused some digging in my office to find out what this was about.

And then we find information about www.demos.org. They have a report by Lisa J. Danetz called ''Building a Healthy Democracy: Registering 68 Million People To Vote Through Health Benefit Exchanges.''

Well, that is interesting. It makes you wonder what they are up to. They are involved in this www.healthcare.gov, apparently. And their own information from demos.org says they are going to use the health benefit exchanges, apparently, to try to register 68 million people to vote.

So while people in America—and I have talked to many who are just scared because they have got someone sick in their family. They have lost their insurance that the President promised they could keep. They are scared about the superhigh deductibles they have gotten. They are scared that under ObamaCare they have been sentenced to go from full-time work to part-time work, which means, as I have heard from some, that, gee, that means we have now had to go on public assistance because I never wanted welfare, didn't need welfare until the so-called Affordable Care Act forced us into it.

So people are concerned all over America. The majority want ObamaCare gone. The Web site is not working.

And then we find out that, actually, the Web site seems to be as concerned about getting people registered to vote and getting their invaluable voter information as they are about dealing with the crisis in American lives involving their health care and their health insurance.

You have got people with ulterior motives. They are apparently not just signing people up from the goodness of their hearts because Demos makes clear in their own information, We are going to use the health benefit exchanges to register voters.

Well, now, who would they be registering to vote? Because we are all in favor of people eligible to vote voting. Although we know that the Attorney General has sued States like Texas, even though the Supreme Court has made clear that Indiana's law requiring a photo ID, the Attorney General's rules that require a photo ID to get in to see him, the Democratic National Committee requiring photo IDs to get into their convention, having to have a photo ID to get alcohol or cigarettes or basically to get on a plane or get on most any conveyance in interstate commerce, you have got to have a photo ID. And States like Texas have said, If you can't afford it, then just fill out the oath, and we will take care of it for you.

□ 1645

So, on the one hand, we have an Attorney General and Department of Justice doing everything they possibly can, even in the face of a Supreme Court decision saying photo ID requirements are okay. They still are going after States, which I would humbly submit, Mr. Speaker, disenfranchises legitimate voters when the Attorney General of the United States takes action to prevent States from preventing fraudulent votes.

I was shocked when people called out for international observers to come watch our own election process. This is America. We don't need international observers to watch our process, so I thought. And yet international observers watched our process of voting and were absolutely shocked that we were so cavalier about who got to vote.

No identification requirements. Clearly, people were in a position to vote more than once if they wanted to. People were in a position to vote who were not U.S. citizens, and people could vote multiple times.

I know in Iraq, I was over there right after their first election, and those people had to dip their fingers in permanent ink that they wore around for weeks until it finally wore off. But it made sure that, even in Iraq, they were protecting the integrity of their voting

system further than what we are doing here.

Well, this demos.org, they are going to register, they say, 68 million to vote through health benefit exchanges. So the thing to do, it seemed to me, was to get their annual report.

So, Mr. Speaker, that is what I got—Demos' annual 2012 report—to see who these people are that are going to register voters. I am sure they would be fair and register voters from all walks of life.

And then here we see the president is Miles Rapoport. Being the president, he has got a nice Letter from the President, the board chair.

So then you look up a little background. Well, who is this Miles Rapoport? An article from keywiki said Miles S. Rapoport is the leftist president and CEO of New York-based think tank Demos.

It goes on to say:

While studying at Harvard in the late 1960s, Miles Rapoport was active in the radical Students for Democratic Society, SDS.

Mr. Speaker, it seems like I have in the back of my mind SDS evolved into something called—some of them did—the Weather Underground that Bill Ayers would know a great deal about, being that he held the first fundraiser for the man who is now our President.

But the article goes on to say:

Harvard SDS campaigned against U.S. military involvement in Vietnam—

Obviously, a lot of people did.

—and the presence of Reserve Officers' Training Corps, or ROTC, on campus. In an April 7, 1969, letter to the Harvard Crimson opposing Harvard President Pusey's support for the ROTC, Miles Rapoport and fellow SDSers Naomi Schapiro, Carlin Meyer, Rick Brown wrote, ''to conclude, President Pusey, they support the U.S. military and the policies it carries out. We feel that ROTC must go because we oppose the policies of the United States and we oppose the military that perpetuates them. The lines are clearly drawn. The time to take sides is now.

Well, that was Miles Rapoport, the president of Demos, that is going to register 68 million people through health benefit exchanges that most of us thought were actually just going to be trying to help people get health insurance. They are going to gather their most personal information and allegedly get them registered to vote. And you can't help but wonder what people like former SDS leader Miles Rapoport want to do with people's personal identification information.

So looking on further back in the Demos Annual 2012 Report, see what kind of fundraisers they have had. Well, they had a ''2012 Transforming America Awards and Gala Celebration.'' So we look down and who were the honorary chairs?

There is Bertha Lewis. Some may remember she was head of something called ACORN. So the former head of ACORN is honorary chairman, helping Demos that is going to register 68 million people through the health benefits exchanges.

There is Richard Trumka, the president of the AFL–CIO. Oh, and here are our friends at Service Employees International Union, SEIU, and, of course, the international union UAW.

So that gives us a little feel about what Demos is doing, but it caused a little further examination as to who is it that is gathering this very personal information that Demos wants to use to get 68 million people registered to vote through the health benefit exchanges.

There are a lot of issues and questions that need to be answered—not only about how are they using the personal information of people that just wanted to protect their families or themselves with insurance.

So who is it that is actually gathering this information to help Demos in their efforts?

There is an article here from PJ Media by David Steinberg, ''Draining the Swamp: Top 40 Troubling Listings from the ObamaCare Navigator/Assister Security Nightmare: The article said:

Last week, we reported that the ''honor system'' is being used to confirm the identity and certification of navigators/assisters. The ''find local help'' feature on healthcare.gov refers consumers to potential predators.

We have since reviewed, State by State, every single navigator/assister that healthcare.gov currently displays to the public via ''find local help.''

This search revealed two additional dangers of the navigator/assister system.

It is not just a defunct or a problematic Web site. There is a problem with who is doing this, who is gathering information, who is this nightmare and train wreck of a Web site sending people to.

This says:

Number 1. The consumer is vulnerable, but so is the taxpayer. The program is rife with organizations that have advocated for ''open borders,'' have helped illegal immigrants dodge apprehension, and have attempted to give illegal immigrants access to additional taxpayer-funded resources.

Such organizations are obvious risks to fraudulently register illegal immigrants for subsidized health insurance and, as such, have no business being included in the government-funded navigator/assister program.

Number 2. Regulations require navigator/assisters to be ''unbiased.'' However, many organizations that were founded partly or entirely to advocate for politically left-leaning policies—including causes such as ''universal health care,'' ''single-payer,'' and ObamaCare itself—are nonetheless part of the program.

Many of these groups already receive government funding, which further raises the obvious conflict of interest issues. As many will be paid according to the number of consumers successfully registered for an ObamaCare plan, such groups have several incentives to steer consumers away from free-market plans that may be superior options.

Outside of the below list, only a handful of suspicious ''open borders'' or politically biased organizations have yet been exposed nationally. Below, a list of 40 to spur the much-needed discussion.

This list is divided into three categories. Some listings may fit more than one category, but all are listed only according to the primary concern regarding each.

Number 1. Open Borders Groups. These groups exist in part or in whole to secure greater Federal benefits for illegal immigrants. As such, all are obvious risks to fraudulently register illegals for subsidized insurance.

Number 2. Politically Biased Organizations. ObamaCare regulations require all registered help to be ''unbiased.'' Yet these groups include leftist political advocacy as a primary part of their mission, presenting conflict of interest problems. Additionally, they have financial incentives to steer consumers away from free-market plans.

Number 3. Suspicion Regarding Legitimacy. Of great concern, considering healthcare.gov does not guarantee the legitimacy of any listings. While some of these listings may be legitimate, healthcare.gov saw fit to expose these suspicious listings to consumers with no further information to assist with their choice.

A final note: These listings are certainly incomplete. Community health centers have generally been excluded from it, though the sector has generally been supportive of the push for ObamaCare. If included, this list would be several times longer.

Also, a part 2 of this article is forthcoming.

Open Borders Group.

Number 1. Campesinos Sin Fronteras: ''Farmworkers Without Borders.'' This open-borders organization has participated in countless rallies and activity advocating for the decriminalization of illegal immigration. For just one example, read of Director Emma Torres' organization of a March in 2006:

The 5-mile walk was marked by chanting, the waving of American and Mexican flags, and showing placards of opposing Senator Sensenbrenner's proposal to criminalize undocumented immigrants and those who help them.

Emma Torres, adviser at the Institute of Mexicans Living Abroad and director of Farm Workers Without Borders, stated that a committee had recently been formed to plan the May 1 event. Around 30 people formed a committee in order to invoke a boycott of commercial goods and services and a walkout of jobs and schools.

The purpose of the committee, said Torres, is for the United States to feel the weight of the contribution of immigrants because ''a lot of people deny the contribution that we make as legal or illegal immigrants and they don't want to see that we have so much power in the economy.''

Number 2. Hispanic Women's Organization of Arkansas. This group's Web site boasts of being an affiliate of leading radical open-borders organization La Raza.

The success of HWOA and events also lies in its affiliations with local, State, and national organizations. In 2001, HWOA was selected to participate in the Emerging Latino Communities Initiative of the National Council of La Raza. Since October 1, 2004, HWOA has been an affiliate of NCLR, whose mission is to reduce poverty and discrimination, and improve life opportunities for Hispanic Americans.

It sounds nice, but they certainly are not unbiased.

Again, Mr. Speaker, these are organizations that are listed at healthcare.gov, apparently, to be navigators or assisters to help people with their health care choices. But, obviously, these organizations seem to have other motivations.

□ 1700

Number 3 is the Center for Pan Asian Community Services: This organization has expressed its support of just about every attempt to legalize the U.S. illegal population

and has additionally expressed displeasure with the Voter ID law. They rallied against the Supreme Court decision in Shelby v. Holder, inviting members to participate in a ''voter suppression update teleconference.'' They approved of the Associated Press' decision to remove ''illegal immigrant'' from their style guide. They frequently and enthusiastically expressed their support for the passage of ObamaCare.

In 2007, when the idea of a $10,000 fine instead of deportation for illegal immigrants was floated in Washington, D.C., CPACS Executive Director Chaiwon Kim gave the following statement:

People who are in the country illegally tend to be among the poorest clients at the Center for Pan Asian Community Services, said Chaiwon Kim, executive director of the Doraville nonprofit. So she doubts many could pay a fine beyond a couple thousand dollars.

''Most of the undocumented, they are really underpaid,'' she said. ''In a way, they've already paid society.''

Number 4, another group, is the Puerto Rican Cultural Center: The first thing that appears on the Web site (as of last week) is a statement from the organization Centro Sin Fronteras.

Centro Sin Fronteras is involved in the struggle to stop deportations and having a moratorium. We march and fight for the rights of immigrants. We march to stop the deportations and separations of our families. We are asking Obama to stop the deportations now, but instead, while the Senate is debating to pass an immigration reform, they are deporting and separating even more families than before.

In 2010, PRCC Executive Director Jose E. Lopez ''was awarded the prestigious 2010 Health Award from the Health and Medicine Policy Research Group. The Health and Medicine Policy Research Group is an independent policy center promoting social justice and health care equality for the past 29 years''—and I just feel like there ought to be a drum roll—''in Chicago.''

Now, it is important to understand that we welcome immigration, and we need immigration in this country—it is freshwater flowing into this country—but it has got to be pursuant to the rule of law, and it has got to be legal. Even 60-plus percent of Hispanic adults agree that we need to secure the border before we do anything else in the way of reform.

It is also worth noting that, if a group like this had its way, we would never be able to deport terrorists. We had some who overstayed their visas and should have been deported. This group would be against that, which means they would be allowed to stay in the country and carry out the 9/11 attacks, which they did. Some of us have been pushing that the law be followed and that, if people overstay their visas, then legal action will be taken, and people will be deported, and it would be properly followed up.

This administration has not and even the prior administration had not been doing that or the Clinton administration, but it is something that needs to be done if we are going to be a Nation of laws. Yet these are the very people who are out there assisting people with their healthcare.org filings and getting their personal voter information.

Gee, after the IRS was weaponized and began targeting, wouldn't it be nice if conservative groups were allowed to register people for healthcare.org and to gather all of this personal information. I am being facetious, Mr. Speaker, because, under the law, to be a navigator or assister, you are supposed to be unbiased, and there is nothing but bias that we are seeing so far.

Number 5. Hispanic Liaison of Chatham County: This group operates a Victim's Assistance program—that is great—which helps crime victims concerned about pursuing justice due to their illegal status.

Oh, we are back to that.

Our bilingual Victim's Assistance program began in 1997 with funding from the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission. This program has been successful due to the trust we have developed with the Latino population and our collaborative relationship with community agencies. Several factors limit Latinos' access to law enforcement and emergency services, including fear of the unknown, fear of documentation checks, and a lack of awareness that victims do not have to pay for an attorney.

Number 6. World Relief Chicago: This organization's position on illegal immigration appears clear: they are currently assisting ''children of illegal immigrants in delaying their deportation through the DACA program.'' Their Twitter account links to an article, titled, ''Undocumented Migrants in U.S. Gaining Improved Access to Higher Education.''

Number 7. Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment: From their site's Civic Reflection page:

A recently formed Chicago advocacy group for immigrant rights, the Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment, supports comprehensive immigration reform and more just treatment of undocumented immigrants. Since late last year, AFIRE has been using conversation about readings by Pablo Neruda, Franz Kafka, Toni Cade Bambara, and others to develop its organizational structure and mission.

So it is interesting. We have got so many groups, and they are trying to help people who are illegally in the country. They are helping people illegally in the country, and Demos is a part of this, and their stated goal is to get 68 million new voters registered. This goes on and on, Mr. Speaker.

We have got 40 organizations like Planned Parenthood. They are in here and are registering voters as, apparently, part of the navigators or assisters. I guess they were helping with Demos. We need to know about these things.

A lot of these are politically active: the Arab American Action Network, the Arab American Family Services, the Campaign for Better Health Care, the CFL Workers Assistance Committee, Southern United Neighborhoods. It just goes on and on: In-Affordable Housing, Inc., Chatman, Inc., Chatman, LLC, the Family Health Care Foundation, Canaide, Inc., 2Hurt2Cry, Cutting Edge Health Options, Homebound Services, New Beginnings Medical Services, Village Communicator, Metro-east Area Communities for Empowerment.

We have got a bunch of folks who are supposed to be assisting in navigating for people who aren't able to get through the healthcare.org. They have political motivation. Their goal is to register 68 million new voters. No wonder this Web site is failing. If that is the case that it was being used for political purposes, what a disaster. People are scared about their health care, and these people just want to further their own political interests.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we worried about Americans and were against fraudulent voting and got America back on track to survive for years to come and flourish.

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

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT DIRECTOR, THE HONORABLE CANDICE S. MILLER, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Karen Czernel, District Director, the Honorable CANDICE S. MILLER, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan for testimony in a criminal case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

KAREN CZERNEL,
District Director.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SUDAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113–70)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within the 90-day period prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the Sudan emergency is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2013.

The crisis constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of

Sudan that led to the declaration of a national emergency in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, and the expansion of that emergency in Executive Order 13400 of April 26, 2006, and with respect to which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13412 of October 13, 2006, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Sudan and maintain in force the sanctions against Sudan to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 30, 2013.*

ADJOURNMENT TO FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2013

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today on a motion offered pursuant to this order, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, November 1, 2013, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 62, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, November 1, 2013, at 10 a.m., unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 62, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3438. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Gypsy Moth Generally Infested Areas; Additions in Wisconsin [Docket No.: APHIS-2012-0075] received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3439. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cold Treatment for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables; MidAmerica St. Louis Airport, Mascoutah, IL [Docket No.: APHIS-2012-0089] received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3440. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Avocados Grown in South Florida; Change in Minimum Grade Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-12-0067; FV13-915-1 FR] received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3441. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington; Temporary Change to the Handling Regulations and Reporting Requirements for Yellow Fleshed and White Types of Potatoes [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0067; FV13-946-2 IR] received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3442. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Apricots Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0041; FV13-922-2 FR] received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3443. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Kiwifruit Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Docket No.: AMS-FV-13-0071; FV13-920-2 IR] received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3444. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Apricots Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Suspension of Handling Regulations [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0040; FV13-922-1 IR] received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3445. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Sweet Cherries Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0055; FV13-932-1 IR] received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3446. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin; Revising Handler Reporting and Grower Diversion Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0030; FV13-930-2 IR] received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3447. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Organic Program (NOP); Sunset Review (2013) [Document Number: AMS-NOP-11-0003; NOP-10-13FR] (RIN: 0581-AD13) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3448. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — United States Standards for Condition of Food Containers [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-08-0027; FV-05-332] (RIN: 0581-AC52) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3449. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Paper and Paper-Based Packaging Promotion, Research and Information Order; Referendum Procedures [Document Number: AMS-FV-11-0069; FR-B] received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3450. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida; Relaxing Size and Grade Requirements on Valencia and Other Late Type Oranges [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0009; FV13-905-2 FIR] received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3451. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Potato Research and Promotion Plan; Amend the Administrative Committee Structure and Delete the Board's Mailing Address [Document Number: AMS-FV-13-0027] received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3452. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Domestic Dates Produced or Packed in Riverside County, California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Docket No.: AMS-FV-13-0053; FV13-987-1 IR] received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3453. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia; Change in Reporting and Assessment [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-12-0071; FV13-955-1 FIR] received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3454. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Blueberry Promotion, Research and Information Order: Assessment Rate Increase [Document Number: AMS-FV-12-0062] received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3455. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cranberries Grown in States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, and Long Island in the State of New York; Revising Determination of Sales History [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-12-0042; FV12-929-2 FR] received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3456. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Citrus Canker, Citrus Greening, and Asian Citrus Psyllid; Interstate Movement of Regulated Nursery Stock [Docket Number: APHIS-2010-0048] (RIN: 0579-AD29) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3457. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Manufactured Housing: Revision of Notification, Correction, and Procedural Regulations [Docket No.: FR-5238-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AI84) received October 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3458. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Supplemental Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; Correction to Standards Governing Prohibited Financial Interests [Docket No.: FR-5722-F-01] (RIN:

2501-AD61) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3459. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Records of Failed Insured Depository Institutions (RIN: 3064-AD99) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3460. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Suspended Counterparty Program (RIN: 2590-AA60) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3461. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Safety Standard for Cigarette Lighters; Adjusted Customs Value for Cigarette Lighters received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3462. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulations and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Certain Consumer Products and Commercial and Industrial Equipment [Docket No.: EERE-2013-BT-NOA-0047] (RIN: 1904-AD08) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3463. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products and Certain Commercial and Industrial Equipment: Test Procedures for Showerheads, Faucets, Water Closets, Urinals, and Commercial Prerinse Spray Valves [Docket No.: EERE-2011-BT-TP-0061] (RIN: 1904-AC65) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3464. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface [Docket No.: RM12-16-000; Order No. 785] received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3465. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Ejection Mitigation [Docket No.: NHTSA-2013-0097] (RIN: 2127-AL40) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3466. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Modifications to Renewable Fuel Standard Program [EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0233; FRL-9900-89-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR87) received September 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3467. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia; Removal of Obsolete Regulations and Updates to Citations to State Regulations Due to Recodification; Correction [EPA-R03-OAR-2012-0955; FRL-9901-40-Region 3] received September 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3468. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards and State Board Requirements [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0499; FRL-9901-35-Region 3] received September 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3469. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; [EPA-R05-OAR-2011-0828; FRL-9901-53-Region 5] received September 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3470. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Dayton-Springfield, Steubenville-Weirton, Toledo, and Parkersburg-Marietta; 1997 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan Revision to Approved Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets [EPA-R05-OAR-2013-0136, EPA-R05-OAR-2013-0215, EPA-R05-OAR-2013-0344, EPA-R05-OAR-2013-0378; FRL-9901-61-Region 5] received September 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3471. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Redesignation of the Canton-Massillon Area to Attainment of the 1997 Annual Standard and the 2006 24-Hour Standard for Fine Particulate Matter [EPA-R05-OAR-2012-0564; FRL-9901-63-Region 5] received September 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3472. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plan; Illinois; Redesignation of the Chicago Area to Attainment of the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Standard [EPA-R05-OAR-2010-0899; FRL-9901-44-Region 5] received September 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3473. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Glyphosate; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0307; FRL-9396-6] received September 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3474. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Methoxyfenozide; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0912; FRL-9399-6] received September 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3475. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Sedaxane; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0885; FRL-9397-8] received September 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3476. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0392; FRL-9901-83-Region 3] received October 22, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3477. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Determinations of Attainment of the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Standards for the Liberty-Clairton Nonattainment Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2012-0769; FRL-9901-81-Region 3] received October 22, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3478. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Rhode Island: Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Permitting Authority and Tailoring Rule [EPA-R01-OAR-2011-0148; A-1-FRL-9901-71-Region 1] received October 22, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3479. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Revised Ambient Air Quality Standards for Fine Particulate Matter [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0594; FRL-9901-80-Region 3] received October 22, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3480. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants, State of Iowa; Control of Emissions From Existing Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incinerator Units, Negative Declaration and 111(d) Plan Rescission; Approval and Promulgation of Operating Permits Program, State of Iowa [EPA-R07-OAR-2012-0410; FRL-9901-65-Region 7] received October 22, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3481. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California; South Coast; Contingency Measures for 1997 PM2.5 Standards [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0384; FRL-9901-77-Region 9] received October 22, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3482. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho: State Board Requirements [EPA-R010-OAR-2013-0548; FRL-9901-76-Region 10] received October 22, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3483. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Perfluoroalkyl Sulfonates and Long-Chain Perfluoroalkyl Carboxylate Chemical Substances; Final Significant New Use Rule [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2010-026 8; FRL-9397-1] received October 22, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3484. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Revision to Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Utah [EPA-R08-OAR-2011-0727; FRL-9901-92-Region 8] received October 22, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3485. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — An Inquiry Into the Commission's Policies and Rules Regarding AM Radio Service Directional Antenna Performance Verification [MM Docket No.: 93-177] received October 21, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3486. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) [MB Docket No.: 13-182] [RM-11701] received October 21, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3487. A letter from the Chief, Satellite Division, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Comprehensive Review of Licensing and Operating Rules for Satellite Services [IB Docket No.: 12-267] received October 21, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3488. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Reactors; Regulatory Guide 1.184, Revision 1 received October 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3489. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period April 1, 2013 through May 31, 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3490. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the heading ''Loan Guarantees to Israel'' in Chapter 5 of Title I of the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003 (Pub. L. 108-11); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3491. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report entitled ''Report of U.S. Citizen Expropriation Claims and Certain Other Commercial and Investment Disputes''; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3492. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report entitled ''Report to Congress on Iran-Related Multilateral Sanctions Regime Efforts'' covering the period from February 17, 2013 to August 17, 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3493. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 1991 (Pub. L. 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, a report prepared by the Department of State for the June 20, 2013 — August 18, 2013 reporting period including matters relating to post-liberation Iraq, pursuant to Public Law 107-243, section 4(a) (116 Stat. 1501); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3494. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, certification regarding the proposed transfer of major defense equipment (Transmittal No. RSAT-13-3643); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3495. A letter from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Pilot Program for Enhancement of Contractor Employee Whistleblower Protections [FAC 2005-70; FAR Case 2013-015; Item I; Docket 2013-0015, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AM56) received September 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3496. A letter from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-70; Introduction [Docket: FAR 2013-0076, Sequence6] received September 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3497. A letter from the Chairman and President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, transmitting the Center's audited financial statements for the years ending September 30, 2012 and October 2, 2011, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 76l(c); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3498. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's report entitled, ''Federal Student Loan Repayment Program CY 2012'', pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5379(a)(1)(B) Public Law 106-398, section 1122; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3499. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia, transmitting a report entitled, ''Audit of the Public Service Commission Agency Fund for Fiscal Year 2011''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3500. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia, transmitting a report entitled, ''Audit of Non-District Resident Students Enrolled in Public Schools''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3501. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, ''Audit of the Public Service Commission Agency Fund for Fiscal Year 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3502. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, ''Audit of the Public Service Commission Agency Fund for Fiscal Year 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3503. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, ''Audit of the Public Service Commission Agency Fund for Fiscal Year 2009''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3504. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, ''Audit of the Department of Employment Services Adult Career and Technical Education Programs''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3505. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, ''Audit of the Department of Employment Services Workforce Development Monitoring and Quality Assurance Procedures''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3506. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, ''Audit of the DC Department of Parks and Recreation Facility Use and Permit Process''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3507. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual financial statement audit for FY 2012; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3508. A letter from the Division Chief, Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Minerals Management: Adjustment of Cost Recovery Fees [L13100000 PP0000 LLWO310000; L1990000 PO0000 LLWO320000] (RIN: 1004-AE32) received September 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3509. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Early Seasons; and Bag and Possession Limits for Certain Migratory Game Birds in the Contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2013-0057] (RIN: 1018-AY87) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3510. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting: Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2013-14 Early Season [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2013-0057] (RIN: 1018-AY87) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3511. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Frameworks for Early-Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2013-0057] (RIN: 1018-AY87) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3512. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2013-2014 Late Season [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2013-0057] (RIN: 1018-AY87) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3513. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Late Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Certain Migratory Game Birds [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2013-0057] (RIN: 1018-AY87) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3514. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Framework for Late-Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2013-0057] (RIN: 1018-AY87) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3515. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing Endangered Species, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Species Status for 15 Species on Hawaii Island [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2012-0070] (RIN: 1018-AY09) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3516. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat of the Fluted Kidneyshell and Slabside Pearlymussel [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2013-0026] (RIN: 1018-AZ48) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3517. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for the Fluted Kidneyshell and Slabside Pearlymussel [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2012-0004] (RIN: 1018-AY06) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3518. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting The Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for Spring Pygmy Sunfish [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2012-0068] (RIN: 1018-AY19) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3519. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Foreign Species, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing the Blue-throated Macaw [Docket No.: FWS-R9-ES-2012-0034; 450 003 0115] (RIN: 1018-AY68) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3520. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for Chromolaena frustrata (Cape Sable Thoroughwort), Consolea corallicola (Florida Semaphore Cactus), and Harrisia aboriginum (Aboriginal Prickly-Apple) [Docket No.: FWS-ES-R4-2012-0076] (RIN: 1018-AY08) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3521. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing Endangered Species, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Critical Habitat for the Comal Springs Dryopid Beetle, Comal Springs Riffle Beetle, and Peck's Cave Amphipod [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2012-0082] (RIN: 1018-AY20) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3522. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; 2013-2014 Accountability Measure and Closure for Gulf King Mackerel in Western Zone [Docket No.: 001005281-0369-02] (RIN: 0648-XC868) received October 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3523. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shortraker Rockfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 121018563-3418-02] (RIN: 0648-XC876) received October 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3524. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Arrowtooth Flounder in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 121018563-3148-02] (RIN: 0648-XC816) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3525. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fisheries Management Plan; Northern Red Hake Quota Harvested [Docket No.: 110816505-2148-03] (RIN: 0648-XC793) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3526. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 121018563-3148-02] (RIN: 0648-XC831) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3527. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 121018563-3148-02] (RIN: 0648-XC832) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3528. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sharks in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 121018563-3418-02] (RIN: 0648-XC872) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3529. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 620 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XC873) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3530. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; ''Other Rockfish'' in the Aleutian Island Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 121018563-3418-02] (RIN: 0648-XC869) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3531. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Greenland Turbot in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 121018563-3148-02] (RIN: 0648-XC851) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3532. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 130104009-3416-02] (RIN: 0648-XC815) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3533. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Red Snapper Management Measures [Docket No.: 130627573-3796-02] (RIN: 0648-BD39) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3534. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Highly Migratory Fisheries; California Drift Gillnet Fishery; Sperm Whale Interaction Restriction [Docket No.: 130802674-3749-01] (RIN: 0648-BD570) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3535. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Queen Conch Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; Regulatory Amendment 2 [Docket No.: 130402313-3748-02] (RIN: 0648-BD15) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3536. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Commercial Shark Fisheries [Docket No.: 110831548-3536-02] (RIN: 0648-XC836) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3537. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Trawl Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XC850) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3538. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 121018563-3148-02] (RIN: 0648-XC817) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3539. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska Management Area [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XC856) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3540. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XC875) received October 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3541. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Main Hawaiian Islands Deep 7 Bottomfish Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures for 2013-14 [Docket No.: 130625564-3821-02] (RIN: 0648-XC736) received October 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3542. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 121018563-3148-02] (RIN: 0648-XC882) received October 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3543. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries; Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; Bigeye Tuna Catch Limit in Longline Fisheries for 2013 and 2014 [Docket No.: 130104012-3777-02] (RIN: 0648-BC88) received October 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3544. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic [Docket No.: 120403251-3787-02] (RIN: 0648-BB70) received October 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3545. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery Off the Southern Atlantic States; Regulatory Amendment 19 [Docket No.: 130403321-3803-02] (RIN: 0648-BD16) received October 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3546. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes to Implement the Patent Law Treaty [Docket No.: PTO-P-2013-0007] (RIN: 0651-AC85) received October 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3547. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General; Office of Legal Policy, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Certification Process for State Capital Counsel System [Docket No.: 1540; AG Order No. 33992013] (RIN: 1121-AA77) received September 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3548. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's decision not to appeal the decision of the district court in the case of Cooper-Harris, et al. v. United States, No. 2:12-00887-CBM (C.D. Cal.); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3549. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Visas: Regulatory Exception to Permit Compliance with the United Nations Headquarters Agreement and Other International Obligations and Clarification of Definition of ''Immediate Family'' for Certain Nonimmigrant Visa Certification received October 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3550. A letter from the Auditor, Congressional Medal of Honor Society, transmitting the annual financial report of the Society for calendar year 2012, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1101(19) and 1103; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3551. A letter from the General Counsel, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines; Outdoor Developed Areas (RIN: 3014-AA22) received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3552. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Information Required in Notices and Petitions Containing Interchange Commitments [Docket No.: EP714] received October 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3553. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Piper Aircraft, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0983; Directorate Identifier 2012-CE-001-AD; Amendment 39-17457; AD 2013-10-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3554. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Various Aircraft Equipped with Rotax Aircraft Engines 912 A Series Engine [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0738; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-022-AD; Amendment 39-17568; AD 2013-17-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3555. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Inc. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0349; Directorate Identifier 2012-SW-058-AD; Amendment 39-17576; AD 2013-18-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3556. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls Royce plc (RR) Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2007-28059; Directorate Identifier 2007-NE-13-AD; Amendment 39-17526; AD 2013-15-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3557. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0463; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-165-AD; Amendment 39-17584; AD 2013-19-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3558. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting The Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0186; Directorate Identifier 2013-NE-11-AD; Amendment 39-17571; AD 2013-17-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3559. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell ASCa Inc. Emergency Locator Transmitters Installed on Various Transport Category Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0707; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-158-AD; Amendment 39-17582; AD 2013-18-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3560. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; AgustaWestland S.p.A. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0350; Directorate Identifier 2012-SW-050-AD; Amendment 39-17583; AD 2013-19-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3561. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0097; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-243-AD; Amendment 39-17572; AD 2013-17-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3562. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0301; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-025-AD; Amendment 39-17575; AD 2013-18-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3563. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0119; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-034-AD; Amendment 39-17541; AD 2013-16-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3564. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; PIAGGIO AERO INDUSTRIES S.p.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0527; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-014-AD; Amendment 39-17577; AD 2013-18-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3565. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0270; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-113-AD; Amendment 39-17570; AD 2013-17-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3566. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0399; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-064-AD; Amendment 39-17574; AD 2013-18-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3567. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0398; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-065-AD; Amendment 39-17578; AD 2013-18-05] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3568. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0143; Directorate Identifier 2013-NE-06-AD; Amendment 39-17561; AD 2013-2013-16-23] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3569. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0094; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-160-AD; Amendment 29-17573; AD 2013-17-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3570. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0239; Directorate Identifier 2010-SW-087-AD; Amendment 39-17552; AD 2013-16-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3571. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0240; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-060-AD; Amendment 39-17565; AD 2013-17-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3572. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0364; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-114-AD; Amendment 39-17562; AD 2013-16-24] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3573. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Corrections and Response to Administrative Appeals (HM-215K, HM-215L, HM-218G and HM-219) [Docket No.: PHMSA-2013-0041] (RIN: 2137-AF01) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3574. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc. (Bell) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0379; Directorate Identifier 2009-SW-26-AD; Amendment 39-17580; AD 2013-18-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3575. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Piper Aircraft, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0535; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-018-AD; Amendment 39-17489; AD 2013-13-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3576. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited (Bell) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0400; Directorate Identifier 2009-SW-48-AD; Amendment 39-17579; AD 2013-18-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3577. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Wasatch, UT [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0528; Airspace Docket No. 13-ANM-16] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3578. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class D Airspace; Bryant AAF, Anchorage, AK [Docket FAA No.: FAA-2012-0433; Airspace Docket No. 12-AAL-5] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3579. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Battle Mountain, NV [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0530; Airspace Docket No. 13-AWP-9] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3580. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment and Modification of Class E Airspace; Oakland, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0457; Airspace Docket No. 13-AWP-5] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3581. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Everett, WA [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0434; Airspace Docket No. 13-ANM-1] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3582. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30918; Amdt. No. 3553] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3583. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30919; Amdt. No. 3554] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3584. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30916; Amdt. No. 3551] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3585. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30917; Amdt. No. 3552] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3586. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Dayton, TN, Establishment of Class E Airspace; Cleveland, TN, and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Bradley Memorial Hospital, Cleveland, TN [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0073; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASO-2] October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3587. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Umatilla, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0002; Airspace Docket No. 12-ASO-46] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3588. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airspace Designations; Incorporation By Reference [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0709; Amendment No. 71-45] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3589. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Washington, DC [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0339; Airspace Docket No. 12-AEA-15] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3590. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment, Modification and Cancellation of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; Northeast United States [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0504; Airspace Docket No. 13-AEA-3] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3591. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D Airspace; Santa Monica, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0611; Airspace Docket No. 11-AWP-11] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A);

to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3592. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and E Airspace; Wrightstown, NJ [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0565; Airspace Docket No. 13-AEA-11] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3593. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Stockton, KS [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0274; Airspace Docket No. 13-ACE-2] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3594. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Harlingen, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1140; Airspace Docket No.: 12-ASW-11] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3595. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Fort Polk, LA [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0267; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASW-2] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3596. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Enhanced Enforcement Procedures — Resumption of Transportation [Docket No.: PHMSA-2012-0259 (HM-258B)] (RIN: 2137-AE98) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3597. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Highway-Rail Grade Crossing; Safe Clearance [Docket Numbers: PHMSA-2010-0319 (HM-255) & FMCSA-2006-25660] (RIN: 2137-AE69 & 2126-AB04) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3598. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials Regulations: Penalty Guidelines [Docket No.: PHMSA-2013-0045 (HM-258C)] (RIN: 2137-AF02) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3599. A letter from the FMCSA Regulatory Ombudsman, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to Implement Certain Provisions of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) (RIN: 2126-AB60) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3600. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0931; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-128-AD; Amendment 39-17555; AD 2013-16-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3601. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0341; Directorate Identifier 2012-SW-025-AD; Amendment 39-17557; AD 2013-16-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3602. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0887; Directorate Identifier 2009-SW-02-AD; Amendment 39-17551; AD 2013-16-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3603. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH (ECD) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0020; Directorate Identifier 2010-SW-107-AD; Amendment 39-17558; AD 2013-16-20] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3604. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0092; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-067-AD; Amendment 39-17560; AD 2013-16-22] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3605. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1076; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-274-AD; Amendment 39-17556; AD 2013-16-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3606. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0335; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-187-AD; Amendment 39-17549; AD 2013-16-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3607. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1078; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-012-AD; Amendment 39-17534; AD 2013-15-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3608. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0808; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-170-AD; Amendment 39-17380; AD 2013-05-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3609. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0424; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-014-AD; Amendment 39-17564; AD 2013-16-26] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3610. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0422; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-097-AD; Amendment 39-17567; AD 2013-17-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3611. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Alexander Schleicher GmbH & Co. Segelflugzeubau Sailplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0450; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-010-AD; Amendment 39-17543; AD 2013-16-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3612. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30922; Amdt. No. 3557] received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3613. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0459; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-044-AD; Amendment 39-17569; AD 2013-17-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3614. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1003; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-064-AD; Amendment 39-17563; AD 2013-16-25] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3615. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Early Warning Reporting, Foreign Defect Reporting, and Motor Vehicle and Equipment Recall Regulations [Docket No.: NHTSA-2012-0068; Notice 2] (RIN: 2127-AK72) received October 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3616. A letter from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — VA Dental Insurance Program-Federalism (RIN: 2900-AO85) received October 21, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

3617. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Annual Report On Child Welfare Outcomes 2008-2011, pursuant to Public Law 105-89, section 203(a) (111 Stat. 2127); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3618. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''2012 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor''; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3619. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Service's final rule — Applications of the Segregation Rules to Small Shareholders [TD 9638] (RIN: 1545-BK03) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3620. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Applicable Federal Rates — November 2013 (Rev. Rul. 2013-22) received October 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3621. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Temporary Shelter for Individuals Displaced by Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides in Colorado [Notice 2013-63] received October 17, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3622. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2013-2014 Special Per Diem Rates [Notice 2013-65] received October 17, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3623. A letter from the Chairman, International Trade Commission, transmitting the 21st report in a series on Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA): Impact on U.S. Industries and Consumers and on Beneficiary Countries; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3624. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Medicare Program; FY 2014 Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems: Changes to Certain Cost Reporting Procedures Related to Disproportionate Share Hospital Uncompensated Care Payments [CMS-1599-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AR53) received October 1, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

3625. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; FY 2014 Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems: Changes to Certain Cost Reporting Procedures Related to Disproportionate Share Hospital Uncompensated Care Payments [CMS-1599-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AR53) received October 21, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

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. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 982. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to require the public disclosure by trusts established under section 524(g) of such title, of quarterly reports that contain detailed information regarding the receipt and disposition of claims for injuries based on exposure to asbestos; and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–254). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2655. A bill to amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–255). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CONAWAY: Committee on Ethics. In the Matter regarding the arrests of Members of the House during a protest outside the United States Capitol on October 8, 2013 (Rept. 11–256). 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. RAHALL:

H.R. 3380. A bill to delay any increases in premium rates for flood insurance coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program until the Federal Emergency Management Agency completes a comprehensive review and updating of all flood insurance rate maps and the Army Corps of Engineers reviews and certifies that such maps include all flood mitigation and flood control projects completed by the Corps; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROGERS of Michigan:

H.R. 3381. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. LABRADOR (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 3382. A bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ESTY:

H.R. 3383. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend to all veterans with a serious service-connected injury eligibility to participate in the family caregiver services program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BENTIVOLIO (for himself, Mr. STOCKMAN, and Mr. ROHRABACHER):

H.R. 3384. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that veterans may attend pre-apprenticeship programs using certain educational assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. JONES, Mr. OLSON, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ESTY, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ENYART, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. OWENS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 3385. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide for the purchase of paper United States savings bonds with tax refunds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 3386. A bill to require Certificates of Citizenship and other Federal documents to reflect name and date of birth determinations made by a State court and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BENISHEK, Ms. GABBARD, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. HUNTER):

H.R. 3387. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the mental health treatment provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans who served in classified missions; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself and Mr. DEUTCH):

H.R. 3388. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to provide a grant to assist Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing individuals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. COTTON, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. PITTENGER):

H.R. 3389. A bill to repeal the Consumer Financial Civil Penalty Fund and to deposit existing amounts in such Fund into the Treasury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. AMODEI (for himself, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 3390. A bill to provide for environmental restoration activities and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation or shipment of quagga mussels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Agriculture, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VALADAO (for himself, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. COLE, Mr. COOK, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KIND, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 3391. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income payments under the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program and certain amounts received under the Indian Health Professions Scholarships Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico):

H.R. 3392. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a PDP safety program to prevent fraud and abuse in the dispensing of controlled substances under part D of the Medicare program, and for other purposes; 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 Mrs. BLACK (for herself and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 3393. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to consolidate certain tax benefits for educational expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 3394. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the work opportunity tax credit permanent; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 3395. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the work opportunity credit for hiring veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms.

McCOLLUM, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LATTA, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. WITTMAN, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 3396. A bill to provide for the issuance of a Veterans Health Care Stamp; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 3397. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to develop guidelines regarding the use by the Secretaries of the military departments and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of unofficial sources of information to determine the eligibility of a member or former member of the Armed Forces for benefits and decorations when the member's service records are incomplete because of damage to the records, including records damaged by a 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on 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. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. McCOLLUM):

H.R. 3398. A bill to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. COOK, and Mr. DENHAM):

H.R. 3399. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain clarifications and improvements in the academic and vocational counseling programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CLAY (for himself, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. SERRANO, and Mrs. NOEM):

H.R. 3400. A bill to adopt the North American bison as the national mammal of the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 3401. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow a local educational agency that receives a subgrant under section 2121 of such Act to use the funds to provide professional development activities that train school personnel about restorative justice and conflict resolution; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. MOORE):

H.R. 3402. A bill to improve the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act by explicitly barring debt collectors from bringing legal action on a debt in which the statute of limitations has expired against any consumer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. COTTON):

H.R. 3403. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow motor carriers to use hair testing as a method of detecting the use of controlled substances by operators of commercial motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MORAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. WOLF):

H.R. 3404. A bill to require that every mammography summary delivered to a patient after a mammography examination, as required by section 354 of the Public Health Service Act (commonly referred to as the ''Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1992''), contain information regarding the patient's breast density and language communicating that individuals with more dense breasts may benefit from supplemental screening tests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DENHAM (for himself and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 3405. A bill to better connect current and former members of the Armed Forces with employment opportunities by consolidating duplicative Federal Government Internet websites into a single portal, to conserve resources by merging redundant and competing programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on 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. DESANTIS (for himself, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. YOHO, Mr. BARR, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. SALMON, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. POSEY, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. COLE, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. AMASH, Mr. MICA, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. ROKITA):

H.R. 3406. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to ensure that individuals can keep their health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 3407. A bill to establish the National Center for the Right to Counsel; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 Mrs. ELLMERS (for herself, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. COBLE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. PITTENGER):

H.R. 3408. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to educate certain staff of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to inform veterans about the Injured and Amputee Veterans Bill of Rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 3409. A bill to amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to require that any expansion of a national wildlife refuge must be expressly authorized by statute; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 3410. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to secure critical infrastructure against electromagnetic pulses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. BRADY of Texas, and Mr. HALL):

H.R. 3411. A bill to provide for an exchange of land between the United States Department of Agriculture and the Sabine River Authority of Texas; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOWDY (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 3412. A bill to establish the Higher Education Regulatory Reform Task Force, to expand the experimental sites initiative under the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reduce college costs for students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HANNA (for himself, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 3413. A bill to require a study and report by the Comptroller General regarding the restart provision of the Hours of Service Rules for Commercial Truck Drivers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SCHRADER, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 3414. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 with respect to ecosystem restoration in the lower Columbia River and Tillamook Bay estuaries; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself and Mr. AMODEI):

H.R. 3415. A bill to facilitate planning, permitting, administration, implementation, and monitoring of pinyon-juniper dominated landscape restoration projects within Lincoln County, Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself and Mr. OLSON):

H.R. 3416. A bill to amend titles 5, 10, and 32, United States Code, to require congressional approval before any change may be made to the oaths required for enlistment in the Armed Forces, appointment to an office in the civil service or uniformed services, or appointment as a cadet or midshipman at a military service academy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 3417. A bill to prohibit the consideration of any bill by Congress unless a statement on tax transparency is provided in the bill; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and

in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 3418. A bill to establish a demonstration program to provide rental assistance and supportive housing for homeless or at-risk Indian Veterans; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KINGSTON:

H.R. 3419. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain small businesses from the employer health insurance mandate and to modify the definition of full-time employee for purposes of such mandate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KINGSTON:

H.R. 3420. A bill to require any communication using Federal funds to advertise or educate the public on certain provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Healthcare and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 to state that such communication was produced at taxpayer expense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (for herself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):

H.R. 3421. A bill to remove use and disposal restrictions on property located in the City of Winslow, Navajo County, Arizona; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. COOK, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida):

H.R. 3422. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit for veteran first-time homebuyers and for adaptive housing and mobility improvements for disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BASS, and Mr. GRIMM):

H.R. 3423. A bill to ensure the safety and well-being of adopted children; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 3424. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for facilities using a qualified methane conversion technology to provide transportation fuels and chemicals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. BARBER, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. VELA, and Mr. GARCIA):

H.R. 3425. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to delay the individual health insurance mandate and any penalties for violating the individual mandate until after there is a certification that the healthcare.gov website is fully operational, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 3426. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare; 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 Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 3427. A bill to amend the Crime Control Act of 1990 to require certification of State and law enforcement agency reports related to missing children, to require that certain information be provided to individuals reporting a missing child, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. ENYART):

H.R. 3428. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an increased credit for development and to extend and simplify the credit for increasing research; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):

H.R. 3429. A bill to protect personal and financial information by requiring certain certifications by entities awarded funds under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act for the operation of a Navigator program or certain other Exchange activities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD):

H.R. 3430. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage hiring unemployed individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself and Mr. PEARCE):

H.R. 3431. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to promote family unity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 3432. A bill to expedite the planning and implementation of salvage timber sales as part of Forest Service and Department of the Interior restoration and rehabilitation activities for lands within the Gila and Lincoln National Forests and for Bureau of Land Management lands in New Mexico adversely impacted by the 2012 and 2013 fire seasons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POLIS (for himself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 3433. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to invest in innovation for education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana):

H.R. 3434. A bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to require a State to deny assistance under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families to a parent, caretaker relative, or legal guardian of a child who is not attending enough school, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. CHU, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. POLIS, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. BASS, and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 3435. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to create a demonstration project to fund additional secondary school counselors in troubled title I schools to reduce the dropout rate; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SANFORD (for himself, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. AMASH, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 3436. A bill to require the Director of the National Security Agency and the Inspector General of the National Security Agency to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. SCHWARTZ:

H.R. 3437. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to consolidate, with modifications, the Hope Scholarship Credit, the Lifetime Learning Credit, and the American Opportunity Tax Credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. SWALWELL of California (for himself, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. FOSTER, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 3438. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize use of grants under the Urban Area Security Initiative and the State Homeland Security Grant Program to work in conjunction with a Department of Energy national laboratory; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself and Mr. HALL):

H.R. 3439. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the permanent application of the new markets tax credit for the redevelopment of communities impacted by realignment or closure of military installations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 3440. A bill to designate a peak in the State of Nevada as Maude Frazier Mountain; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 3441. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the Marine Gunnery

Sergeant John David Fry scholarship to include spouses of members of the Armed Forces who die in the line of duty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 3442. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to eligible non-profit entities to establish clearinghouses for local information about employment opportunities and services for veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HONDA, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. DELANEY, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER):

H.R. 3443. A bill to amend titles 38 and 37, United States Code, to expand eligibility for certain caregiver services provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and to modify the Department of Defense special compensation program to make eligible members of the uniformed services with serious injuries or illnesses and to exempt payments of such compensation from taxation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, 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. WALDEN (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 3444. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide flexibility in the manner in which beds are counted for purposes of determining whether a hospital may be designated as a critical access hospital under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. GUTIÉRREZ):

H.R. 3445. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disallow deductions for the payment of compensatory and punitive damages to a government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:

H.J. Res. 100. A joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALAZZO:

H.J. Res. 101. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit the number of consecutive terms that a Member of Congress may serve; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WOODALL:

H. Con. Res. 62. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (for herself, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COLE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. COOK, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MORAN, Ms. HANABUSA, and Mr. BENISHEK):

H. Con. Res. 63. Concurrent resolution honoring the service of Native American Indians in the United States Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BACHUS (for himself and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H. Res. 395. A resolution recognizing Birmingham, Alabama, as home to the first and longest-running celebration of Veterans Day and home of the National Veteran Award; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FATTAH (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H. Res. 396. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of November as National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. LEWIS):

H. Res. 397. A resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the independence of the Bahamas; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CLAY, Ms. HAHN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HOLT, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. BARBER, Ms. CHU, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. WATT, Mr. FARR, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. POLIS, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H. Res. 398. A resolution expressing support for designation of October 2013 as "National Anti-Bullying Month"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H. Res. 399. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month and raising awareness and enhancing the state of cybersecurity in the United States; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself and Mr. POLIS):

H. Res. 400. A resolution honoring the life and work of Commander M. Scott Carpenter, the second American to orbit the Earth; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. PETERS of California (for himself, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. ESTY, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. CHU, Mr. POLIS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. KIND, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. BENTIVOLIO):

H. Res. 401. A resolution expressing support for designation of the third Tuesday of November as "National Entrepreneurs Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

151. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, relative to House Resolution No. 731 appealing to the Members of Congress to exercise sound judgement and urge them to responsibility assume their duty of settling their disagreements regarding the budget; jointly to the Committees on Appropriations and Oversight and Government Reform.

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. RAHALL:

H.R. 3380.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. ROGERS of Michigan:

H.R. 3381.

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

The intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States government are carried out to support the national security interests of the United States, to support and assist the armed forces of the United States, and to support the President in the execution of the foreign policy of the United States.

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States provides, in pertinent part, that "Congress shall have power . . . to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States"; ". . . to raise and support armies . . ."; "To provide and maintain a Navy"; "To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces"; and "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested in this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. LABRADOR:

H.R. 3382.

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

Per Article 1, Section 8, Clause 9, and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution and the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, Congress has the power to enact this proposed legislation to make reforms to federal criminal sentencing. The proposed legislation conforms to the norms of the Fifth Amendment with respect to due process.

By Ms. ESTY:

H.R. 3383.

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

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. BENTIVOLIO:

H.R. 3384.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 12;

"The Congress shall have the power to . . . raise and support armies . . .

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 13;

"To provide and maintain a navy"

And, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

"To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution

the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.''

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 3385.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 2: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 3386.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the United States Constitution enumerating congressional authority ''Rio establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization.''

By Ms. SINEMA:

H.R. 3387.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to raise and support Armies and provide and maintain a Navy, as well as make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces; as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 3388.

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

The U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States;

By Mrs. CAPITO:

H.R. 3389.

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

Article I Section 1: All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States

Article I Section 9 Clause vii: No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law

By Mr. AMODEI:

H.R. 3390.

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

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. VALADAO:

H.R. 3391.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 3392.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 3393.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debt and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 3394.

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

Article I, Section 8; and Amendment XVI.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 3395.

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

Article I, Section 8; and Amendment XVI.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 3396.

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

The attached bill is constitutional under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes'' as well as Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 3397.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 3398.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7: No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 3399.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. CLAY:

H.R. 3400.

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

Article I, Section 8, Paragraph 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 3401.

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

The changes made by this bill to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act are within Congress' authority under Article I, section 8, clause 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 3402.

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

Article 1, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate foreign and interstate commerce).

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 3403.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the enumerated powers listed in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 3404.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 3405.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. DESANTIS:

H.R. 3406.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution (Interstate Commerce Clause)

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 3407.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution and Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. ELLMERS:

H.R. 3408.

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

The authority to enact this bill is derived from, but may not be limited to, Clause 12 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 3409.

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

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution, which states:

''The Congress shall have the power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.''

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:

H.R. 3410.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution which states that Congress shall have power to . . . provide for the common defense.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 3411.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution states that ''The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States . . .'' Under the authority of the Constitution, the Sabine National Forest Land Exchange Act authorizes the disposal of federal land through exchange or sale of federal land.

By Mr. GOWDY:

H.R. 3412.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. HANNA:

H.R. 3413.

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

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is enumerated in Clause 3 of

Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER:

H.R. 3414.

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

Pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 3415.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 3416.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 16 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 3417.

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

Article I, Section 5, Clause 2

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 3418.

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

Article 1, section 8, clause 1 and Article 1, section 8, and clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KINGSTON:

H.R. 3419.

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

Article I, Section 8:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excise shall be uniform throughout the United States;

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

By Mr. KINGSTON:

H.R. 3420.

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

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by This Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Article I, Section 9: No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 3421.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, ''The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof''

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 3422.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 3423.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 3424.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 3425.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:

H.R. 3426.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 3427.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause I and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 3428.

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

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS:

H.R. 3429.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Congress' legislative powers under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 to regulate Commerce among the several States.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 3430.

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

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 3431.

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

Article 1, Section 8. The Congress shall have the Power to establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 3432.

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

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the power to enact this law.

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 3433.

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

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 3434.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California:

H.R. 3435.

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

Article One of the United States Constitution, section 8, clause 18:

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

By Mr. SANFORD:

H.R. 3436.

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

Article II, Section 2, Clause 2, which states that the President ''. . . shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint . . . all other officers of the United States . . .''

[Appointments Clause]

By Ms. SCHWARTZ:

H.R. 3437.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 3438.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18; Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 3439.

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 1of the United States Constitution: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 3440.

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

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 3441.

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

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Amendment XVI, of the United States Constitution

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 3442.

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

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Amendment XVI, of the United States Constitution

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 3443.

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

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 3444.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 3445.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof . . .

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:

H.J. Res. 100.

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

Article I, Clause 9, Section 7

By Mr. PALAZZO:

H.J. Res. 101.

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

Article V of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the authority to propose constitutional amendments.

Article V: The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this, Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 15: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 24: Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 38: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 164: Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 227: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 259: Mr. GOWDY and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 311: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 351: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 383: Mr. HECK of Nevada.
H.R. 455: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 465: Mr. JONES, and Mr. PETERS of California.
H.R. 503: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 530: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 533: Mr. GUTHRIE and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 535: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 541: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 647: Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 683: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 685: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mrs. ELLMERS and Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 721: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. BARBER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 764: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 800: Mrs. ROBY.
H.R. 831: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 846: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 847: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 863: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 875: Mr. LANKFORD.
H.R. 901: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 921: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 938: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 946: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 1000: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 1015: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 1037: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 1074: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1091: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 1095: Mr. SCALISE.
H.R. 1105: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 1186: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 1199: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 1201: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1209: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. BARR.
H.R. 1212: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1239: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1250: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 1281: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. GRANGER.
H.R. 1291: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 1296: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1331: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 1333: Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 1339: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DELANEY, and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1342: Mr. BISHOP of Utah and Mr. BENTIVOLIO.
H.R. 1395: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 1428: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H.R. 1501: Mr. JONES and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 1563: Mr. TURNER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. HULTGREN.
H.R. 1566: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1616: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 1661: Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1666: Mr. DELANEY and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1701: Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 1725: Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 1726: Mr. HONDA and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 1731: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 1750: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 1755: Mr. RUIZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 1787: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 1795: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 1803: Mr. BRADY of Texas.
H.R. 1812: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 1814: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 1832: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 1918: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 1921: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 1992: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1998: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 2001: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 2018: Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 2023: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 2041: Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 2084: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 2085: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 2134: Mr. JOYCE and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 2178: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2182: Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 2283: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 2288: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2302: Mr. SERRANO and Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 2309: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER and Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 2333: Mr. SCHRADER.
H.R. 2358: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2368: Mrs. CAPPS and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 2376: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2415: Mr. PAYNE and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2429: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 2430: Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 2453: Mr. WHITFIELD.
H.R. 2502: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. FARR, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 2504: Ms. HANABUSA.
H.R. 2540: Mr. YODER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 2543: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 2548: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MOORE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 2582: Mr. PETERS of Michigan.
H.R. 2591: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 2606: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 2607: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 2666: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 2675: Mr. GARCIA.
H.R. 2692: Ms. HANABUSA.
H.R. 2725: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 2728: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 2778: Mr. JONES and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 2780: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 2785: Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 2805: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 2810: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 2822: Ms. EDWARDS.
H.R. 2827: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 2918: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 2939: Mr. OWENS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. KILMER, Mr. COOK, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 2943: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 2955: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 2959: Mr. JORDAN, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. LONG, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. COBLE, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. BARTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MCINTYRE and Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 2962: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 2967: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 2983: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 3040: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 3086: Mr. HOLDING, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 3108: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3116: Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 3118: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3121: Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 3125: Mr. RUSH, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 3143: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 3146: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 3179: Mr. HARPER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 3199: Mr. HALL, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. BENTIVOLIO.
H.R. 3212: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 3219: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 3279: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H.R. 3299: Mr. BRADY of Texas.
H.R. 3301: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 3305: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 3308: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BARTON, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. DENT, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. FLORES, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. LANCE, Mr. MCKEON, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. MICA, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. RADEL, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 3309: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 3310: Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 3318: Mr. COLE and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 3319: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 3333: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 3346: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 3348: Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 3349: Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 3350: Mr. COOK, Mr. COTTON, Ms. FOXX, Mr. JONES, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. BARR, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. STIVERS, Mr.

BENTIVOLIO, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. REED, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. LABRADOR, Mrs. BLACK, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 3351: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 3353: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. CHU, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. HAHN, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3356: Mr. AMODEI and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 3358: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 3359: Mr. COLE, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. LABRADOR.

H.R. 3361: Mr. ENYART, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 3363: Mr. COBLE, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. HANNA, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. RADEL, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. NOLAN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. OWENS, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 3364: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3370: Mr. RUNYAN, Ms. DELAURO, M. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. MENG, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. SANFORD, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CHU, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mr. LANCE.

H.J. Res. 21: Mr. KIND.

H.J. Res. 56: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. RUSH.

H.J. Res. 64: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H. Res. 109: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. YODER.

H. Res. 153: Mr. JONES.

H. Res. 190: Mr. RICHMOND.

H. Res. 231: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. ISSA, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. HULTGREN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. MASSIE.

H. Res. 254: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H. Res. 281: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MESSER, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. FLORES.

H. Res. 284: Mr. DESANTIS and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H. Res. 365: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. PETERS of Michigan.

H. Res. 394: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MORAN, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2013 No. 153

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the giver of gifts, thank You for Your unchanging promises that we can claim each day. Lord, You have promised to supply our needs and to work everything together for our good.

Bless our lawmakers. Help them to seek not what they can get from You but what Your power can enable them to do for You. Remind them that in prayer they do not so much hear a voice as acquire a voice. Show them how to use that acquired voice to speak for the voiceless. May they even use their pain to put them in touch with the pain of others.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 30, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY 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. Mr. President, following the remarks of myself and Senator MCCONNELL, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Alan Estevez to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, working with Senator Hagel. The time until 10:30 a.m. will be equally divided. At 10:30, there will be a cloture vote on the nomination. If cloture is invoked, we expect to confirm this nomination later today and continue with cloture votes on additional nominations.

We always complain about what we don't get done, but I think everyone in the Senate should recognize that as a result of our having changed the rules in the Senate, we are able to move through some of these things much more quickly. We have reduced the time from 30 hours after cloture has been invoked to 8 hours, and that has helped us move through these issues. So everybody complains about our never changing things around here, but we have, and it has helped us.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate has the privilege of considering the nominations of many exceptionally talented individuals for a variety of jobs. This week the Senate has already approved three qualified and dedicated nominees—including Richard Griffin, to serve among the people's watchdogs against labor abuses, and Tom Wheeler, to lead the body that oversees the Nation's telecommunications industries. This week we will consider five other fine public servants for a variety of crucial roles in the executive branch. So when one nominee's personal story and professional dedication stands out in this distinguished crowd, it is remarkable. And it is remarkable when we talk about a woman by the name of Patricia Millett.

Ms. Millett has been chosen by the President to be a nominee to serve on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. She graduated at the top of her class from the University of Illinois and then attended Harvard Law School. She clerked for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and served as an appellate attorney in the Justice Department's civil division. She then served as assistant to the Solicitor General under Democratic President Bill Clinton as well as Republican President George W. Bush. Ms. Millett then was chosen to lead the Supreme Court practice at the prestigious law firm of Akin Gump, and has argued more than 32 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. This is a stunning number that rarely anyone ever reaches. I am sure there are others who have reached this number, but the two who come to my mind are the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who argued many cases, and a long-time friend, the late Rex Lee, who was Solicitor General for President Reagan. Prior to, during his tenure as Solicitor General, and after he argued many cases before the Supreme Court. But 32 arguments before the Supreme Court is a stunningly high number.

Patricia Millett's professional credentials are matched by her personal integrity and determination. She is a military spouse, mother of two children, who argued a case before the Supreme Court while her husband, who

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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serves in the Navy, was deployed in Afghanistan. Ms. Millett has been a literacy tutor for more than two decades, and volunteers at her church's homeless shelter. She has the support of law enforcement officials, legal professionals, and military organizations from across the political spectrum. Her colleagues have called her fair-minded, principled, and exceptionally gifted, with unwavering integrity. So it is truly a shame that some Republicans would filibuster this exceedingly qualified nominee for unrelated political reasons.

Patricia Millett is nominated to what many call the second most important court in the land—the DC Circuit. This court reviews the complicated decisions and rulemakings of Federal agencies, and since September 11, 2001, has handled some of the most important terrorism and detention cases in the history of our country.

This is what former DC Chief Judge Patricia Wald said about the court's caseload:

> The D.C. Circuit hears the most complex, time-consuming, labyrinthine disputes over regulations with the greatest impact on ordinary Americans' lives: clean air and water regulations, nuclear plant safety, healthcare reform issues, insider trading and more. These cases can require thousands of hours of preparation by the judges, often consuming days of argument, involving hundreds of parties and interveners, and necessitating dozens of briefs and thousands of pages of record—all of which culminates in lengthy, technically intricate legal opinions. . . . The nature of the D.C. Circuit's caseload is what sets it apart from other courts.

Unfortunately, today the court is functioning far below its full complement of judges. The number of judges was chosen legislatively a long time ago. Today, only 8 of the 11 seats on the DC Circuit are full. The three remaining vacancies are due in part to Republican obstruction of qualified nominees such as Caitlin Halligan, an extremely qualified woman. Twice she was defeated.

Republicans claim that filling these three remaining vacancies on the DC Circuit would amount to court packing. This is ridiculous. We are not changing any law. We are filling vacancies. Circuit court nominees, including nominees for the DC Circuit, have waited seven times longer for confirmation under President Obama than they did under the last President Bush. So it is no mystery why we have a judiciary crisis in America. Making nominations to vacant judgeships is not court packing. It is the President's job.

I repeat, filling vacant judgeships is the President's job. It has nothing to do with court packing.

Senate Republicans were happy to confirm judges to the DC Circuit when President Reagan and President George W. Bush were in office, but now that a Democrat serves in the White House, they want to eliminate the remaining three DC Circuit seats, although the court's workload has actually grown since President Bush was in office.

Republicans are using convenient but flawed political arguments to hamstring our Nation's court and deny highly qualified nominees such as Ms. Millett a fair up-or-down vote. But she deserves better. She deserves a return to the days when all Senators—including Republicans—took their duty to advise and consent seriously.

I am cautiously optimistic that enough Republicans understand their responsibilities and will allow us to move forward on this very important nomination. She deserves a return to the days when qualified nominees were guaranteed a full and fair confirmation process to avoid the political games. It is basically fairness.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

OBAMACARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, each of us was sent here to serve and protect our constituents. That is why Republicans voted unanimously against ObamaCare in 2009, because we believed it was our job to stand for middle-class families we were sent here to represent, because we—and not just us, but countless health care professionals, policy experts, and citizens across the country—saw this train wreck coming literally years ago, knew the pain it would cause, and warned against it.

I wish the President and Washington Democrats had listened back then. I really do. I wish we had been wrong about ObamaCare too, because the failings of this law are about so much more than a Web site. They are about real people.

Yes, the healthcare.gov fiasco can seem almost comical at times—like a surreal parody of government bungling. But as the President says, this is about so much more than a Web site. He is right about that. The pain this law is causing is not digital—it is real.

Workers first began to feel the pain when employers started cutting hours, and then benefits, and some jobs altogether. Spouses felt it when they lost their health coverage they had had through their husband's or wife's job. College graduates felt it when they could only find part-time work, if they could find anything at all in the Obama economy. And this was before basically anyone had even heard of this ObamaCare Web site.

Now that the health care law is actually coming online, many Americans are finding they will be seeing premium increases or that they will be getting hit with higher copays and deductibles or that they can no longer see the doctors who use the hospitals of their choice. In fact, I have been hearing from constituents in western Kentucky that a number of the hospitals and health care providers they have relied upon will no longer be available in their network—and, in many cases, they will be responsible for 100 percent of the costs associated with services performed at those facilities they used to use.

Let me repeat. One hundred percent of the costs. How is that an improvement? How is that reform?

Many in the middle class are also learning that the health plans they were promised they could keep are being taken away from them anyway. They feel absolutely betrayed. They feel hurt. And they feel vulnerable. When these folks are offered ''comparable'' plans at all, they are often completely unaffordable. And if they poke around on the exchanges—assuming they could even log on—many are finding that ObamaCare coverage is going to cost them way too much, not offer them what they want, or both.

Here is a note I recently received from a constituent in Caldwell County:

> According to . . . our health insurance provider, we can elect to stay on our current plan for this year with less coverage or switch to the 'Affordable' Care Plan that provides a little more coverage but at a cost increase that is almost double. We currently pay $653 per month and it would increase to over $1100 . . . after talking to the insurance company today, it seems . . . I was lied to by the President and Congress when we were told that the 'Affordable' Care Act would not require us to switch from our current insurance provider. My husband and I work hard, pay a lot in taxes and ask for little from our government. Is it asking too much for government to stay out of my health insurance?

Her family is not alone. A CNN report this morning estimates that roughly one-half of the 600,000 people in Kentucky's private insurance market will have their current insurance plans discontinued by the end of the year.

This is not right and it is certainly not fair. It is even more unfair when you consider that the administration chose to exempt businesses from this law for a year but did not think the middle class deserved the same treatment.

Republicans do. We think the middle class actually deserves a permanent exemption from this law. But as long as partisans in Washington continue to jealously defend ObamaCare, we will do at least whatever we can to fight for greater fairness for the middle class.

I hope more Democrats will join us to make that happen because a Web site can be fixed but the pain this law is causing—higher premiums, canceled coverage—that is what is really important, and that is what Democrats need to work with us to address by starting over, completely over, with true bipartisan health care reform.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ALAN F. ESTEVEZ TO BE A PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Alan F. Estevez, of the District of Columbia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 10:30 will be equally divided and controlled in the usual form prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Vermont.

MILLETT NOMINATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we are debating whether the Senate is going to be allowed to vote on the confirmation of Patricia Millett. She is nominated to fill the vacancy that our current Chief Justice John Roberts previously occupied on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit.

If she is confirmed, as of course she should be, she will be only the sixth woman to serve on the DC Circuit in its more than 120-year history. She is an extraordinary nominee. She has impeccable credentials for this important appellate court.

I, like so many others across this country, hope that her confirmation is not going to suffer from the partisanship and gridlock that consumed Congress earlier this month.

Ms. Millett was born in Dexter, ME and now calls Virginia home, but growing up she lived in Kansas, Virginia, Ohio, and Illinois. She earned her undergraduate degree, summa cum laude, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and her law degree, magna cum laude, from Harvard Law School. She served as a law clerk for Judge Thomas Tang on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Phoenix, AZ.

Patricia Millett has had a brilliant legal career. She has argued 32 cases before the Supreme Court. Until recently, she held the record for the most Supreme Court arguments by a woman attorney before the court. She has argued dozens of cases in the Federal courts of appeal. She has briefed numerous cases in the Supreme Court and also appellate courts across the Nation.

Ms. Millett has extensive experience on issues that come before the D.C. Circuit. She served for 15 years in the U.S. Department of Justice in both Democratic and Republican administrations. She worked for 4 years on the appellate staff of the civil division. She argued cases in Federal and State appellate courts, including the successful constitutional defense of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and the inclusion of ''In God We Trust'' on Federal currency.

She spent over a decade in the Solicitor General's office. Her stellar reputation led a bipartisan group of seven former Solicitors General to praise her as ''unfailingly fairminded.''

In 2004, Republican Attorney General John Ashcroft awarded Ms. Millett the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for representing the interest of the United States before the Supreme Court.

Since 2007, she has led the Supreme Court practice in the Washington, DC, office of Akin Gump. Her work in private practice spans commercial litigation, administrative law, constitutional matters, statutory construction, and even criminal appeals. She has represented Army reservists and business interests, including the Chamber of Commerce as well as civil rights plaintiffs.

Ms. Millett is a nominee with unquestionable integrity and character. She has committed herself to pro bono work. She has done this throughout her career. She has also engaged in some very significant community service. She helps the neediest among us, volunteering through her church to prepare meals for the homeless and serving regularly as an overnight monitor at a local shelter. Twenty years after serving as a law clerk in Arizona, Patricia Millet will return next summer with her family for a mission trip with the White Mountain Apache tribe in Fort Apache, AZ.

It is interesting that in a press conference I held yesterday when we had spouses of people in the military, we talked about another aspect of her career. Her husband is now a retired Navy reservist, but as a military spouse when he was called up, Ms. Millett has a personal understanding of the sacrifice we ask of our servicemembers and their families.

At the very height of her legal career, her husband was called on to deploy as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Of course he left, as those who are called to serve do, but she was left at home with two young children. And what did she do? She did what spouses all over this country do. She filled the role of both parents at home while her husband served in the Navy overseas.

In fact, just the other day the Senate passed a bipartisan resolution to honor families like Ms. Millett's family. We commemorate October 26 as the Day of the Deployed.

Not only is she committed to her own military family, she has helped to secure employment protections for members of our National Guard and Reserve through her pro bono legal work.

I know the distinguished Presiding Officer is concerned about the Guard and Reserve in his State of Massachusetts as I am in my State of Vermont. Ms. Millet also knows the strains that they face. In a case decided by the Supreme Court in 2011, Ms. Millett represented an Army reservist who was fired, in part, because some of his coworkers who stayed at home didn't like his military absences. She stood up for every Guard member and every reservist in Vermont or Massachusetts or any other State in this country. The successful arguments Ms. Millett helped craft have made it easier for all members of our Reserve and National Guard to protect their right under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

Through her legal work, she has earned broad bipartisan support. This includes the support of Peter Keisler, Carter Phillips, Kenneth Starr, Ted Olson, Paul Clement, and a bipartisan group of 110 appellate practitioners, as well as 37 Deputy Solicitors General and assistants to the Solicitor General from both Republican and Democratic administrations.

She is supported by both the national president of the National Fraternal Order of Police, Chuck Canterbury; the Deputy Commissioner of the New York Police Department, Douglas Maynard; the President of the National Bar Association, John Page; and Andrea Carlise, the current President of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations. Ms. Millet has the support of the military community including Major General Clark H. McNair, Jr., U.S. Army, Retired; Michael Hall, Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army, Retired; Blue Star Families; and the Gallant Few.

Based on Ms. Millett's advocacy in private practice, she has the support of former executive vice president at the Chamber of Commerce Litigation Center, Robin Conrad, who declares that Ms. Millett is:

> a non-ideological, non-partisan, 'lawyer's lawyer,' who has proven herself to be a trusted advisor to business with a practical appreciation of the challenges faced by businesses, large and small. She is open-minded, fair, even-tempered and superbly qualified to serve on the District of Columbia Circuit.

In fact, the list is so long, I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

If a President was to be given a textbook about the type of nominee to send to the Senate, or if Senators were given a textbook of the type of person to confirm, this would be the golden standard right here. We should not even be having this debate. She should have been confirmed unanimously weeks ago. She is the kind of nominee we should support because hers is a great American story of dedication, diligence, patriotism, and extraordinary professional ability.

I hope nobody is going to get involved in partisan politics and choose to filibuster her nomination. She deserves to be confirmed.

I understand that some Republicans have newfound concerns about the number of judges on the D.C. Circuit. During the Bush administration, Senate Republicans voted unanimously to fill four vacancies on the D.C. Circuit—giving the court a total of 11 judges in active service. Today there are only eight judges on the court. What has changed? It is not the caseload—that has remained fairly constant over the past 10 years. The only thing that has changed is the party of the President nominating judges to the court.

Incidentally, a Republican President nominated a man named John Roberts to the seat Ms. Millett has now been nominated to. When his nomination came up for a vote on the Senate floor, as I recall, all Democrats and all Republicans supported him for that seat. While Democrats did not agree with him philosophically on all issues, we knew he was highly qualified, and he was confirmed.

I don't think it is any stretch to say she is just as qualified. It is the same seat, but the only difference is it is a Democratic President who has nominated her. The standards should be the same. The same standards that allowed John Roberts to be confirmed to that seat with a Republican President are the same standards that should allow her to be confirmed to the seat with a Democratic President. She should be confirmed.

I want to talk about the caseload. The caseload was 121 pending appeals per active judge when President Bush was in office. The Republican-controlled Senate had no problem in confirming the 11th judge to that court.

Now, when the caseload is 185 pending appeals per active judge instead of 121 with a Democratic President, we are told: Gosh, we have to cut back. We have too many judges. It doesn't pass the giggle test. The fact is that this is what Republicans said. They voted for nominees to fill these 11 seats. Now, when three of those seats are vacant and we are trying to fill one—the same one John Roberts had—some are saying maybe we have too many judges. Back then we had 121 appeals pending per active judge and now we have 185. No matter how we do it, the issue simply comes down to, is this nominee qualified?

I have had the great privilege of serving in this body for almost 40 years. I have voted on thousands of judges nominated by both Republicans and Democrats. I voted to confirm the vast majority of them whether we had a Republican President or a Democratic President. Thinking back through all of those thousands of judges, I have a hard time finding even a handful who were as well qualified as this woman is or where there is as much of a need to have somebody in there.

This is important. This is not only important on the merits—and on the merits it is an easy case—but there should be no delay based on politics. At a time when the American people are looking at the Congress and saying: What are you people doing—first the shutdown and then other things—we should not allow one more example that will bring the scorn of the American people toward this great body by saying no to somebody when every single person, no matter what their politics are and no matter what part of the country they are from, knows how qualified she is.

I was thinking yesterday about when the group representing spouses in the military spoke about what she did to maintain her legal career but first and foremost to take care of her family while her husband was abroad and even then to do such things as help provide food to food kitchens for those less able and less fortunate. When we see a background such as this, we think it is too good to be true, but in this case it is all true. So let's confirm her.

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

LETTERS RECEIVED FOR PATRICIA MILLETT

June 24, 2013—Robin Conrad, Former Executive Vice President, National Chamber Litigation Center, Chamber of Commerce

July 2, 2013—Independent Group of Private Attorneys, Law Professors, and Former Judges

July 2, 2013—Jefferson Keel, President, National Congress of American Indians

July 3, 2013—Barbara Arnwine, President and Executive Director, and Jon Greenbaum, Chief Counsel and Senior Deputy Director, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

July 3, 2013—Stuart Bowen, Jr.

July 3, 2013—Solicitors General at the Department of Justice, 1989–2009

July 3, 2013—Dan Schweitzer, Supreme Court Counsel, National Association of Attorneys General

July 3, 2013—Lisa Soronen, Executive Director, State and Local Legal Center

July 8, 2013—Jessica Adler, President, Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia

July 8, 2013—Silvia Burley, Chairperson, California Valley Miwok Tribe

July 8, 2013—Major General Clark H. McNair, Jr., U.S. Army, Retired

July 8, 2013—Leonard Forsman, Chairman, Tribal Council of the Suquamish Tribe

July 8, 2013—Lilly Ledbetter

July 8, 2013—Judge Timothy Lewis, Former Federal Judge of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals

July 8, 2013—Carter Phillips and Peter Keisler, Attorneys

July 8, 2013—Douglass B. Maynard, Deputy Commissioner, NYPD

July 9, 2013—Chuck Canterbury, National President, National Fraternal Order of Police

July 9, 2013—David Diaz, Co-Chair, Endorsements Committee of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia

July 9, 2013—37 Assistant, Deputy, and Acting Solicitors General

July 9, 2013—Ofelia L. Calderon, President, Hispanic Bar Association of the Commonwealth of Virginia

July 9, 2013—Nancy Duff Campbell and Marcia D. Greenberger, Co-Presidents, National Women's Law Center

July 9, 2013—Chuck Wexler, Executive Director, Police Executive Research Forum

July 9, 2013—Wade Henderson, President, and Nancy Zirkin, Executive Vice President, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

July 10, 2013—John Page, President, National Bar Association

July 11, 2013—John E. Echohawk, Executive Director, Native American Rights Fund

July 17, 2013—Maryse Allen, President, Virginia Women Attorneys Association

July 17, 2013—Gene Rossi, Assistant U.S. Attorney and Chief of the Specials Unit, Eastern District of Virginia

July 17, 2013—Douglas Kendall, President, and Judith Schaeffer, Vice President, Constitutional Accountability Center

July 23, 2013—Mary Grace A. O'Malley, Attorney

July 23, 2013—Catherine M. Reese, Attorney

September 11, 2013—Andrea Carlise, President, National Conference of Women's Bar Associations

September 29, 2013—Matthew Crotty, U.S. Army and National Guard Veteran

September 30, 2013—Karl Monger, Major, Retired U.S. Army Reserves, and Executive Director, GallantFew, Inc.

October 1, 2013—Michael Hall, Retired from the U.S. Army after 31 years of active duty, Command Sergeant Major, Retired U.S. Army

October 4, 2013—Karen Kelly, wife of General John F. Kelly, the Commander of the United States Southern Command

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate right now is considering the Estevez nomination, and the time is equally divided between both sides.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum, and I ask unanimous consent that the time be equally divided.

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

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Alan F. Estevez, of the District of Columbia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Harry Reid, Carl Levin, Robert Menendez, Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Christopher A. Coons, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Harkin, John D. Rockefeller IV, Bill Nelson, Benjamin L. Cardin.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Alan F. Estevez, of the District of Columbia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 91, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 223 Ex.]

YEAS—91

Alexander	Franken	Mikulski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Moran
Baldwin	Graham	Murkowski
Barrasso	Grassley	Murphy
Baucus	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Hatch	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Pryor
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reed
Boozman	Heller	Reid
Boxer	Hirono	Roberts
Brown	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Burr	Isakson	Sanders
Cantwell	Johanns	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Shaheen
Casey	Kaine	Shelby
Chambliss	King	Stabenow
Chiesa	Kirk	Tester
Coats	Klobuchar	Thune
Coburn	Landrieu	Toomey
Cochran	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Collins	Lee	Udall (NM)
Coons	Levin	Vitter
Corker	Manchin	Warner
Donnelly	Markey	Warren
Durbin	McCain	Whitehouse
Enzi	McCaskill	Wicker
Feinstein	McConnell	Wyden
Fischer	Menendez	
Flake	Merkley	

NAYS—8

Cornyn	Paul	Scott
Crapo	Risch	Sessions
Cruz	Rubio	

NOT VOTING—1

Inhofe

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 91, the nays are 8. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 15 of the 113th Congress, there will now be up to 8 hours of postcloture consideration on the nomination equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 12 noon today all postcloture time on the Estevez nomination be yielded back and the Senate proceed to a vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. BEGICH. For the information of all Senators, we expect a voice vote on the Estevez confirmation. The next vote in order will be cloture on the Archuleta nomination. Senators should expect a rollcall vote at noon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I know we are in the postcloture time on the Estevez nomination. I wanted to explain why it was necessary for me to put a hold on this nomination this last March. This is a very important position, the second ranking acquisition official at the Department of Defense.

Actually my objection does not have anything to do with Mr. Estevez personally, who I trust will do an admirable job in this very important position. But the reason I put a hold on the nomination was so I could try to get the attention of the Department of Defense to protest the Department's business relations with a notorious Russian arms dealer. For the last few years, the Pentagon has been buying helicopters, Mi-17 helicopters, from Rosoboronexport, a Russian arms dealer, to supply the Afghan military. But this is the arms dealer, of course, who is supplying Bashar al-Assad with the weapons he is using in Syria in that civil war to kill his own innocent civilian population.

The Pentagon itself has confirmed that Bashar al-Assad security forces have used these very same Russian-made weapons to massacre an untold number of civilians. Yet the Department of Defense has stubbornly refused—I do not think arrogant is too strong a word—stubbornly and arrogantly refused to end its relationship with Assad's personal arms supplier.

In fact, since 2011, the Pentagon has given more than $1 billion—$1 billion—to Rosoboronexport in no-bid contracts. It is planning to spend another $345 million on the company's Mi-17 helicopters in 2014.

Let me be clear. By purchasing Mi-17s from Rosoboronexport, our own Department of Defense is effectively subsidizing the mass murder of Syrian civilians, which is, by all accounts, simply outrageous.

To make matters worse, the Mi-17 program is apparently plagued by internal corruption. According to published news reports, there are at least two separate ongoing criminal investigations into the U.S. Army office that manages the procurement and sustainment contracts for the Mi-17s. Last month, I joined 31 of my congressional colleagues in a bipartisan letter to the Attorney General of the United States, urging him to utilize all available resources to support these criminal investigations.

For that matter, I have also joined with 12 of my Senate colleagues in a bipartisan letter to General Dempsey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, asking him for assurances that its contracts with Rosoboronexport are not being abused by corrupt Russian officials.

Americans have good reason to be concerned. It is their tax dollars that are being used to buy these helicopters from Russia for the Afghan military.

Russia has a particularly bad track record. They received an abysmal grade of D-minus in Transparency International's latest Government Defence Anti-Corruption Index. In 2011, Russia's chief military prosecutor publicly stated that 20 percent of his country's annual military equipment budget is being stolen by corrupt officials and contractors. One independent watchdog believes that figure could be as high as 40 percent.

In short, there are plenty of legitimate reasons and questions about why American tax dollars are going to Rosoboronexport. On a per-aircraft basis, the U.S. Army is paying Rosoboronexport more than double what the Russian military itself is paying to buy nearly identical helicopters. About 1 year ago, I convinced the Pentagon to conduct a formal audit of the Army's 2011 no-bid contract. Unfortunately, that audit went nowhere due to persistent stonewalling by—you guessed it—Rosoboronexport.

In other words, we still have a lot of questions and the Pentagon and Rosoboronexport still owe us a lot of answers which we don't yet have. One question is what prompted the Department of Defense to buy Russian helicopters in the first place? To my knowledge, there are plenty of American manufacturers of helicopters that would be anxious to compete for this no-bid contract. By relying upon Moscow to supply the Afghan military with essential equipment, we have given the Kremlin significant leverage over U.S. foreign policy. Moreover, equipping the Afghans with Russian helicopters will make it virtually impossible to achieve any real level of interoperability between the U.S. and Afghan helicopter fleets.

The Department of Defense has repeatedly and disingenuously claimed that a 2010 study of Afghanistan's helicopter requirements shows the necessity of buying Mi-17 helicopters from Russia. In fact, the unclassified portion of that study found that the ideal aircraft for the Afghan military was a particular American-made helicopter.

Why are we buying Russian helicopters when there are American manufacturers that can meet that very same requirement? It makes no sense whatsoever, and the Department of Defense has steadfastly refused to cooperate with reasonable inquiries into why in the world they continue to persist along this pathway.

The reality is the Department of Defense has plenty of alternatives to buying Mi-17s from Russia, but for some reason or reasons known only to them, they steadfastly refuse to consider any of these alternatives. The most sensible and cost-effective alternative would involve keeping many of the Mi-

17s the Afghans already have on hand and life-extending them, instead of retiring them early, which is what is happening now. In other words, Mi-17s that the Afghans already have are being retired early rather than being life-extended because of the Pentagon's stubborn insistence on buying new ones to replace these existing helicopters. In fact, a majority of the Mi-17s the Afghan military already has have more than half of their useful lifetime left in terms of flight hours, and they are being retired early so the Pentagon can buy these new helicopters to replace them.

It makes no sense whatsoever, particularly at a time when I know we are all concerned about our defense expenditures and making sure the Defense Department has the resources they need in order to keep America safe and maintain our commitments around the world. Why would the Defense Department be acting so irresponsibly as they are in the purchase of these Mi-17 helicopters?

While I don't have any personal objection to the nomination of Mr. Alan Estevez, I could not support cloture on the nomination.

Along with my friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I am going to do everything I can to shine a bright light on the Pentagon's troubling relationship with a Russian arms dealer, which is also Bashar al-Assad's arms dealer from which he purchases weapons to kill innocent civilians in Syria. What reasonable person wouldn't be troubled by this tangled relationship?

Ideally, the Mi-17 program would simply be terminated. At the very least, it should be placed on constant and vigorous congressional oversight, and that would serve the interests of U.S. taxpayers and U.S. national security alike.

For all of these reasons, I could not support a cloture vote on the nomination of Mr. Estevez. I am going to continue to come back to the floor and use other vehicles.

I see the distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee on the floor. I know we are going to be taking up the Defense authorization bill later on this year, and I will be reaching out to him and other colleagues on both sides of the aisle to try to bring an end to this troubling relationship with Rosoboronexport and to seek alternative means—hopefully, from American manufacturers—for this requirement for the Afghan military.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD two letters, one dated August 5, 2013, to GEN Martin E. Dempsey, and a letter dated September 16, 2013, addressed to the Attorney General of the United States, Eric Holder.

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

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, August 5, 2013.

General MARTIN E. DEMPSEY,
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Joint Staff Pentagon, Washington, DC.

DEAR GENERAL DEMPSEY: We write to express deep concern over your support for the ongoing Department of Defense (DoD) procurement of helicopters from Rosoboronexport, the Russian Federation's official arms export firm, as well as DoD's seeming blindness to the real risk of both Russian corruption in these deals and over-reliance on a potentially hostile power. You are on the record, as recently as your Senate reconfirmation hearing on July 18, saying that we should ''stay the course with the existing program.'' In the interests of national security and proper stewardship of taxpayer dollars, we ask you to reconsider.

In June, DoD awarded Rosoboronexport a $572 million contract for the procurement of 30 more Mi-17 helicopters for the Afghan Special Mission Wing, ignoring the recommendation of the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction (SIGAR) to halt this procurement. SIGAR, in its June 28 report, cast doubt on the validity of the requirement for the aircraft, providing ample evidence that it is based on unrealistic and outdated projections. We request an explanation of DoD's decision. We also understand that DoD plans to buy approximately 15 more of these aircraft using FY14 funds.

As you know, while Rosoboronexport receives huge payments from DoD, it also continues to serve as a key enabler of atrocities in Syria, transferring weapons and ammunition to prop up the bloodthirsty regime of Bashar al-Assad. DoD has confirmed that Assad's forces have used these very weapons to murder Syrian civilians, and the United Nations estimates that over 100,000 people have been killed. DoD has now awarded well over $1 billion in no-bid contracts to this Russian state-controlled firm, which handles more than 80 percent of Russia's arms exports. What's more, as recently as 2005, Russia reportedly forgave more than $10 billion of Syria's past arms sales debt. As such, DoD has put American taxpayers in the repugnant position of subsidizing the mass murder of Syrian civilians.

While DoD's relationship with this firm is troubling on many levels, the prospect that American taxpayers have been made into unwitting victims of Russian corruption demands special scrutiny. Rosoboronexport is an arm of the Russian Federation and a key component of Russia's defense establishment, in which corruption is rampant. In June, the British nonprofit group Transparency International published its Government Defence Anti-Corruption Index, giving Russia a D-minus rating as one of the worst-ranked exporters. This group found ''evidence of organised crime penetration into defence and security establishments, and little evidence of the government's ability to address this,'' and it concluded that several top Ministry of Defence officials have convictions on their records.

In May 2011, Russia's chief military prosecutor publicly stated that 20 percent of Russia's own military equipment budget is stolen by corrupt officials and contractors each year, citing practices such as ''fake and fictitious invoices'' and ''kickbacks for state contracts.'' The head of Russia's National Anti-Corruption Committee independent watchdog put his estimate at 40 percent. Concerns about corruption in Russia's arms trade also reportedly led Iraq to cancel a $4.2 billion arms deal with Russia last year. We have very serious concerns over where the proceeds of DoD's Mi-17 contracts might be going.

In September 2012, one of us raised concerns about the price per aircraft that DoD was paying to Rosoboronexport and persuaded DoD to direct the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) to conduct a formal audit of the Army's 2011 no-bid contract with the firm. In May of this year, we learned that, due to a total lack of cooperation by Rosoboronexport and months of stalling tactics, DCAA had to abandon the audit. At the same time, DoD was negotiating the $572 million no-bid contract with this firm, but failed to use that leverage to secure its cooperation with the audit. DoD should complete this audit.

We need your personal assurance that American taxpayers are not being cheated out of their hard-earned dollars by corrupt Russian officials and contractors who may be lining their own pockets. Further, we request a briefing on exactly what due diligence DoD did on this issue prior to awarding these contracts to Rosoboronexport, as well as what continuing safeguards DoD has in place to prevent this.

The strategic vulnerabilities that DoD's Mi-17 program have potentially created are also deeply troubling. DoD argues that its direct relationship with Russia's official arms exporter provides essential benefits, such as recognition of ''Russian Military Airworthiness Authority,'' special tools and test equipment, and engineering ''reach back'' for Mi-17s, which it says includes service bulletins, certification of modifications, root cause corrective actions, lifting of life limits on parts, counterfeit part mitigation, special access to technical info, support for future modifications and fielded aircraft. If DoD's dependence on Russia for Afghanistan's future rotary airlift capacity is as complete as DoD suggests, this raises serious questions: (1) If the Afghan military continues to operate Russian aircraft for decades to come, can it ever be fully independent of Russia? (2) Should Russia decide at some point to withhold support for the Afghan Mi-17 fleet, does DoD have a fallback plan to ensure the Afghan fleet's readiness? (3) Does the overreliance on Russia fostered by this Mi-17 program put the U.S. at risk of Russian coercion or blackmail on other security issues, such as the crisis in Syria, Iran's drive to obtain nuclear weapons, U.S. missile defense, arms control negotiations, or the security of former Soviet republics?

We are concerned by DoD's apparent failure to consider the strategic implications of sourcing mission-critical military equipment from a potentially hostile power such as Russia. DoD's preference for Russian helicopters will also make it highly difficult to achieve robust interoperability between the U.S. and Afghan helicopter fleets, which is in the long-term interests of both nations. These problems are self-inflicted, and this policy is extremely shortsighted.

For these reasons, we ask that DoD cancel all current contracts with Rosoboronexport, as it has previously confirmed it has the right to do at any time, and fully sever its business relationship with this firm.

Sincerely,

John Cornyn, U.S. Senator; Mark Begich, U.S. Senator; Kelly Ayotte, U.S. Senator; Mark Kirk, U.S. Senator; John Boozman, U.S. Senator; Jeff Sessions, U.S. Senator; David Vitter, U.S. Senator; Charles E. Schumer, U.S. Senator; Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Senator; Kirsten E. Gillibrand, U.S. Senator; Christopher Murphy, U.S. Senator; Roger F. Wicker, U.S. Senator; Ron Wyden, U.S. Senator.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, September 16, 2013.

Hon. ERIC HOLDER,
Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: We write with great concern about reported allegations of criminal activity by one or more government officials within the Department of the Army's Non-Standard Rotary Wing Aircraft (NSRWA) Project Management Office, which leads the Department of Defense's troubled Mi–17 helicopter program. These allegations, if substantiated, would represent not just a violation of the law, but also a breach of the public trust.

According to an August 29, 2013, report from Reuters, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service has been conducting a criminal investigation and is examining ''questionable transactions'' by NSRWA, including potentially improper payments to Russian companies involved in Mi–17 overhauls, as well as problematic personal ties between one or more Army officials and these foreign entities.

In addition, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction has launched a probe into NSRWA's procurement of new Mi–17 helicopters, according to the Reuters report. Since 2011, NSRWA has negotiated and executed more than $1 billion worth of contracts for procurement of these Russian aircraft from Rosoboronexport, Russia's state-controlled arms exporter who simultaneously continues to supply weapons and ammunition to the Syrian government.

The prospect that American taxpayers have been made into unwitting victims of corruption demands special scrutiny. On a per aircraft basis, the Army is paying Rosoboronexport more than double what the Russian military itself is paying right now to buy nearly identical helicopters. These facts, taken together with the news report, raise very serious questions about the Army's entire Mi–17 program, including whether the various contracts for procurement and overhaul were the products of criminal misconduct.

In light of these ongoing concerns, we urge you to utilize all available resources, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to support any criminal investigation into these matters. If the allegations are founded, we urge you to ensure the guilty parties are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

John Cornyn, U.S. Senator; Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Senator; John Boozman, U.S. Senator; Mark Kirk, U.S. Senator; Kelly Ayotte, U.S. Senator; Mark Begich, U.S. Senator; Roger F. Wicker, U.S. Senator; Christopher A. Coons, U.S. Senator; David Vitter, U.S. Senator.

Rosa L. DeLauro, Member of Congress; Kay Granger, Member of Congress; James P. Moran, Member of Congress; Frank R. Wolf, Member of Congress; John Garamendi, Member of Congress; Jack Kingston, Member of Congress; Michael H. Michaud, Member of Congress; Betty McCollum, Member of Congress; Jackie Speier, Member of Congress; Janice D. Schakowsky, Member of Congress; Elizabeth H. Esty, Member of Congress; Steve Stivers, Member of Congress; Daniel T. Kildee, Member of Congress; Joe Courtney, Member of Congress; Jim Bridenstine, Member of Congress; James P. McGovern, Member of Congress; Steve Cohen, Member of Congress; Alan S. Lowenthal, Member of Congress; Carol Shea-Porter, Member of Congress; William L. Owens, Member of Congress; Juan Vargas, Member of Congress; Tom Cole, Member of Congress; Ken Calvert, Member of Congress.

Mr. CORNYN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. I very much support the nomination of Alan Estevez to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

Mr. Estevez is a career civil servant who has served under Presidents of both political parties since 1981, when he started work at the Military Traffic Management Command. Over the last 30 years, Mr. Estevez has developed an expertise in military logistics, eventually rising to become the first career Federal official to hold the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness, a position in which he provides civilian oversight for more than $190 billion of DOD logistics operations. He previously played a key role in reengineering Department of Defense transportation processes and in helping to address logistics deficiencies identified during Operation Desert Shield.

Mr. Estevez is the recipient of the 2010 Presidential Rank Distinguished Executive Award and the 2006 Presidential Rank Meritorious Executive Award, two Office of the Secretary of Defense medals for Meritorious Civilian Service, and the 2005 Service to America Medal awarded by the Partnership for Public Service.

He is extremely well qualified for this position. I am pleased we have now achieved cloture so his nomination may be voted on at noon.

I don't know of opposition to him and his personal qualifications. I understand the debate over the helicopter issue. He is not the one who ordered nor can he reverse it. That issue is an issue which has been raised by a number of Senators, including the Senator from Texas. Senator BLUMENTHAL has raised it in committee as well.

The letter that went out to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs has not yet been answered. However, I have spoken to General Dunford about this matter, and I will have more to say about that when this issue is raised either on the Defense authorization bill or on some other matter.

For the time being, let me say simply that helicopter is a requirement which has been set by our generals, not by our Pentagon people, civilians. It is a top priority that the Afghans be supplied that helicopter because it is the one they have flown. The Army of Afghanistan has used that helicopter. So without getting into the merits of this, because this is left for a later time by the Senator from Texas, I am grateful the debate cannot be connected to the Estevez nomination, where it has no relevance, since he didn't accept the requirement nor can he reverse the decision. It will be set for a later time—hopefully, after the Senators receive the answer to the letter they sent to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

I very strongly support the Estevez nomination and look forward to a confirmation vote, either by voice vote or rollcall vote, as necessary, at noon. I thank the Presiding Officer.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I come to the floor today to speak on two separate and distinct matters relating to the military.

REMEMBERING OUR ARMED FORCES

JUSTIN ELDRIDGE

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, no one in this body other than I had the privilege to know Justin Eldridge of Waterford, CT. Justin was a true American hero, a patriot—a U.S. marine who served our country in Afghanistan and who scarcely more than 24 hours ago took his own life at his home. My thoughts and prayers are with Justin's wife Joanna and their four children and all of Justin's family and friends, fellow marines, who grieve his loss at this difficult time.

I first came to know Justin when he formed a chapter of the Marine Corps League in southeastern Connecticut. He believed deeply in the Marine Corps and in service to his country, his family, and in the values and traditions and ethos of all of our great U.S. marines and the men and women who wear the uniform.

Yesterday, Justin Eldridge lost his own battle—a long battle with post-traumatic stress that he fought heroically after serving in the Marine Corps for 8½ years before his medical retirement in 2008. Even after he returned home from Afghanistan, Justin had a long fight ahead of him. He returned home with the signature wounds of this war—both traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress—and he worked for years to get the specialized treatment he needed. He tried hard to be there for his family. According to his wife Joanna, his four children loved having him around.

He faced another all-too-common problem in this country—health care at the Veterans' Administration and accessing the care he needed. He was admitted to the VA hospital and began a long road of treatment. I cannot express in words how deeply sorry I am that treatment evidently proved unsuccessful—perhaps not the result of the VA or its doctors or its hospital because we are only beginning to learn as a country and society how to confront post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury with the specialized diagnosis and care these diseases demand.

Even in grief we should not forget Justin's service to his country and his joy and his pride in that service—and he deserved both joy and pride—as well as his long-fought battle here at home.

I wish to take this occasion to encourage anyone who is suffering from post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, or any other wounds of war to reach out for help. The Veterans Crisis Line is there to help you. Anyone who needs that help can call 1–800–273–TALK. Courage is shown not only on the battlefield but afterward upon return when an individual in need of help seeks it, as Justin did.

Justin's story also reminds us of the heroic caregivers who take care of our Nation's veterans. We owe thanks to the people who dedicate their lives to helping those who have served.

Joanna also deserves our thanks because she was there for Justin, by his side throughout his treatment. She never gave up; she never relented; she never surrendered. She was his full-time caregiver, participating in the VA's caregiver program.

Justin himself continued to give back. I will never forget my conversations with him at that Marine Corps League event and afterward by email and phone.

Joanna is a strong advocate for all veterans, as we should all be. She studied psychology in college and hopes to go to law school. She wants to dedicate her life to being a veterans advocate, and I commend her and all of our military families, all of our military spouses who are there for their loved ones who seek to reach out. We need to keep faith with those veterans. We need to know and discover what will conquer the demons that often threaten to subdue our bravest and most selfless veterans when they come back and to give them the courage and the strength they need to conquer these dreaded diseases that we ourselves have a complicity in creating. We have an obligation and an opportunity to do more and we must keep faith and make sure no veteran is left behind.

My heart and prayers go to Justin's family and, of course, I know I am joined by all the Members of this body not only in grieving but in offering our help and service if there is anything we can do.

Madam President, I would like to speak on a topic that has been discussed by two of my colleagues this morning, the senior Senator from Texas, Senator CORNYN, and the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Chairman CARL LEVIN. I thank my colleagues for joining me in raising a vital issue that must be addressed by this body and by Alan Estevez—a well-qualified nominee for the position of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

I will vote for the confirmation today of Alan Estevez. I believe he is well qualified and has the credentials to perform with distinction in this role. I hope that uppermost on his list of priorities will be the Mi-17 helicopter acquisition that is so misguided and wrongheaded in the way it has been handled by our own Department of Defense.

If one were to stop at Stella's corner restaurant on Main Street in Stratford, CT, for lunch or a cup of coffee and ask the folks there: What do you expect from your government? I think one of the things they would say is they expect the Congress and all of us here to keep our country safe; and that when it comes to buying the equipment for our troops and allies, we should do so, hands down, no doubt about it, by buying American. It should be made in America, manufactured in Connecticut or in the United States. Nothing could be more simple or straightforward. Yet somehow that Main Street common sense is simply ignored across the river at the Department of Defense, the Pentagon, where so many decisions are made.

Since becoming a member of the Armed Services Committee I have become aware the Department of Defense committed almost $1 billion to provide Afghanistan a fleet of Mi-17 helicopters. Let me clarify: Russian helicopters going to Afghanistan with American tax dollars, bought from the Russian export agency that at the same time is selling arms to Bashar Assad to kill his own people in Syria.

Since 2005, the United States has been procuring Mi-17s to build the capacity of the Afghan military and is working toward a total fleet size of approximately 80 helicopters. The Afghan military had approximately 50 Mi-17s as of last year, and this year the Army awarded a $572 million contract to purchase another 30, with approximately 15 more to come, to replace the aging helicopters the Afghan military has already run into the ground and failed to maintain.

The contract to award these helicopters was managed in a way to prevent any American helicopter companies from bidding on the work, even though the analysis of the Department of Defense in 2010 concluded the made-in-America CH–47D Chinook helicopter is the most cost-effective single platform type fleet for the Afghan Air Force over a 20-year life cycle.

I acknowledge I may be partial to helicopters made in Connecticut. The best helicopters in the world are made in Connecticut by the Sikorsky employees who happen to stop at Stella's on Main Street for lunch or a cup of coffee, and I see them there all the time. The H–92 troop transport helicopter or H–60 should also be considered by the Department of Defense for this mission. But at the end of the day, ''made in the USA'' ought to be the ruling principle. Made in the USA—American helicopters for the American military and American allies.

In 2011, the Army contracted with the Russian state-owned arms export firm Rosoboronexport. Yes, the very same Rosoboronexport that arms our enemies in Iran and is a key enabler of Assad's ongoing slaughter of his own civilians in Syria. Women and children in Syria die by the arms provided by Rosoboronexport—purchased by Assad with money financed by Russian banks and purchased from Rosoboronexport. These are well-documented crimes against humanity—war crimes that eventually should be prosecuted.

I am working with my colleague Senator AYOTTE on legislation to strengthen the contracting provisions that prohibit ''contracting with the enemy.'' These contracts are, in effect, supporting enemy purchases. Before us is a glaring example of contracting with the enemy.

We have all heard testimony that preventing mass atrocities in Syria was complicated by their air and naval defense systems that prevent the protection of civilians in Syria and threaten its neighbors in Turkey and Jordan. Where did those systems come from? The answer is Rosoboronexport—the same systems that could shoot down our planes if we pursue additional measures against Syrian war crimes, the same entity that arms Iran, where we currently are seeking solutions against nuclear armament, and where we have said all options should be on the table in terms of our military action. The Department of Defense thinks the best thing for our long-term national security is to pay the Russian arms dealer that threatens global stability and our own freedom of action.

But it gets worse. Without question we have overpaid for these Russian helicopters. A general told me the best way to think about these helicopters is they are ''flying refrigerators'' that we never should have bought in the first place. We paid about $18 million a copy, while Russia sold other nations Mi-17s for $4 million each. What a bargain. Other countries buy each helicopter for $4 million, we pay $8 million.

And it is still worse. The Army acquisition office that handled this contract is now under investigation for ''questionable transactions,'' including potentially improper payments to Russian companies involved in the repair of these helicopters as well as problematic personal ties between the Army officials in this office and those foreign entities.

If I went to Stella's and I told this absolutely remarkable story, I am hoping the folks there would say: No, you must be making this up. This couldn't happen at the U.S. Department of Defense. No way in the United States of America, not with our tax dollars. But in fact it is all true, and I have tried to cite the facts as objectively and dispassionately as possible.

I suspect for anybody at Stella's who might have believed this incredible tale, they would have said: Well, if a tenth of that is true, what are you going to do to stop it? What are you going to do to end this waste of taxpayer money and the insult and outrage to the American taxpayer? Well,

we did something. At my urging, and through the work of my colleagues who have spoken, including Senator CORNYN, Congress, in the Defense Appropriations Act, expressly prohibited the Department of Defense from spending any more taxpayer money on Russian helicopters and doing business with Rosoboronexport.

In fact, I wrote to the Secretary of Defense about this program. I have written numerous letters, and I have met with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Did that stop these purchases? No. The $½ billion contract recently signed, recently completed, now under way by the U.S. Army for more Russian helicopters, used previously appropriated funds to ignore the will of Congress. Clearly, the spirit and intent of the National Defense Authorization Act was to end these purchases. The U.S. Department of Defense, in effect, has defied the will of Congress.

So here we are today, almost $1 billion out the door and the near certainty these helicopters are going to be used to smuggle drugs—that is right, smuggle drugs in Afghanistan. That purchase has occurred. The contract has been completed. And we can be sure, just as they failed to maintain those helicopters in the past, they will fail again in the future because the Afghan national security forces don't have the people trained to maintain the helicopters. In fact, right now it doesn't have the people trained to fly those helicopters. And in a few years what the American taxpayer will have to show for this folly is rusted scrap heaps at Bagram Air Force Base.

I understand that some in the Pentagon started this program with good intentions. Their thinking may have been that the Afghans already had some of these helicopters in the process of standing up their capability to defend themselves, they ought to have a few more, and then transition to a more capable helicopter. I have heard from our generals that we need these helicopters because the Afghans know how to fly them. But the fact is this program was never designed to be sustainable after we leave Afghanistan. My hope is we will leave Afghanistan sooner rather than later. There is simply no transition in place now or in the foreseeable future to buy American, to train those Afghan pilots how to fly those American helicopters, how to maintain American helicopters.

When the Russians forced us to procure the helicopters from them directly, rather than excess helicopters from countries like the Czech Republic, we should have made a course correction immediately, even if we thought those kinds of helicopters were necessary in the short term. There were options and alternatives that should have been pursued and they were not.

That is why I believe the plan requested by the senior Senator from Texas makes a lot of sense. He has asked the Department of Defense for an alternative plan for meeting the Afghan requirements. We cannot walk away from a problem that we created. We cannot walk away from the need for a transition. But there is a better way to get there. The answer, very simply, is buy American, buy American helicopters.

I expect Mr. Estevez will be confirmed today. But I want to say to him please, as one of your priorities, figure out a way to end these purchases from Rosoboronexport. You owe it to the Members of this body. You owe it to the American people to find a way to buy American and to keep faith with the brave men and women who will use the equipment that you will help purchase with taxpayer dollars. I know you take this responsibility seriously, and I hope that you will bring that seriousness of purpose to these issues because they are important, not just to the military and not just to taxpayers, but most especially to the American men and women who wear the uniform of the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

OBAMACARE

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I have come to the floor many times over the past several months to outline the problems that we are facing with the rollout of the ObamaCare law, problems that my constituents are facing, as are people all across the country. While it is important to discuss the generic and macro effects of this law—and we see it unrolling before us every day—it is also important to understand what the direct effects are on people at a personal level.

Last week, during our break, I traveled throughout Indiana and talked to a number of people. Many of them came up to me voluntarily to tell me the effects of the confusing, complex, and seemingly intractable aspects of ObamaCare. Let me read for the record just a couple of statements that were made.

An email that I received from Daniel in Elkhart, IN, summarizes the experiences of hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers and millions of Americans are having with the Web site alone. He wrote:

> I have tried for two weeks to apply through the marketplace, only to electronically sign my application and be kicked back to my profile page. This is the most bizarre system I have ever experienced. If a company put a business Web site together like this, they would go out of business.

Anthony in Indianapolis shared similar concerns. He said:

> I have been unable to get through the healthcare.gov Web site. My wife must notify our insurance company by November 15 if she will keep her existing plan . . . I understand there are problems with the Web site. I think we all understand that at this point.
>
> I heard the President say you could sign up in person, on the phone or on paper. But the two navigators I called said that until the Web site works, they cannot help. I called the 1–800 number but the healthcare.gov rep [said his] computer froze up and could not help. I hear about the tech surge, how there will be a few rough spots—Another understatement—
>
> and how they will be fixed. Senator, if you listen to the news the problems with the system are much deeper than the President let on [in his] Tuesday [address]. I need help and I don't think the system will be in operation in time for me to make an informed decision.

These are two statements from only two of the many Hoosiers who described similar problems to me—which is probably why, when asked about the ObamaCare Web site, an experienced online and database programmer told CBS News, ''I would be ashamed and embarrassed if my organization delivered something like that.''

We know this law passed the Senate on Christmas Eve in 2009 without any bipartisan support. One party alone put this law into place. We now know that over $400 million have been spent to create a Web site so Americans who are mandated to enroll in ObamaCare can go and sign up for it. We know that nearly 4 years of notice has been in place to get the Web site up. This rollout, as one Democratic Senator said over the weekend, has been a disaster.

If the administration, after nearly 4 years of effort and over $400 million, can't get the Web site right, how in the world can anybody believe that the Federal Government can manage this monstrous and dysfunctional law that has been imposed on the American people?

Despite the Web site's numerous glitches and many other implementation problems, the administration still insists on fining taxpayers if they do not sign up and purchase ObamaCare under the mandate. What an irony it is. You need to sign up or you are going to get fined. The Web site is so dysfunctional you can't sign up, but you are still going to get fined. That is mind-boggling, head-scratching, and simply unacceptable.

We know that there have been numerous attempts to repeal this law and replace it with something far more acceptable, affordable, and implementable. We now know that the defund effort, that resulted in the shutdown, failed to gain the necessary votes to achieve that goal. But attempting to repeal this law is the responsible thing to do. In September I introduced a bill to delay the roll out of the ObamaCare mandates for a year. As the problems with the health care law pile up, I am going to continue to push for this delay. The delay makes sense because the program is simply too dysfunctional to be implemented.

The bottom line, however, is that I want this delay so the American people have another chance to learn what is in this law, to evaluate as to whether or not they want this to go forward as the health care law of the United States or

whether they think a viable alternative is that we have the responsibility to put forward—and many of us have advocated components of that—whether or not that alternative is the better way to go.

I know it has been said by the President and others that in 2012 the public went to the polls to vote for the Presidential election. Therefore, that vote certified that the American people supported and wanted ObamaCare.

First of all, that was not the primary issue. It was one of the issues that was a determinative factor in the outcome of that election but not nearly ''the'' factor, because most Americans at that point still had not had the opportunity or the experience that they are having now, finding out exactly just how this law works and does not work; finding out all the dysfunction and learning that all of those campaign promises made or promises made when the law was passed have simply been broken. ''You can keep the insurance policy that you have now. No problem. Won't cost a penny more. No problem.''

On and on it goes. ''Keep the doctor that you want.'' Americans are finding out that none of this is true. ''Premiums will not rise.'' Premiums are rising for many Americans. ''This will be easy. Go to a Web site, sign up, punch in, put your name in, you are on board. Everything will be great.''

None of this has worked. Why not delay this process, not just to learn what is here, but to give the American people another opportunity to vote, to walk into the polling booth. A number of Members will have to stand up and either explain why they supported this or why they didn't support it. Americans will have a choice. We will put alternatives in front of them.

That is the purpose of the delay for a year: No. 1, because it is dysfunctional; No. 2, because Americans deserve a second chance to express their opinions on this bill. This has already been passed by the House of Representatives. My colleague, Representative TODD YOUNG of Indiana sponsored that. It gained bipartisan support, and 22 Democrats, House Democrats, recognized the need to give Americans the same relief from ObamaCare that businesses are receiving. Delay on the employer mandate, which the President has proposed and put into practice, and doing that for the individuals and families who do not fall under the employer category only, is a matter of fairness. That also is something that has to be addressed.

Recently, several Senate Democrats have come out in support of delaying parts or all of the President's health care law as well. I think the opportunity is before us to put the brakes on trying to jam through something that simply is dysfunctional and not working and secondly to give the American people the opportunity to go back to the polls and decide whether or not this is the way they want their health care programs to go forward.

We have had nothing but broken promises. We are learning about how difficult it is for the Government to manage even the first step, let alone the one-sixth of the economy that deals with our health care. This is important for all Americans. I am urging my colleagues to support this effort to give the American people another chance to look at a more viable and more affordable alternative.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 5 minutes.

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I appreciate the opportunity to say a few words today in support of my fellow Coloradan, Katherine Archuleta, and her nomination to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management. I have known her for years and have tremendous respect for her. She has given much of her life to public service, and her dedication to her community, her State, and her country is a testament to her character. I am very confident that she will be a steady hand at the helm of OPM. I urge all my colleagues to support her confirmation.

Not everyone watching may be familiar with the Office of Personnel Management, but it is an important agency. Let me talk about Colorado in that context. Thousands of Federal employees are in Colorado, including those who are helping to rebuild our State in the wake of September's tragic flooding count on OPM. It is a critical part of the integrity and strength of the entire Federal workforce. It is responsible, among other duties, for employee recruitment and employee retention and for managing Federal benefit and retirement programs.

We all expect Federal agencies and departments to function effectively and efficiently for our constituents. As someone who ran a nonprofit in Colorado for 10 years, I know the importance of maintaining a talented and motivated workforce. Strong workforce management leads directly to better work, better service, and better outcomes, which is why it is so important to have someone leading OPM who is an advocate for Federal employees and also a strong manager with high expectations.

Again, that is why I stand here this morning. I believe Katherine will be this type of leader. She has years of high-level management experience. She is sharp, hard working, and she is dedicated to the goal of making government work as effectively and efficiently as possible.

She has an impressive resume, as I noted at her hearing when I had an opportunity to introduce her. She has local and State-level experience. She served senior roles in two Denver mayoral administrations as well as extensive experience here in Washington serving as the chief of staff to the former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena in the 1990s, and more recently to U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis.

In between her years of public service in Denver and also in Washington, Katherine consulted with charities, nonprofits, cities, regional governments, and businesses to help them pursue community development, workplace diversity, and crisis management strategies.

If you look for a common thread throughout Katherine's career, it is her capacity and talent to work with individuals and organizations, identify priorities, and then, notably, to create the conditions for successful implementation of those priorities. That is what we need at the helm of OPM. It is what Americans expect and demand.

As we look at Katherine's career, she has demonstrated an ability to lead, to motivate, and to work constructively with a diverse range of people and personalities. She is a true westerner. She has personal integrity. She has a strong sense of right and wrong, she has obvious pride in the work she does, and that makes her a topnotch choice to lead our Federal workforce.

For all those reasons, I am honored to speak in support of Katherine Archuleta's nomination, and hopefully we will confirm her quickly. She is eminently qualified for this position, and she deserves an up-or-down vote as soon as possible.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). All time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Alan F. Estevez, of the District of Columbia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense?

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Katherine Archuleta, of Colorado, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

Harry Reid, Bill Nelson, Barbara A. Mikulski, Patty Murray, Barbara Boxer, Bernard Sanders, Amy Klobuchar, Carl Levin, Thomas R. Carper, Jr., Tim Johnson, Patrick J. Leahy, Max Baucus, Robert Menendez, Richard J. Durbin, John D. Rockefeller IV, Tim Kaine, Mazie K. Hirono.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Katherine Archuleta, of Colorado, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 81, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 224 Ex.]

YEAS—81

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Grassley	Murray
Baucus	Hagan	Nelson
Begich	Harkin	Paul
Bennet	Hatch	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Pryor
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reed
Boxer	Hirono	Reid
Brown	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Isakson	Sanders
Cardin	Johanns	Schatz
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Casey	Kaine	Scott
Chambliss	King	Sessions
Chiesa	Kirk	Shaheen
Coats	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cochran	Landrieu	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Levin	Thune
Corker	Manchin	Toomey
Crapo	Markey	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	McCain	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	Menendez	Warren
Fischer	Merkley	Whitehouse
Flake	Mikulski	Wicker
Franken	Murkowski	Wyden

NAYS—18

Ayotte	Cruz	McConnell
Barrasso	Enzi	Moran
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Burr	Heller	Roberts
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Rubio
Cornyn	Lee	Vitter

NOT VOTING—1

Inhofe

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 81, the nays are 18. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF KATHERINE ARCHULETA TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Katherine Archuleta, of Colorado, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 15 of the 113th Congress, there will now be up to 8 hours of postcloture consideration of the nomination equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise to speak on this nomination and to oppose it because of the recent actions of the Office of Personnel Management with regard to the Washington exemption from ObamaCare. I voted just now against cloture on the nomination, and I will vote against the nomination itself later today because of these very serious matters.

OPM, the office to which this nominee is nominated and which she would head, has issued an illegal rule that is very offensive and flies in the face of the ObamaCare statute language itself, and this nominee has pledged to continue to enforce that illegal rule and illegal policy.

Furthermore, OPM has completely stonewalled Members, including myself, my colleague Senator HELLER, and others regarding how they came to that decision and, importantly, whom they talked with, whom they e-mailed with, and whom they met with in coming to the decision to create this illegal Washington exemption.

Let me back up a little bit and explain exactly what we are talking about. Really, this story started several years ago in the ObamaCare debate. During the original debate on the ObamaCare statute, several conservatives, including myself, pushed an amendment that said every Member of Congress and all of our official congressional staff have to use the same fallback plan as is there for all other Americans—originally, it was called the public option, and then it became known as the exchanges—no special rules, no special treatment, no special subsidy. In fact, that is one of the very few battles in that debate we won because that provision was adopted during the consideration of the ObamaCare statute. It was adopted right here in the Senate.

So in the statutory language as it finally passed into law is that section, and that section says very clearly that every Member of Congress and all of our official congressional staff have to go to the ObamaCare exchanges for our health care—the same fallback plan as is there for all other Americans—no special rules or privileges or subsidies or exemptions. We go there. Well, I guess this became an example of what NANCY PELOSI was talking about when she famously said: Well, we have to pass the law in order to figure out what is in it—because the law did pass. It had that specific statutory provision. Then people on Capitol Hill started reading it, and they came to that section and a lot of them said: Oh, you know what. We can't live with this. We can't have this. We can't be pushed to the same fallback plan as all other Americans. We can't stand for this.

From that moment on, a furious lobbying campaign and scheming behind the scenes started to avoid that provision fully going into effect, to avoid the pain of that provision, the pain of ObamaCare that millions of other Americans are facing as we speak. Meetings happened, leadership meetings happened, Member meetings happened, furious scheming behind the scenes, and a lot of lobbying. Ultimately, that lobbying of the Obama administration paid off because in early August of this year, right after Congress got out of town for the August recess, conveniently right after Congress left the scene of the crime, the Obama administration issued a special rule with no basis in the law, in my opinion, no basis in the ObamaCare statute. This special rule was a special exemption for Congress, a carve-out to take all of the financial sting out of that ObamaCare section.

What this special OPM rule is—and, again, OPM, the Office of Personnel Management, was the agency that came up with this illegal rule after this furious lobbying, after President Obama became personally involved, literally personally participated in the discussions leading to this rule. What this illegal rule does is essentially two things. First of all, the rule says: Well, ''official congressional staff''—we do not know who that is. We cannot possibly determine who official congressional staff are, so we are going to leave it up to each individual Member of Congress to figure out who is their official staff.

Well, I would submit that is just ludicrous on its face. Congressional staff is congressional staff. Official staff is anyone who works for us through the institution of Congress versus outside entities and institutions, such as our campaign staff. So leaving it up to each individual Member of Congress is contrary to the statute on its face. It is outrageous on its face. But under this OPM rule, that is exactly what they do. So an individual Member of Congress can say: Well, these 10 people are not official staff. They are on my staff, but for some magical reason they are not official for purposes of this mandate. In fact, under this rule a Member can say: Nobody on my congressional staff is official staff for purposes of this mandate. And we see Members doing that as we speak. We see examples of that being reported in the press as we speak—Members deciding, ''Well, nobody is official staff. I do not have official staff'' because it will mean they will have to go to the ObamaCare exchange and live by the same rules through the same experience as other Americans. That is flatout ridiculous.

But that is not the only thing the OPM rule did. It did a second thing that is perhaps even more outrageous. It said Members of Congress and staff who do go to the exchange—they get to take along with them a huge taxpayer-funded subsidy that no other American at similar income levels has, enjoys, going to the ObamaCare exchanges. This is a huge subsidy worth at least $5,000 for individuals and $10,000 or $11,000 for families. Again, no other American at similar income levels is privy to that sort of subsidy.

Again, I believe this part of the OPM rule is flatout illegal. It is not in the ObamaCare statute. There was discussion of it. There were drafts that allowed that to happen, but the language that was put in the law did not include that subsidy. It was specifically left out. And, in fact, magically transforming what was, under previous law, a Federal employees health benefits plan subsidy, magically transforming

that into some ObamaCare exchange subsidy—that is contrary to law, and that is beyond OPM and the administration's legal authority, but they just did it because they could to bail out Washington, to bail out Congress. Well, this is outrageous and it is illegal.

As soon as I heard of this proposed rule in early August, I joined with many colleagues, House and Senate, and I appreciate all of their leadership. I am joined by many colleagues in the Senate whom I specifically want to acknowledge, who are fighting for this change: Senators ENZI, HELLER, LEE, JOHNSON, INHOFE, CRUZ, and GRAHAM. We are also joined by House Members, led by Representative RON DESANTIS of Florida. All of us quickly got together and said: This is illegal, this is wrong, and we have to stop it.

So we came up with language to do just that, to reverse this illegal OPM rule and to make sure that every Member of Congress and all of our congressional staff go to the ObamaCare exchanges and that we go there just like other Americans go there—no special exemption or special subsidy or special treatment. Our fix also expands that to the President, the Vice President, their White House staff, and all of their political appointees because that is appropriate as well. So our language says to all those folks—Congress and the administration—you have to get your health care the same way other Americans are in the backup plan, in the fallback plan, in the so-called exchanges. You go to the exchanges, and you get no special treatment, no special exemption, no special subsidy.

This is very important for two reasons. First of all, basic fairness. It should be the first rule of American democracy that what Washington passes on America, it lives with itself. Washington should have to eat its own cooking. It is like going to a restaurant and hearing that the chef in the kitchen never eats there. Something is wrong with that restaurant. Something is wrong with that picture. And something is wrong with Washington when Washington exempts itself over and over from eating its own cooking.

The second reason this is important is a very practical one because the sooner we demand that Washington live by exactly the same rules it imposes on America, the sooner Washington will start getting things right on ObamaCare, on taxes, on regulation across the board. So for that very practical reason, we need to make sure the same rules apply to Washington the same way they apply to the rest of America.

Let me come back to OPM because what we are debating is the nominee to head the Office of Personnel Management, OPM, the bureaucracy that came up with this illegal rule. That nominee has pledged to continue to enforce that illegal rule, to continue to defend that illegal rule.

Also, OPM, to date, has been completely unresponsive—''stonewalling'' is the more appropriate term—to all of my and other Members' inquiries about the process they used to come up with this illegal rule. I have written OPM several times. I wrote them immediately after their draft rule was issued. I wrote them very soon after their final rule was issued. I specifically wrote them demanding all emails and other correspondence and other documentation and information they had from Members of Congress, from leadership, from the administration with regard to the work and discussion that went into their rule.

Other colleagues of ours here in the Senate and also in the House have done the same. My distinguished colleague from Nevada DEAN HELLER talked to the then-OPM Director face to face. He asked the OPM Director: Did you speak with, were you lobbied by Members of Congress or the administration about this rule? That Director said: No, absolutely not. It now turns out that apparently is a lie. According to other sources, there absolutely were discussions, communications, emails, and the like between congressional leadership and the administration and OPM. So DEAN HELLER was lied to face to face about this by OPM.

I have asked for all of the emails, all of the correspondence, all of the discussions that happened leading up to this rule involving Members of Congress, leadership, and also the President and the Vice President and members of their administration. That request for information has been completely stonewalled.

So, first, OPM caves to intense lobbying from Washington insiders. Second, it caves and issues an illegal rule contrary to the statutory language of ObamaCare. Third, it stonewalls regarding the process and the conversations and the emails that led to that illegal rule.

We cannot stand for that. That is precisely why I am opposing this OPM nomination and why I voted no on cloture and why I will vote no on the nomination. We need answers. We need to reverse this illegal rule. Yes, we need a vote on the Vitter amendment the distinguished majority leader and others have blocked for months now. We need that vote. We need that vote that has been actively blocked by the majority leader for months.

Let's do things right. Let's get that information from OPM. Let's reverse this illegal rule. Let's vote on this important matter.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE FARM BILL

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, this afternoon the 2013 farm bill conference committee will finally convene for the first time, bringing us one step closer to finishing the farm bill. I know the Presiding Officer, being from Wisconsin, understands how important this is to our country's future, and certainly the farmers, businesses, and families in Minnesota understand how important this bill is. We have waited a long time to go to this conference committee. The Senate has passed two farm bills now that continue the strong policies of the last farm bill but in fact reduce the debt by $24 billion over the farm bill that is currently in place. I am part of the group that negotiated the details of the bill to help finish the process which started over 2 years ago.

Before I go on about the details of the Senate bill, I thank Chairman STABENOW for her incredible leadership and perseverance in getting us to this point that has been so long awaited. Under Chairman STABENOW's leadership, the Senate Agriculture Committee put together a farm bill that strengthens the safety net for our Nation's farmers and ranchers, reforms and streamlines our agriculture, conservation, and nutrition programs while still keeping them strong, and, as I mentioned, reduces $24 billion from the Nation's debt.

Throughout the process we faced unprecedented challenges and delay. We had the lack of a dance partner over in the House, but then of course we had the traditional issues—regional disputes about how certain crops and commodities should be handled, a few partisan issues here and there, but somehow we were able to come together to the point where the Senate bill was supported by 68 Senators, including 18 Republicans. I believe this is a testament to the open process we had, the endless amendments we voted on on the floor, as well as the strong committee that was brought together to work on this bill.

No matter where I go in my State—and I am sure the Presiding Officer has seen this in Wisconsin—I am always reminded of the critical role agriculture plays in our economy. Minnesota is No. 1 in turkeys—something we think of a lot as we head into the Thanksgiving season. We are No. 1 in sweet corn, green peas, and oats, and No. 2 in hogs. I don't think people would think about that with our State, but we have surpassed some other States. But we are No. 2 in hogs and spring wheat, and No. 3 in soybeans, and No. 4 in corn.

But we don't just grow the crops and raise the livestock. We are also home to a number of major agricultural companies which have kept our economy strong, and is one of the reasons our unemployment rate is down to 5.1 percent in Minnesota. These companies include Hormel, Cargill, General Mills, coops such as CHS, and Land o' Lakes. That is why one of the first things I did when I came to the Senate was ask to be on the Agriculture Committee. I am honored to serve on this conference committee and to team up with my friend and House colleague, Representative COLLIN PETERSON, who will be

leading the Democratic side in the House, as well as Congressman Tim Wells who represents the southern part of our State.

The expiration of the current farm bill on September 30 is hurting our agricultural economy and is creating a huge amount of uncertainty for our farmers and for our consumers. Last week I visited with Minnesotans from across the State who want Congress to pass a farm bill. I was in Kiester, MN, where I got to ride in a combine and see the good work of our farmers as they harvested the corn. I have to say that sitting in the combine after the 3 weeks of the shutdown was actually quite rewarding, as I saw firsthand you could actually get results very quickly in a combine, which I hope will happen in Congress as we move ahead.

From farmers in Redwood County to the Red River Valley to volunteers at a food bank in Minneapolis, where we also had a joint event with hunger groups, conservation groups, including Pheasants Forever, which is based in Minnesota, and the Farm Bureau and the Farmers Union, we all came together to say we had to get this done.

I journeyed up to the Moorhead area and joined Senator HOEVEN in Fargo. We like to call it Moorhead-Fargo in Minnesota instead of Fargo-Moorhead—two towns divided by a river but joined by many common interests. We met there with farmers about the importance of sugar beets and about the importance of a strong farm bill for that region of the country.

Through my week I quickly heard—as I am sure the Presiding Officer did in Wisconsin—that the people of this country are sick and tired of gridlock politics, they are sick and tired of people standing in opposite corners of the boxing ring and throwing punches. They are sick and tired of the red-light, green-light game that has been played with policy. It is time to come together and get this done.

I am convinced if there is any silver lining or hope that came out of the chaos of last month, it is that the American people saw firsthand why we need change and why we need to work together. That is why in fact Senator HOEVEN and I came together across the river, to make a very strong statement that we thought we had to get this bill done.

As a member of the conference committee, I know that if we don't pass a new farm bill, farmers will not be able to sign up for crop insurance, something that is so central to this new bill and is part of the $24 billion in debt reduction. They won't be able to sign up for a conservation program at a time when we need more conservation, when we see a decline in our pheasant population, where we have seen the signs that we need to have strong conservation programs. We would also see a skyrocketing of dairy prices as we would be going back to the farm bill that was passed in 1949. As I like to say at home, we don't want to party like it is 1949, and we certainly don't want to farm like it is 1949.

The failure to come together and resolve the differences between the two bills now would likely result in either 1949 prices or some kind of extension. And guess what. Ask the farmers and ranchers about that in South Dakota who just saw a decimation of their cattle because of the sudden cold weather and blizzard they experienced in South Dakota. This current bill that is in place does nothing to provide a safety net for them that used to be in place but isn't in place because of the fact we haven't passed a permanent farm bill.

It does nothing, if we simply extended it, about energy programs or about changes we need to see in the milk program or about reforms or the streamlining of our conservation programs. We simply cannot afford to do that again.

Finally, it does nothing to reduce the debt if we simply extend the current program.

Farmers and ranchers do not want another extension like the one we saw last year that left out the programs I just mentioned, the livestock disaster program, any significant deficit reduction. I believe the Senate bill lays a strong foundation for a conference agreement that can be supported on a bipartisan basis and signed into law by the President. To put it more directly, over the weekend I got a call from Greg Schwarz, who works with the Minnesota corn growers. He was hard at work, bringing in the harvest. He actually was calling me while driving his combine. His words offer some perspective, as they were passed on to me, about where we have been and where we need to go. He said:

> We have been working on this farm bill for over 2 years now, and we just want to get it done. Farmers are working around the clock on this year's harvest, and if you don't hear from us, it is not because we don't care, it's because we have work to do.

Greg is right. Members of the farm bill conference committee have work to do as well. I believe that Washington should strive to be more like the farmers and ranchers that we represent who work and hope they get the job done. They can't leave a bunch of corn or soybeans in the field just because they get sick of it or they don't like their neighbor. They have to finish the job. If it starts getting cold or if it is raining, they have to bring that harvest in before there is a blizzard. That is what they do, and that is what we need to do. We have a time deadline here, an important reason we need to get moving on this bill.

I would like to highlight some areas of the Senate bill that I believe need to be preserved as part of the final agreement as near as possible to the way they are right now. I recognize there will be some compromise, but I think whatever compromise needs to be worked out should be closer to the bipartisan Senate bill that, as we know, had the support of 18 Senate Republicans, including Senators in my part of the country such as Senator GRASSLEY and Senator HOEVEN.

I know that important differences need to be worked out, especially in the areas of nutrition. I think we can do that. But, again, given what we are seeing in terms of the cuts over on the House side, we have to get them much closer to where we are in the Senate bill, which is something that will keep a safety net not just for our farmers, not just for our conservation and our pheasants and our wildlife, but also for the people of this country.

I believe the people who grow our food deserve to know that their livelihoods cannot be swept away in the blink of an eye, either by market failures or by natural disasters. That is why in the Senate farm bill the foundation of the safety net is a strengthened crop insurance program. We made the program work better for underserved commodities and specialty crops.

In recognition of the importance of crop insurance, we extended conservation compliance rules to this program to ensure that all producers benefiting from this safety net play by the same set of rules and keep our water clean and soil productive for future generations.

This agreement has the support of agriculture, environmental wildlife leaders, including the National Farmers Union and the National Corn Growers Association, as well as the Environmental Defense Fund and Ducks Unlimited. That is quite a crew.

In our charge to do more with fewer resources, the Senate bill pulls back on crop insurance subsidies for the wealthiest farmers, while ensuring that everyone can still participate in the program, keeping the risk pool strong. We also eliminated direct payments and further focused commodity title programs on our family farmers by strengthening payment limits on rules that ensure that farmers and not urban millionaires are eligible for farm payments.

We continued the successful sugar program, funded the livestock disaster programs, which I mentioned earlier, and put in place a new safety net for dairy producers to address the wild volatility in that market. No one knows that better than those in the State of Wisconsin, the home of a lot of cheese, the home of a lot of cows and a lot of dairy.

We streamlined conservation programs from 23 to 13. Specifically, I worked with COLLIN PETERSON to ensure that local communities such as those in the Red River Valley have tools they need to address conservation challenges like flooding. The bill funds energy title programs to extend homegrown renewable energy production.

When you look at our reduction in dependence on foreign oil, from 60 to 40 percent in just the last few years—yes, you look at the increased domestic drilling and natural gas; yes, you look at the facts that we finally increased

gas mileage standards that made a big difference in this country, but you also look at biofuels which are now 10 percent of our Nation's fuel supply.

These bills ensure that we are working to support our farmers and workers in the Midwest and not the oil cartels in the Middle East. That is why I strongly support mandatory funding for the energy titles to help provide incentives for homegrown energy production from the next generation of biofuels to blender pumps. This is a vital industry in States such as mine, supporting thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in economic growth. I appreciate the support of my colleague Senator FRANKEN for this important industry. As many of us understand, we want an ''all of the above'' energy approach that includes oil, includes natural gas, but also includes biofuels.

The Senate bill ensures that our energy innovators have the certainty and stability they need to develop the next generation of American energy.

The Senate bill also includes a number of initiatives for beginning farmers and ranchers, including two of my provisions. The first provision I produced with Senator BAUCUS, which would reduce crop insurance costs for beginning farmers by 10 percent. The second provision that I have introduced with Senators JOHANNS, BAUCUS, and HOEVEN would allow beginning producers to use conservation reserve program acres for grazing without a penalty. I believe that both of these provisions will go a long way in building the next generation of farmers who will grow our food supply. Both of these provisions should be included in the final bill.

I believe that if we want to recruit a new generation of farmers and ranchers we must take further action to improve the quality of life in our small towns and our rural areas. That is why I worked with Senators HOEVEN and HEITKAMP, and I led the amendment to provide additional resources for critical priorities in the farm bill, including research—something the Presiding Officer knows something about from the University of Wisconsin—as well as rural development, conservation, and energy.

Our provision funds the new nonprofit foundation, the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research, to leverage private funding with a Federal match to support agricultural research. It provides additional funds to address the $3.2 billion backlog of water and wastewater projects in rural America. You literally cannot go to a region of any State in rural America without hearing about this backlog of rural wastewater and water projects. This amendment that we passed helps with that.

It also increases funding for a regional approach to conservation to address a variety of challenges, including the flooding that we saw in the Red River Valley. The provision also added an additional $100 million to the energy title to help farmers, ranchers, and rural businesses produce homegrown energy. I was pleased to get the strong support of our committee for that amendment, and I am pleased it is included in the final Senate bill.

In the Senate we also preserve the essential nutrition programs that millions of families and children rely on every day. In recent years, programs such as the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, also known as SNAP, became especially important as hard-working families and seniors were suddenly cashed-strapped but still in need of groceries. One of my predecessors—in fact I have his desk—Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, was an early champion of the food stamp program now known as SNAP. As one of the founders—Humphrey was one of the founders of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party in Minnesota—he understood the importance of a stable government policy for both agricultural producers as well as families struggling to put food on the table.

That is why we have always seen this combination of these programs. It makes sense—food comes from farms. Food is a safety net for the people of this country, as are the farm provisions, which are actually a minority of the provisions in this bill. The farm provisions provide a safety net for those who provide food. What we have done with this bill, of course, is reduce some costs and made it more efficient but still kept a strong safety net.

For more than 40 years we have linked together food and farm policy in 5-year farm bills. Nearly 72 percent of the SNAP participants are families with children, and more than one quarter of participants are in households with seniors or people with disabilities. This is not the time to make the deep cuts, as proposed in the House bill, to programs that provide important nutritional support for working families, low-income seniors, and people with disabilities with fixed incomes.

Yet what we have seen is that those cuts—which we will be discussing—on the House side include 170,000 veterans who would be cut off from food assistance if the House bill were to pass. The Senate bill, on the other hand, makes reforms that were necessary, that bring the debt down by $4 billion, reforms that were necessary. So it is not like there were no reforms to this program in the Senate bill. As I noted, 68 Senators voted for this bipartisan bill, including 18 Republicans.

The cuts proposed by the House are in addition to the $11 billion cuts to the program that will go into place this Friday, when the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act supplemental nutrition payments expire.

This program is already moving in the right direction. As the economy has improved, nutrition assistance has been further focused on families in areas with the greatest need. In fact, the CBO projects that without any changes to the program, the number of people eligible for nutrition assistance and the cost of nutrition programs will continue to fall as the economy improves. In this way, nutrition programs operate a lot like the farm safety net for agricultural producers. Just as agriculture payments spiked during the 2012 drought, which was the worst since the 1950s, the need for nutrition assistance, for example, similarly increased when our economy was struck with the worst recession since the 1930s.

When farmers are blessed with a strong harvest or when workers bring home a paycheck from a new job, we have designed agriculture and nutrition programs to adjust accordingly and be reduced.

I believe that instead of trying to find ways to make people ineligible for nutrition assistance, we need to focus on real solutions that put people back to work. This farm bill is an opportunity to do that, as are a number of these efforts—Innovate America, workforce training—and bringing in other things we should be focused on, bringing the tax reform in, bringing the corporate tax rate down and paid for. But if we continue to engage in the brinkmanship as we did in the last month we will never get to the core issue. I believe our country is on the cusp of economic expansion. I believe we have so many opportunities out there when you look at how we are situated with the increase in manufacturing and exports. We need to do work with the immigration bill to help the economy move forward, instead of what we went through last month.

I think this farm bill is the first chance to show that, out of this chaos, came something positive. It is a 5-year farm bill. It worked in the past. It brings the debt down by $24 billion. It is a bipartisan bill. Let's show the people of America that we mean business about working across the aisle.

I see my colleagues here from Tennessee. I have just about 3 minutes more on a very different topic, and that is the nomination of Patty Millett to the DC Circuit Court.

In the past few weeks, as I mentioned, we have made some efforts to come together and get work done on behalf of the American people. There are many of us who work together in relationships of trust, and I hope that continues with regard to nominations.

Patty Millett would make an excellent addition to the court on the DC Circuit, and I urge my colleagues to vote for cloture and to confirm her without delay.

Patty Millett has extensive Federal appellate and Supreme Court experience. She previously served 15 years as an attorney on the appellate staff of the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division, and then as an assistant to the Solicitor General. She has argued 32 cases in the Supreme Court—32—in addition to dozens of cases in other appellate courts across the country. In addition to her work for the Justice Department and in private practice, she has also devoted substantial time

to pro bono work. Ms. Millett clearly has an impressive professional background, but even outside the legal world she volunteers as a literacy tutor and for the homeless in the DC area.

She was given the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for representing the interests of the United States before the Supreme Court and the National Association of Attorneys General award for assistance to the States in preparation for their appearances before the Supreme Court. Ms. Millett is the kind of woman we should have on the bench. It should be no surprise that the nonpartisan American Bar Association committee that reviews every Federal judicial nominee unanimously gave her its highest rating, and over 100 leading lawyers and law professors wrote a letter in support of her nomination. This letter included 7 former Solicitors General who served under Democratic and Republican Presidents alike.

Clearly there can be no question she has the experience and ability to sit on the Federal bench. She also has the support of the Fraternal Order of Police, the Police Executive Research Forum, the National Women's Law Center, the Women's Bar Association, and the National Congress of American Indians.

Ms. Millett is well qualified, and we should confirm her now.

One justification—and there is only one that I have heard and I don't think it is a good one, and I am about to debunk it. The only justification I have heard is not about her at all, it is about the DC Circuit. Some of my colleagues think they should remain with three openings on the bench. I don't think this argument squares with the facts. Currently, 3 of the 11 seats on the DC Circuit are empty. According to the Administrative Office of the Courts, senior judges—judges who are partially retired—are now involved in over 40 percent of the cases that are decided on the merits.

Before he was our Supreme Court Justice, John Roberts was confirmed to sit on the DC Circuit. Ten years ago when Chief Justice Roberts was confirmed to sit on that circuit, the average judge on that court had only 125 pending cases. Today, with 3 vacancies on the court, that number is 185 cases. Those are the complex cases that are pending. Even if we fill all the empty slots, the judges on the DC Circuit will still have more pending cases on average than John Roberts did when we confirmed him to sit on the DC Circuit back in 2003.

There are no excuses. We have a finely qualified nominee, with 32 Supreme Court arguments, support of the nonpartisan group that looks at these nominees, someone whose spouse served in the military for 22 years, someone who raised her kids while he was over in Kuwait, and we are going to turn her down? That makes no sense to me at all, and I urge my colleagues to help Patty Millett get into this job to do what she says is the highest honor you can have; that is, public service.

She should be confirmed without delay. The Senate should have confirmed her this week. We heard from the American people—we all heard this when we were home—how they are sick and tired of this kind of delay and partisanship. She is a fine, highly qualified nominee. She should get an up-or-down vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise to speak on behalf of Congressman MEL WATT to serve as director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

It has been over 5 years since the FHFA's inception, and it still has never had a confirmed Director. First, Senate Republicans blocked President Obama's original nominee for the post, Joe Smith, who was a technocrat. Today they are trying to block Congressman WATT because they say he is a politician and not a technocrat.

But they forget that Congressman WATT has over 40 years of experience in housing, real estate, and other financial services issues. Before coming to Congress, he practiced business and economic development law and personally walked hundreds of families through real estate closings.

In Congress, he has served on the House Financial Services Committee for the past 21 years. In that capacity, he was one of the first Members to recognize the need for action on predatory lending. With great foresight, he introduced the Prohibit Predatory Lending Act in 2004 and introduced it every Congress until it became the foundation for the qualified mortgage provision of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. If we had all listened to Congressman WATT before the housing crisis, then thousands of consumers might have avoided being scammed into unsafe mortgages that ultimately led to foreclosure.

Congressman WATT has also shown a commitment to housing finance reform. In 2007, he partnered with Congressman Frank and introduced a bill to reform Freddie and Fannie. This bill eventually led to the Housing and Economic Recovery Act, which established the FHFA.

Industry groups, consumer advocates, and fellow Members of Congress have recognized Congressman WATT's impressive track record and support him for this position.

One of his home State Senators, and the Republican Senator who probably knows him best, has supported his nomination from the beginning. Shortly after Congressman WATT's nomination was announced, Senator BURR stated:

> Having served with Mel, I know of his commitment to sustainable federal housing programs and am confident he will work hard to protect taxpayers from future exposure to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. I look forward to working with Representative Watt in his new role to find new ways to facilitate more private sector involvement in the housing and mortgage markets.

Recently, the National Association of Home Builders sent a letter in support of Congressman WATT's nomination, stating:

> During Representative Watt's tenure on the House Financial Services Committee, he has proven to be a thoughtful leader on housing policy. The FHFA needs a permanent director with his leadership capabilities.

The National Association of Realtors has also sent a letter of support praising Congressman WATT by stating:

> The Director of the FHFA must weigh the costs of action and inaction with the benefits of protecting the taxpayer, and ensuring that the housing sector can stabilize and grow. Mr. Watt has the experience and skill necessary to ensure that both are handled in a manner that will benefit our nation.

It is time we finally confirm a Director for the FHFA, to ensure stability and confidence in the housing market. Congressman WATT has the experience, intellect, and temperament to succeed as Director, and there is no legitimate reason why Congressman WATT should not be confirmed. At a minimum, as a sitting Member of Congress, he deserves the courtesy of an up-or-down vote. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the motion to invoke cloture so we can proceed to an up-or-down vote on Congressman WATT's nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, the majority leader says it is time to cut off debate and vote on the President's nominees to fill three vacancies on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. I will not vote to end debate now because I think such a vote would be premature.

Before the Senate has an up-or-down vote on the three judges, there is something else we ought to do first. We should first consider the bipartisan proposal that was made 10 years ago to have the right number of judges on this Federal appellate court. For more than a decade, Senators of both parties have argued that this court has more judges than it needs and that other Federal appellate courts have too few. In 2003, 2005, and 2007, with a Republican President in the White House, Republican Senators SESSIONS and GRASSLEY introduced legislation to reduce the number of seats on the DC Circuit.

In 2006, they were joined by a distinguished group of eight Judiciary Committee Democrats who made the same argument. These included the chairman, Senator LEAHY, Senator SCHUMER, Senator Feingold, Senator Kennedy, Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator DURBIN, Senator Kohl, and Senator BIDEN. When President Bush nominated Peter Keisler to the DC Circuit, the Democrats wrote Senator Specter, the committee chairman, a strong letter.

The letter says:

> We believe that Mr. Keisler should under no circumstances be considered—much less

confirmed—by this Committee before we first address the very need for that judgeship . . . and deal with the genuine judicial emergencies identified by the Judicial Conference.

The Democratic Senators argued, first, the committee should—before turning to the nomination itself—hold a hearing on the necessity of filling the 11th seat on the DC Circuit, to which Mr. Keisler has been nominated. They cited a number of objections by Senators to the need for more judges on that circuit.

They then argued 6 years ago:

[That] since these emphatic objections were raised in 1997, by every relevant benchmark, the caseload for that circuit has dropped further.

Only after we reassess the need to fill this seat and tend to judicial emergencies should we hold a hearing on Mr. Keisler's nomination.

That was the Democratic Senators' position in 2007. These distinguished Democratic Senators were not only forceful in 2006 and 2007, they were persuasive. They worked with President Bush and Congress agreed to reduce the DC Circuit by one seat and add it to the Ninth Circuit, where the caseload was 526 filings per judge—well above the caseload average for all the judicial circuits.

In 2007, Senator FEINSTEIN, a Democrat, and Senator Kyl, a Republican wrote:

It makes sense to take a judgeship from where it is needed the least and transfer it to where it is needed the most.

Mr. Keisler, by the way, was never confirmed. For 2½ years his nomination was held in the Judiciary Committee, from June 2006 until January 2009. The same arguments made in 2006 and 2007 should be persuasive today.

Today, the average caseload for the DC Circuit—even if it were reduced by three judgeships to the eight seats currently occupied—would be less than one-half the national average for circuit courts. The national average is 344 cases filed per judge this year in Federal appellate courts. The DC Circuit average, if it were reduced to the 8 current judges, would be 149 per year. The national average is 344 cases per year. The DC Circuit average—even if it is reduced to 8—would be 149 per year, less than half.

Since 2005, there has been a decrease of 27 percent in the number of written decisions by an active judge on the DC Circuit. Since 2005, the number of appeals filed in the DC Circuit has fallen by 17½ percent.

Before it considers any of the President's nominees for the DC Circuit, the Senate should do in 2013, today, what Republican President Bush and the Democratic Senate did in 2007; first, consider the appropriate number of judges for the DC Circuit, and then, as Senator Kyl and Senator FEINSTEIN wrote, ''take a judgeship from where it is needed least and transfer it to where it is needed most.''

I heard the argument that the cases in the DC Circuit are more complex than in another circuit, and therefore the caseload ought to be lighter. With eight judges, it will be a lot lighter—half the national average for circuit courts. That ought to allow plenty of time to write decisions in complex cases.

Other circuits have complex cases as well. For example, the Second Circuit, including New York, regularly handles many of the most complex cases that come to the Federal courts. Finally, there are a number of senior judges who are active in the DC Circuit—that is true in almost all the circuits, and that is part of the way our system works today. They can carry some of the workload when that becomes necessary.

I think it is striking that even if this court only has eight seats, that the average caseload is less than half of the national average. So why does it need three additional judges? That is the question Democratic Senators asked in 2007, and that is what the Senate and President Bush addressed. That is the question we should be asking today before we fill any more seats for an underworked circuit court.

So I will not vote to end the debate on the President's nominees until the Senate does in 2013 what Democratic Senators suggested and what the Senate did in 2007: Assess the need for judges on the DC Circuit and transfer judges from where they are needed least to where they are needed most. That means that before we act on the President's three nominees, the Judiciary Committee and the full Senate should consider Senator GRASSLEY's legislation that would transfer one judge to each of the overworked Second and Eleventh Circuits and eliminate one judge, leaving the DC Circuit with a caseload that still is less than half the national average for the eight remaining judgeships. Then, if there are still vacancies to be filled in the DC Circuit, the Senate can consider them one by one.

The Senate has treated President Obama very well in considering his nominations. According to the Congressional Research Service, as of August of this year President Obama's Cabinet members were, on average, 54 days—moving from announcement to confirmation at about the same pace as those of President Bush and President Clinton.

As far as President Obama's judicial nominees, President Obama has had 38 article III judges confirmed at this point in his second term, including 9 circuit judges, 25 district judges, and 4 judges to other article III courts. By comparison to those 38, President George Bush had 16 article III judges confirmed, 7 circuit judges, 7 district judges, and 2 judges to other article III courts.

What about a waiting list of judges who are waiting to be confirmed by the Senate? Is there a big backlog? The answer is no. As of today, only two circuit judges have been reported by the committee and await floor action. Remember, the committee is controlled by Democrats and they can report whomever they want. Both of these are for the DC Circuit and are not judicial emergencies. Only seven district court nominations await floor action. None have been waiting long. Three were reported in August, and four were reported in September.

So while there are always a few nominations that provoke controversy and take a while to consider, one of the Senate's most important and best known powers is the constitutional authority to advise and consent on Presidential nominations. That is a part of the checks and balances our Founders set up so we didn't have a king, we didn't have a tyranny. We made it slower. We gave the President the right to nominate, but the Senate has the right to advise and consent. Sometimes that takes a while. Sometimes those nominees are rejected.

I believe and have argued consistently that with rare exceptions, Presidential nominations deserve an up-or-down vote after an appropriate time for consideration. President Obama's nominations have been receiving timely up-or-down votes. But first, as Senators of both political parties have argued for 10 years, we should make certain we have the right number of judges on the court. We don't have money to waste in this country with the debt we have today. We should transfer judges from where they are needed the least to where they are needed the most. That is the sensible thing to do. The President's nominees for the DC Circuit will receive up-or-down votes insofar as I am concerned unless there are exceptional circumstances.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letter of July 27, 2006, from eight Democratic Senators to Chairman Arlen Specter suggesting that the hearing on Mr. Keisler be postponed until the Senate had considered the number of judges on the DC Circuit. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD as well ''Additional Views of Senators Feinstein and Kyl'' which were written at that time.

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

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, July 27, 2006.

Hon. ARLEN SPECTER,
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SPECTER: We write to request that you postpone next week's proposed confirmation hearing for Peter Keisler, only recently nominated to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. For the reasons set forth below, we believe that Mr. Keisler should under no circumstances be considered—much less confirmed—by this Committee before we first address the very need for that judgeship, receive and review necessary information about the nominee, and deal with the genuine judicial emergencies identified by the Judicial Conference.

First, the Committee should, before turning to the nomination itself, hold a hearing

on the necessity of filling the 11th seat on the D.C. Circuit, to which Mr. Keisler has been nominated. There has long been concern—much of it expressed by Republican Members—that the D.C. Circuit's workload does not warrant more than 10 active judges. As you may recall, in years past, a number of Senators, including several who still sit on this Committee, have vehemently opposed the filling of the 11th and 12th seats on that court:

Senator Sessions: ''[The eleventh] judgeship, more than any other judgeship in America, is not needed.'' (1997)

Senator Grassley: ''I can confidently conclude that the D.C. Circuit does not need 12 judges or even 11 judges.'' (1997)

Senator Kyl: ''If . . . another vacancy occurs, thereby opening up the 11th seat again, I plan to vote against filling the seat—and, of course, the 12th seat—unless there is a significant increase in the caseload or some other extraordinary circumstance.'' (1997)

More recently, at a hearing on the D.C. Circuit, Senator Sessions, citing the Chief Judge of the D.C. Circuit, reaffirmed his view that there was no need to fill the 11th seat: ''I thought ten was too many . . . I will oppose going above ten unless the caseload is up.'' (2002)

In addition, these and other Senators expressed great reluctance to spend the estimated $1 million per year in taxpayer funds to finance a judgeship that could not be justified based on the workload. Indeed, Senator SESSIONS even suggested that filling the 11th seat would be ''an unjust burden on the taxpayers of America.''

Since these emphatic objections were raised in 1997, by every relevant benchmark, the caseload for that circuit has only dropped further. According to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the Circuit's caseload, as measured by written decisions per active judge, has declined 17 percent since 1997; as measured by number of appeals resolved on the merits per active judge, it declined by 21 percent; and as measured by total number of appeals filed, it declined by 10 percent. Accordingly, before we rush to consider Mr. Keisler's nomination, we should look closely—as we did in 2002—at whether there is even a need for this seat to be filled and at what expense to the taxpayer.

Second, given how quickly the Keisler hearing was scheduled (he was nominated only 28 days ago), the American Bar Association has not yet even completed its evaluation of this nominee. We should not be scheduling hearings for nominees before the Committee has received their ABA ratings. Moreover, in connection with the most recent judicial nominees who, like Mr. Keisler, served in past administrations, Senators appropriately sought and received publicly available documents relevant to their government service. Everyone, we believe, benefited from the review of that material, which assisted Senators in fulfilling their responsibilities of advice and consent. Similarly, the Committee should have the benefit of publicly available information relevant to Mr. Keisler's tenure in the Reagan Administration, some of which may take some time to procure from, among other places, the Reagan Library. As Senator Frist said in an interview on Tuesday, ''[T]he DC Circuit . . . after the Supreme Court is the next court in terms of hierarchy, in terms of responsibility, interpretation, and in terms of prioritization.'' We should therefore perform our due diligence before awarding a lifetime appointment to this uniquely important court.

Finally, given the questionable need to fill the 11th seat, we believe that Mr. Keisler should not jump ahead of those who have been nominated for vacant seats identified as judicial emergencies by the non-partisan Judicial Conference. Indeed, every other Circuit Court nominee awaiting a hearing in the Committee, save one, has been selected for a vacancy that has been deemed a ''judicial emergency.'' We should turn to those nominees first; emergency vacancies should clearly take priority over a possibly superfluous one.

Given the singular importance of the D.C. Circuit, we should not proceed hastily and without full information. Only after we reassess the need to fill this seat, perform reasonable due diligence on the nominee, and tend to actual judicial emergencies, should we hold a hearing on Mr. Keisler's nomination.

We thank you for your consideration of this unanimous request of Democratic Senators.

Sincerely,

PATRICK LEAHY.
CHUCK SCHUMER.
NITA FEINGOLD.
DIANNE FEINSTEIN.
HERB KOHL.
TED KENNEDY.
DICK DURBIN.
JOE BIDEN.

THE COURT SECURITY ACT OF 2007

MARCH 29, 2007—ORDERED TO BE PRINTED

Mr. LEAHY, Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, submits the following report together with additional views

VI. ADDITIONAL VIEWS

ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF SENATORS FEINSTEIN AND KYL

Section 506 of this bill transfers a judgeship from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Once this provision is enacted into law, the Ninth Circuit will have 29 judgeships and the D.C. Circuit will have 11.

Section 506 will help to ease the backlog of pending cases in the Ninth Circuit, where more judgeships are sorely needed. At the same time, it will eliminate a judgeship on the D.C. Circuit that many Senators—including both Democrats and Republicans on this committee—have indicated that they believe to be unnecessary.

The numbers tell a striking story. According to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, 107 appeals per judge were filed in the D.C. Circuit in 2006. By contrast, in the Ninth Circuit, the filings were nearly five times higher—a total of 523 filings per judge in 2006. Filings per judge in the Ninth Circuit are also substantially higher than the national average of 399 filings per judge. The D.C. Circuit's rate of filings, by contrast, falls far below the national average.

The merits of transferring a judgeship from the D.C. Circuit to the Ninth Circuit are also brought into relief by considering the total number of appeals left pending in each circuit at the end of the 2006 reporting cycle. In the Ninth Circuit, 1,853 appeals were pending at the end of this period. This was the highest total for any circuit in the nation. By contrast, in the D.C. Circuit, only 387 appeals were pending at the end of the 2006 period. This was the lowest total for any circuit in the nation.

The backlog of cases in the Ninth Circuit is not merely a problem for lawyers and judges. It injures ordinary people who have to wait longer to have their cases resolved. Plaintiffs who have been injured, criminal defendants seeking review of their convictions, and victims waiting for justice—for all of these people, justice delayed is justice denied.

It just makes sense to take a judgeship from where it is needed least, and to transfer it to where it is needed most.

California is hit hardest by the inadequate number of judgeships on the Ninth Circuit. In 2005, 10,000 federal appeals—70% of the circuit's total docket—were filed in California. On February 14, during his testimony before this Committee, even U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy commented on the overloaded docket of the Central District of California. Yet of the Ninth Circuit's 28 judgeships, only 14 are assigned to California.

California needs more judges. Transferring a judgeship from the D.C. Circuit to the Ninth Circuit in California would be a first step toward correcting this deficiency.

The D.C. Circuit, by contrast, has seen its caseload decline in recent years. In fact, filings in that circuit dropped by 7.1% in 2006 alone. Removal of the 12th judgeship would only modestly increase filings per judge in that circuit to 115—a figure still well below half the national average for U.S. courts of appeals. And in any event, the burden on that court of removing a seat is largely hypothetical. The 12th seat on the D.C. Circuit was created in 1984 and has remained vacant for most of the intervening years, including all of the last decade. On the other hand, adding one seat to the Ninth Circuit would reduce filings per judge on that court to 503—still a heavy burden on the justice system of the Western States.

Section 506 is a reasonable step toward the solution of a pressing problem in the administration of United States courts. We are pleased to see it made part of this bill.

DIANNE FEINSTEIN.
JON KYL.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to give thanks and show respect to World War II and Cold War heroes who served in our Nation's nuclear weapons programs on this fifth National Day of Remembrance. They weren't serving in the heat of battle but in the laboratory, handling materials on a daily basis that ranged from benign to toxic and highly radioactive. These materials posed risks that many scientists did not understand at the time.

Today in Oak Ridge, TN, the American Museum of Science and Energy, and Cold War Patriots are gathering to celebrate former workers and view a quilt that honors nuclear workers for their contribution to America's safety. This one-of-a-kind remembrance quilt has 1,250 commemorative handwritten quilt squares that form an American flag that measures 17 feet by 11 feet.

I want to specifically remember Bill Wilcox for his service to our country and passion for preserving Oak Ridge history. Bill passed this September. Bill was a former manager of the K–25 operations, a Manhattan Project veteran, and the official historian for the city of Oak Ridge.

In 1943, Bill was hired by Tennessee Eastman on a ''Secret, secret, secret!'' project in an unknown location. When he started at Eastman he was told:

As chemists you'll have to know that you'll be working [on] this project with a substance called uranium. That is the last time that you will hear that word or you will speak it until after the war. And if you are

ever heard speaking the word you will be subject to discharge from our employment immediately, and very likely prosecuted by the United States government, and may end up in jail. Is that clear?

In Oak Ridge ground was broken for the Y–12 plant in February of 1943, and by the end of the summer they started installing complex physics machines, called calutrons. About 1,000 calutrons were installed at Y–12.

How were these calutrons operated? Tennessee Eastman said that the calutrons couldn't be run as an experiment but should be run like an industrial plant. Rather than manuals, there should be a simple red line on meter A. The operator would turn knob A until the needle is on the red line on meter A.

However, General Leslie Groves, head of the Manhattan Project, along with physicists disagreed. So they took five calutrons and ran them for a week with the best physicists and then another week with girls right out of high school that kept the needle on the red line of the meters. ''After a week the girls had won hands down in terms of productivity.''

These women were called the ''calutron girls.'' One calutron girl first learned of the war effort in Oak Ridge when she was at a café in Sweetwater, TN. She was working in a hardware store at the time. The store had a big window where people from the surrounding counties put photos of their sons who went away to war. She had the job of straightening up the photos when the heat from the window caused the cardboard frames to buckle. With great dignity, the families would take down the pictures of their fallen soldiers.

Wanting to help the war effort, she went to Oak Ridge, where there was ''mud everywhere, and green Army trucks, and vehicles, and soldiers, and that was just inside the gate.'' As a calutron girl, she wore a blue uniform. The chemical workers wore white. She said:

You weren't allowed to go in the other room . . . you'd stick out like a sore thumb, a blue something in a white-uniformed place . . . But they let us go over—towards the end . . . they told us to take all the bobby pins out of your hair before you go out there because it would yank your bobby pins out.

She remembers:

You couldn't talk. You couldn't say anything to anybody about where you worked, what building, when you left the plant. In fact, there were huge banners up all over the plant: 'When you leave here what you see here stays here.' And you weren't allowed to tell even . . . somebody [that] worked on the same thing you did.

There were signs everywhere: ''Keep your mouth shut!'' ''Loose lips sink ships!'' ''See no evil; hear no evil; speak no evil'' with posted fines of $10,000 and warnings of jail time.

One of the things that was curious about Oak Ridge was that these rail cars came in every week, but nobody ever saw any product going out. The reason was that the product went out in a standard-sized briefcase every week chained to the wrist of a military officer, in plainclothes. He would get on the train and go to Chicago to exchange the briefcase.

During 1945, a different process at the K–25 building was surprisingly successful and cost less than 10 percent of the cost of the Y–12 process. The K–25 building was a mile-long U-shape—once the world's largest buildings under one roof. The operators had to use bicycles just to get around their building.

The successful K–25 process ran full blast for another 20 years, while the Y–12 plant received a new mission.

These efforts along with others by our nuclear weapons workers across the country won World War II and the cold war. At the peak of the Cold War, nearly 600,000 workers across the country were involved in the research and production of nuclear weapons.

Today, many former nuclear weapons workers are retired. Many of them are sick. Some are dying. The government is helping these sick nuclear workers through the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program created by Congress in 2001.

This program provides compensation to those who were exposed to radiation and toxic materials while building our nuclear weapons, especially those that were instrumental in our winning the cold war. This program receives claims from all 50 States nearly 100,000 individual workers.

This program is especially important to Tennessee. Tennessee has the highest number of claims than any other State—over 14,000 workers. Tennesseans, mostly former workers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Y–12 and K–25, have received over $1.7 billion in compensation and paid medical bills, according to the Department of Labor.

Today, the nuclear workers across the country continue this heroic legacy to advance nuclear power, nuclear medicine and other technology that continues to make our lives better and keep our country safe.

So I am privileged to work with Senator MARK UDALL in honoring these patriots who worked countless hours with little-understood hazardous materials to build our country's nuclear deterrent.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to enter into a colloquy with my colleagues from Delaware and Ohio for up to 30 minutes.

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

MANUFACTURING IN AMERICA

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, this is one of those all-too-rare occasions anymore where we all agree, and it is about making things. We will be talking for the next few minutes about what happens in our country and what needs to happen so we can not just make things again—because we still make lots of things, and we make them very well—but what we need to do to be able to make more things. What do we need to do to be sure we are at the competitive front of the line as we work to make things.

All of us are working on things together. Senator BROWN and I have been working on advanced manufacturing—something that he has spoken about and we have spoken about together and that he has been a leader on for a long time—and all of our States benefit.

Missouri and Ohio have certainly been among the significant manufacturing States. In Missouri we have more than $32 billion a year in manufacturing. For about the last 4 years that has been the top manufacturing employment, has been in the agricultural industry, in food processing, as well as transportation equipment, fabricated metals, machinery of all kinds, and automobiles have been in the top of our manufacturing sectors.

I believe we are really at a point where so many things could easily come together, and the Federal Government and the Congress can help make those things come together by taking down barriers and by creating easier ways to work together. In the case of advanced manufacturing, we have talked about the centers of excellence and we have worked on that together, and we have both seen some of these ideas work.

I wish to ask Senator BROWN some of the things he has seen and the things he thinks we can do better through the legislation we have been talking about.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I appreciate Senator BLUNT yielding. I appreciate the opportunity to engage in this colloquy with the Senator from Missouri as well as the Senator from Delaware, both of whom have been leaders in manufacturing in Missouri and in Delaware.

It is pretty clear what these public-private hubs can do in terms of a multiplier effect. When we look at manufacturing history in this country—and of course I will use an illustration in my State, as I understand my State better than I do any other—when Akron was the leading tire manufacturer and was sort of the center for tire manufacturing along the Ohio turnpike in northeast Ohio; to Toledo, where glass manufacturing was prominent and prevalent for decades; to autos in Cleveland; to steel; and then to rubber in Akron, we can see that once we have an innovative focus, then other kinds of manufacturing come out of that. As the tire industry declined over the decades, Akron is now one of the leaders in polymer. Toledo, which was a leader in glass manufacturing—plate glass for cars, bottles, and a lot of other kinds of glassware—has become a solar center.

So the legislation Senator BLUNT and I have come up with will help American workers and American business have the drive and the creative thinking and the determination to innovate ahead of the rest of the world.

Before turning to Senator COONS, I wish to tell a quick story that tells me

why it is so important that manufacturing take place here. We out-innovate the rest of the world. We are still the most creative. We are the best innovators. We lead in foundational research and in other kinds of research. The problem is that as we invent things in this country, if we then outsource the manufacturing, so much of the creativity and innovation, both in process and in product, takes place in that other country because it takes place in the shops.

I will give a quick example. The largest yogurt manufacturer in North America is in western Ohio near the town where Neil Armstrong grew up, western Ohio near Wapakoneta. That yogurt manufacturer—I was there one day, and they used to bring in—the suppliers would send the plastic cups to the shop floor, to the manufacturer, and they would fill them—in these big silver vats—they would fill these plastic cups with fermented milk, with yogurt, package it, and send it. A young industrial engineer and a couple of people who worked on the line for years said: We can do this a lot less expensively and save money for the company and be more productive and efficient. So the three of them developed something pretty simple to an engineer, not so simple, perhaps, to me, but they simply fed a roll of plastic, a sheet of plastic, it was slowly heated, and it was then extruded and then cooled and filled with yogurt. The line was about 75 feet, and it made for a much more efficient innovation. That innovation took place on the shop floor of an American manufacturing plant, making the productivity of that plant much greater.

That is really how we need to look at this. If we are going to do this partnership with government and local manufacturers and local labor unions and local businesses and local suppliers, we can do the kind of work Senator BLUNT mentioned with these manufacturing hubs, this network of manufacturing innovation initiative we have had.

We introduced the bill this summer. We are working to build support. We welcome the support of our colleagues. Senator BLUNT has already mentioned what it could mean in Missouri, and perhaps Senator COONS could tell us what it would mean in Delaware and in this country and what better manufacturing and more innovation means to our country.

I thank my two colleagues. I have a conference committee I need to join, but I appreciate very much my colleagues opening this discussion.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Ohio for his tireless and engaged leadership on manufacturing, on fighting for access to foreign markets on fair terms, for fighting for skills and increasing the skills of our manufacturing workforce, and in this instance, in this strong bipartisan bill, for working with our colleague from Missouri on a national network of manufacturing innovation centers.

My own work of 8 years at a manufacturing company in Delaware in a materials-based science company that makes things helped make it clear to me how important research and development and continuous innovation are for manufacturers at all levels. I have seen this across the State of Delaware. Our Presiding Officer—long owner and leader of a manufacturing business in his home State of Indiana—knows this better than any of us: that if we don't innovate, if we don't invest in research and development, in improving the skills in the workforce and improving the productivity and the operating efficiency of any manufacturing company, we can't survive in the tough headwinds of the global marketplace today.

One of the programs I championed here in the Senate that has bipartisan support is the Manufacturing Extension Partnership. It is a long-established program that takes the latest cutting-edge research and development work at universities and moves it to the shop floor. I have visited companies up and down Delaware, from FMC in Newark to Speakman in New Castle, where they have taken those innovations from the university to the shop floor.

One of the things I am grateful to Senator BLUNT for is his leadership in taking that insight that in order to have the most productive manufacturing workforce in the world, in order to continue to compete globally, we have to find ways to continue to invest in demonstrating the power of innovation and we have to find ways to do that in a bipartisan way.

I thank the Senator for being willing to work with Senator BROWN and others here. This is exactly the sort of stuff I hear from Delawareans they want us to be doing. There is lots that divides us. This is something that unites us: working together to strengthen our manufacturing sector, to make it more competitive, to bring jobs back to the United States, and to grow this sector.

We have grown half a million jobs in the last 3 years in the manufacturing sector. These are good jobs, at high wages, high benefits, high skills. But we can and should do more, pulling together to sort of lift further this ongoing manufacturing revival.

If Senator BLUNT would share some more with us about this specific bill and about his experience in what else we can and should be doing together to strengthen manufacturing in Missouri, I would be grateful.

Mr. BLUNT. The Senator's point is well made. These manufacturing jobs are goods jobs. The American workforce is competitive. As Senator BROWN said, we have always been on the cutting edge, the outside of competition, making things in a better way than we did last year. Everybody who is competing today is trying to figure out how they can do whatever they did last year better. We see that and what we can add to that, how we can make that process work better.

In our State, the average manufacturing job pays 21.5 percent more than the average wage. Mr. President, $52,000 or so for the average manufacturing job salary in Missouri is a significant improvement in where you might otherwise be. In Missouri we have 6,500 manufacturing firms. Almost a quarter of a million people work in manufacturing in Missouri. We used to have more than that. We used to have more than that, and I think we will have more than that again. The country used to do more in terms of manufacturing than it does now. But we are going to see that happen.

The Senator from Delaware just wrote an article in Congressional Quarterly that talked about what needs to be done, the great opportunities we have in energy. If we take advantage of those great energy opportunities, suddenly the utility bill is more predictable, the delivery system is more guaranteed.

I was talking to a manufacturer today in my office and this topic came up. At some point now, as you get further and further into innovation, people not only have to be better trained—the Senator talked about that too: the importance of a skilled workforce—but how the workforce competes with maybe a lower paid workforce in some other country maybe is not nearly as important as how the utility bill competes.

If you can run that facility—and I just gave him an example of another manufacturing facility in my hometown of Springfield, MO, that was making a significant expansion, I think about a $150 million expansion. They did not expect to hire any more people, but they expect to use that current workforce in a much more competitive way. Nobody was losing a job because of advanced competition. They are just expanding that workforce in a way that ensures they will keep their job and be more competitive. Of course, somebody, by the way, is building that expansion. There are jobs there as well. And those all matter.

We have all kinds of examples.

Perryville, MO, is a town of less than 10,000 people. In that town, they have become a hub—it is about 80 miles south of St. Louis—of 21st century manufacturing. A Japanese company is there, Toyoda Gosei, that makes plastic components for automobiles. Sabreliner makes aviation parts and is in the airplane industry. There is Gilster-Mary Lee, a much more traditional employer. But here is a town that has a significant number of manufacturing jobs.

The town of Cassville, near Springfield, for a number of years had more manufacturing jobs than they had population. Now, of course, that meant in the part of the country where I live lots of people may have been driving a significant number of miles to get to those jobs. But there are not very

many cities. This is a smaller community. It is the county seat of Barry County. But they had more manufacturing jobs than the number of people who lived in the community itself. It meant that is a competitive community. That is a community that knows how to build jobs.

Perryville is a community that has launched itself well into the 21st century. And the skills the Senator was talking about—the skilled workforce, the energy needs, the research component—one of the components of these hubs of excellence that we have been looking at and talking about, Senator BROWN and I have been working on, is to create ways to encourage that higher education be part of that research component.

I think Americans are eager to produce. I bet the Senator and I both hear the same thing over and over: How can we have a strong economy if we do not produce? Well, you can have a strong economy in parts of the economy that do not produce, but I think not only do you need to produce, but there is something that defines who we are in a positive way when people see American production that is not only heavily competitive here but competitive all over the world.

I think that is what Senator COONS and I are talking about, the kind of bipartisan effort we need to make. I do not know any Republicans or any Democrats anywhere, or any Independents, who have said: Oh, we don't need to worry about making things. We don't need to worry about a competitive economy. Actually, private sector jobs should be the No. 1 domestic goal of the Federal Government today. And the jobs we are talking about are a significant component because they lead to lots of other jobs. All of the ripple effects of manufacturing jobs are great: the other businesses that spring up, the suppliers that come.

Of course, the Senator and I have talked about his father was a significant part of launching new things into the marketplace. I think that is what the Senator and I want to see this Congress encourage, as we can encourage things without law and look for legislative ways to facilitate a growth back toward manufacturing.

Mr. COONS. I thank Senator BLUNT for his work on this bill with Senator BROWN. There are other bills that I hope this body will take up and discuss and debate where I hope we can find ideas that are out there, with progress that is being made and policy innovation that is being made, and that we can take them up, debate them, and find bipartisan sponsors who will carry them forward.

I absolutely agree with the Senator's point that we are seeing in manufacturing a revival in this country for a variety of reasons. One of them is less expensive energy. The shale gas revolution is reducing the feedstock costs for chemical manufacturing and reducing the energy costs broadly for manufacturing of all kinds.

We are also seeing that lots of American companies fear the loss of their inventions, their innovations, if they move offshore. So some of the attractiveness of operating in other countries has dimmed a bit, as they have recognized that the United States is one that has a rule of law that protects their inventions and innovations.

There is also less of a wage gap, frankly, as wages have come up in the developing world. In China, the wage gap is less. So that combination gives us a window, gives us a moment of opportunity. We lost millions of manufacturing jobs in the first years of this century, but in the last three we have been growing them and growing them steadily. If we can work in partnership across the aisle on manufacturing skills, on access to credit, on innovation, on a coordinated strategy, I cannot imagine a community in this country that would not rather have high-quality manufacturing jobs.

As Senator BLUNT was mentioning, for every manufacturing job that is created, there is 1.6 new support jobs created. For every $1 spent in manufacturing, there is $1.34 spent in the local economy that moves around. It is the sector that has the most positive secondary impact in our communities.

I do think there is broadly in our country a sense that we have sort of lost our leading edge in manufacturing because of the large-scale layoffs and the large plant closings. But in my State, and I presume in the Senator's State and in the Presiding Officer's State of Indiana, and others, there are dozens and dozens of small and medium-sized manufacturers who have seized this moment, who are growing, and who simply want us to help facilitate their access to the market, their access to innovation and new research, their access to a skilled workforce.

If we can pull together, I think we can do great things for the United States going forward.

Also, before we close, I thank Senator BLUNT for being a cosponsor with me of the startup innovation tax credit—something Senator ENZI and I and many others—Senator RUBIO, Senator SCHUMER, Senator STABENOW, as well as Senator MORAN—have cosponsored and introduced and discussed over time. It would help with access to capital for early stage startup manufacturers.

There are lots of good ideas we can and should discuss on the floor, in hearings, and going forward. But for today I am grateful to Senator BLUNT for his leadership with Senator BROWN on this bill that would help strengthen the National Network of Manufacturing Innovation centers. The Senator is a strong leader for manufacturing in his home State of Missouri, and I am grateful for a chance to spend some time with him on the floor today discussing that good bill and his good ideas.

Mr. BLUNT. Let me just talk a little bit about the startup act that Senator COONS and I have worked on. The Senator mentioned, I think, all the cosponsors of that: Senator RUBIO, Senator STABENOW, Senator MORAN, Senator KAINE, Senator SCHUMER, and Senator ENZI.

What that does is try to extend the opportunity of research and development to startup businesses. The way the tax credit works, you can deduct those costs from the taxes you pay. Well, if you are a startup business, you often do not have any profit to deduct from. That is part of the courage, frankly, of starting a business. You are almost insured, guaranteed, that for the first weeks, months, sometimes the first years, depending on how big a venture this is, you are not making money yet. So what the Senator and I and our friends have done in the startup act is say—these people would have employees—so what we do is allow the same tax credit for a big corporation or a big business or a highly successful business with lots of profit to be applied against what they pay as taxes for their employees—the Social Security tax, the other taxes that are paid—and, again, trying to encourage innovation.

We all know that small business is the engine that drives the country. But also small business can be the engine that drives manufacturing, if we figure out a way to let them have some of the same benefits that existing businesses have that have already gotten themselves in a profit-making situation. This just gives them a place to go and utilize that credit.

That is the kind of thing we ought to be looking at. Startup businesses are important, encouraging traditional businesses to figure out how to upgrade their equipment, upgrade the way they do things so they are more competitive in an international marketplace. I really do firmly believe that for reasons the Senator mentioned—the wage gap is not what it was, the transportation costs are more than they were to get something made from somewhere else back to the greatest market in world, the United States of America; and the more we know about the utility bills—Senator DONNELLY from Indiana, who is the Presiding Officer, and I have been working on things that pay attention to the utility bills. Again, that is a key component of future manufacturing. The more competitive you are, the more innovative you are, the more you are likely to be concerned about that part of your input costs. And sometimes when you expand, the utility bill is a bigger than the additional labor cost. But that may be exactly what ensures you can keep the labor you have and grow that labor by being able to make a commitment that you feel good about because you feel good about your ability to run that facility once you build it. You feel good that not only is it going to work this year, but, by the way, we are doing so well and doing so many things that 10 years from now we feel whatever the utility costs are going to be, they are

going to be within the range we can deal with and still produce right in Missouri, right in Ohio, right in Delaware, or right in Indiana.

That is the kind of thing we ought to be focusing on. How do we make things again? How do we create other kinds of private sector jobs, the No. 1 domestic priority of the country today?

Every time the Senator and I talk about manufacturing, I really do get excited about an America that is thinking about not are we going to be able to continue to make what we have always made, but what can we make better than anybody else that we are not making yet that is going to allow us to be out there in a world marketplace? Trade has become a much greater opportunity for the American workforce, as all of these other factors we have been talking about on the floor have come together to make our workforce what it is.

If Senator COONS has any final remarks, I would like him to finish our time here on the floor.

Mr. COONS. I thank Senator BLUNT. I thank the Senator for his enthusiasm for manufacturing and for his enthusiasm for working together with me on the startup innovation credit bill, as the Senator referenced, and with Senator BROWN on the national network of manufacturing innovation centers as he spoke about.

Manufacturing is the center, the beating heart of the middle class of America. Manufacturing jobs are good jobs. We do need to get back to being a country where inventing, growing, and making things is an area of bipartisan, sustained, purposeful focus. I know for the folks who watch us at home and for the folks here in this Chamber, nothing could meet the demands and the needs of our communities and our States more than for us to come together in a bipartisan, balanced, and responsible way to advocate for a stronger manufacturing sector in the United States.

I thank Senator BLUNT very much.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1592

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, we have all now been aware over the last few days in the news about the problems being faced with the Web site upon which people are supposed to go in order to sign up to be on one of these exchanges. That is important, because next year Americans are going to owe money to the IRS if they do not have health insurance by a certain date.

One of the ways people are supposed to get health insurance is by going on one of those Web sites and logging on, registering, and being able to see what their options are for insurance, and then signing up. If you do not do that, then you are going to owe money to the IRS next year.

The problem is those Web sites are not working. In fact, just today as the Secretary was testifying before a House committee, the Web site crashed again. There are a lot of different reasons why that is happening. I am sure eventually, with all of the experts who are involved in it, they will be able to set up a Web site that functions, because this is the 21st century. The ability to go online and buy something, frankly, is something people do every single day with all kinds of things. So to me, it is inexplicable that they are not able to do that when it comes to health insurance.

But in the meantime, people are struggling not just with the Web site, by the way, there are problems now with the 800 number and the paper application.

I believe the prudent approach is to say we are going to delay, that we are going to put off punishing people, that we are going to put off the individual mandate until the Web site works. I will admit, I do not think the law works at all in its totality and it will eventually have to be repealed. That is what I favor. But in the interim, what I am proposing is something that I think is pretty reasonable; that is, the notion that until these Web sites are working, how can we punish people for not buying health insurance? Why are we going to punish someone for not buying health insurance if the Web site they are supposed to buy it on, by the administration's own admission, is not properly working?

This is creating a lot of anxiety for people. That is why I filed a bill to do that. That is why I come on the floor today for the purpose of making a motion.

As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 225, S. 1592, which is a bill to delay the individual mandate until the health exchanges are functioning properly. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I think it is pretty clear that this motion is inappropriate. This is not what we should be doing and how we should potentially change the act. Actually, the effect here is to disrupt implementation of the Affordable Care Act. The Affordable Care Act is a law. It has been in place for several years. The Supreme Court has upheld it. Attempts to repeal it failed. I think the House has voted up to 20 times to try to repeal the ACA. They have all failed. The act is here. So the goal here is to make it work, make the act work. Then later on we can ask questions about what happened, why it didn't work, why wasn't implementation of the exchanges as good as a lot of us would have liked it to have been. Then find out who is responsible, et cetera. Right now it works.

The effect of this motion is severalfold. One, it will deny people having health insurance, people who otherwise would get health insurance. If you delay the individual responsibility requirement, it is going to cause a delay. People will not have insurance.

Second, it is going to increase the cost of health insurance for a lot of people. Why? Because fewer people will be signed up. The individual responsibility requirement will not be followed as much as otherwise would be the case. The result is fewer people will be in the insurance pool, and therefore prices will be higher.

Another consequence is it lowers the quality of health insurance, especially for those individuals who are seeking to be insured. They are going to have a lower quality product as a consequence of this request. It is an attempt to destabilize, it is an attempt to undermine the ACA.

I think for those reasons it is inappropriate and again is another effort to obstruct. We should not proceed in this way, so I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I do not intend to offer another motion since the objection has been heard. I do want to point out a couple of things. First of all, this notion that ObamaCare is the law—it is true it is the law. It was passed by Congress in the years before I got here. This is called the Calendar of Business. This is the Executive Calendar. Basically every single bill that is in here is an effort to change existing law, for the most part. That is what we do around here. That is what the legislative process is about. Virtually every bill that is filed is either an effort to create a new law, but usually it is an effort to change existing law. So if we begin to argue around here that once something is existing law it can never be changed, we might as well close up shop, because that is what we do. That is what the legislative process is about.

The second point that was made was that this law will prevent people have having health insurance. That is not true. Let me say this: No. 1, I am in favor of people having health insurance. I do think we cannot ignore the health insurance problem this country faces.

No. 2, admittedly, I am in favor of repealing ObamaCare and replacing it with a better alternative. But that is not what this bill does. All this bill says—this is the only thing it says: The only thing it says is you cannot enforce the individual mandate, you cannot tell people next year that we will fine you, that the IRS is going to impose a fine on you. You will not be able to do that until the Web site is fully working.

In terms of this preventing people from getting health insurance, that is simply not accurate. This does not prevent anyone from going onto the Web site and signing up. If the bill I am proposing is adopted, it would not keep

anybody from signing up for health insurance under ObamaCare. The only thing it would do is keep the IRS from fining you if you are unable to do it. The reason why that makes sense is because the way we are supposed to do it on a Web site simply is not working.

So it is not accurate to say this will somehow prevent people from buying health insurance. It does not. It does not prohibit you from trying to get it on the Web site. It is just the recognition that the Web site is not working well and there is a consequence to it. The consequence to it is if they cannot get these Web sites up and running, there are people who will not be able to buy health insurance and they are going to get fined for it. That does not sound fair to me.

So while I continue to want to repeal ObamaCare, I think for the good of our people it is unfair to continue to hold over their head the threat of an IRS fine when the method of compliance we are asking them to follow is not fully functioning. That is all this would do.

I would point out this is not a theoretical concern. I get letters and emails every day. But I want to read one I got. I will paraphrase it. It is from Barbara in Ruskin, FL. She is 63 years old. She tried to apply to the health insurance marketplace on October 1. As of the writing of this email, she is no further along. She sought the services of a certified navigator on October 14. After spending hours on line trying to get an account established and making the application, the navigator, with her on speaker phone, after many hours finally assisted her in making an application. She was told she would receive additional information via email. Ten days later she has still heard nothing. She is worried because she is currently covered, but that is being terminated at the end of the year because of ObamaCare. It is going to end on December 31. According to the information provided to her, she has to be enrolled in another insurance plan or she is going to face the fine.

This is just one example. I could go on and on. I do not want to burden the time of the Senate. But there are thousands upon thousands of people who are dealing with this problem.

Here is the last point I would make. I have now heard on a number of occasions the administration say with full confidence that by the end of this coming month, by the end of November, the Web sites will be up and running. If that is true, then there is no reason to be against my bill. If, in fact, you are so confident the Web sites are going to be up and running by the end of November, then this problem will be taken care of. If, in fact, you are right, and the Web sites are going to be up and running at the end of November, then the mandate will be back in effect.

The only thing my bill does is say: As long as the Web site is not working and until it is working, you cannot enforce the ObamaCare mandates on people through a fine from the IRS. That is it. That is all it says. That is why I think this makes all the sense in the world. I am surprised that we somehow believe we should continue to hold the penalty over people's heads when the way we are asking them to comply with the law, by the admission of the administration, by the admission of the Secretary today, is simply not working well enough.

I hope in the days to come my colleagues will reconsider, because I think our people, irrespective of how you feel about ObamaCare, deserve better. To that end, I would read to you one email I got from someone who actually supports ObamaCare. Nicholas in Palm Bay, FL, wrote an extensive email. He talked about how he submitted an application to the Web site. It took hours to complete because of Web issues. They finally finished the application 23 days later. The application is still in progress, but it will not let him go any farther to choose the insurance. So while he does not agree with me about defunding or repealing ObamaCare, he agrees with me that we should suspend the individual mandate penalty until this Web site issue is fixed.

I think there are a lot of people who are going to feel that way. I think there are a lot of people who would be shocked that the government is going to punish them for not buying insurance when the Web site they are being sent to buy it on does not work.

Again, I think it is a commonsense approach. I am surprised there is objection to it. I suppose I should not be, but I am. I hope in the days and weeks to come my colleagues will reconsider, because in my opinion, and I think in the opinion of many Americans, it is simply unfair.

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

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

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in favor of Ms. Patricia Millett's nomination to the DC Circuit Court. As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I have the opportunity to closely examine each of the judicial candidates nominated by our President. I did so with Ms. Millett, attending her nomination hearing and speaking to a wide range of the practitioners and colleagues who have direct knowledge of her professionalism and experience. Without exception, at every stage of her career and with every personal and professional colleague with whom she has had work experience, Patty—Ms. Millett—has distinguished herself as a person of integrity, intelligence, and dedication. She is a person whose capability and devotion to a family is an inspiration to those around her. She is unanimously recommended by former living Solicitors General, and received the ABA's highest rating.

Some of my colleagues here have argued that President Obama is trying to ''pack the court'' by nominating Ms. Millett and two other nominees to fill three current vacancies on the DC Circuit Court. These charges of court packing strike me, frankly, as without foundation. Court packing is an historical term used to describe when politicians try to change the size of a court, expand a court, in order to control its expected outcome. That was the cause of the objection to President Roosevelt's plan to add up to six Justices to the U.S. Supreme Court back in 1937.

In fact, a current legislative proposal to strip the President's ability to fill three vacant seats on the DC Circuit could better be called court stripping. In this particular case, making nominations to vacant judicial positions is not court packing, it is a President doing his job. Confirming highly qualified nominees to serve on this circuit in this vacancy would be this body doing its job.

The charges of court packing are absurd on their face. They are even more absurd when put in context.

Ms. Millett has been nominated to the ninth seat of the 11 authorized on this court. There are currently three vacancies on this vital circuit court.

I held a hearing earlier this year on judicial staffing levels in my role as the chair of the Subcommittee on Bankruptcy and the Courts of the Judiciary Committee. I invited the chair of the Judicial Conference Committee on Judicial Resources, Judge Tymkovich, to come testify. For those who ascribe significance to such things, Judge Tymkovich was nominated by President George W. Bush to sit on the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Tymkovich testified—convincingly, in my opinion—that the Federal judiciary needs more judges, not fewer. Every other year, the Judicial Conference submits to Congress a report on recommendations on judgeships. That report did not conclude that any judgeships should be removed or remain unfilled on the DC Circuit.

Judge Tymkovich also explained why the caseload statistics used by some of our colleagues to argue that the DC Circuit has a low caseload—and thus need not have its vacancies filled—are, in fact, unconvincing. The DC Circuit hears a unique caseload, with four times the number of complex administrative appeals than other circuit courts around the country.

The DC Circuit is the circuit from which all the Federal agencies' actions are repealed. More than any other court in the country, its caseload is made up of very complex, very difficult cases with far-reaching consequences and that require a great deal of time. Simply looking at the raw number of cases filed, opened, and closed is not an accurate predictor of whether a vacant seat on the DC Circuit should, in fact,

be filled. The DC Circuit's caseload has remained steady over the past 10 years, so the Judicial Conference has seen no reason to recommend any alteration in its staffing level.

The court packing argument made by some is also at odds with history, especially when one considers that caseloads lower than they are now on the DC Circuit were sufficient when all Republican Members then in office voted to confirm then Judge Roberts to the 9th seat, Janice Rogers Brown to the 10th seat, Thomas Griffith to the 11th seat, and Brett Kavanaugh to the 10th seat when it became vacant. When Ms. Millett is confirmed, the DC Circuit will still have more pending appeals per active judge than after the confirmations of any of those four earlier Bush nominees I just referenced. The caseload on the DC Circuit would also remain above that of the current 6th Circuit and 10th Circuit, to which courts the Senate has confirmed Republican supported judicial nominees this year.

A filibuster of Ms. Millett on caseload grounds would bring the Senate to an unprecedented and regrettable place. It would destroy comity and trust at a time when our Nation needs it most, when we need to demonstrate to the people of the United States that this Congress can function and that this Senate can fulfill its constitutional role.

It would not only facilitate the administration of justice by our courts, but also allow us to tackle other issues if we could move past endless and needless filibusters on issues such as this. It would allow us to move forward to the broader issues of the day, tackling long-term debt and deficit challenges, the fight against global terrorism, reinvesting in our future, and working together to invest in manufacturing and grow our economy. There are so many other issues that call for the time of this body.

With that, I wish to urge my colleagues to look at Ms. Millett's nomination on its merits and to not be distracted by what I think are groundless arguments that this is an instance of so-called court packing by this President.

This President is doing his job. He is nominating supremely qualified candidates to serve in the highest courts of this land, and this body should do its job and confirm those qualified nominees.

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION DAY

If I might, I simply wanted to comment to this body that something passed with little notice here yesterday. October 29, 2013, was National Technological Innovation Day. This was recognizing the role that technological innovation plays in the United States economy.

We know that innovation is absolutely essential to developing new medicines, treatments, and cures to help us live longer and more healthy lives. Innovation is essential to strengthen the manufacturing sector of the American economy and make us more competitive. Innovation is essential to allow us to take advantage of new materials and new opportunities in the world and to access new export markets overseas. Innovation overall is what has brought all that is best about modern life and the modern world.

Yesterday, in a bipartisan way, we recognized that on October 29, many years ago, was the very first day that DARPAnet was able to exchange communications from one computer to another. It was literally the dawning of the modern Internet age. This was made possible in part by Federal investment and innovation.

I am grateful that Senator MORAN, Senator ISAKSON, Senator HEINRICH, and Senator KIRK joined me in recognizing the unique and important role that technological innovation has played in America's past, America's present, and America's future.

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. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin pertaining to the introduction of S. 1617 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Mr. President, 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. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to support my colleague and my friend, Congressman MEL WATT of North Carolina, who has been nominated by the President to be the next Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency—the FHFA. I have total confidence that Mel is fully capable and qualified to serve as the FHFA Director, and I am not alone.

This week, the National Association of Home Builders wrote a letter to Leaders REID and MCCONNELL unequivocally endorsing Congressman WATT, stating:

> During Representative WATT's tenure on the House Financial Services Committee, he has proven to be a thoughtful leader on housing policy. The FHFA needs a permanent director with his leadership capabilities.

Senator BURR, Congressman WATT's Republican colleague from North Carolina, and Senator HAGAN recently shared a ''Dear Colleague'' in which both North Carolina Senators stated clearly, in their words:

> Congressman WATT has shown himself to be an honest, kind, and capable individual with deep understanding of the housing market. We urge you to support his nomination.

He is indeed qualified to serve as the FHFA Director. He is an incredibly decent and honest person who I know will always work diligently toward a decision based on the facts, not on ideology or momentary trends. Democrats know this, and Republicans who have worked and served with him know this.

Despite this, there is some question whether Congressman WATT has the technical experience to run FHFA. So let us look at Congressman WATT's record to see if we can peel that back and look closely.

He is a graduate of Yale Law School, who for 22 years practiced business, economic development, and real estate law. He is not a theoretician. He understands the impact of foreclosure, not just the macroeconomics but the personal dimension. He understands the role of financial intermediaries, banks and housing agencies. He has been a 21-year member of the House Financial Services Committee, so legislatively he has been engaged and involved in every major business, financial, and housing initiative in the last two decades, and he has seen this from the perspective of a legislator.

He has earned the support of his colleagues, but also he has earned the support of his constituents and his neighbors back home. He has the endorsement of the former Republican Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, SPENCER BACHUS of Alabama, who noted:

> Congressman WATT has played an integral role in the financial services committee's deliberations on housing policy and is known as a serious and substantive legislator . . . In my experience in working with him on a variety of issues, I have always personally respected Congressman WATT for his intellect, attention to detail, and dedication to serving the public.

Again, this is a reflection of two decades of service at the heart of the process of legislating with respect to housing policy in the United States. So when we combine his legal training, his practical experience as a lawyer, his two decades of service as a member of the House Financial Services Committee, he is fully qualified for this key position, which is so vitally important now because we have to seriously tackle the issue of housing finance reform, and we have to take into consideration the needs and concerns of all the stakeholders, from investors to homeowners.

Again, Congressman WATT has that perspective—knowing the intricacies from his legal training of financial laws, doing what he has to do to protect the interests of his clients, and as a legislator with over two decades of experience in creating housing policy in the United States.

The FHFA should be led by a Director, confirmed by the Senate, not an

Acting Director. We have to send the signal this is a position that is important and deserves a confirmed Director, notwithstanding the skills and abilities and the great dedication of the current Acting Director. We need to have someone in the position who has been confirmed by the Senate. There are too many critical decisions each day, and too much at stake in terms of housing finance reform not to have a confirmed Director of the FHFA.

I urge my colleagues to allow this nomination to come before this body for a vote. Congressman WATT deserves no less, and I indeed urge support for his confirmation.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, today I rise to call attention to a problem that seems to have gotten lost in the shuffle recently. That issue is our unemployed and underemployed American youth.

On September 14, the Wall Street Journal published a must-read story entitled: ''Wanted: Jobs for the New 'Lost' Generation.'' I would like to read a brief excerpt from that article.

> Like so many young Americans, Derek Wetherell is stuck. At 23 years old, he has a job, but not a career, and little prospect for advancement. He has tens of thousands of dollars in student debt but no college degree. He says he is more likely to move back in with his parents than to buy a home, and he doesn't know what he will do if his car—a 2001 Chrysler Sebring with well over 100,000 miles—breaks down. ''I'm kind of spinning my wheels,'' Mr. Wetherell says. ''We can wishfully think that eventually it's going to get better, but we really don't know, and that doesn't really help us now.''

Derek Wetherell's experience is hardly unique. It is unfortunately an experience shared by Americans across this Nation, including in my home State of Nebraska. Despite promises of economic recovery, jobs remain scarce, particularly for young people. A quick survey of family members, neighbors, and friends reveals that too many adult children are now living at home, stuck in their parents' proverbial basements.

A study released by The Opportunity Nation shows that 6 million young people between 16 and 24 are neither in school nor are they working. That means roughly 15 percent of America's youth are idle when they should be gearing up for their most productive years. The study went on to state:

> Youth unemployment is at its highest in more than a decade, and young people in many European countries now have a better shot at moving up the ladder from poor to rich than they do in America.

The United States has always stood as the land of opportunity—the new home sought by immigrants from Europe and from around the world, risking life and limb for personal freedom and economic progress.

It seems that the ancient European capitals now offer young people more hope—a better chance at upward mobility—than our failing economy. That must change.

The jobless youth don't belong exclusively to any class, race, or gender. This problem does not discriminate. Nearly 1 in 4 African-American youth is unemployed, while the unemployment rate for young Latinos in September was 15.8 percent. Young men are unemployed at a rate of over 17 percent, while nearly 13 percent of young women are out of work.

Washington Monthly recently discussed the long-term impact of joblessness on our youth.

> The consequences are dire for these young Americans.
>
> They're not only more likely to have a hard time in the job market; researchers have found that disconnection has scarring effects on health and happiness that endure throughout a lifetime.
>
> Unemployed, uneducated youth are at greater risk for criminality and incarceration, and they often go on to become unreliable spouses and improvident parents.
>
> The costs to society are also considerable.
>
> The direct support expenses and lost tax revenues associated with disengaged young people cost U.S. taxpayers $93 billion in 2011 alone—a bill that will only compound as the years progress.

In short, our weak economy is not only frustrating young Americans presently eager for work; it is jeopardizing their future. It is threatening more than just their ability to find present jobs; it is thwarting their efforts to build rewarding careers and to start families. They are getting a late start—if any start at all.

And what about those young Americans who have found work? According to a report by Accenture, over 40 percent of college graduates in the last 2 years are overqualified for their jobs. In other words, many of them are underemployed.

I believe all work has dignity. And while a college degree is important, it is not for everyone. But hard-working young people should have the opportunity to use their degrees and pursue their passions. They are not asking for special treatment—they are just asking for a chance. This economy is holding them back.

As if young people weren't facing enough adversity, now they are told they are legally required to purchase costly health insurance. In fact, the new law completely depends on their participation. Yet the report on premiums released by the Department of Health and Human Services shows that many young people will not qualify for subsidies to make their premiums affordable.

A study published by the National Center for Public Policy Research found that subsidies did not exist for people from 18 to 34 years of age in 11 of 15 exchanges. These young people will be required to pay the full price of their premiums, which we all know are skyrocketing around this country. The American Academy of Actuaries published an article noting that the young people who don't qualify for subsidies will see an increase in costs of 42 percent.

Tom from Omaha wrote me to tell me about his 26-year-old son, who had been paying $159 a month for his health coverage. ''Effective January 1, 2014, his rate will be $231. What is affordable about this?'' Tom added that his son's deductible would ''increase by $3,000 and his out-of-pocket costs by $3,850.'' We are no longer dealing with projections, we are dealing with real people.

The National Center for Public Policy Research also found that even with the subsidies, about 3.7 million young people would actually save at least $500 by forgoing insurance and paying the fine, and as many as 3 million young people would save at least $1,000 by opting out of ObamaCare.

The bottom line? We have record numbers of unemployed young Americans now being forced to purchase health plans they do not want and, in some cases, with coverage they don't even need. We need to empower, not burden, young Americans.

The American dream of launching a career, starting a family, buying a home, and forging a brighter future is not some quaint relic of a bygone era. The dream is alive and well. Our young people are still dreaming. It is time for us to honor our duty to ensure that the next generation has the tools and experience to succeed, to keep America strong, and to pursue that dream. Right now, we are falling woefully short. But we can do better. Our children and our grandchildren are counting on us. This generation isn't lost yet, and I am here to fight for them.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on why I had a hold on this particular nomination.

Contrary to some who are speculating on this issue, I am not voting against this specific nominee. My concerns are with the way OPM determines who can ask questions and who can receive answers.

Imagine, there is a Federal Government agency which determines who can ask a question to them and who can get an answer. Whether a Member of the minority or majority, every Member should be able to ask questions and to receive those answers. Frankly, if you ask a question, you should be able to get an answer; and when you get the answer, it probably should be truthful. That is my argument, and that is the purpose I have this hold.

I want to be very clear that I am not voting against the nominee as an individual. I am voting against the agency itself.

OPM, in my opinion, has become one of the most politicized agencies in Washington, DC. I believe the Office of Personnel Management has refused to do its part to ensure that all Americans are treated fairly under ObamaCare. Specifically what I mean by that is I believe what is good for the American people should probably be good for Congress, and what is good for Congress should be good for the American people. I believe that is a standard which many of us in the Senate live by. I think there are some who don't, but I think the majority do. If something is good for the American people, it should be good for Congress. And I think ObamaCare is a good example of that.

For me, the most concerning issue is whether OPM engaged in negotiations with the Senate and House leadership to secure exemptions and subsidies for Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives. I wish to thank a colleague of mine from Louisiana, Senator VITTER, for his hard-fought effort on this particular issue.

I am not the only person here in this Chamber who can't get questions answered from OPM. I would like to walk for a minute the time line and the difficulty I have had with OPM over the last couple of months trying to get direct and truthful answers from this agency.

I will start on August 28. I wrote OPM asking specifically from the agency to ensure that all congressional staff, including leadership and committee staff, be fairly treated under ObamaCare.

This is what I said:

> This is a missed opportunity for the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), which currently administers and operates Congressional health care, to ensure that all Congressional staff, including Committee and Leadership, play by the same rules as the American taxpayer.

I go on to say later:

> As you issue your final rule in order to comply with Section 1312 of the Affordable Care Act, I encourage you to clarify this issue once and for all and require in addition to Members of Congress that all Congressional staff—Committee and Leadership—to go into the exchanges.

I wanted the dialog. I wanted this conversation. That is why I wrote to OPM. Of course I was looking to hear back from them, and I received no answer. I received no answer from the agency, so I followed up on September 13. From August 28 to September 13, I got no answer.

On September 13, I wrote:

> I would like to first express my disappointment with your agency's lack of response to my stated concerns. In addition, I would like to reiterate my request that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) clearly mandate in its final rule that all Congressional staff, including Committee and Leadership, be subject to the consequences of ObamaCare.

I think that is a fair dialog and a fair question to ask. That was on September 13. Finally, on September 18, I got the response. Not the response that I wanted, as you can imagine, but I did get a response. In their letter, it says:

> In issuing our final rule, OPM will address this specific issue as well as others raised by members of Congress and the public at large.

So in this letter on September 18, I wanted to have a discussion with OPM, and OPM says: You can read the final rule. We are not going to have a discussion with you. We are not going to reach out. We are not going to come to your office. We just want you to read the final rule, like every other American, and we are not going to have a discussion prior to issuing the rule.

Obviously, I wasn't going to take that for an answer, so I reached out and I requested a formal briefing with the Acting Director. Sure enough, we had that meeting on September 26. So this is from August 28 all the way to September 26. I will tell you, frankly, it was a good discussion. They were frank. They had a couple of members of their staff there. I raised concerns about possible back door negotiations that would allow for special treatment under the law. I asked specifically whether OPM had engaged leadership on this issue. I asked that question: Have you engaged leadership on this issue? I asked the question three times: Did you engage with leadership on either the House side or Senate side on how you wrote these rules? Three times I asked that question and three times OPM had insisted that they had not, that the answer was no. So they said no three times. They formulated their proposal based on the advice of their lawyers.

I was OK with that. We had discussions on other principles of the bill itself, but that was the essence of the conversation I had and I was fine with that. Frankly, I was ready to release my hold. But what I did want was answers in writing. I wanted to memorialize the conversation that we had in my office, so I sent them another letter on September 28, formally requesting OPM to provide me with a detailed list of all conversations or negotiations that they had with staff members of the Senate or House leadership when crafting the proposed rule.

I want to be super specific. On September 28 we had numerous questions but question No. 4 that I had:

> Provide me a detailed list of all conversations or negotiations you had with any staff member of Senate or House Leadership when crafting your proposed rule specifically, the provision giving each Member of Congress the authority to determine who on their staff goes to the Exchange. If you engaged in any discussions—both formal and informal—with Leadership staff was there any undue pressure received from staff during these discussions? Do you believe this to be a conflict of interest?

So that question, that letter, was sent out. We had a great discussion. Please memorialize, please respond, and I received none. That was September 28. Please respond to that. They refused to do that.

On October 1, I started reading press reports, press reports both in Politico and also in the National Review. After I asked OPM have you ever dealt specifically with leadership in either House on these proposed rules and they told me no three times, then we find out in Politico that leadership worked for months—months to save these very same longstanding subsidies, according to documents and emails provided to Politico.

I go back to the original question and my concern, if you talk to an agency, do you have a right, whether you are in the majority or minority, to talk to OPM? Do you have a right to receive an answer, and when you get an answer, should that answer be truthful? Three times they told me no, they had not dealt with leadership, and you can see in the press reports, the emails that were released that was not the case.

What was reported in these stories is directly counter to what OPM told me in our meeting. I followed up with another letter dated October 8. I asked for OPM to provide me with detailed lists of all conversations or negotiations that they had with leadership staff. So this is what I said specifically:

> In light of recent press reports that Congressional Leadership staff negotiated with the Office of Personnel and Management (OPM) regarding changes made to the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program, I respectfully reiterate my request that you provide me with a detailed list of all conversations or negotiations with any staff member of Senate or House Leadership. These news reports run directly counter to statements that you made with [me and] three other OPM staff members during our meeting two weeks ago.

This time I got a response. I finally get a response. OPM told me they couldn't answer my question. They told me they couldn't answer the questions because the government was shut down.

Pretty convenient and, frankly, very disturbing. All I am asking is what OPM told me in our meetings—is it true or whether the press is reporting the truth? Where is the truth? Senators have a right to ask questions. They have a right to receive answers. Those answers should be truthful. That is why I put on the hold. That is why I voted against cloture on this nominee. This is why I will vote against the nominee, not because I have an issue with the nominee herself. I have a problem with this agency.

I want to reiterate and again express my appreciation with others in this Chamber who are as frustrated as I am with OPM—Senator VITTER being one of them—of not being able to get answers, to receive answers back from this particular agency. I want to say I still believe—and I think most in this Chamber believe this—that what is important and good for the American people should be good for Congress; what is good for Congress should be good for the American people. I stand by that and will be voting against final confirmation on this nominee.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent at this time to enter into a colloquy with my colleague from North Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Ms. MURKOWSKI and Ms. HEITKAMP pertaining to the introduction of S. 1622 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The Senator from Montana.

THE TAX CODE

Mr. BAUCUS. The famed author George Bernard Shaw once wrote:

> The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself.

A few weeks ago, lost among the headlines about shutdowns and showdowns was another very important news story. This story didn't receive big headlines. It didn't make the evening news, and it wasn't trending on Twitter.

Yet the story in the October 8 edition of the New York Times has serious implications for the future of our economy and our ability to adapt to the modern world. The eye-opening article discussed the merger of a California-based chip maker called Applied Materials. Applied Materials merged with a Japanese company called Tokyo Electron.

Applied Materials is one of the biggest companies in Silicon Valley, an industry leader with a global presence. They have more than 13,000 employees across 18 countries. Their headquarters, where they got their start 46 years ago, is in Santa Clara, CA. In addition to 8,000 workers in the Bay Area of California, Applied Materials has employees at research, development, and manufacturing facilities in Texas, Utah, Massachusetts, and in my home State of Montana.

Now, with the merger with Tokyo Electron, what is this all-American company doing? It is shifting its corporation, not to Japan, but to the Netherlands. That is right. This new American-Japanese company will be incorporated in Holland.

Why are they moving to the Netherlands? What is going on.

In the New York Times article on the merger, reporter David Gelles wrote:

> Executives at Applied Materials highlighted a number of advantages in announcing a merger recently with a smaller Japanese rival, but an important one was barely mentioned: lower taxes.
>
> The merged company will save millions of dollars a year by moving—not to one side of the Pacific or the other, but by reincorporating in the Netherlands.

The article goes on to note that Applied Materials' effective tax rate will drop from 22 percent to 17 percent as a result of the merger. For a company that had nearly $2 billion in profit in 2011, that amounts to savings of about $100 million per year.

Mergers resulting in U.S. companies being owned by companies in tax haven jurisdictions such as Ireland, Bermuda, or the Cayman Islands, are a new spin on the old ''inversion'' problem, and it is becoming an increasingly popular practice.

The Times article highlighted the following additional examples.

Last year, the Eaton Corporation, a power management company from Ohio, acquired Cooper Industries from Ireland for $13 billion and then reincorporated in Ireland. The company expects to save $160 million a year as a result of the move.

In July, Omnicom, the large New York advertising group, agreed to merge with Publicis Groupe, its French rival, in a $35 billion deal. The new company will be based in the Netherlands, resulting in savings of about $80 million a year.

Also in July, Perrigo, a pharmaceutical company from Michigan, said it would acquire Elan, an Irish drug company, for $6.7 billion. Perrigo will also reincorporate in Ireland, lowering its effective tax credit from 30 percent to 17 percent, and saving the company an estimated $150 million a year, much of it in taxes.

Earlier in the year, Actavis, based in New Jersey, bought Warner Chilcott, a drug maker with headquarters in Dublin, and said it would reincorporate in Ireland, leading to an estimated $150 million in savings over 2 years.

It would be easy for us to attack these companies by calling them immoral and unpatriotic, but it is much more constructive to step back and ask: What's motivating these companies? Why are they moving their headquarters abroad? How can we keep them in the United States? How can we adapt to the world and fix the problem?

It is a very simple issue. Globalization has made America's Tax Code system out of date.

The United States is stuck with a 35 percent corporate tax rate—one of the highest in the world—and a maze of incentives that only an army of tax lawyers can navigate. Some of these tax incentives are extremely costly but are much less valuable to businesses than a rate reduction with the same price tag.

When U.S. companies look abroad, what do they see? They see other countries with more modern, more efficient, and more competitive tax codes. Then, what do they do? They reincorporate overseas by acquiring or merging with another business.

They are not necessarily breaking laws. In fact, many of these companies are following the rules that America's outdated, overly complicated Tax Code provides.

The United States is losing hundreds of millions in revenue as a result. Even worse, it is losing jobs. When headquarters moves abroad, good-paying jobs often go abroad too. We need to reverse that tide. We need to bring our tax system into the 21st century to make the United States more competitive. That is what tax reform can do. It can help America overcome the competitiveness crisis that is driving businesses and jobs overseas.

This competitiveness crisis was made very clear in a Harvard Business School study last year with the sobering title: ''Prosperity at Risk.'' This indepth report examined the risks that threaten to undermine U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace. It also looked at what action we could take in the United States to restore our country's economic vitality.

Harvard Business School surveyed 10,000 of its graduates who live and conduct business worldwide. They asked about the challenges of doing business in America. These individuals are leaders on the front lines of the global economy. They are CEOs, CFOs, business owners, and presidents. They are personally involved in decisions about whether to hire, where to locate, and which markets to serve.

Unfortunately, these business leaders are pessimistic about America's economic future. They think America's prosperity—our success, our growth, and our economic status—is at serious risk. The vast majority of those surveyed, 71 percent, expected U.S. competitiveness to deteriorate over the next several years.

A survey found that the U.S. fared poorly when competing to attract business and pointed to increased competition from emerging markets. According to the survey: ''For the first time in decades, the business environment in the United States is in danger of falling behind the rest of the world.''

What did they identify as the root of America's competitiveness problem? Respondents—remember, these are 10,000 Harvard Business School graduates working all around the world and in the United States—pointed to America's Tax Code as the root of the problem. Specifically, they pointed to the complexity of the code as one of the greatest current or emerging weaknesses in the U.S. business environment.

The Harvard study made clear that our Tax Code puts American businesses at a competitive disadvantage on the world market. That obviously concerns us.

Where do we go from here? I believe we have to reform our Tax Code. We have to adapt. We have to help make America more competitive. It is very clear. It is very simple. We have to give companies such as Applied Materials a reason to keep their headquarters in the United States.

We have been through a difficult and counterproductive period on Capitol Hill. The recent shutdown and the threat of default undermined confidence in the U.S. and did $24 billion in unnecessary damage to our economy.

According to a report from the White House Council of Economic Advisers, the shutdown cost 120,000 jobs in October alone.

I spent last week home in my State, as others were in their States. I was meeting with my bosses, the folks and citizens of Montana. They are not too happy with the antics going on in Washington, DC—and rightly so.

Fortunately, that battle is behind us and the government is back to work. It is time for us to come together to tackle the challenges facing our country.

Right now there are more than 11 million unemployed Americans looking for work. Our economy is expected to continue growing at a sluggish rate for the next year, less than 3 percent.

We have to ask: How do we create jobs? How can we spark faster growth in our economy? How can we boost our competitiveness and keep American companies at home in America?

Tax reform must be part of the solution. It is not the whole solution, but it is part of the solution.

That was the clear message I heard traveling around the country this summer with my friend DAVE CAMP. Dave is the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Dave and I met with families and businesses, large and small, to hear about their experiences in dealing with the Tax Code.

We visited a family-owned bakery in Minneapolis, a small appliance store in New Jersey, a tech start-up in Silicon Valley, and a farm in Tennessee. We visited some large companies as well, companies such as 3M, Intel, FedEx, who employ thousands of people in the United States and around the world.

At every stop Dave and I heard the same message. U.S. companies and workers, companies large and small, workers employed at large and small companies, want a more simple, more fair Tax Code that closes loopholes and helps them compete and strengthens our economy.

This issue is not going away. It is too important. With so many people out of work, with economic growth still too slow, with a competitiveness gap costing us jobs and revenue, it is time for us to act. It is time for us to reform our Tax Code.

The chairman of the House and Senate Budget Committees brought their conferees together for the first time today. They have come together to try to find common ground on a budget and a plan to rebuild confidence in our economy. PATTY MURRAY and PAUL RYAN are incredibly smart and hard-working people. They care. And I am confident they can craft a compromise to help get America back on track.

I look forward to working with Chairman MURRAY and Chairman RYAN in the tax entitlement components of their discussions, but at the same time I will continue to work on a parallel track with the Finance Committee advancing tax reform.

We are working hard—in Bernard Shaw's words—to adapt to the world and build a tax code that works. And DAVE CAMP is doing the same thing in the House. We are going down separate paths but coming together with a common goal—reducing the deficit, creating jobs, and promoting economic growth. We are coming together to put America back on track.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time on both sides be yielded back.

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

All time having been yielded, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Katherine Archuleta, of Colorado, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management?

Mr. BAUCUS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

The result was announced—yeas 62, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 225 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baucus	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Boxer	Hirono	Reid
Brown	Johanns	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Cardin	King	Schatz
Carper	Klobuchar	Schumer
Casey	Landrieu	Shaheen
Chambliss	Leahy	Stabenow
Chiesa	Levin	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Toomey
Coons	Markey	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	McCain	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	Menendez	Warren
Fischer	Merkley	Whitehouse
Flake	Mikulski	Wyden
Franken	Murkowski	

NAYS—35

Alexander	Cruz	Paul
Ayotte	Enzi	Portman
Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hatch	Rubio
Burr	Heller	Scott
Coats	Hoeven	Sessions
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cochran	Kirk	Thune
Corker	Lee	Vitter
Cornyn	McConnell	Wicker
Crapo	Moran	

NOT VOTING—3

Inhofe	Isakson	Kaine

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

NOMINATION OF JACOB J. LEW, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES GOVERNOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND; UNITED STATES GOVERNOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT; UNITED STATES GOVERNOR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK; UNITED STATES GOVERNOR OF THE EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that cloture on Calendar No. 63 be withdrawn and that the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nomination; that the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Under the previous order, the motion to invoke cloture on the Lew nomination is withdrawn.

Is there any further debate? If not, the question is on agreeing to the nomination of Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be United States Governor of the International Monetary Fund; United States Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; United States Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank; United States Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the cloture vote on the Watt nomination occur immediately following the swearing in of Senator-elect Booker, of New Jersey, tomorrow, and the Senate proceed to legislative session and a period of

morning business for debate only, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR CHIESA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as we all know, today is Senator CHIESA's last day in the Senate.

And while the Senator has only been here four months, it has been an interesting few months to say the least. He has found himself right in the middle of everything from the farm bill to the immigration bill, to the debate over Syria, to an October I am sure he will not soon forget.

He has had to work out of a temporary office, complete with vinyl siding and plastic chairs. He was here for less than an hour before having to take his first vote. He has had to deal with 99 Senators pronouncing his name 99 different ways. And one of our colleagues from Arizona threatened to quote ''waterboard'' the Senator if he didn't support a particular bill. I haven't asked how that situation ended up working out, but I see the Senator from New Jersey is still here.

Bottom line: Senator CHIESA is going to have quite a few stories for his family—for his wife Jenny and his kids, Al and Hannah. I know he is eager to get back home to see them—and catch up on some Notre Dame football—too. Even though he tells us his rank is ''fourth'' out of four in the family pecking order.

Well, that is at least better than 100th out of 100. But Senator CHIESA has not let his lack of Senate seniority stand in the way of pushing important issues.

Human trafficking was his focus as Attorney General, and it has been his focus here too. He has helped convene committee hearings about it, he has raised the issue with administration officials, he has embarked on a series of school visits to educate young folks on the issue, and he has worked with the Junior Senator from Ohio to advance awareness through the Caucus to End Human Trafficking. His determination is something we all admire. I know a lot of it comes from his strong Catholic faith. Much of it must come from his upbringing too: this is a Senator who lost his father and was forced to become the man of the house when he was just 8 years old.

Last year, Senator CHIESA said this:

> If someone had ever said 20 years from now you'd be the attorney general of New Jersey, I would have laughed . . . I didn't think I'd even have met the attorney general by the age of 46.

Well, he has done more than that. He can add Senator to his résumé too—a Senator who has made the most of his time here, who has done good work, who we have all enjoyed getting to know. So, Senator CHIESA can be proud of his service. We thank him for it, and we look forward to welcoming our newest colleague from New Jersey.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, before I make these remarks, let me join in thanking the Senator from New Jersey. Although his tenure in the Senate was brief, he was here during a very exciting and interesting time in American political history. We thank him for his service on behalf of New Jersey and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the President has nominated three extraordinarily well-qualified Americans—appellate lawyer Patricia Millett, Georgetown Law professor Nina Pillard and DC District Judge Robert Wilkins—to serve on the DC Circuit, the second most important court in the Nation. The DC Circuit currently has 8 active judges out of 11 authorized judgeships.

These nominees should be given an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor.

Patricia Millett is the first nominee up for consideration. Ms. Millett, who is currently in private practice, is recognized as one of the leading appellate lawyers in the country.

She has argued 32 cases before the Supreme Court and dozens more in other appellate courts.

Ms. Millett served in the Solicitor General's office under both Democratic and Republican presidents. Seven former Solicitors General—including prominent Republicans Paul Clement, Ted Olson and Ken Starr—sent a letter in support of Ms. Millett saying she ''has a brilliant mind, a gift for clear, persuasive writing, and a genuine zeal for the rule of law. Equally important, she is unfailingly fair-minded.''

At her hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, no Senator questioned Ms. Millett's qualifications or fitness for the Federal bench. She is simply an outstanding nominee.

Let me tell you why I have a personal interest in her nomination.

Ms. Millett is also a proud daughter of Illinois. She grew up in Marine, a small town in the southern part of the State that I know well. Her mother was a nurse and her father was a history professor at Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville, one of my favorite campuses.

Ms. Millett graduated summa cum laude from the University of Illinois and magna cum laude from Harvard Law School. She clerked for two years for Judge Thomas Tang on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

She is part of a military family. Her husband, Robert King, served in the Navy and was deployed as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ms. Millett also comes highly recommended by distinguished members of the Illinois legal community.

I received a letter from Patrick Fitzgerald, the former U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, expressing ''strong support'' for Ms. Millett's nomination and urging ''prompt consideration of her candidacy on the merits.''

I also received a letter from 28 prominent attorneys including former Illinois Governor James Thompson, a Republican, and current Illinois State Bar Association president Paula Holderman.

They expressed their strong support for Ms. Millett, saying that: she embodies the evenhandedness, impartiality, and objectivity required for the Federal judiciary, as evidenced by her more than 10 years of service in the Solicitor General's office in both the Clinton and Bush administrations.

The bottom line is that Ms. Millett is an outstanding nominee with broad support from across the ideological spectrum. There is no question that she is well-qualified to serve on the bench, and she will serve with distinction.

I urge my colleagues to give her a chance with an up-or-down vote. She does not deserve to have her nomination filibustered. If there is anyone who can step forward and question this nominee's qualifications, they should do so. They have not to date.

Some of my Republican colleagues have accused the President of trying to ''pack'' the DC Circuit by making nominations to fill the outstanding vacancies in that court. This argument is simply not credible. Filling vacancies for existing judgeships is not court packing. These judgeships are authorized by law, and it is incumbent upon the President to nominate qualified candidates to fill them.

Others across the aisle have argued that the DC Circuit does not have a high enough caseload—there are just not enough cases—to justify a full complement of 11 judges. I note that these same Republican Senators did not make that argument in 2005 when the Senate confirmed Janice Rogers Brown and Thomas Griffith to the 10th and 11th judgeships on the DC Circuit. When the Senate confirmed the 10th and 11th judgeships in the DC Circuit in 2005, they were the choices of the Republican side of the aisle, even though these confirmations, which we approved, reduced the Court's workload to fewer cases per active judge than what we would see if President Obama's nominees were confirmed.

On April 5, the Judicial Conference of the United States, which is led by Chief Justice John Roberts, made its Federal judgeship recommendations for the 113th Congress. The Judicial Conference is nonpartisan, and according to its letter, its recommendations ''reflect the judgeship needs of the Federal judiciary.'' The Judicial Conference did not recommend stripping any judgeships from the DC Circuit. So this argument on the other side of the aisle finds no support in the non-partisan Judicial Conference's recommendations.

My Republican colleagues like to argue about workload statistics when it comes to the DC Circuit, but according to the Washington Post fact checker Glenn Kessler, who I have come to

know, ''The voluminous and detailed statistics on the appeals courts allows each side to pick and choose the stats that support their position.''

Republicans may claim the DC Circuit's workload is too light, but in the Washington Post Mr. Kessler points out that by some metrics, the DC Circuit ''could be very well in first place'' when it comes to workload.

I also note that one of my Republican colleagues came to the floor today and explained his opposition to Ms. Millett's nomination. In doing so he cited a letter that the Senate Judiciary Committee Democrats sent in 2006 seeking a hearing postponement on Peter Keisler, who was nominated to fill the 11th seat on the DC Circuit. I would like to point out that this letter dealt with filling the 11th seat on the DC Circuit. Ms. Millett is seeking the 9th seat. I also wish to point out that the Senate had already voted to confirm a nominee to be the 11th judge on the DC Circuit, Thomas Griffith, just 1 year before this 2006 letter. I voted for Mr. GRIFFITH on the floor.

The bottom line is that these judicial vacancies currently exist, it is the President's job to nominate qualified men and women to fill them, and there is no question that the President's nominee for this position, Patricia Millett, is one of the most well-qualified persons he could have found to fill this important position. No one comes forward to criticize her background and her resume because, frankly, it is hard to find a nominee with any stronger credentials for the Federal bench.

Let's not play political games with this important nomination, nor with people such as Patricia Millett, who have put their names forward, have gone through this process, and have waited for us politicians to work our will on the floor. She deserves an up-or-down vote.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letter from Illinois lawyers supporting Patricia Millett for the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit as well as the letter, dated October 24, from former U.S. attorney for the Northern District Patrick Fitzgerald of Chicago.

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

PATRICK J. FITZGERALD,
Chicago, IL, October 24, 2013.

Re Patricia Millett.

Hon. DICK DURBIN,
U.S. Senate, Hart Office Building, Washington, DC.
Hon. MARK KIRK,
U.S. Senate, Hart Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS DURBIN AND KIRK: I write in strong support of the President's nomination of Patricia Millett to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and urge the Senate to promptly confirm her to this position.

I support the nomination of Patricia Millett because I believe our system of justice will be positively impacted with her as a member of our judiciary. Her career accomplishments as a lawyer are extraordinary. Over the past 20 years, Patricia has argued 32 cases before the United States Supreme Court and even more in the federal appeals courts, including the D.C. Circuit. Her cases have spanned the spectrum of legal issues that the D.C. Circuit confronts, including constitutional law, administrative law, civil and criminal procedure, commercial disputes, national security, and civil rights. Importantly, she has represented parties on both sides of those many issues, handling cases for the government at every level (federal, state, and local), private individuals, businesses, employers, employees, civil rights plaintiffs, prosecutors and criminal defendants. Patricia is a lawyer's lawyer who is committed to the rule of law and stare decisis. She embodies the evenhandedness, impartiality and objectivity required for the federal judiciary, as evidenced by her more than 10 years of service in the Solicitor General's office in both the Clinton and Bush Administrations.

Patricia grew up downstate in the small farm town of Marine. Her father was a history professor at Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville and her mother was a registered nurse and hospice practitioner. Patricia graduated summa cum laude from the Univeristy of Illinois with Highest Distriction in political science, before going on to the Harvard Law School. The country would be well served to have someone with her tremendous qualifications—and deep ties to our state—hold such an important judicial appointment.

I would urge a prompt consideration of her candidacy on the merits.

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. FITZGERALD.

ILLINOIS LAWYERS SUPPORTING PATRICIA MILLETT FOR THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE D.C. CIRCUIT

SEPTEMBER 27, 2013.

Hon. DICK DURBIN,
U.S. Senate Hart Office Building, Washington, DC.
Hon. MARK KIRK,
U.S. Senate Hart Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS DURBIN AND KIRK: We write in strong support of the President's nomination of Patricia Millett to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and urge the Senate to promptly confirm her to this position. As lawyers here in Illinois, we care deeply about the rule of law and the quality of our system of justice. We strongly believe that stellar nominees with broad bipartisan support, like Patricia, should be quickly confirmed to ensure our justice system works effectively and efficiently. We feel even more strongly about that knowing that Patricia is an Illinois native.

We support the nomination of Patricia Millett because we believe our system of justice will be positively impacted with her as a member of our judiciary. Her career accomplishments as a lawyer are extraordinary. Over the past 20 years, Patricia has argued 32 cases before the United States Supreme Court and even more in the federal appeals courts, including the D.C. Circuit. Her cases have spanned the spectrum of legal issues that the D.C. Circuit confronts, including constitutional law, administrative law, civil and criminal procedure, commercial disputes, national security, and civil rights. Importantly, she has represented parties on both sides of those many issues, handling cases for the government at every level (federal, state, and local), private individuals, businesses, employers, employees, civil rights plaintiffs, prosecutors, and criminal defendants. Patricia is a lawyer's lawyer who is committed to the rule of law and stare decisis. She embodies the evenhandedness, impartiality, and objectivity required for the federal judiciary, as evidenced by her more than 10 years of service in the Solicitor General's office in both the Clinton and Bush Administrations.

Patricia grew up downstate in the small farm town of Marine. Her father was a history professor at Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville and her mother was a registered nurse and hospice practitioner. Patricia graduated summa cum laude from the Univiery of Illinois with Highest Distinction in political science, before going on to Harvard Law School. We would be extremely proud to have someone with tremendous qualifications—and deep ties to our state—hold such an important judicial appointment.

We believe it is critically important that the country rise above partisan politics when it comes to judicial appointments. Such unwarranted politicization can become a threat to the citizens' trust in the integrity of our great judicial process. We, and the citizens of Illinois, are counting on you and the U.S. Senate to do the right thing by putting aside partisan politics and supporting Patricia's nomination.

Sincerely,

Sergio Acosta, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP; Sean M. Berkowitz, Latham & Watkins; Robert L. Byman, Jenner & Block; Vincent J. Connelly, Mayer Brown; Tyrone C. Fahner, Mayer Brown; John N. Gallo, Sidley Austin LLP; Paula H. Holderman, Winston & Strawn LLP; Donald G. Kempf, Jr., Donald G. Kempf, Jr., P.C.; Steven F. Molo, MoloLamken LLP; C. Barry Montgomery, Williams Montgomery & John; Manuel Sanchez, Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP; Jeffrey Stone, McDermott Will & Emery LLP; James R. Thompson, Winston & Strawn LLP; Christopher B. Wilson, Perkins Coie.

Julie A. Bauer, Winston & Strawn LLP; Joel D. Bertocchi, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP; Linda T. Coberly, Winston & Strawn LLP; J. Timothy Eaton, Shefsky & Froelich; James R. Figliulo, Figliulo & Silverman, P.C.; Rodger A. Heaton, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP; James I. Kaplan, Quarles & Brady LLP; Michael H. King, Edwards Wildman; James S. Montana, Jr., Vedder Price; Lynn H. Murray, Grippo & Elden; Suzanne Saxman, Seyfarth Shaw LLP; Thomas P. Sullivan, Jenner & Block; Ann C. Tighe, Cotsirilos Tighe & Streicker; Alison Siegler, University of Chicago Law School.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleague Senator DURBIN from Illinois in support of Patricia Millett's nomination to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. As he said so eloquently, Ms. Millett has broad bipartisan support, extensive public and private sector litigation experience, and she would make an outstanding addition to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. After graduating with honors from the University of Illinois and Harvard Law School, Ms. Millett clerked at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She then spent 15 years at the Department of Justice, including 11 years as assistant to the Solicitor General in

both Republican and Democratic administrations. Again, I think it is important to point out she has support on both sides of the aisle.

Ms. Millett has argued 32 cases before the Supreme Court as well as dozens of others at the circuit court level, and she currently manages her law firm's Supreme Court and national appellate practice.

She was unanimously rated ''well qualified'' by the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, and that is their highest rating.

In addition to her professional work, Ms. Millett is very active in her community. She has been a literacy tutor for over 20 years, and through her church she volunteers at homeless shelters.

Ms. Millett has strong support across the political spectrum. Again, as Senator DURBIN pointed out, she has been endorsed by seven former Solicitors General of the United States, three former Republican attorneys general, law enforcement groups, and civil rights groups. She also has tremendous support from retired members of the military and groups representing military families.

In addition to being a highly qualified nominee, Ms. Millett will fill one of three current vacancies on the 11-member DC Circuit Court. Again, as Senator DURBIN pointed out, the DC Circuit is considered the second-most important court in our Nation. It is critical that it be fully staffed with qualified judges. The court handles important terrorism and detention cases, it hears a large volume of complex issues involving administrative actions of the Federal Government. The DC Circuit is also considered the most important civilian court for members of the Armed Services and veterans.

Former DC Circuit Chief Judge Patricia Wald noted ''the DC Circuit hears the most complex, time-consuming, labyrinthine disputes over regulations with the greatest impact on ordinary Americans' lives: clean air and water regulations, nuclear plant safety, health care reform issues, insider trading and more.''

The Senate should have the opportunity to vote up or down on all of President Obama's nominees to this important court. It is way past time we took action on this nomination.

I urge my colleagues to support the Millett nomination.

I yield the floor.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I wish to discuss the nomination of Patricia Millett to be a judge on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. Pattie, as she is known, is clearly well qualified. She has received support from Attorneys General appointed by Republican Presidents, and from conservative Solicitors General such as Ken Starr, Theodore Olson, and Paul Clement. Her resume is stellar, her qualifications unquestioned, and her support broad.

Although Senator DICK DURBIN claims she is an ''Illinois native'' in a letter of support to President Obama—and Senator TIM KAINE, in his own letter of support to the President claims her as living in Virginia—she is actually a daughter of the State of Maine. Her mother grew up in the small town of Dexter, where Pattie went to school through high school. She also attended school in Bangor, and for a time, even worked at Eastern Maine General Hospital as it was then known. She truly comes from good Maine stock.

Millett also juggles an extremely full life while excelling at most everything she tries. The wife of a veteran, Pattie herself holds a black belt in taekwondo—a pastime that she took up in order to spend more time with her kids. She is also very engaged with her community and volunteers at local homeless shelters. And when her husband was deployed to Iraq, she single-handedly took care of their kids and managed to continue with her incredible career. She does all of these things while preparing for and arguing cases before the United States Supreme Court. In fact, she has argued more cases than any other woman—over 30 cases to date.

I am pleased to fully support the confirmation of Patricia Millett, a true daughter of Maine, to serve on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO CARMEN TARLETON

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President. I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a Vermont woman who personifies inspirational. Carmen Tarleton's journey as a survivor of domestic violence began nearly 6 years ago, when her estranged husband broke into her home, attacked her with a baseball bat and doused her with industrial-strength lye. She suffered severe burns over 80 percent of her body.

I have followed Carmen's recovery with great interest and even greater awe. Despite the scars that left her blinded and severely disfigured, Carmen made no effort to hide the effects of that attack. She never sought pity, nor did she dwell on the past. Instead, Carmen wrote a book and went on television, talking bravely and candidly about her long road back. She learned how to play the banjo and piano, and through the many surgeries and long hospital stays, Carmen's determination and spirit remained unbroken.

Last February, Carmen underwent a miraculous face transplant at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, which was detailed in an October 26 front-page story in The New York Times. As that piece pointed out, ''There is evidence that Ms. Tarleton's new face is more than just donated tissue, (it) is becoming part of who she is.''

I ask unanimous consent to have The New York Times article inserted in the RECORD. I believe everyone will be as inspired by Carmen Tarleton as I have been.

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

[From the New York Times, Oct. 25, 2013]

FOR VICTIM OF GHASTLY CRIME, A NEW FACE, A NEW BEGINNING

(By Abby Goodnough)

THETFORD, VT.—At 1:30 a.m. on Valentine's Day this year, Carmen Tarleton left her rural home here and drove through the frigid dark to Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Her doctor had called hours earlier with the news she had been waiting for: a suitable donor had been found. She would get a new face.

Almost six years had passed since her estranged husband broke into her house one spring night, beat her with a baseball bat and soaked her with industrial lye that he squirted from a dish-soap bottle. The attack nearly blinded Ms. Tarleton, a nurse and mother of two, and burned her beyond recognition. She lost her eyelids, upper lip and left ear. What remained of her face and much of her body was a knobby patchwork of scar tissue and skin grafts, painful to look at and far more painful to live with.

Now, after overcoming some initial fears, she was ready to receive someone else's features. After 15 hours of transplant surgery, Ms. Tarleton, 45, emerged from the operating room with what looked to her mother, Joan VanNorden, like a puffy, surreal mask. At first she wanted to faint as she stared at the new face, smooth and freckled, stitched to her daughter's pale scalp. But when Ms. Tarleton started talking in her old familiar voice—''Can't you just get in here?''—Mrs. VanNorden relaxed.

''I said, This is who Carmen is now,' and it really looked beautiful,'' she recalled. ''Although it didn't look anything like her, it was her face.''

Face transplants are still an experimental procedure, the first having taken place just eight years ago in France. Some two dozen full or partial transplants have been completed worldwide, including five at Brigham and Women's, which used nearly $4 million in research grants from the Department of Defense to do four of the surgeries. Arteries, veins, nerves and muscles from the donor face must be painstakingly connected to the recipient's, in what Dr. Bohdan Pomahac, Ms. Tarleton's chief transplant surgeon, called ''by far the most complicated operation that I do.''

Yet the psychological impact of a face transplant is perhaps as far-reaching as the surgical one. Unlike a kidney or liver or heart, a donated face is visible to all, challenging recipients and their loved ones to incorporate an entirely new countenance into long-held perceptions of a person's identity.

Ms. Tarleton's appearance is still evolving: her scalp was so badly burned that hair will never return to parts of her head, but her donor's hair, the same shade of brown as her own, is growing around her forehead and temples. Her right eye remains closed, and her left droops. Her face is sometimes mask-like, betraying little emotion, because the muscles are still reconnecting and she cannot yet move them well. And that mask, oddly enough, looks like neither her nor the woman who donated it.

But eight months after the operation, there is evidence that Ms. Tarleton's new face is more than just donated tissue, and is becoming part of who she is.

When her family thinks, or even dreams, about her, they imagine her new visage. ''When someone at work asks me, How's Carmen?' the picture that comes up in my mind more and more is that face,'' said Ms. Tarleton's sister, Kesstan Blandin.

Yet for Ms. Tarleton herself, the process of acceptance has been trickier. For one thing,

her poor vision keeps her from seeing herself clearly unless she holds a mirror up close. ''I don't yet feel it is my face,'' she wrote in a recent blog post. ''I feel like I am still borrowing it.''

Ms. Tarleton's former husband, Herbert Rodgers, 58, pleaded guilty to a charge of maiming and is serving a prison sentence of at least 30 years. Mr. Rodgers told the police that he had been angry at Ms. Tarleton, believing she was seeing another man after they separated.

Ms. Tarleton underwent a number of reconstructive surgeries, but with little success. When Dr. Pomahac called in May 2011 to propose a face transplant, Ms. Tarleton's mind first leapt to a ''Twilight Zone'' episode that had jarred her as a child, about a man who could change his appearance to look like other people.

''Initially I felt that it was very sci-fi,'' she said in a recent interview while curled on the couch in the modest home she shares with her two daughters. But she and her family started researching, and after a few weeks of weighing the pros and cons—for one thing, she is likely to be on immunosuppressant drugs for the rest of her life, raising her risk of infection and cancer—Ms. Tarleton decided to forge ahead.

After a number of trips to Boston for physical and psychological screening to determine if she was a good candidate, she got on the donor list that fall. ''It was like a big surprise, a big gift,'' she said. ''I'd already accepted my disfigurement, fine. But I accepted it believing there wasn't an alternative.''

The things Ms. Tarleton wanted from a new face were more pragmatic than aesthetic. Tight bands of scars ringed her neck, causing debilitating pain. She drooled constantly and could not blink, jeopardizing a synthetic cornea in her left eye. And with her face frozen from scarring, it was hard for others to read her emotions.

For a time, she was devastated that she could not see ''the old me,'' as she put it. But she moved on, writing a book about her physical and emotional recovery from the attack and speaking publicly about the experience. She seemed mostly unconcerned about her appearance.

But in December 2012, she gained a more urgent desire for a new face. She had started taking piano lessons at a music shop not far from her home. Her teacher was Sheldon Stein, an earthy, soft-spoken musician with whom she felt an instant affinity. The feeling, it turned out, was mutual. The two say they are in love.

''I kept looking in the mirror all of a sudden when I met Sheldon,'' she said. ''I wasn't insecure before. But now—now you have feelings for somebody and now you have something to lose, when before, one of the reasons I did so well is I had nothing to lose anymore.''

After the operation, she went through a harrowing three weeks when her immune system rejected the face. But medications helped her accept the new tissue. And some of the improvements she had hoped for came shortly after. Her neck pain disappeared, and her left eyelid, immobile for years, began to blink again. The drooling diminished, and is likely to stop once she gets more feeling in her lips.

The transplant did not make Ms. Tarleton look like her donor, Cheryl Denelli Righter of North Adams, Mass., who died at 56 after a stroke. That is a typical outcome for face transplant recipients, partly because their bone structures are different from their donors'. Mysteriously, she now has a cleft in her chin, something neither Ms. Denelli Righter nor Ms. Tarleton's old face had.

Yet to Ms. Denelli Righter's daughter, something of her mother lives on in Ms. Tarleton's new face. ''I get to feel my mother's skin again, I get to see my mother's freckles, and through you, I get to see my mother live on,'' the daughter, Marinda Righter, told Ms. Tarleton in May. The two have kept in touch, and Ms. Tarleton said she could feel Ms. Righter's loss ''so strongly''—another complicating factor as she adjusts.

One Tuesday in August, Ms. Tarleton made her way yet again to Brigham and Women's, where doctors monitor the level of anti-rejection medications in her blood and take biopsies of the skin on her neck—which is the donor's—to look for any sign of rejection.

Ms. Tarleton has undergone nearly 60 operations, mostly skin grafts, at Brigham and Women's and has visited 21 times since her latest release in March. On this day she was exhausted, recovering from a bad headache the previous night and a recent fall that had left her with an aching foot. But she had a bit of good news for her doctors.

''If I put my head on Sheldon's chest, I can feel his hair,'' she said, ''and I couldn't before.''

Ms. Tarleton also met with Bridget Bowler, a speech therapist who is helping her learn to move her new lips—where nerve function typically takes the longest to return in transplant recipients—and practice facial expressions. She still has an air of the ventriloquist when she speaks, a habit that Ms. Bowler is trying to help her shake.

''One of these days in the near future,'' Ms. Tarleton said, ''when I start to cry or I laugh, you're going to be able to tell by looking at me how I feel.''

These days, Ms. Tarleton has returned to her hard-charging self. Her summer included speaking engagements, weekend road trips and late-night jam sessions with Mr. Stein and his musician friends. She decided to take up the banjo in addition to the piano, because she wanted to join in the jams. ''Our whole lives,'' she said, ''are just about experience.''

Ms. Blandin said Ms. Tarleton's new face has helped mute the grief she still feels about the horrible damage done by the lye attack. ''Now I just feel like a warm nostalgia: I know you and I haven't forgotten you,'' she said of her sister's original face. ''She's still Carmen in some ways, but in other ways she's someone new and the face transplant represents that.''

But Ms. Tarleton's daughters, Liza, 21, and Hannah, 19, who live with her in a red barn that has been converted to apartments, on a hill thick with wildflowers, were more matter-of-fact when discussing her transformation, perhaps intentionally.

''Mom's going to do what she's going to do,'' Liza said.

Hannah chimed in. ''And we're going to get used to it,'' she said, laughing.

''And we're going to support it,'' Liza added, ''for sure.''

With that, Liza got up to make her mother a hot dog. Ms. Tarleton took her spot on the couch, a barely perceptible smile flickering across her face.

HOMEOWNER FLOOD INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY ACT

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation seeks to protect homeowners across the country from severe flood insurance rate hikes until Congress is provided assurances from the agency related to flood mapping methodologies and affordability.

The long-term solvency of the National Flood Insurance Program is critical to protecting taxpayer investments, communicating perceived flood risk to homeowners, and encouraging communities to invest in mitigation measures. The rates imposed by the legislation we adopted last summer are working against those worthy goals.

A constituent from Ocean Springs, MS, contacted my office to give her perspective on the legislation. She wrote: ''Built in 1986, [my house] survived all hurricanes including Katrina. I used my retirement savings to buy the house. Before closing, flood insurance was grandfathered at $245.00 per year. After closing, the rate skyrocketed to $18,450. You can understand my shock.'' If you do the math, her new rates are more than 75 times the rate when she purchased her home.

I heard from Thomas Schafer, the Mayor of Diamondhead, MS. This city in Hancock County was ''ground zero'' for Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Mayor Schafer called this legislation a ''devastating loss to [his] community,'' pointing specifically to ''plummeting property values with increased cost of flood insurance.''

These are communities that suffered the greatest natural disaster in our Nation's history in 2005, the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010, and now this.

The bill I join my colleagues in introducing today aims to restrain the rate increases to homeowners that are very troublesome.

Under this bill, the Federal Emergency Management Agency must provide assurances to Congress that it is using sound mapping methods to make flood insurance rate determinations. A study by the National Academies of Science produced in March of this year has called into question some of the engineering practices FEMA uses to determine rates. Before we let these rates devalue private property and perhaps even devastate local economies, we need to be absolutely sure our practices and procedures are as sound as possible.

Second, FEMA must complete the affordability study mandated by the same legislation that is driving insurance rates up. If rates become so high that homeowners cannot participate in the program, or entire communities opt out of the program, all participants in the program will suffer from a smaller risk pool. It is important that we understand the implications of these rates before we allow them to ruin people's lives and communities.

I am pleased with the work accomplished by the bipartisan group of Senators who introduced this bill. The bill reflects the priorities of Senators from both parties and several regions. I believe it gives the Senate a strong starting point to address this important issue.

NATIONAL MEDICINE ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, I rise in strong support of efforts being made across the country to reduce prescription drug abuse as part of National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month. In California, and throughout the country, the misuse and abuse of prescription and over the counter drugs is a significant problem. While the consequences are tragic and profound, they are also preventable.

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, prescription drug abuse is our Nation's fastest-growing drug problem. The U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that over the past decade, the non-medical use of prescription drugs among persons 12 years or older rose from 1.9 million in 2002 to 11.1 million in 2011. The 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimates that the abuse of prescription medications such as pain killers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives is second only to marijuana, the No. 1 abused drug in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control have classified prescription drug abuse as an epidemic.

To combat the epidemic of prescription drug and over the counter medicine abuse, many community anti-drug coalitions are working to raise awareness about the negative consequences associated with the misuse of these drugs.

The North Coastal Prevention Coalition in California is just one example of a coalition pushing back against this problem. Together with San Diego County's Prescription Drug Task Force, the Coalition has worked to create county-wide Pain Prescribing Guidelines. They have helped facilitate National Take Back Days during which individuals are able to turn over unused prescription drugs. They also developed and disseminated a brochure on ''Safe Pain Prescribing'' to emergency room physicians.

I would like to acknowledge the critical efforts of the North Coastal Prevention Coalition and other anti-drug coalitions throughout the country in raising awareness about and combating the misuse of prescription medications. By designating October 2013 as National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month, Americans are able to reaffirm our national, state and local level commitment to living healthy, drug-free lives.

VA EMERGENCY CARE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, on Monday I introduced a bill, S. 1588, with Senators MORAN, ISAKSON, and BEGICH to provide an emergency safety net to roughly 144,000 veterans waiting for VA care. I thank my colleagues for their support. This bill fixes a catch-22 in current law that puts veterans who have recently returned from overseas at financial risk if they experience a medical emergency.

Under current law, a veteran enrolled in the VA system who receives emergency care at a non-VA facility can be reimbursed for those costs only if the veteran had also received care at a VA facility in the preceding 24 months. The intent of this requirement is to encourage veterans to seek preventative care, which decreases the need for more expensive emergency care. The problem is thousands of veterans have recently come home from overseas and they can't meet the 24-month requirement through no fault of their own. These veterans have scheduled their first new patient examination with VA, but they have not yet received their examination because of VA waiting times.

In other words, they haven't received their first VA appointment because of VA waiting times, but if they need to go to a non-VA hospital for a medical emergency VA cannot reimburse them because they haven't received their first VA appointment.

VA estimates 144,000 veterans are caught in this catch–22. With the war in Afghanistan ending, even more veterans will be affected. This is why veteran service organizations such as the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America are supporting this measure.

This bill gives VA the flexibility to reimburse veterans who have not yet received their new patient examination if the veterans have to go to a non-VA hospital for a medical emergency. For Hawaii veterans in rural Oahu or the neighbor islands who live far from VA facilities, emergency care outside the VA may be their only option. Just last week I met a veteran from Waianae who had a medical emergency while waiting 4 months for his first appointment at VA. Veterans such as he who were denied VA reimbursement would get much needed relief under this legislation.

In its FY2014 budget request, VA asked for the statutory authority provided by this legislation. The VA has already budgeted for this new authority in its FY2014 budget request, and the funding provided in H.R. 2216, as reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee on June 27, 2013, is sufficient to cover any additional costs VA will incur using this new authority.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this commonsense legislation. We owe it to our brave men and women in uniform who put their lives on the line for our country that the VA has the tools it needs to better serve new veterans accessing the care they have earned.

CONGRATULATING AZERBAIJAN

Mr. BURR. Mr President, today I wish to congratulate and offer my support and encouragement to the people and government of Azerbaijan. On October 9 Azerbaijanis overwhelmingly reelected President Aliyev to a third five year term in only their fifth Presidential election since Azerbaijan gained its independence in 1991.

I, along with several of my colleagues, met privately with President Aliyev in Baku several months ago to discuss the great challenges facing Azerbaijan, the United States, and our allies in the region.

I took this opportunity to personally thank President Aliyev, his government, and the Azerbaijani people for their unwavering support for the United States government and its people.

President Aliyev was among the first few foreign leaders to call President Bush immediately after the attacks on 9/11 to offer his country's prayers and tangible support at a time of great crisis in our Nation.

The United States and Azerbaijan share many common strategic interests. Azerbaijan plays a vital role in efforts ranging from counter-terrorism, energy security, to the transit of U.S. and NATO supplies to and from Afghanistan.

As an important partner in the region, Azerbaijan is an active participant in NATO's Partnership for Peace program and was among the first nations to militarily support American led efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Azerbaijan's stability and prosperity in the South Caucasus, along with its continued commitment to democratic reforms, will serve as an important beacon of hope in a complex region.

NATIONAL LIBERTY MEMORIAL

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I wish to speak today about an effort long championed by my predecessors in the Senate, Senators Dodd and Lieberman, and to express my commitment to carry on their work. That important project, the National Liberty Memorial, will commemorate the patriotism of African American soldiers during the American Revolution.

From the very first days of the American Revolution, African Americans took part in the effort to establish a new nation and secure liberty's blessings. They did this despite the fact that the vast majority of their brothers and sisters remained slaves.

Many of these African American patriots were from Connecticut. In 1976, the town of Milford established a memorial to six black soldiers of the Revolutionary War. Nero Hawley, a slave who joined the Continental Army and served at Valley Forge, was later freed after the war. You can visit his grave today at Riverside Cemetery in Trumbull. Jupiter Mars lived an extraordinary life, serving in the Continental Army during the war. He now rests in peace in beautiful Norfolk, CT. Cato Meed enlisted in the Continental Army in Norwich in 1777, and served at Valley Forge with General Washington.

These soldiers fought in every battle of the Revolutionary War, from the

colonists' defeat at the Battle of Long Island to our final victory at Yorktown. At every point, African American men served bravely and with honor. In fact, one of the first men to die in America's struggle for independence was Crispus Attucks, who was shot by British troops during the Boston massacre. This dedication to the war effort continued right up to the last battle when Salem Poor, a freed slave, earned commendation recommendations from 14 officers for his bravery at Bunker Hill. In recounting Poor's performance at the battle, officers wrote there were too many heroic deeds to describe.

Committed to the cause of American independence, African American soldiers filled every role that the war required of them, whether they served on local militias, worked as cooks and carpenters in camps like Valley Forge, or served as crewmembers on America's first Navy ships. Many African Americans escaped the bondage of slavery to join the American Navy. Still others, like James Armistead, acted as spies for the Revolution by providing American patriots with vital information needed to win the war. Regardless of their roles, they served ably and with distinction.

After the war, the agreements negotiated between slaves and masters were largely honored and the patriots freed upon either enlistment or the end of the war. However, once they had put down the weapons used to win the Nation's independence, a few had to resort to legal means to enforce their claim to liberty. For one patriot—James Robinson, later of Detroit, MI, who also fought in the War of 1812—freedom did not come until the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. Many other African Americans remained trapped in bondage as the institution of slavery expanded in spite of lawsuits, petitions, and agitation.

Many of these African American soldiers would go on to organize early abolitionist and civil rights organizations. One such man was Samuel Harris, a soldier, Baptist minister, and early abolitionist who said, ''Liberty is dear to my heart. I cannot endure the thought that my countrymen live as slaves.'' Nevertheless, despite their valiant service to this country's founding, many African American soldiers were not treated with the dignity that their service demanded. While this country's founding documents stated that all men were created equal, the Nation still sought to hold many Americans as property.

It is estimated that the names of at least half of these brave soldiers would have been lost to history had it not been for the efforts of Plainville, CT native Lena Santos Ferguson. Five years ago, the Daughters of the American Revolution fulfilled a promise made to her in 1984 to identify as many African American Revolutionary War soldiers and patriots as possible. ''Forgotten Patriots,'' contains the names of over 5,000, as well as the communities where they once resided. Nearly 20 Connecticut towns have approved resolutions that honor them, and they have joined the ranks of those seeking construction of the National Liberty Memorial.

At the beginning of this year President Obama signed into law legislation that was passed by the Congress last year that once again affirmed our public commitment to memorialize these brave patriots through a new memorial in the Monumental Core of our capital city. Liberty Fund D.C., a nonprofit established to lead the effort to construct the memorial, is currently working with architects and Federal agencies to make that goal a reality.

I believe that we must do what we can to build this memorial. Further, I believe that a key feature of any such memorial is that it should be visually tied to the Washington Monument, the most prominent Revolutionary-era monument in the District. There should be a clear sightline from the memorial to the Washington Monument.

For good reason, constructing any new memorial in the Washington, DC area is a rigorous process, and there are a number of prerequisites to be met before construction can begin. I look forward to continuing to work with Liberty Fund D.C. to achieve the goals of this important legislation, to ensure that a monument to the African American patriots of the Revolutionary War be constructed in a prominent location in our Nation's capital.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL KIRK VAN PELT

• Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate Arkansas's native son, COL Kirk Van Pelt, for attaining to the rank of brigadier general. On November 3 of this year, Colonel Van Pelt will receive this well-deserved promotion at a ceremony in Arkansas.

Colonel Van Pelt began his military career in 1983 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1985. Colonel Van Pelt has served in a variety of positions in the 39th Infantry Brigade, including Company Commander, Battalion Operations Officer, Battalion Executive Officer, Battalion Commander, Brigade Operations Officer, Brigade XO, Deputy Brigade Commander, and Brigade Commander. Colonel Van Pelt also served as the Commandant of the Arkansas Regional Training Institute Officer Candidate School and the Arkansas Army National Guard G3.

Colonel Van Pelt is a graduate of Excelsior College and received a master's degree from the U.S. Army War College in 2011. He is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and has received numerous awards and decorations for his service to our country, which include the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with seven Oak Leaf Clusters, the Iraqi Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral '2', the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon with Numeral '2', and the Joint Meritorious Unit Citation.

In addition to his excellent military career, Colonel Van Pelt is also the vice president of AIC Inc., a systems integration firm in Sherwood, AR. He and his wife, Kelley, have raised three children: James, a senior at the University of Central Arkansas, Katie, a freshman at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and Hannah, a junior at North Little Rock High School.

Colonel Van Pelt is a valued servant to the people of Arkansas and the United States of America. Our State and Nation have been fortunate to have Colonel Van Pelt's 30 years of service, and I can only hope he can serve another 30 years. I thank him again for his dedication and commitment to keeping our Nation and State safe.•

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL ROGER McCLELLAN

• Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge and thank BG Roger McClellan, who will retire from the Arkansas Army National Guard at the end of this month after proudly serving 36 years.

A native of Warren, AR, Brigadier General McClellan, is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and has served in a variety of positions in the Arkansas Army National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade, including Battalion Commander, Civil Affairs Officer S–5, and Deputy Commander of the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Since January 1, 2008, Brigadier General McClellan has served as the Arkansas Army National Guard Land Component Commander, where he has been responsible for the overall readiness, training, maintenance, and operational employment of the units assigned and attached to the Arkansas Army National Guard, a position which he has commanded with distinction.

Brigadier General McClellan is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Monticello and has earned master's degrees from Louisiana Tech University in 1983 and the United States Army War College in 2003. He has received numerous awards and decorations for his service to our country,

which include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge. He and his wife, Patricia, reside in Edinburg, AR, and are the proud grandparents of Wren, Avery, and Jackson.

Brigadier General McClellan has been a valued servant to the people of Arkansas and the United States of America. Our State and Nation have been fortunate to have had his 36 years of service, and I thank him again for his dedication and commitment to keeping our Nation and State safe.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELATIVE TO THE ACTIONS AND POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN AS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13067 OF NOVEMBER 3, 1997—PM 23

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 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within the 90-day period prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the Sudan emergency is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2013.

The crisis constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan that led to the declaration of a national emergency in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, and the expansion of that emergency in Executive Order 13400 of April 26, 2006, and with respect to which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13412 of October 13, 2006, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Sudan and maintain in force the sanctions against Sudan to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 30, 2013.*

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:22 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 330. An act to designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California.

H.R. 623. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain property located in Anchorage, Alaska, from the United States to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

H.R. 2337. An act to provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado.

H.R. 2640. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to adjust the Crooked River boundary, to provide water certainty for the City of Prineville, Oregon, and for other purposes.

At 11:42 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2374. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide protections for retail customers, and for other purposes.

At 3:51 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution:

H. Con. Res. 62. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 623. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain property located in Anchorage, Alaska, from the United States to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 2337. An act to provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2374. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide protections for retail customers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2640. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to adjust the Crooked River boundary, to provide water certainty for the City of Prineville, Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 330. An act to designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–3307. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to violations of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal year 2007 and 2009 Operation and Maintenance, Navy funds, that occurred at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti and was assigned Navy case number 11–08; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–3308. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report entitled ''Pilot Program: Civilian Credentialing for Military Occupational Specialties''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3309. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Implementation of Basel III, Capital Adequacy, Transition Provisions, Prompt Corrective Action, Standardized Approach for Risk-weighted Assets, Market Discipline and Disclosure Requirements, Advance Approaches Risk-Based Capital Rule, and Market Risk Capital Rule'' (RIN7100–AD64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 17, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3310. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3311. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3312. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 on April 12, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3313. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Regulations, Office of Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Manufactured Housing: Revision of Notification, Correction, and Procedural Regulations'' (RIN2502–AI84) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 17, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3314. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspended

Counterparty Program'' (RIN2590–AA60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3315. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Implementation of Basel III, Capital Adequacy, Transition Provisions, Prompt Corrective Action, Standardized Approach for Risk-weighted Assets, Market Discipline and Disclosure Requirements, Advance Approaches Risk-Based Capital Rule, and Market Risk Capital Rule; Final Rule'' (RIN7100–AD87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3316. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf—Adjustment of Service Fees'' (RIN1014–AA12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3317. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Generator Requirements at the Transmission Interface'' (RIN1902–AE67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 17, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3318. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report on Federal Agency Cooperation on Permitting Natural Gas Pipelines''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3319. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fifth report on Government dam use charges; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3320. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Reactors'' (Regulatory Guide 1.184, Revision 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 17, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3321. A communication from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, prospectuses that support the Administration's fiscal year 2014 Capital Investment and Leasing Program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3322. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California; South Coast; Contingency Measures for 1997 PM2.5 Standards'' (FRL No. 9901–77–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3323. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho; State Board Requirements'' (FRL No. 9901–76–Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3324. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Perfluoroalkyl Sulfonates and Long-Chain Perfluoroalkyl Carboxylate Chemical Substances; Final Significant New Use Rule'' (FRL No. 9397–1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3325. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Rhode Island: Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Permitting Authority and Tailoring Rule'' (FRL No. 9901–71–Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3326. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Revision to Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Utah'' (FRL No. 9901–92–Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3327. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Revised Ambient Air Quality Standards for Fine Particulate Matter'' (FRL No. 9901–80–Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3328. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Determinations of Attainment of the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Standards for the Liberty-Clairton Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9901–81–Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3329. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9901–83–Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3330. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Temporary Shelter for Individuals Displaced by Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides in Colorado'' (Notice 2013–63) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3331. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fringe Benefits Aircraft Valuation Formula'' (Rev. Rul. 2013–20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3332. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2013–2014 Special Per Diem Rates'' (Notice 2013–65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3333. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; FY 2014 Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems: Changes to Certain Cost Reporting Procedures Related to Disproportionate Share Hospital Uncompensated Care Payments'' (RIN0938–AR53) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3334. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Applicable Federal Rates—November 2013'' (Rev. Rul. 2013–22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 23, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3335. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Extension of Replacement Period for Livestock Sold on Account of Drought in Specified Counties'' (Notice 2013–62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 23, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3336. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Presidential Determination No. 2014–02 relative to U.S. drug interdiction assistance to the Government of Brazil; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3337. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2013–0163- 2013–0170); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3338. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, the report of a rule entitled ''Visas: Regulatory Exception to Permit Compliance with the United Nations Headquarters Agreement and Other International Obligations and Clarification of the Definition of 'Immediate Family' for Certain Nonimmigrant Visa Classifications ''(RIN1400–AD43) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3339. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report prepared by the Department of State on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period April 1, 2013 through May 31, 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3340. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 40(g) (2) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–152); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3341. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 40(g) (2) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–160); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3342. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act 2003 on Loan Guarantees to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3343. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 1002 (P.L. 107–243) and the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (P.L. 102–1) for the June 20, 2013–August 18, 2013 reporting period; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3344. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 40(g) (2) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–161); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3345. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–116); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3346. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the Government of Cuba's compliance with the United States-Cuba September 1994 ''Joint Communique'' and on the treatment of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 ''Joint Statement''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3347. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–090); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3348. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–119); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3349. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–135); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3350. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Initial Implementation of Export Control Reform; Correction'' (RIN1400–AD37) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3351. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2013–0171- 2013–0178); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3352. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (RSAT 13–3643); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3353. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Iran-Related Multilateral Sanctions Regime Efforts'' covering the period February 17, 2013 to August 17, 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3354. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers who were employed at the Feed Materials Production Center (FMPC) in Fernald, Ohio, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3355. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers who were employed at the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3356. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers who were employed at the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3357. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers who were employed at the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3358. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers who were employed at the Baker Brothers site in Toledo, Ohio, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3359. A communication from the Secretary to the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–276, ''Sense of the Council in Support of the Fair Minimum Wage Act Emergency Resolution of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3360. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the annual audit of the Thrift Savings Funds received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3361. A communication from the Associate Attorney General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary, Science and Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 17, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3362. A communication from the Associate Attorney General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 17, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3363. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–158, ''Extension of Time to Dispose of Hine Junior High School Temporary Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3364. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–159, ''Fire and Emergency Medical Services Major Changes Temporary Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3365. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–160, ''School Transit Subsidy Temporary Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3366. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–183, ''Chief Financial Officer Compensation Temporary Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3367. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–184, ''CCNV Task Force Temporary Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3368. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–185, ''Income Tax Secured Bond Authorization Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3369. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–186, ''Community Renewable Energy Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3370. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–187, ''Smoking Restriction Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3371. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–188, ''Bicycle Safety Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3372. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–189, ''Personal Property Robbery Prevention Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3373. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–190, ''Older Adult Driver Safety Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3374. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–191, ''Veteran Status Driver's License Designation Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3375. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–192, ''Commercial Driver's License Tests Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3376. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–193, ''Tax Lien Compensation and Relief Reporting Temporary Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3377. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–194, ''District Real Property Tax Sale Temporary Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3378. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–195, ''Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Support Technical Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3379. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–196, ''Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Temporary Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3380. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–197, ''Visitor Parking Pass Preservation Temporary Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3381. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–206, ''Medical Marijuana Cultivation Center Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3382. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–207, ''Elected Attorney General Implementation and Legal Service Establishment Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3383. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''Audit of the Department of Employment Services Adult Career and Technical Education Programs''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3384. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''Audit of the Department of General Services Fiscal Year 2012 Procurement of Snow and Ice Removal Pretreatment Services''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3385. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''Audit of Non-District Resident Students Enrolled in Public Schools''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3386. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''Audit of the DC Department of Parks and Recreation Facility Use and Permit Process''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3387. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''Update on Non-Reporting Public-Private Development Construction Projects''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3388. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, four reports relative to the Public Service Commission Agency Fund; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3389. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''District of Columbia Agencies' Compliance with Fiscal Year 2013 Small Business Enterprise Expenditure Goals through the 3rd Quarter of the Fiscal Year 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3390. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''Audit of the Department of Small and Local Business Development Certified Business Enterprise Program''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

H.R. 2094. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the preference given, in awarding certain asthma-related grants, to certain States (those allowing trained school personnel to administer epinephrine and meeting other related requirements).

H.R. 2747. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to transfer certain functions from the Government Accountability Office to the Department of Labor relating to the processing of claims for the payment of workers who were not paid appropriate wages under certain provisions of such title.

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1302. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 1557. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals.

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1561. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve provisions relating to the sanctuary system for surplus chimpanzees.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Chai Rachel Feldblum, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2018.

*James Cole, Jr., of New York, to be General Counsel, Department of Education.

*Michael Keith Yudin, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. COBURN, and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 1611. A bill to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1612. A bill to deter abusive patent litigation by targeting the economic incentives that fuel frivolous lawsuits; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1613. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to clarify Federal law with respect to reporting full-file alternative data, including positive and negative consumer credit information to consumer reporting agencies by public utility or telecommunications companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1614. A bill to require Certificates of Citizenship and other Federal documents to reflect name and date of birth determinations made by a State court and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 1615. A bill to develop and recruit new, high-value jobs to the United States, to encourage the repatriation of jobs that have been off-shored to other countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 1616. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for simplification, to reduce the number of tax brackets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CHIESA, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. THUNE, Mr.

TOOMEY, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CORKER):

S. 1617. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to ensure that individuals can keep their health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Ms. AYOTTE, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 1618. A bill to enhance the Office of Personnel Management background check system for the granting, denial, or revocation of security clearances or access to classified information of employees and contractors of the Federal Government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1619. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to develop a strategy report to address the skills gap by providing recommendations to increase on-the-job training and apprenticeship opportunities, increase employer participation in education and workforce training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 1620. A bill to prohibit the consideration of any bill by Congress unless a statement on tax transparency is provided in the bill; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1621. A bill to enhance transparency for certain surveillance programs authorized by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1622. A bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PAUL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, and Mr. COBURN):

S. 1623. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1624. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the work opportunity credit for hiring veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1625. A bill to amend section 31306 of title 49, United States Code, to recognize hair as an alternative specimen for pre-employment and random controlled substances testing of commercial motor vehicle drivers and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 1626. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide employees in the private sector with an opportunity for compensatory time off, similar to the opportunity offered to Federal employees, and a flexible credit hour program to help balance the demands of work and family, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 277. A resolution recognizing the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. Res. 278. A resolution designating October 2013 as ''School Bus Safety Month''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 310

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 310, a bill to jump-start economic recovery through the formation and growth of new businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 489, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, and for other purposes.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

S. 699

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 699, a bill to reallocate Federal judgeships for the courts of appeals, and for other purposes.

S. 723

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 723, a bill to require the Commissioner of Social Security to revise the medical and evaluation criteria for determining disability in a person diagnosed with Huntington's Disease and to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals disabled by Huntington's Disease.

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1183, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1302, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.

S. 1318

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1318, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care, to amend title XVIII of such Act to modify the requirements for diabetic shoes to be included under Medicare, and for other purposes.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1349, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1361

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1361, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for veterans status of an individual who performed service as a coastwise merchant seaman during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1369, a bill to provide additional flexibility to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to establish capital standards that are properly tailored to the unique characteristics of the business of insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 1456

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1456, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

S. 1503

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1503, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the preference given, in awarding certain asthma-related grants, to certain States (those allowing trained school personnel to administer epinephrine and meeting other related requirements).

S. 1559

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1559, a bill to amend title 38,

United States Code, to modify the method of determining whether Filipino veterans are United States residents for purposes of eligibility for receipt of the full-dollar rate of compensation under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 1561

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1561, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve provisions relating to the sanctuary system for surplus chimpanzees.

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1561, supra.

S. 1590

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1590, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require transparency in the operation of American Health Benefit Exchanges.

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1590, supra.

S. 1606

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1606, a bill to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the ''PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic''.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 15, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

S. RES. 203

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 203, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding efforts by the United States to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution.

S. RES. 251

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 251, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States Preventive Services Task Force should reevaluate its recommendations against prostate-specific antigen-based screening for prostate cancer for men in all age groups in consultation with appropriate specialists.

S. RES. 268

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 268, a resolution condemning the September 2013 terrorist attack at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, and reaffirming United States support for the people and Government of Kenya, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 276

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 276, a resolution designating October 2013 as ''National Work and Family Month''.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1612. A bill to deter abusive patent litigation by targeting the economic incentives that fuel frivolous lawsuits; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HATCH. 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. 1612

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Patent Litigation Integrity Act of 2013''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—MANDATORY FEE SHIFTING

Sec. 101. Litigation and other expenses.

TITLE II—DISCRETIONARY BONDING

Sec. 201. Motion for a bond.

TITLE I—MANDATORY FEE SHIFTING

SEC. 101. LITIGATION AND OTHER EXPENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 285 of title 35, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 285. Fees and other expenses

''The court shall award to a prevailing party reasonable fees and other expenses, including attorney fees, incurred by that party in connection with a civil action in which any party asserts a claim for relief arising under any Act of Congress relating to patents, unless the court finds that the position and conduct of the nonprevailing party or parties were substantially justified or that special circumstances make an award unjust.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 29 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 285 and inserting the following:

''285. Fees and other expenses.''.

TITLE II—DISCRETIONARY BONDING

SEC. 201. MOTION FOR A BOND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 29 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 285 the following:

''§ 285A. Motion for a bond

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The court, on motion by the defendant or a respondent in a proceeding, may order the party alleging infringement to post a bond sufficient to ensure payment of the accused infringer's reasonable fees and other expenses, including attorney fees.

''(b) FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED.—For purposes of this section, in determining whether a bond requirement would be unreasonable or unnecessary, the court shall consider—

''(1) whether the bond will burden the ability of the party alleging infringement to pursue activities unrelated to the assertion, acquisition, litigation, or licensing of any patent;

''(2) whether the party alleging infringement is—

''(A) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)); or

''(B) a non-profit technology transfer organization whose primary purpose is to facilitate the commercialization of technologies developed by one or more institutions of higher education;

''(3) whether a licensee, who has an exclusive right under a patent held by an institution of higher education or a non-profit organization described in paragraph (2), conducts further research on or development of the subject matter to make the subject matter more licensable;

''(4) whether the party alleging infringement is a named inventor of or an original assignee to an asserted patent;

''(5) whether the party alleging infringement makes or sells a product related to the subject matter described in an asserted patent;

''(6) whether the party alleging infringement can demonstrate that it has and will have the ability to pay the accused infringer's fees and other expenses if ordered to do so; and

''(7) whether any party will agree to pay the accused infringer's shifted fees and other expenses, provided that the person or entity can demonstrate that it has and will have the ability to pay the accused infringer's shifted fees and other expenses.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 29 of title 35, United States Code, as amended by section 101, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 285 the following:

''285A. Motion for a bond.''.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CHIESA, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CORKER):

S. 1617. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to ensure that individuals can keep their health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Mr. President, I come before you today to introduce a piece of legislation which is timely and very much needed.

One of the reasons I decided to run for the Senate was the passage of the health care law. The reason I thought it was pretty important is because I said at the time that passage of the

health care law represented the greatest assault on our freedoms in my lifetime. I believe that is true, and I believe that is being borne out today. We are witnessing it today.

The passage of the health care law resonated with me. It made such an impact on me because my wife and I are beneficiaries of the freedom that we had with our current health care system. Our first child, our daughter Carey was born with a very serious congenital heart defect. Her aorta and pulmonary arteries were reversed. Her first day of life, our daughter Carey was rushed down to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, where a wonderful man, Dr. John Thomas, came in at 1:30 in the morning and did a procedure and saved her life.

Eight months later, when her heart was the size of a small plum, another incredibly dedicated team of medical professionals in 7 hours of open-heart surgery totally reconstructed the upper chamber of her heart. Her heart operates backwards today. She is 30 years old and a nurse practitioner practicing at that same hospital in which her life was saved. She married about 3 weeks ago.

Our story has a happy ending because my wife Jane and I had that freedom. I was able to call Boston Children's and Chicago children's hospitals and talk to the preeminent surgeons in the world—which means in America—and find out what is the most advanced medical treatment, the most advanced surgical technique at the time. We were able to avail ourselves of that, and now I have a beautiful daughter who is 30 years old. She is also taking care of those little babies in a neonatal intensive care unit.

I decided to file this piece of legislation today because as a Senator from the State of Wisconsin we have been getting a number of phone calls in our office from Wisconsinites who are getting letters of cancellation from their insurance companies. In particular, one couple touched my heart and gave me a great cause for concern.

This couple—who do not want to be identified because they fear IRS retribution, which is a little different story and a little off topic, but I think it is worth pointing out—both have cancer. The wife has stage IV lung cancer. The husband is recovering from prostate cancer. It is in remission.

This couple had availed themselves and are currently covered under the Wisconsin high-risk insurance pool. It is a high-risk pool that works. I know in my business, when we had individuals who were lasered off of our insurance policy, those individuals were able to avail themselves of this sharing-of-the-risk pool in the high-risk pool. It works and it is affordable.

This couple received their notice of cancellation from the high-risk pool, and they panicked. They were in a panic.

When one has stage IV lung cancer, the last thing one needs is stress. ObamaCare caused them a great deal of stress. It is causing them a great deal of stress.

They tried to get on healthcare.gov almost 40 times without success. They contacted our office. We have done everything we can to help them.

They have been in touch with some of the insurance carriers that will be part of the exchange participating in Wisconsin. They have received quotes. This was preliminary. This isn't final, but under the high-risk pool their maximum out-of-pocket exposure, including the cost of their premiums, is about $20,000 per year. He is working and has a good job. They can barely afford that.

Preliminary indications show that exposure will double to $40,000. The only reason they might remain whole is they may qualify for a subsidy. Nobody can calculate it yet. They have received three different answers. It is like taking a tax return to 100 different preparers and getting 100 different results of what tax is owed. But based on those preliminary estimates it is looking as though their total exposure won't be $20,000, it will be more like $40,000, and their subsidy might cover half of that. So their health care expense didn't decline, as President Obama promised, by $2,500 per year. It is going to virtually double. And if it doesn't double, it is because the American taxpayer will be picking up that other half.

So one of the primary promises made by President Obama—that if we passed a health care law, the cost to a family health care plan would decline by $2,500 a year by the end of his first term—has been broken. That was not true.

Of course, the other very famous promise the President made repeatedly was: If you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan. I would like to go through a number of times President Obama actually made that statement. He looked the American people in the eye, trying to sell his health care plan, and guaranteed them if they liked their health care plan they would be able to keep it.

On March 6, 2009, he said:

> If somebody has insurance they like, they should be able to keep that insurance. If they have a doctor they like, they should be able to keep their doctor.

On May 11, 2009:

> Americans must have the freedom to keep whatever doctor and health care plan they have.

On June 2, 2009:

> If they like the coverage they have now, they can keep it.

That was from a letter to Senate Democratic leaders.

On June 11, 2009, President Obama said:

> Americans must have the freedom to keep whatever doctor and health care plan they have.

On June 15, 2009—and this is probably the most famous one I remember—in an address to the American Medical Association, President Obama said:

> If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor. Period. If you like your health care plan, you will be able to keep your health care plan. Period. No one will take it away. No matter what.

I think I have made my point, but I have another 13 quotes I can continue reading that basically make the same point with the same promise and the same guarantee.

As recently as the beginning of this month, on the White House Web site it says:

> We've got some good news for you. If you currently have private health insurance, you should be able to keep it, and that's exactly what the health care law says.

Unfortunately, today over 2 million Americans have received cancellation notices of their insurance policies—the policies they chose, and that for just a little more time they will have the freedom to choose. They won't have that freedom come January 1.

So one of two possibilities is true. Either President Obama was being entirely dishonest with the American public when he made those repeated promises, those repeated guarantees or he was totally disengaged from the process, did not have a clue what was in his own health care plan or did not understand the incredibly negative consequences of that health care plan.

That brings me to my bill. The reason President Obama can claim if you like your health care plan you can keep it is that within the health care bill there actually is a grandfather clause. The first two paragraphs of that grandfather clause actually would work. The problem is those first two paragraphs or sections are followed by an evisceration of the grandfather clause. So basically what we have is a phony grandfather clause contained within the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

My piece of legislation—the If You Like Your Health Plan You Can Keep it Act—actually is a real grandfather clause and it uses President Obama's exact language. All my bill does is it simply strikes the phony grandfather clause and inserts basically the exact same language that was there, although we remove those exceptions, those mandates. In other words, we eviscerate the evisceration of the grandfather clause.

I am here today to announce I have filed that bill. We have at least 35 Republican cosponsors of the bill. I know the House is moving a similar piece of legislation. I know there is talk, and hopefully we will be joined by our Democratic colleagues. It is a simple proposition. I am asking every Senator to join me in passing this bill, the true grandfather clause, to help President Obama keep his promise to the American people.

I have to say that, unfortunately, this bill won't help the Wisconsin couple I would so like to help, so like to guarantee they can keep their health care coverage. The only way we can help that couple is if we repeal the entire law, because the guaranteed issue,

high-risk pools are extinct. They do not exist. That coverage is gone. But if my Democratic Senate colleagues will join me in passing this bill—the If You Like Your Health Plan You Can Keep it Act—we can keep President Obama's promise to millions of Americans. I think it is worth it, and I ask all my Senate colleagues to join me in this effort.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Ms. AYOTTE, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 1618. A bill to enhance the Office of Personnel Management background check system for the granting, denial, or revocation of security clearances or access to classified information of employees and contractors of the Federal Government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today, Senator MCCASKILL, Senator AYOTTE, Senator HEITKAMP, and I are introducing the Enhanced Security Clearance Act of 2013, which would strengthen our process for allowing federal employees and other individuals to have access to classified information. We must improve our current security clearance process to prevent, as much as possible, future incidents such as the murders at the Washington Navy Yard. Our bill directs OPM to institute at least two audits of every security clearance at random times during each five-year period the clearance is active. Any red flags raised would then be reported back to the employing agency to determine if a re-investigation of the clearance is needed.

As a former Chairman and Ranking Member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the issue of background investigations as it relates to security clearances is an issue with which I am well acquainted. There needs to be a balance between processing of clearances quickly enough to allow individuals to do their jobs, but also thoroughly enough to flag potential problems.

Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, and several high-profile espionage cases, heightened national security concerns underscored the need for a timely, high-quality personnel security clearance process. In the early part of this decade, the Department of Defense processed hundreds of thousands of security clearance background investigation requests—both initial and re-clearances, for service members, government employees, and industry personnel who were conducting classified work for the government. The timeliness of DOD's security clearance process was a problem which, when coupled with an increased demand for security clearances, had led to a backlog of more than 500,000 investigations.

Delays in updating overdue clearances for command, agency, and industry personnel performing classified government work increased risks to national security and the costs of doing classified government work. This led GAO to designate the DOD clearance program as a high-risk area, and in 2005 for DOD to transfer its personnel security function and about 1,600 personnel to OPM. At the time, this change seemed a logical step in addressing the problems caused by the backlog. And by 2008 OPM had eliminated the backlog and announced end-to-end electronic processing of background investigations. Now, OPM oversees approximately 90 percent of all background investigations for security clearances with the assistance of private sector contractors.

Although we have made significant advances in the processing of background checks, there is still a gaping hole in the current security clearance process that has enabled people who exhibit obvious signs of high-risk behavior to remain undetected. We have seen this time and time again in incidents like Edward Snowden's disclosure of stolen classified information, and most recently we have Aaron Alexis, the Navy Yard shooter with apparently severe mental illness.

Once an individual is cleared, the process of maintaining the clearance requires a reinvestigation at various points in time based upon the type of clearance. These ''gaps'' between clearance and re-clearance can be 5, 10 or even 15 years, and most of the data is self-reported by the individuals themselves. These periods of time pose a significant concern in the current clearance process. OPM has announced, in some cases, that it is going to reduce the time frame down to one year, but this is not the case for all clearances. People's lives may change dramatically over these gaps of time, which poses significant and unnecessary security risks.

The United States issues approximately 5 million clearances to government employees and contractors, and the ongoing review process is conducted manually, by a limited number of investigators. Further, the manual process is flawed. The OPM Inspector General recently reviewed 18 investigators and found disturbing abuses in the quality of clearance investigations they conducted, which included interviews that never occurred, answers to questions that were never asked, and record checks that were never conducted. Even if done properly, however, given the limited number of investigative agents in the field, it is not feasible to manually track nearly five million clearances effectively.

For example, in fiscal year 2010, fewer than one percent of all contractors with clearances filed an incident report, despite the fact that they are required to file these reports on a wide variety of events including marital status change, excessive financial hardship, and criminal activity, to maintain their clearance. Generally, such events occur in the lives of more than half of the U.S. population during the same time periods. The fact is, cleared personnel under-report lifestyle changes, allegiance changes, and derogatory information for fear of job loss, embarrassment, and, most important, the discovery of nefarious intent. Further, because the system relies on self-reported data, the chances of someone getting caught are minimal. Between 1997 and 2013, of the civilian clearances issued, fewer than one percent were revoked. This can mean that the people who are cleared very seldom-go bad, that cleared individuals are not self-reporting changes in their lives, or the current process is not detecting everything.

In 2004, I sponsored the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, which became law in December of that year. This law allows for the use of advanced technology and third party databases to expedite, verify, and enhance the investigative and adjudicative process. The government needs to utilize existing solutions, which are already used by law enforcement, to automate random audits on individuals with active security clearances.

If random audits had been in place after Aaron Alexis's secret clearance was granted in 2007, red flags would have been generated with his arrest in 2009 and the two liens on his property, which could indicate potential excessive financial hardship. Further, it may have identified a potential alias with a vast social media trail indicating other concerning traits. The alerts generated would have prompted OPM to notify DOD, which would have provoked a reevaluation before Alexis's 2017 re-clearance. This re-evaluation could have discovered that he openly discussed ''hearing voices,'' a clear sign of his mental illness. A random audit would have alerted OPM of these new issues and potentially averted tragedy.

The OPM Background Investigation process must be capable of flagging high-risk individuals holding clearances and alert case officers of situations requiring review before any adverse consequence takes place. The current process, however, is dated, but the system can be strengthened to better help the government identify these dangerous individuals. OPM must address the blind spots that exist in the current manual security clearance review process. The shooting tragedies at the Washington Navy Yard, along with the information security breaches perpetrated by Bradley Manning and Edward Snowden, have demonstrated that the current security clearance process is inadequate.

This legislation has been endorsed by the Federal Managers Association; the FBI Agents Association; the Alcohol-Tobacco-Firearms and Explosives Association; The International Association of Chiefs of Police; The International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, AFL-CIO & CLC; The National Native American Law Enforcement Association; TechAmerica; General Dynamics Information Technologies; LexisNexis; Lt. Gen. Charles

J. Cunningham Jr., Former Director of the Defense Security Service, 1999–2002; Brian Stafford, Former Director of the United States Secret Service, 1999–2003; Howard Safir, Former Police Commissioner of New York City, 1996–2000; Floyd Clarke, Former Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1993; and Michael Sullivan, Former Acting Director of the ATF, 2006–2009, and US Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, 2001–2009.

We must act now. Our legislation represents a sensible path forward to protect national security and to help prevent future tragedies. I urge my colleagues to support this common sense solution.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 1620. A bill to prohibit the consideration of any bill by Congress unless a statement on tax transparency is provided in the bill; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CORNYN. 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. 1620

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 ''Tax Transparency Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. TAX EFFECT TRANSPARENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2 of title 1, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 102 the following:

''§ 102a. Tax effect transparency

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Each Act of Congress, bill, resolution, conference report thereon, or amendment there to, that modifies Federal tax law shall contain a statement describing the general effect of the modification on Federal tax law.

''(b) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A failure to comply with subsection (a) shall give rise to a point of order in either House of Congress, which may be raised by any Senator during consideration in the Senate or any Member of the House of Representatives during consideration in the House of Representatives.

''(2) NONEXCLUSIVITY.—The availability of a point of order under this section shall not affect the availability of any other point of order.

''(c) DISPOSITION OF POINT OF ORDER IN THE SENATE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any Senator may raise a point of order that any matter is not in order under subsection (a).

''(2) WAIVER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any Senator may move to waive a point of order raised under paragraph (1) by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn.

''(B) PROCEDURES.—For a motion to waive a point of order under subparagraph (A) as to a matter—

''(i) a motion to table the point of order shall not be in order;

''(ii) all motions to waive one or more points of order under this section as to the matter shall be debatable for a total of not more than 1 hour, equally divided between the Senator raising the point of order and the Senator moving to waive the point of order or their designees; and

''(iii) a motion to waive the point of order shall not be amendable.

''(d) DISPOSITION OF POINT OF ORDER IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If a Member of the House of Representatives makes a point of order under this section, the Chair shall put the question of consideration with respect to the proposition of whether any statement made under subsection (a) was adequate or, in the absence of such a statement, whether a statement is required under subsection (a).

''(2) CONSIDERATION.—For a point of order under this section made in the House of Representatives—

''(A) the question of consideration shall be debatable for 10 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the Member making the point of order and by an opponent, but shall otherwise be decided without intervening motion except one that the House of Representatives adjourn or that the Committee of the Whole rise, as the case may be;

''(B) in selecting the opponent, the Speaker of the House of Representatives should first recognize an opponent from the opposing party; and

''(C) the disposition of the question of consideration with respect to a measure shall be considered also to determine the question of consideration under this section with respect to an amendment made in order as original text.

''(e) RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.—The provisions of this section are enacted by the Congress—

''(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively, and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of each House, respectively, or of that House to which they specifically apply, and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

''(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change such rules (so far as relating to such House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of such House.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 2 of title 1, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 102 the following new item:

''102a. Tax effect transparency.''.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1622. A bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to speak to an issue in my State of Alaska, in the State of North Dakota—quite honestly, in so many of our home States. We have facts, we have statistics, and we have issues that face our indigenous peoples, most particularly our indigenous children that, truth be told, are not what we want to write home about. In fact, in many, many cases, these statistics are shameful.

The effort and the initiative to make a difference in the lives of the children of our first peoples is an effort I want to speak to today, and I join with my colleague from North Dakota in addressing this issue. I want to help shine a light on the conditions facing indigenous children in our country to whom the United States has a legal commitment. This is a Federal trust responsibility that is owed to these children.

I thank Senator HEITKAMP for her commitment and for her compassion to address these issues facing our Nation's indigenous children by introducing legislation to establish the Commission on Native Children. I will defer to my colleague so we can have a conversation about this, but it is important to note that the very first time I had ever met Senator HEITKAMP, we literally exchanged handshakes, introduced ourselves, and within 5 minutes we were talking about children's issues, Native children's issues in our respective States. That little 5-minute discussion led to much further discussion later on and a commitment to work to address these issues.

I do have many remarks I would like to make this afternoon, but I would like my colleague from North Dakota, who has worked so diligently on this issue, with her staff working with my staff, to describe to our colleagues the legislation that today we are both introducing establishing the Commission on Native Children.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I will start with a story because I think a lot of us come to the Senate with a lot of experiences, a lot of common experiences, and I think the Senator from Alaska and I have shared this common experience of seeing the despair, looking at the statistics, but more importantly, in my case, in Indian Country, and in her case, working with indigenous people, seeing that so much more needs to be done; seeing the disparities in education, seeing the disparities in health care, seeing the disparities in housing, and recognizing that all of those things have huge consequences; seeing what high poverty does to people who are not given the right opportunities.

I think frequently it is so important that we do something like this so we can begin that process of educating our colleagues on how this situation is different, what our experiences are. If you have not seen or been in Indian Country, if you have not looked at the statistics, it is alarming. It is absolutely alarming.

The story I want to give before I talk about our legislation is the statistic on mortality rates. In this country, child mortality has decreased by 9 percent since 2000. That is good news. We are paying more attention, doing a better job at infancy, doing a better job raising our kids. The child mortality rate among Native children has increased 15 percent—increased 15 percent at the same time it has decreased in this country 9 percent. We have tried various programs, whether it is housing programs, education programs, higher education programs, but we know this works better if we all work together and if we work collaboratively.

I know a lot of people have suspicions about things called commissions, but I

believe for the first time we will be pulling together the data regarding what is exactly the status of Native children all across the United States of America—in Alaska, Alaska indigenous people, as well as Alaskan folks—and saying: Where do we begin to understand this problem differently and change outcomes, because if we keep doing what we are doing right now, we will fail the next generation of Native children, and we will fail to do what we need to do. This is not a new issue for me. When I was attorney general, I spent a lot of time in Indian Country, a lot of time on Indian issues.

I want to tell a story before I describe briefly what this Commission would do. It is a story about a woman who showed up at a conference. We were talking about trying to get resources to do a conference on juvenile crime on the reservations. She told a story about how she was dyslexic as a child and her mother was not a very patient woman. She was waiting to go to a birthday party, and she was sitting and looking out the window, and she would ask her mother every 5 minutes: Is it time yet? Are they going to come? Finally, her mother, out of frustration, took this little girl's hand and dragged it back and forth across a nail that was on the window ledge and said: Maybe now you will remember. She held up her hand, and you could still see the scars. And she said something I will never forget. She said: Who cares about me? I looked out that window and thought, who is going to come and help me?

All across America there are children looking out a window in Indian Country and in all of these very remote places wondering who is going to care about them. Who is going to help them? When we have trust obligations, isn't that the job of the U.S. Congress? Isn't that the job of all of us, to care about all of our children? Yet these children are left behind.

Time and time again, you will read a story in the paper about an abducted child, and you do not realize there could have been 10 children abducted off a reservation in North Dakota. You do not read a story about trafficking in North Dakota, but it is happening. You do not read a story about child abuse and neglect, and it is happening, or failed schools, schools whose roofs are caving in because we have not met our education obligation.

So what this Commission would do is bring attention to this very important part of our population, the part that gets left behind, that no one looks out for, and start saying: What are we going to do differently? What are we going to do differently for our children? These are all our children.

I can tell you I felt a kindred spirit when I began to talk about this issue with the Senator from Alaska and talk about how important it is for people to really understand those challenges and how important it is to prevent costs later on if we just do a little Head Start. Children in Indian Country go to Head Start at a lower rate. Their education system fails them. Fifty percent of Native kids graduate from high school, compared to 75 percent in the White population.

These statistics mean a lot. We all look at statistics. But behind each one of them is a young child struggling to make something out of their lives in this world and wanting to believe that they matter. So what we are doing today is establishing a commission on the status of Indian children to simply say: You matter.

We need to come up with different ideas and different solutions on how we are going to solve the problem. I had a great opportunity to go to Alaska and spend some time with the Alaska corporations and the indigenous people in Alaska. It was a new experience for me because we are used to Indian Country. We are used to reservations.

But so many of the challenges—I am sure the Senator from Alaska would agree—so many of the challenges are so similar in Alaska and North Dakota, partly because of our remoteness but partly because these are obligations that have not been lived up to. So I wish to ask the great Senator from Alaska how she thinks this commission could work to actually better the children, the Native children in our country?

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I thank my colleague. I appreciate that as we work to advance opportunities for American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian children throughout the country, we remember these are not just statistics. As horrifying as these statistics are, these statistics truly do come to life when we hear those real stories.

When we were working with the Senator's office to develop this legislation, kind of looking at the indigenous children in this country through the lens of the justice system, the education system, the health care system, and then work to provide recommendations to the respective government agencies that will help to address these issues that affect our Native children, we talk about the trust responsibility.

That trust responsibility does not mean anything unless we keep our commitment. We just simply are not keeping the commitment. The Senator mentioned the issue of housing. Having had an opportunity to serve on the Indian Affairs Committee now for 10 years, we hear in committee hearing after committee hearing the situation with regard to housing and the inadequate situation on so many of our reservations.

In the State of Alaska, our housing situation is truly a crisis in so many places. Bethel, which is probably—I believe it is now our fourth or fifth largest community in the State—is viewed as a hub community. So if you come in for health care from one of the surrounding villages, you come into Bethel. If you are trying to escape an abusive situation, trying to get your children to safety, leaving the village, you come into Bethel, where there is a women's shelter where you can kind of pull yourself together.

But the problem then is, when you have been able to pull yourself together, when your children feel they are in a safe place right now, then there is no place for you to take your children. There is no housing out on the market there in Bethel. So what happens. Time after time after time the woman goes back to the abuser, the children go back to an abusive situation, a situation where domestic violence is oftentimes out of control.

Let me speak to just some of the statistics that we are facing in dealing with rural justice in Alaska. Nearly 95 percent of the crimes in rural Alaska can be traced back to alcohol abuse. By the time an Alaska Native reaches adulthood, the chance of experiencing domestic violence or sexual violence is 51 percent for women, 29 percent for men. On Native children, 60 percent of the children are in need of foster parents. I have been working on the issue of fetal alcohol syndrome and how we raise awareness and how we eliminate this entirely preventable disease.

I think it is noteworthy that for years I worked with Senator Daschle, formerly of this body and the majority leader, on this initiative. But he knew that on the reservations in his State, they were facing the same situation that we were in Alaska with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. In Alaska, we have the highest rate of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder in the Nation. But in the Native areas of the State, they are then 15 times higher than in any of the non-Native parts of the State; again, an area where we think, if we can make some inroads in awareness, this is a disease that is 100 percent preventable.

Suicide is an issue that strikes home to far too many. Alaska Native males between the ages of 12 and 24 experience the highest rate of suicide of any demographic within the country. We have the highest rate of suicides per capita in the country. It is our young Native men who drive that statistic.

When it comes to rape statistics, also a horrific example, unfortunately, the term has been applied that Alaska is the ''rape capital of America.'' It is our Native women—one in three—who are experiencing much of the sexual abuse. We cannot accept this reality.

When we talk about infrastructure—I mentioned housing. We think about the lack of public infrastructure and how that impacts the health of a child or the health of a family. We are still a relatively young State. You have heard me say 80 percent of our communities are not accessible by road. So we lack certain infrastructure, including in many of our villages basic water, basic sewer systems. We simply do not have it. If you do not have clean water for cooking, for drinking, for cleaning, just basic hygiene, it can be deadly for our families.

The CDC has determined that lack of inhome water services causes high rates of respiratory and skin infections. We see this in our rural Native villages. The average toddler in the United States gets RSV, which is this respiratory syncytial virus, before they are about 2 years old. The average Alaska Native baby gets RSV before they are 11 weeks old. So they are just mere infants and they are getting this respiratory virus because of sanitation issues.

A lack of clean drinking water, proper wastewater systems leads to fever, to hepatitis, leads to infectious disease. Then what happens? You are a child out in the small village. You are then sent in, your family has to take you into Anchorage, not just one airplane flight away, oftentimes two airplane flights, $1,000-plus airfare in the city where your costs are high.

You think about the impact to a family when you have a sick infant, an infant who has been sick because their family lacks basic sanitation in this day and age.

One of the household chores—and we all had chores when we were growing up as kids. In far too many of our villages in the State of Alaska, one of the chores the kids have is emptying the honey bucket. For those who do not know what a honey bucket is, a honey bucket is the big 5-gallon bucket that you get from Home Depot with a toilet seat lid on it that is put in the corner of the house. That is the bathroom.

You have to take that bucket out and dispose of it. You have children, your 10-year old walking down the boardwalk with a bucket of human waste to dump. This is happening in this day and this age. Who, again, bears the weight of so much of this is our Native children. Think about this from a health safety perspective.

I wish to share a story, as my colleague from North Dakota did, and then—I just came from the Alaska Federation of Natives annual conference. It is the largest gathering of Natives in the country. They come from all corners of the State. It is truly like a family reunion, usually a very upbeat, very happy occasion where people come together for a great deal of sharing.

This year there was sharing on a personal side that perhaps we have not witnessed before. Much of the sharing came from children, and sharing, rather than stories of happiness and opportunities for the future, was driven by a feeling of not helplessness—because if you are helpless you will not speak up—but a feeling that we can no longer remain silent.

The instances of domestic violence in the home, of child sexual assault in the home, of alcoholism and drug abuse that brings about attempted suicide in the home caused a group of 4–H kids from Tanana, AK, to come together—about a half dozen of them—ages maybe 6, 7, up to high school, to stand in front of an audience of 3,000-plus people and say: We have had enough. We have to speak out, even though we have been told do not talk about this; do not talk about this because it might shame your family. These children had the courage to step forward and say: This is not right. We are taught to respect our elders, but when our elders do not respect us, we are going to speak out. Their courage in front of this huge gathering was amazing. It is not unlike the story my colleague from North Dakota just told when that young girl looked out the window and said: Who will come and take care of me? Who is waiting for me?

These children from Tanana were saying: We are not going to be quiet.

It ought to be us. It ought to be the grownups who are saying: Let's take charge of this. Let's turn these horrible statistics around. Let's make every day a better day for our children. Those kids are the real heroes.

So when I come together with my colleagues in an effort such as this—I am with the Senator—oftentimes we say: Oh, commissions. What do commissions do? Maybe this starts to give some of these young people hope, whether you are on the reservations in North Dakota or whether you are in Tanana, AK. Maybe there is hope that the grownups out there are listening and can work with them.

We are trying to look at this holistically, through the education system, the health care system, and through the justice system. I am quite pleased to be able to work with my colleague on this initiative. I do not think there is anything more important that we can be doing for our young people than to offer them a ray of hope.

I thank my colleague from North Dakota and all she has done to get us to this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, suicide is the second leading cause of death among Native American young adults ages 15 to 24. It is 2½ times the national average. The despair my great friend from the great State of Alaska has just outlined for us—it seems there is no way out, that no one is looking, they are invisible, that their problems are inconsequential and no one cares. Yes, I thank my colleague from Alaska for that wonderful vision that this commission tells them they are not invisible to us, they are not invisible to the Congress, they are not invisible to the administration; that people are there and they care.

Maybe it offers that hope. Maybe it offers that opportunity to tell more of these stories and to shine a greater light of awareness onto this problem.

It is a national disgrace. If we continue to do what we have always done in housing, education, health care, and public safety, if we continue to do what we have always done, we will lose yet another generation to despair.

It is time for Congress to step up, honor our treaty obligations and recognize that if we cannot protect the smallest among us, the most vulnerable, the most remote among us, that we aren't worthy of this body. We aren't worthy of this government.

I invite all of our colleagues to join with us and send a message loudly and clearly to Native children in our country that they matter; they matter at their homes, in their communities, their States, their clubs, and their schools, but they also matter in the halls of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The senior Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. If I may close out my comments, Senator HEITKAMP has honored an individual, Alyce Spotted Bear, by naming this commission on Native American children after Alyce Spotted Bear. She has invited me to also include a leader on so many education and children's issues.

I wish to take a moment to speak to the contributions of a great Alaskan, Dr. Walter Soboleff. Senator HEITKAMP has honored Alaskans by including Dr. Soboleff with the naming of this children's commission.

I was very honored to learn of Dr. Soboleff, who passed away in 2011 at 102 years old. In our State he was an elder statesman. He was a spiritual leader and an Alaska Native advocate who championed Alaska Native rights and cultural education. He was the first Alaska Native to serve on our State Board of Education, in which he served as chairman. He established the Alaska Native Studies Department at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to ensure that our Native students could be taught their history, culture, and language within that university system.

Clearly, when one is 102 years old, they live through a transition of time, but he lived through a transition for our Native people in our State. He advocated to ensure that our State's education system recognized that Native students must know their culture. In order to know who they are, they need to know where they have come from. They need to know their culture. They need to know how to hunt, how to fish, and that their culture is the foundation of a strong identity, ensuring student success and pride in oneself.

When I thought about how we might be able to recognize one of Alaska's own who demonstrated to our young people that if you know yourself, if you know your culture, if you are proud of that, even under some daunting challenges, you can move forward. You can persevere.

I thank my colleague for giving me this opportunity to show him recognition as we also honor Alyce Spotted Bear.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 1626. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide employees in the private sector with an opportunity for compensatory time off, similar to the opportunity offered to

Federal employees, and a flexible credit hour program to help balance the demands of work and family, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. 1626

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 ''Family Friendly and Workplace Flexibility Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. COMPENSATORY TIME.

Section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(s) COMPENSATORY TIME FOR PRIVATE EMPLOYEES.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'employee' does not include an employee of a public agency; and

''(B) the terms 'overtime compensation', 'compensatory time', and 'compensatory time off' have the meaning given the terms in subsection (o)(7).

''(2) GENERAL RULE.—An employee may receive, in accordance with this subsection and in lieu of monetary overtime compensation, compensatory time off at a rate not less than one and one-half hours for each hour of employment for which overtime compensation is required by this section.

''(3) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—An employer may provide compensatory time to an employee under paragraph (2) only in accordance with—

''(A) applicable provisions of a collective bargaining agreement between an employer and a labor organization that has been certified or recognized as the representative of the employees of the employer under applicable law; or

''(B) in the case of an employee who is not represented by a labor organization described in subparagraph (A), an agreement between the employer and employee arrived at before the performance of the work—

''(i) in which the employer has offered and the employee has chosen to receive compensatory time off under this subsection in lieu of monetary overtime compensation;

''(ii) that the employee enters into knowingly, voluntarily, and not as a condition of employment; and

''(iii) that is affirmed by a written or otherwise verifiable record maintained in accordance with section 11(c).

''(4) HOUR LIMIT.—An employee may accrue not more than 160 hours of compensatory time under this subsection, and shall receive overtime compensation for any such compensatory time in excess of 160 hours.

''(5) UNUSED COMPENSATORY TIME.—

''(A) COMPENSATION PERIOD.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), not later than January 31 of each calendar year, the employer of the employee shall provide monetary compensation for any unused compensatory time under this subsection accrued during the preceding calendar year that the employee did not use prior to December 31 of the preceding year at the rate prescribed by paragraph (7)(A).

''(ii) ALTERNATIVE COMPENSATION PERIOD.—An employer may designate and communicate to an employee a 12-month period other than the calendar year for determining unused compensatory time under this subsection, and the employer shall provide monetary compensation not later than 31 days after the end of such 12-month period at the rate prescribed by paragraph (7)(A).

''(B) EXCESS OF 80 HOURS.—An employer may provide monetary compensation, at the rate prescribed by paragraph (7)(A), for any unused compensatory time under this subsection of an employee in excess of 80 hours at any time after giving the employee not less than 30 days' notice.

''(C) TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT.—Upon the voluntary or involuntary termination of an employee, the employer of such employee shall provide monetary compensation at the rate prescribed by paragraph (7)(A) for any unused compensatory time under this subsection.

''(6) WITHDRAWAL OF COMPENSATORY TIME AGREEMENT.—

''(A) EMPLOYER.—Except where a collective bargaining agreement provides otherwise, an employer that has adopted a policy of offering compensatory time to employees under this subsection may discontinue such policy after providing employees notice 30 days prior to discontinuing the policy.

''(B) EMPLOYEE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An employee may withdraw an agreement described in paragraph (3)(B) after providing notice to the employer of the employee 30 days prior to the withdrawal.

''(ii) REQUEST FOR MONETARY COMPENSATION.—At any time, an employee may request in writing monetary compensation for any accrued and unused compensatory time under this subsection. The employer of such employee shall provide monetary compensation at the rate prescribed by paragraph (7)(A) within 30 days of receiving the written request.

''(7) MONETARY COMPENSATION.—

''(A) RATE OF COMPENSATION.—An employer providing monetary compensation to an employee for accrued compensatory time under this subsection shall compensate the employee at a rate not less than the greater of—

''(i) the regular rate, as defined in subsection (e), of the employee on the date the employee earned such compensatory time; or

''(ii) the final regular rate, as defined in subsection (e), received by such employee.

''(B) TREATMENT AS UNPAID OVERTIME.—Any monetary payment owed to an employee for unused compensatory time under this subsection, as calculated in accordance with subparagraph (A), shall be considered unpaid overtime compensation for the purposes of this Act.

''(8) USING COMPENSATORY TIME.—An employer shall permit an employee to take time off work for compensatory time accrued under paragraph (2) within a reasonable time after the employee makes a request for using such compensatory time if the use does not unduly disrupt the operations of the employer.

''(9) PROHIBITION OF COERCION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An employer that provides compensatory time under paragraph (2) shall not directly or indirectly intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any employee for the purpose of interfering with the rights of an employee under this subsection—

''(i) to use accrued compensatory time in accordance with paragraph (8) in lieu of receiving monetary compensation;

''(ii) to refrain from using accrued compensatory time in accordance with paragraph (8) and receive monetary compensation; or

''(iii) to refrain from entering into an agreement to accrue compensatory time under this subsection.

''(B) DEFINITION.—In subparagraph (A), the term 'intimidate, threaten, or coerce' includes—

''(i) promising to confer or conferring any benefit, such as appointment, promotion, or compensation; or

''(ii) effecting or threatening to effect any reprisal, such as deprivation of appointment, promotion, or compensation.''.

SEC. 3. FLEXIBLE CREDIT HOUR PROGRAM.

Section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207), as amended in section 2, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(t) FLEXIBLE CREDIT HOUR PROGRAM.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'at the election of', used with respect to an employee, means at the initiative of, and at the request of, the employee;

''(B) the term 'basic work requirement' means the number of hours, excluding overtime hours, that an employee is required to work or is required to account for by leave or otherwise within a specified period of time;

''(C) the term 'employee' does not include an employee of a public agency;

''(D) the term 'flexible credit hour' means any hour that an employee, who is participating in a flexible credit hour program, works in excess of the basic work requirement; and

''(E) the term 'overtime compensation' has the meaning given the term in subsection (o)(7).

''(2) PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.—An employer may establish a flexible credit hour program for an employee to accrue flexible credit hours in accordance with this subsection and, in lieu of monetary compensation, reduce the number of hours the employee works in a subsequent day or week at a rate of one hour for each hour of employment for which overtime compensation is required by this section.

''(3) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An employer may carry out a flexible credit hour program under paragraph (2) only in accordance with—

''(i) applicable provisions of a collective bargaining agreement between an employer and a labor organization that has been certified or recognized as the representative of the employees of the employer under applicable law; or

''(ii) in the case of an employee who is not represented by a labor organization described in clause (i), an agreement between the employer and the employee arrived at before the performance of the work that—

''(I) the employee enters into knowingly, voluntarily, and not as a condition of employment; and

''(II) is affirmed by a written statement maintained in accordance with section 11(c).

''(B) HOURS DESIGNATED.—An agreement that is entered into under subparagraph (A) shall provide that, at the election of the employee, the employer and the employee will jointly designate flexible credit hours for the employee to work within an applicable period of time.

''(4) HOUR LIMIT.—An employee participating in a flexible credit hour program may not accrue more than 50 flexible credit hours, and shall receive overtime compensation for flexible credit hours in excess of 50 hours.

''(5) UNUSED FLEXIBLE CREDIT HOURS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), not later than January 31 of each calendar year, the employer of an employee who is participating in a flexible credit hour program shall provide monetary compensation for any flexible credit hour accrued during the preceding calendar year

that the employee did not use prior to December 31 of the preceding calendar year at a rate prescribed by paragraph (7)(A)(i).

''(B) ALTERNATIVE COMPENSATION PERIOD.—An employer may designate and communicate to the employees of the employer a 12-month period other than the calendar year for determining unused flexible credit hours, and the employer shall provide monetary compensation, at a rate prescribed by paragraph (7)(A)(i), not later than 31 days after the end of the 12-month period.

''(6) PROGRAM DISCONTINUANCE AND WITHDRAWAL.—

''(A) EMPLOYER.—An employer that has established a flexible credit hour program under paragraph (2) may discontinue a flexible credit hour program for employees described in paragraph (3)(A)(ii) after providing notice to such employees 30 days before discontinuing such program.

''(B) EMPLOYEE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An employee may withdraw an agreement described in paragraph (3)(A)(ii) at any time by submitting written notice of withdrawal to the employer of the employee 30 days prior to the withdrawal.

''(ii) REQUEST FOR MONETARY COMPENSATION.—An employee may request in writing, at any time, that the employer of such employee provide monetary compensation for all accrued and unused flexible credit hours. Within 30 days after receiving such written request, the employer shall provide the employee monetary compensation for such unused flexible credit hours at a rate prescribed by paragraph (7)(A)(i).

''(7) MONETARY COMPENSATION.—

''(A) FLEXIBLE CREDIT HOURS.—

''(i) RATE OF COMPENSATION.—An employer providing monetary compensation to an employee for accrued flexible credit hours shall compensate such employee at a rate not less than the regular rate, as defined in subsection (e), of the employee on the date the employee receives the monetary compensation.

''(ii) TREATMENT AS UNPAID OVERTIME.—Any monetary payment owed to an employee for unused flexible credit hours under this subsection, as calculated in accordance with clause (i), shall be considered unpaid overtime compensation for the purposes of this Act.

''(B) OVERTIME HOURS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Any hour that an employee works in excess of 40 hours in a workweek that is requested in advance by the employer, other than a flexible credit hour, shall be an 'overtime hour'.

''(ii) RATE OF COMPENSATION.—The employee shall be compensated for each overtime hour at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate at which the employee is employed, in accordance with subsection (a)(1), or receive compensatory time off in accordance with subsection (s), for each such overtime hour.

''(8) USE OF FLEXIBLE CREDIT HOURS.—An employer shall permit an employee to use accrued flexible credit hours to take time off work, in accordance with the rate prescribed by paragraph (2), within a reasonable time after the employee makes a request for such use if the use does not unduly disrupt the operations of the employer.

''(9) PROHIBITION OF COERCION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An employer shall not directly or indirectly intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce, any employee for the purpose of interfering with the rights of the employee under this subsection—

''(i) to elect or not to elect to participate in a flexible credit hour program, or to elect or not to elect to work flexible credit hours; or

''(ii) to use or refrain from using accrued flexible credit hours in accordance with paragraph (8).

''(B) DEFINITION.—In subparagraph (A), the term 'intimidate, threaten, or coerce' has the meaning given the term in subsection (s)(9).''.

SEC. 4. REMEDIES.

Section 16 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 216) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking ''(b) Any employer'' and inserting ''(b) Except as provided in subsection (f), any employer''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) An employer that violates subsection (s)(9) or (t)(9) of section 7 shall be liable to the affected employee in the amount of—

''(1) the rate of compensation, determined in accordance with subsection (s)(7)(A) or (t)(7)(A)(i) of section 7, for each hour of unused compensatory time or for each unused flexible credit hour accrued by the employee; and

''(2) liquidated damages equal to the amount determined in paragraph (1).''.

SEC. 5. NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES.

Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall revise the materials the Secretary provides, under regulations contained in section 516.4 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, to employers for purposes of a notice explaining the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) to employees so that the notice reflects the amendments made to such Act by this Act.

SEC. 6. PROTECTIONS FOR CLAIMS RELATING TO COMPENSATORY TIME OFF AND FLEXIBLE CREDIT HOURS IN BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDING.

Section 507(a)(4)(A) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''and''; and

(2) by inserting '', the value of unused, accrued compensatory time off under section 7(s) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207(s)), all of which shall be deemed to have been earned within 180 days before the date of the filing of the petition or the date of the cessation of the debtor's business, whichever occurs first, at a rate of compensation not less than the final regular rate received by such individual, and the value of unused, accrued flexible credit hours under section 7(t) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207(t)), all of which shall be deemed to have been earned within 180 days before the date of the filing of the petition or the date of the cessation of the debtor's business, whichever occurs first, at a rate of compensation described in paragraph (7)(A)(i) of such section 7(t)'' after ''sick leave pay''.

SEC. 7. GAO REPORT.

Beginning 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act and each of the 3 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress providing, with respect to the reporting period immediately prior to each such report—

(1) data concerning the extent to which employers provide compensatory time and flexible credit hours under subsections (s) and (t) of section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207), as added by this Act, and the extent to which employees opt to receive compensatory time under subsection (s) and flexible credit hours under subsection (t);

(2) the number of complaints alleging a violation of subsection (s)(9) or (t)(9) of such section filed by any employee with the Secretary of Labor, and the disposition or status of such complaints;

(3) the number of enforcement actions commenced by the Secretary or commenced by the Secretary on behalf of any employee for alleged violations of subsection (s)(9) or (t)(9) of such section, and the disposition or status of such actions; and

(4) an account of any unpaid wages, damages, penalties, injunctive relief, or other remedies obtained or sought by the Secretary in connection with such actions described in paragraph (3).

SEC. 8. SUNSET.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall expire on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 277—RECOGNIZING THE RELIGIOUS AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL OF DIWALI

Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.:

S. RES. 277

Whereas Diwali is a festival of great significance and celebrated annually by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains throughout India, the United States, and the world;

Whereas Diwali is a festival of lights that marks the beginning of the Hindu new year, during which celebrants light and place small lamps around the home and pray for health, knowledge, peace, wealth, and prosperity in the new year;

Whereas Diwali will be celebrated throughout the world for five days and is an opportunity to celebrate the faith of all people and the universal right to religious expression and spiritual freedom;

Whereas the lights symbolize the light of knowledge within the individual that overwhelms the darkness of ignorance, empowering each celebrant to do good deeds and show compassion to others;

Whereas Diwali falls on the last day of the last month in the lunar calendar and is celebrated as a day of thanksgiving for the homecoming of the Lord Rama and worship of Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles and bestower of blessings, at the beginning of the new year for many Hindus;

Whereas, for Sikhs, Diwali is celebrated as Bandhi Chhor Diwas (The Celebration of Freedom), in honor of the release from imprisonment of the sixth guru, Guru Hargobind; and

Whereas, for Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the attainment of moksha, or liberation, by Mahavira, the last of the Tirthankaras (the great teachers of Jain dharma), at the end of his life in 527 B.C.: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali, the festival of lights, and expresses its respect for the people of India, Indian Americans, and members of the Indian diaspora around the world on this significant occasion; and

(2) supports a strong relationship between the people and governments of the United States and India, based on mutual trust and respect that will enable the countries to more closely collaborate across a broad spectrum of interests, such as global peace and prosperity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 278—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2013 AS ''SCHOOL BUS SAFETY MONTH''

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.:

S. RES. 278

Whereas approximately 450,000 public and private school buses carry 26,000,000 children to and from school every weekday in the United States;

Whereas America's 450,000 public and private school buses comprise the largest mass transportation fleet in the Nation;

Whereas during the school year, school buses make more than 55,000,000 passenger trips daily and students ride these school buses 10,000,000,000 times per year as the Nation's fleet travels over 4,000,000,000 miles per school year;

Whereas school buses are designed to be safer than passenger vehicles and are 13 times safer than other modes of school transportation, and 44 times safer than vehicles driven by teenagers;

Whereas in an average year, about 25 school children are killed in school bus accidents, with one-third of these children struck by their own school buses in loading/unloading zones, one-third struck by motorists who fail to stop for school buses, and one-third killed as they approach or depart a school bus stop;

Whereas The Child Safety Network, celebrating 25 years of national public service, has collaborated with the school bus industry to create public service announcements to reduce distracted driving near school buses, increase ridership, and provide free resources to school districts in order to increase driver safety training, provide free technology for tracking school buses, and educate students; and

Whereas the adoption of School Bus Safety Month will allow broadcast and digital media and social networking industries to make commitments to disseminate public service announcements designed to save children's lives by making motorists aware of school bus safety issues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates October 2013 as ''School Bus Safety Month''.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2007. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3204, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to human drug compounding and drug supply chain security, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2008. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3204, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2007. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3204, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to human drug compounding and drug supply chain security, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—USE OF ANTIMICROBIAL DRUGS IN FOOD ANIMALS

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Delivering Antimicrobial Transparency in Animals Act of 2013''.

SEC. 302. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to provide the Food and Drug Administration and the public with better information on the use of antimicrobial drugs in animals used for food to—

(1) enable public health officials and scientists to better understand and interpret trends and variations in rates of microbial resistance to such antimicrobial drugs;

(2) improve the understanding of the relationship between antimicrobial drug use in animals used for food and antimicrobial drug resistance in microbes in and on animals and humans; and

(3) identify interventions to prevent and control such antimicrobial drug resistance.

SEC. 303. RESEARCH PROGRAMS TO STUDY ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this title—

(1) the term ''Commissioner'' means the Commissioner of Food and Drugs; and

(2) the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAMS.—The Secretary, acting through the Commissioner, shall develop a research program or programs to study the relationship between the sales, distribution, end-use practices of animal drugs containing an antimicrobial active ingredient in food-producing animals and antimicrobial resistance trends.

(c) PURPOSE OF PROGRAMS.—Any research program developed under subsection (b) shall be developed in order to better determine—

(1) the relationships between sales data, distribution data, and end-usage data of animal drugs containing an antimicrobial active ingredient in food-producing animals to inform policies of Food and Drug Administration regarding data collection and regulation of antimicrobial products in agriculture, including consideration of the potential value of data from veterinary feed directives; and

(2) the relationships between antimicrobial resistance and use of animal drugs containing an antimicrobial active ingredient in food-producing animals and trends in antimicrobial resistance, including by using the data collected through the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring Program or other studies regarding resistance levels in bacteria associated with food-producing animals.

(d) CONSULTATION.—Any research program developed under subsection (b) shall be developed in consultation with the Under Secretary for Food Safety, the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics at the Department of Agriculture. To the extent practicable, such Under Secretaries shall provide assistance in developing and conducting such research programs.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall implement the research program or programs developed under subsection (b). The Secretary shall analyze data from such program or programs to determine the contribution of such data to studying antimicrobial resistance, protecting public health, and establishing the coordinated data collection strategy as described in section 305.

(f) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall publish the results of any research program developed under this section as soon as practicable.

SEC. 304. ENHANCED REPORTING AND PUBLICATION OF SALES DATA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 512(l)(3)(E)) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360b(l)(3)(E)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II);

(2) by striking ''The Secretary shall make summaries of the information reported under this paragraph publicly available, except that—'' and inserting ''(i) Not later than a date established by the Secretary for 2014, and on such date in each year thereafter, the Secretary shall make publicly available a summary of the information (including dosage form information, if practicable) reported under this paragraph for the previous year, except that—''; and

(3) by inserting after subclause (II), as redesignated by paragraph (1), the following:

''(ii) In making the summaries available under this subparagraph, the following shall apply:

''(I) The Secretary shall segregate the categories of amounts reported into the following 2 subcategories, after consultation with the applicable classifications of the World Health Organization:

''(aa) The volume of drugs of importance to human medicine.

''(bb) The volume of drugs not of importance to human medicine.

''(II) As practicable, the Secretary shall segregate amounts reported into the following 2 amounts:

''(aa) The volume of drugs labeled or eligible for use in food-producing animals.

''(bb) The volume of drugs that are not labeled or are ineligible for use in food-producing animals.

''(III) In any cross-tabulation of the amounts reported with any reporting category, the Secretary shall include the categories 'Not Independently Reported' and 'Not Independently Reported Export'.''.

(b) REISSUANCE.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall reissue the summary reports issued before 2012 under section 512(l)(3)(E) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360b(l)(3)(E)) using the format designed for the 2012 summary report. The Secretary shall publish the reissued reports in one combined publication.

SEC. 305. IMPLEMENTATION AND PUBLICATION OF ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE DATA COLLECTION STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner, shall implement an Antimicrobial Data Collection Strategy, based on information received in the comments to the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking entitled ''Antimicrobial Animal Drug Distribution Reporting''(77 Fed. Reg. 44177 (July 27, 2012)) and any research program developed under section 303.

(b) REEVALUATION.—Not less than every 5 years after the implementation of the Antimicrobial Data Collection Strategy under subsection (a), the Secretary shall reevaluate such Strategy and propose modifications as such Secretary determines appropriate, based on scientific data.

(c) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall—

(1) submit to Congress the Strategy implemented under subsection (a), and any modification made to such Strategy pursuant to subsection (b); and

(2) make such Strategy and any such modification available to the public.

SEC. 306. ACTION BY GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.

(a) PUBLICATION OF FINAL GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish

a final version of the draft Voluntary Guidance #213 of the Food and Drug Administration (entitled ''New Animal Drugs and New Animal Drug Combination Products Administered in or on Medicated Feed or Drinking Water of Food-Producing Animals: Recommendations for Drug Sponsors for Voluntarily Aligning Product Use Conditions with GFI #209'').

(b) REPORT BY GAO.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the publication of the final guidance described in subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall commence a study to evaluate—

(A) the voluntary approach used by the Food and Drug Administration to eliminate injudicious use of antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals; and

(B) the effectiveness of the data collection activities conducted by the Food and Drug Administration regarding antimicrobial resistance.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after commencing the study described in paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that describes the results of such study.

SA 2008. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3204, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to human drug compounding and drug supply chain security, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Cody Miller Initiative for Safer Prescriptions Act''.

SEC. 302. PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

Chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 351 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 505E the following:

''SEC. 505F. PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue regulations regarding the authorship, content, format, and dissemination requirements for patient medication information (referred to in this section as 'PMI') for drugs subject to section 503(b)(1).

''(b) CONTENT.—The regulations promulgated under subsection (a) shall require that the PMI with respect to a drug—

''(1) be scientifically accurate and based on the professional labeling approved by the Secretary and authoritative, peer-reviewed literature; and

''(2) includes nontechnical, understandable, plain language that is not promotional in tone or content, and contains at least—

''(A) the established name of drug, including the established name of such drug as a listed drug (as described in section 505(j)(2)(A)) and as a drug that is the subject of an approved abbreviated new drug application under section 505(j) or of an approved license for a biological product submitted under section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act, if applicable;

''(B) drug uses and clinical benefits;

''(C) general directions for proper use;

''(D) contraindications, common side effects, and most serious risks of the drug, especially with respect to certain groups such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly;

''(E) measures patients may be able to take, if any, to reduce the side effects and risks of the drug;

''(F) when a patient should contact his or her health care professional;

''(G) instructions not to share medications, and, if any exist, key storage requirements, and recommendations relating to proper disposal of any unused portion of the drug; and

''(H) known clinically important interactions with other drugs and substances.

''(c) TIMELINESS, CONSISTENCY, AND ACCURACY.—The regulations promulgated under subsection (a) shall include standards related to—

''(1) performing timely updates of drug information as new drugs and new information becomes available;

''(2) ensuring that common information is applied consistently and simultaneously across similar drug products and for drugs within classes of medications in order to avoid patient confusion and harm; and

''(3) developing a process, including consumer testing, to assess the quality and effectiveness of PMI in ensuring that PMI promotes patient understanding and safe and effective medication use.

''(d) ELECTRONIC REPOSITORY.—The regulations promulgated under subsection (a) shall provide for the development of a publicly accessible electronic repository for all PMI documents and content to facilitate the availability of PMI.''.

SEC. 303. PUBLICATION ON INTERNET WEBSITE.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall publish on the Internet website of the Food and Drug Administration a link to the Daily Med website (http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed) (or any successor website).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 30, 2013, at 11 a.m., in room SD–215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership: Achieving the Potential.''

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 30, 2013, at 9:15 a.m., in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 30, 2013, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 30, 2013, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Nominations.''

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 30, 2013, at 2 p.m., in room SR–418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITIES, INSURANCE, AND INVESTMENT

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 30, 2013, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Jobs Act at a Year and a Half: Assessing Progress and Unmet Opportunities.''

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator MENENDEZ, I ask unanimous consent that Christopher Landberg, a detailee from the State Department and the Foreign Relations Committee, be granted floor privileges for the consideration of the nomination of Jacob Lew.

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

JOINT REFERRAL—RHEA SUN SUH NOMINATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent as in executive session that the nomination of Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, sent to the Senate by the President on October 30, 2013, be referred jointly to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

CHIMP ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2013

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 228, S. 1561.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1561) to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve provisions relating

to the sanctuary system for surplus chimpanzees.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''CHIMP Act Amendments of 2013''.

SEC. 2. SANCTUARY SYSTEM FOR SURPLUS CHIMPANZEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 404K(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 283m(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''and each subsequent fiscal year'' and inserting ''through fiscal year 2023'';

(B) by inserting after ''$30,000,000'' the following: '', unless the Secretary determines that reserving additional funds would enable the National Institutes of Health to operate more efficiently and economically by decreasing the overall Federal cost of supporting and maintaining chimpanzees from fiscal year 2014 through fiscal year 2023. Such a determination shall be reported to Congress by the Secretary and shall include a report, to be updated biennially, regarding the care and maintenance of the chimpanzees and costs related to such care and maintenance''; and

(C) by striking the last sentence; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking ''board of directors'' and inserting ''Secretary, in consultation with the board of directors''.

(b) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an independent evaluation, and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report, regarding chimpanzees owned or supported by the National Institutes of Health. Such report shall review and assess—

(1) the research status of National Institutes of Health-owned or supported chimpanzees;

(2) the cost for the care and maintenance of such chimpanzees, including the cost broken down by research or retirement status, location and for transportation, as appropriate;

(3) the extent to which matching requirements have been met pursuant to section 404K(e)(4) of the Public Health Service Act; and

(4) any options for cost-savings for the support and maintenance of such chimpanzees that may be identified.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1561), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION EXTENSION ACT OF 2013

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3190.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3190) to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the United States Parole Commission is scheduled to expire tomorrow. After significant bicameral negotiations, 2 weeks ago, the House of Representatives passed by unanimous consent a bipartisan bill, H.R. 3190, to reauthorize the commission for 5 years. Public safety demands that we pass this legislation swiftly and I urge the Senate to support its immediate enactment. We should have passed this bill weeks ago, but a single Republican hold has placed us in the precarious position of seeking passage on the eve of expiration. This is not the way to protect public safety.

The Parole Commission is responsible for granting or denying parole for Federal and District of Columbia prisoners who were sentenced before the Federal and DC Governments abolished parole. The commission was created to consider the requests of these ''old law'' Federal and DC inmates, but it also has jurisdiction over more recent DC offenders who are on supervised release from prison. In addition, the commission supervises some military law offenders, State offenders in the witness protection program, and foreign-law offenders serving sentences in the United States.

The consequences of failing to reauthorize the commission would be dire. ''Old law'' Federal and DC inmates are required by law to receive periodic parole hearings. If the commission were unavailable to hold these hearings and declare that certain inmates should not be paroled, around 3,500 inmates would be released. Potentially dangerous individuals would be allowed to simply walk free without any assessment of the risk to public safety if this reauthorization does not pass the Senate immediately.

Failure to reauthorize the commission would have particularly harsh consequences for the District of Columbia. The commission currently sets the conditions of supervision for DC offenders and determines when those conditions have been violated. If the commission were to cease operations, around 9,000 offenders would no longer receive adequate supervision. These include extremely dangerous criminals, such as murderers and rapists.

Congress has consistently recognized the importance of the commission, reauthorizing it on 6 prior occasions. We last reauthorized the commission 2 years ago. At that time, the Republican-led House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill to extend the commission for 3 years, but a single Senator blocked the bill and insisted on only a 2-year extension.

So we are here now, 2 years later, and the House has appropriately passed a bipartisan 5-year extension. I have been working with the House since July on this straightforward reauthorization. As the House recognizes, the need for the commission will not cease within the next 5 years. In fact, it is estimated that Federal ''old-law'' offenders will require parole decisions for the next 35 years.

I hope we can agree to this 5-year extension, which includes extensive annual reporting requirements that will allow Congress to conduct oversight of the commission. All of the reporting requirements from the last reauthorization are included, along with new requirements related specifically to the District of Columbia. There is nothing objectionable in this bill, and there is no substantive reason for anyone to block it.

The events of the past few weeks have shown deep divisions in the House Republican caucus. But one thing on which all 232 House Republicans agree is that the Parole Commission should be reauthorized for another 5 years. They all agreed that releasing potentially dangerous prisoners was a bad idea. This bill is not controversial.

As I have mentioned before, Senator PAUL and I and others are working in a bipartisan manner on sentencing reform. We believe that judges should have more discretion in sentencing when a mandatory minimum sentence is unnecessary and counterproductive. The extension of the Parole Commission is quite a different matter, however. If the commission is not reauthorized, there will be no one to decide whether thousands of offenders are ready for parole. These inmates will simply be released.

I want to commend the sponsor of the House bill, Congressman STEVE CHABOT, along with co-sponsors Chairman BOB GOODLATTE and Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS of the House Judiciary Committee, and Chairman JIM SENSENBRENNER and Ranking Member BOBBY SCOTT of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations. They understood the urgency and imminent consequences of inaction. Unfortunately, some in the Senate did not share that position and now we are up against the final deadline. It is time to end these petty games and to let Congress do its job. We must pass this bill now.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 3190) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 278, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 278) designating October 2013 as ''School Bus Safety Month.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motion 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. 278) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL RECESS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to H. Con. Res. 62, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 62) providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 62) was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2013

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 31, 2013; that following the prayer and pledge, 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 proceed to executive session to consider the Watt nomination, with the time until 12 noon equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At noon, Senator-elect Booker will be sworn in, so I ask unanimous consent that following the swearing-in of Senator-elect Booker, there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form prior to a cloture vote on the Watt nomination.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. The first rollcall vote will be at approximately 12:10 p.m. tomorrow on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of MEL WATT to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:43 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, October 31, 2013, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JOSEPH S. HEZIR, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE STEVEN JEFFREY ISAKOWITZ, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

NANI A. COLORETTI, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, VICE DANIEL M. TANGHERLINI, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JONATHAN ELKIND, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS), VICE DAVID B. SANDALOW, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

RHEA SUN SUH, OF COLORADO, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE, VICE THOMAS L. STRICKLAND, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHARLES HAMMERMAN RIVKIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS), VICE JOSE W. FERNANDEZ, RESIGNED.

ROBERT C. BARBER, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND.

BATHSHEBA NELL CROCKER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS), VICE ESTHER BRIMMER, RESIGNED.

MARK GILBERT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO NEW ZEALAND.

TINA S. KAIDANOW, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE COORDINATOR FOR COUNTERTERRORISM, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR AT LARGE, VICE DANIEL BENJAMIN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THEODORE REED MITCHELL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, VICE MARTHA J. KANTER.

MASSIE RITSCH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE PETER CUNNINGHAM.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WILLIAM A. LAPLANTE, JR., OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, VICE SUE C. PAYTON.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

STANTON J. J. APPLONIE
CORY L. BAKER
ERICKA R. BRIGGS
XAVIER V. BRUCE
LEA ANN CALDERWOOD
CHARLES F. CAMBRON, JR.
TANYA M. DEAR
GEORGE A. DELANEY, JR.
JUSTIN J. EDER
RONALD B. ELLER
JEFFREY S. FEWELL
PETER B. FRENCH
JENNIFER H. GARRISON
CARISSA E. GRANT
MICHAEL T. HAMILTON
JOSEPH G. INDOMENICO, JR.
PAUL J. JONES
MICHAEL J. KERSTEN
SHAUNDRA D. KNIGHT
STACEY C. KRISHNA
JOHN A. LANE
THOMAS WARREN LESNICK
JOHN P. MCFARLANE
LAURIE R. MCKENNA
CHARLES R. MONIZ
KATHY A. NAYLOR
RICHARD A. PALMER
CHRISTOPHER M. PALUMBO
JAMES W. PAYETTE
VICKY V. PRATT
JASON P. RICHTER
JAMES MARINUS ROBERTSON, JR.
SILVIA E. ROBLEDO
REGINALD L. SENNIE
DAVID E. TATUM
DAVID C. THOMPSON II
SHARON K. WILLIAMS
STEPHENIE D. WILLIAMS
DANIEL P. ZABLOTSKY
RICHARD J. ZAVADIL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

JAMES D. ATHNOS
KEITH ALLEN BILLMAN, JR.
MICHAEL D. BRIDGES
MIMI BYRD
TRICIA C. CAIN
RICHARD H. CAMPBELL
EDUARDO CERVANTES
DANIEL CHAVEZ
SCOTT D. COOK
MELISSA R. COPELAND
JOSHUA S. CURTIS
MIKE DAVIDQUINTERO
COURTNEY E. DAY
JOHN J. DECATALDO, JR.
DONELLA D. DENT
ARETHA Q. DIX
MARSHA M. DOLDRON BRYAN
EDGARDO DONOVAN
JASON L. DONOVANT
JASON M. ESTES
STACEY P. FACKELMAN
REGINALD JAMES FICKLIN, JR.
WENDY M. FRANKE
MONICA M. GOMEZ ARENAS
MATTHEW J. GROSS
BRETT R. HADLEY
CODY JOHN HESS
JILL M. HIBBERT
JESSICA A. HILL
MICHAEL S. JOHNSON
OCTAVIA LORRAINE JONES
JACKIELOU E. KIM
TONY G. LAWRENCE
MICAELA C. LEWIS
WILLIAM CALEB LUNSFORD
JAMES E. MCDANIEL
CHRISTOPHER P. MCMILLIAN
ANDREA MOORE
EDWARD J. MORRIS
THOMAS PATRICK NAUGHTON
CLINTON H. NAWROCKI
MICHAEL ANDREW OETJENS
HIRAM J. ORTIZ
JOSHUA D. PETER
REBECCA LYNN POWERS
JENNIFER ANN PREYER
KIMBERLY T. PRICE
JANELLE JUST QUINN
CANDIDO RAMIREZ
BEATA H. ROSSON
JOSEPH L. SANCHEZ, JR.
CHRISTINE A. SANDERS
AMBER C. SCHINDELE
DUANE P. SCHREIBER
WILLIAM DAVID SHERMAN
CHRISTY J. SNOW
SARA M. SPEARING
JEFFERY ALAN TAYLOR, JR.
KRIS E. WALKER
SARAH MONROE WHITSON
STEPHEN M. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

PAIGE T. ABBOTT
JOSEPH A. ASCHERL
WILLIAM MARLIN BARRETT
JOHN HARRISON BONDHUS
CLARENCE LEONARD BOROWSKI
SCOTT C. BRIDGERS
STEPHEN H. BUNTING
SCOTT PHILIP CHAMBERS
WILLIAM D. CLARK
RICHARD LEE COFFEY III
LYNN E. COLE
MICHAEL LAWRENCE CORNELL
PATRICK K. COTTER
ROBERT E. CULCASI
RICHARD C. DAVISON
RONALD D. DEAL
CURTIS R. DEKEYREL
ANTHONY T. DICARLO

MICHAEL F. DONNELLY
JOHN DOWLING
FREDERICK W. DYSON
MARY A. ENGES
SHAWN D. FORD
THOMAS F. FORRESTER
JOSEPH EDMOND FRANCOEUR
JED J. FRENCH
SHAWN J. GAFFNEY
MICHAEL R. GIRARDIN
THOMAS J. GOBLIRSCH
MARK A. GOODWILL
THOMAS F. GRABOWSKI
ROBERT TIMOTHY GREGORY
LARRY WILLLIAM GRIFFIN, JR.
MARK RENE GROVES
JOSEPH R. HARRIS II
THOMAS B. HATLEY
MARK THOMAS HAYES
LARS R. HERTIG
GREGG J. HESTERMAN
BRADLEY GENE HINKLE
KELLY J. HUGHES
RHONDA M. JAHNS
STEVEN FRANCE JAMISON
STANLEY L. JONES
BRENDA J. C. JORDAN
KIM R. JOYE
DAVID MATTHEW KEELY
BRIAN D. KELLY
JEFFREY SCOTT KING
ROBERT CHRISTOPHER KORTE
EDWARD H. KRAFFT
SHAROLYN K. LANGE
MICHAEL R. LIGHTNER
SIGURD A. LOKENSGARD
COREY MCBETH LOVE
MICHAEL J. LOVELL
KURT M. MALLORY
THOMAS HAROLD MCKENNA
SUSAN L. MELTON
GORDON R. MEYER
JOHN C. MIGET
BRIAN DAVID MILLER
JOHN RODNEY MINER
DAVID J. MOUNKES
JAMES JULIUS MUSCATELLO
JAMES RICHARD NICHOLS
MARVIN E. NIELSEN, JR.
JAMES WILLIAM NOLAN
JOHN FITZGERALD OCONNELL
REBECCA L. OCONNOR
FREDERICK W. OLISON
DAVID A. OLSON
ERIC J. OSWALD
DUKE M. OTA, JR.
RONALD CHRISTOPHER PARKER
RICHARD WAYNE POPLIN
BRIAN D. PORTER
FRANK A. RODMAN
WILLIAM G. ROGERS, SR.
MICHAEL D. RUMSEY
WANDA E. RUSHTON
JAMES P. RYAN
JEFFREY L. RYAN
TORRENCE W. SAXE
MEREDITH LEE SHAW
KEVIN R. SHOMIN
JON J. SHOWALTER
THOMAS E. SHULER
VICTOR STARY SIKORA
CHRISTOPHER LEE SMITH
JOHN J. SMITH
MICHAEL W. STINSON
CHRISTIANE M. TABATZKY
VICTOR LEE TEAL, JR.
PETER MERRITT THALHEIMER
BRUCE J. THERIAULT
JEFFREY J. TIDWELL
BRIAN J. TOLLEFSON
ROBERT ANDERSON UNDERWOOD
DAVID S. URE
RICHARD D. VATT
MICHAEL T. VENERDI
CHARLES M. WALKER
JAMES E. WALKER
JUSTIN R. WALRATH
DAVID W. WALTER
KEITH Y. WARD
DOUGLAS S. WESKAMP
BRYAN S. WHITE
DAVID WILLIAM WILEY
JEFFREY L. WILKINSON
JERALD K. WILLIAMS
MISTY MICHELLE ZELK
RENO JOSEPH ZISA

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

STEVEN T. GREINER
MARGERY M. HANFELT
JAMES F. KOTERSKI
PEDRO J. RICO
CHERYL D. SOFALY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

STANLEY T. BREUER
ERICA R. CLARKSON
DEYDRE S. TEYHEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

KIMBERLEE A. AIELLO
WILLIAM P. ARGO
ERIC E. BAILEY
STEPHEN A. BARNES
CARLENE A.S. BLANDING
JAMIE A. BLOW
MICHAEL D. BRENNAN
MICHAEL F. BRESLIN
AMY C.S. BRINSON
EVA K. CALERO
DAVID J. CARPENTER, JR.
KEVIN E. COOPER
SOO L. DAVIS
DENIS G. DESCARREAUX
ERIC S. EDWARDS
ROBERT F. HOWE
DENNIS B. KILIAN
HEATHER A. KNESS
KAREN M. KOPYDLOWSKI
AMY K. KORMAN
KERRY A. LEFRANCIS
KENNETH A. LEMONS
RICHARD S. LINDSAY III
JOHN A. MCMURRAY
JOHN J. MELTON
KEVIN K. PITZER
JOSEPH C. RHENEY
KEVIN W. ROBERTS
PHILIP E. SHERIDAN
RACHELE M. SMITH
THOMAS C. TIMMES
JOHN D. VIA
KEITH A. WAGNER
JEFFREY S. YARVIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

ROBIN M. ADAMSMASSENBURG
CARLOS C. AMAYA
RICHARD A. BEHR
MARGARET A. COLLIER
TAMARA L. CRAWFORD
SPENCER D. DICKENS, JR.
TONYA F. DICKERSON
TERESA A. DUQUETTEFRAME
LORI A. FRITZ
MICHAEL W. GREENLY
SHAROYN L. HARRIS
DIANA J. HEINZ
MELISSA J. HOFFMAN
CHRISTINE M. KRAMER
DAVID MENDOZA
TAMMIE W.H. MORTON
MICHELLE L. MUNROE
ELIZABETH A. MURRAY
JENNIFER ROBINSON
LETICIA SANDROCK
REBEKAH J. SARSFIELD
ALLEN D. SMITH
VERONICA A. VILLAFRANCA

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate October 30, 2013:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ALAN F. ESTEVEZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

INTERNATIONAL BANKS

JACOB J. LEW, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES GOVERNOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS; UNITED STATES GOVERNOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS; UNITED STATES GOVERNOR OF THE INTER–AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS; UNITED STATES GOVERNOR OF THE EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

KATHERINE ARCHULETA, OF COLORADO, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. WILBURN C. ROWDEN

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Wilburn C. Rowden for his service to our country in the Army Air Corps during World War II. His service commenced on January 7, 1943 at Jefferson Barracks, and he went on to become a member of the 392nd Bomb Crew, serving as a radio operator on the B–17 Flying Fortress ''Sleepy Time Gal''.

During a mission over Berlin on March 8, 1944, the aircraft Mr. Rowden was serving on was damaged by enemy air fire. The crew was ordered to bail out, during which Mr. Rowden was wounded by gunfire. Following this, Mr. Rowden was taken prisoner by armed German Air Force troops. Mr. Rowden was held as a Prisoner of War in a German prison for 14 months.

On November 2, 1945, Mr. Rowden was honorably discharged with the rank of a Technical Sergeant in San Antonio, TX. Beginning in June 1947, he worked as a technician for the Missouri National Guard. He retired from the Missouri National Guard in April 1983 as Chief Warrant Officer, 4th grade, receiving a retirement certificate crediting him with 38 years of service to his country.

The medals, ribbons, and awards Mr. Rowden has received are numerous. He was awarded a Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Award, and Silver Start Patriotic Service Award—just to name a few. Mr. Rowden has been married to Launa for 68 years and they are residents of Jefferson City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Wilburn C. Rowden for his service to our country. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORLANDO UNION RESCUE MISSION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the 65th anniversary of the Orlando Union Rescue Mission, one of Orlando's oldest and largest homeless service providers. Since 1948, the Orlando Union Rescue Mission has provided both physically and spiritually for the homeless community of Central Florida.

The Orlando Union Rescue Mission programs meet the needs of homeless men, women and children. Those who seek refuge at the Mission are provided nutritious meals, safe shelter, and discipleship programs that equip them to lead fulfilling, self-sufficient lives. In celebration of their 65th anniversary, the Orlando Union Rescue Mission is featuring 65 individuals who, upon successful completion of the Mission's programs, have been freed of the burdens of homelessness.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, it is a privilege to recognize the Orlando Union Rescue Mission for their exemplary compassion and generosity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RUSTY KEEBLE FOUNDATION AND ITS GANGFREE AMERICA CAMPAIGN

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Rusty Keeble Foundation (RKF), which is dedicated to increasing gang awareness and reducing gang violence around the country. The RKF has launched an initiative entitled the GANGFREE America Campaign, which seeks to raise awareness by recognizing November as GANGFREE Illinois Month. This innovative initiative is aimed at fostering safe environments in communities across Illinois, including in Peoria, so that the children in those communities can continue to grow, learn, and reach their full potential free from the negative influences of gangs.

Gang violence has been a blight on our communities for far too long. Currently, more than 1.4 million young people are involved with gangs, up 40 percent since 2009. In many areas across the United States, gang violence accounts for almost 50 percent of all violent crimes, and in some cities and suburban areas, that percentage is even higher.

These staggering statistics are one representation of the effect of gangs on our communities and country, but the more potent manifestation of these numbers is the lost potential of the young people who get involved. Across our country, too many young men and women are seeing their future possibilities narrow into one act of violence, one drug deal, one prison term, after another.

Initiatives like the GANGFREE America Campaign are taking the steps needed to correct our nation's gang-related problems and working to ensure brighter futures for our youth. The GANGFREE America Campaign's community-focused approach employs schools as well as law enforcement to unify and empower citizens against the formation and spread of gangs in towns and cities across Illinois as well as the entire country. It is my hope that with the help of organizations like the Rusty Keeble Foundation, we can eradicate the gang epidemic in the United States, and I am honored to rise today to recognize their courageous efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE WARREN J. BAKER CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the dedication of the Warren J. Baker Center for Science and Mathematics in honor of my dear friend President Emeritus Warren J. Baker.

The dedication of the Warren J. Baker Center for Science and Mathematics is a testimony to President Baker's legacy and tireless work on behalf of STEM education for over 30 years at Cal Poly. Under his leadership, several of Cal Poly's programs have become known as some of the best in the country including engineering, architecture and agriculture. His outstanding service to the students and vision for the campus will be felt for decades to come through the work of the Baker Center.

The Center's location in the heart of the campus symbolizes the role of mathematics and science at the nexus of Cal Poly's curriculum. The state-of-the-art center will exemplify the University's ''Learn by Doing'' educational philosophy by providing an environment that inspires innovation, collaboration and practical application. Not only will the center enhance the education of countless students that will pass through its doors, but our community will owe a great debt of gratitude for providing a strong workforce for the future. Simply put, the Baker Center will transform the way science and mathematics are taught and will no doubt play a prominent role in many promising academic careers for years to come.

RECOGNIZING JOHN ''JACK'' HESS, Ph.D.

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today honoring John ''Jack'' Hess, Ph.D. for receiving the Longs Peak Council Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. His academic and professional contributions to the field of geology should serve as an example to all Americans of how one's career can serve and improve his or her community.

A former Eagle Scout, Jack has served as a Congressional Science Fellow for Senator HARRY REID and currently serves as a member of the United States Commission for UNESCO, the United States National Committee for Geological Sciences, and the Science Committee for the National Natural Landmarks Program. In 2000, Jack was bestowed the Silver Antelope Award, the highest award the western region can provide.

Since his arrival in Colorado in 2001, Jack has served on the Board of Directors and as a chair for the Longs Peak Council. As the representative of Colorado's second congressional district, home to incredible geological structures such as The Flatirons, I am honored to recognize Jack for his vast contribution to this country and my district.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. JIM BRIDENSTINE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the upcoming National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan); an important day which led to the establishment of the Republic of China in 1912.

Taiwan and the United States have been good friends and strong security and economic partners for many years. Both countries believe that Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law are critical to maintaining a flourishing society.

Taiwan is not only an economic player in the Pacific, it also plays and important role in the U.S. economy. In 2012, Taiwan was the 11th largest U.S. trading partner and it's the 7th largest market for U.S. agricultural products. In light of this, I encourage the Administration to solidify a bilateral investment agreement with Taiwan, as it would boost both trade and investments for both parties.

Taiwan is a vital part of the Asian economy and an APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) member. I would like to see Taiwan joining the Trans Pacific Partnership as soon as possible. I encourage my colleagues to support Taiwan in their efforts to join the TPP.

RECOGNIZING BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to recognize Bethany Christian Services of Winter Garden, Florida. Bethany Christian Services is a global nonprofit organization dedicated to caring for orphans and vulnerable children.

Founded in 1944, Bethany Christian Services is the largest adoption agency in the United States serving in over a hundred offices in more than thirty states. Their mission is to demonstrate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting and enhancing the lives of children and families worldwide. In striving toward a world where every child has a loving family and support system, Bethany Christian Services provides programs and services to families and vulnerable children of all ages including, adoption, foster care, refugee assistance, family support and preservation, sponsorships and counseling.

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting with Cheri Williams and Taniya Lall Jimenez from Bethany Christian Services of Winter Garden, Florida. Their spirit of dedication, commitment and leadership to children and families is to be commended. Bethany Christian Services is a shining example of the fruits of selflessness demonstrated by those who devote themselves to our future generations by investing in lives of families and children in Central Florida. I was pleased to recognize and honor them with the 2013 Angels in Adoption award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

The community and families of Central Florida are blessed to have a prominent leader in social services such as Bethany Christian Services. I commend them for their compassion and services to children and families worldwide. May their investment in social services inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLORIDA SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

HON. STEVE SOUTHERLAND II

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the people of Franklin County, Florida, who are celebrating the 50th annual Florida Seafood Festival, a two-day event that draws tens of thousands of visitors to the historic city of Apalachicola.

First held in 1914, the Florida Seafood Festival did not become an annual tradition until 1963. This non-profit, volunteer-driven event celebrates not only the finest seafood in America, but also the dedicated men and women of the seafood industry who serve as the backbone of Franklin County's economy and rich history.

This year's milestone celebration comes at a time of both economic and ecological hardship for Franklin County's oyster industry. However, with all challenges come new opportunities, and I am confident this close-knit community will persevere in the face of adversity as it has time and again.

In closing, I congratulate the people of Franklin County for hosting the 2013 Florida Seafood Festival and expect a tremendous turnout that reflects the support we all have for North Florida's seafood industry and the people of Franklin County.

HONORING BISHOP THOMAS LANIER HOYT, JR.

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the life and legacy of Bishop Thomas Lanier Hoyt, Jr., the 48th Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church and presiding prelate of the seventh Episcopal district who recently passed away. While I am deeply saddened by his passing, I know his legacy will live through his message of faith and his dedication to his ministry.

Bishop Hoyt, a native son of Alabama, was installed as the senior CME bishop on June 30, 2010. His journey in leadership with the denomination began in 1994 when he was first elected to the Episcopacy. Throughout his tenure he took on countless leadership roles in the denomination. He pastored several CME churches in New York and North Carolina during the course of his career and until his death, Bishop Hoyt remained at the forefront of the CME church's efforts to change lives throughout the Nation.

Bishop Hoyt was also an accomplished theological scholar. He earned various degrees including a Ph.D. from Duke University and a Doctor of Divinity from Trinity College. Bishop Hoyt was a professor of theology for more than 25 years. His academic career included stints at the Interdenominational Theological Center, The School of Religion at Howard University and Hartford Seminary. His best known lectures were the Lyman Beecher Lectures at the Yale Divinity School in 1993.

Bishop Hoyt furthered his academic pursuits through extensive research and writing. He wrote and published more than 40 articles for professional journals and publications throughout his lifetime. He also co-authored and partnered with other scholars to publish various books including ''Stony the Road we Trod: An African-American Biblical Interpretation.''

As a result of his extraordinary accomplishments, Bishop Hoyt received numerous awards and honors which included a visit to Pope John Paul II with a delegation from the National Council of Churches. He also served as a delegate to the World Council of Churches in Porto, Alegre, Brazil and as the CME representative at the World Council of Churches meeting on Faith and Order in Spain.

On behalf of my home state of Alabama, and a grateful Nation, I am honored to pay tribute to Bishop Hoyt. This extraordinary Man of God was indeed a good and faithful servant. His life was a perfect illustration of his passion for ministry and leadership. Through the years, he was guided by his faith and his commitment to the CME church and we are indeed grateful for all that he has left us. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Bishop Thomas Lanier Hoyt, Jr.

HONORING THE LATE JOHN F. KUFFNER, OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame will hold a ceremony in Columbus next week to mark the induction of its 2013 class. I am honored to commend to the House one of these inductees: the late John F. ''Jack'' Kuffner of St. Marys, who served as an aerographer in the United States Navy from 1946 to 1948.

An attorney for more than a half century, Mr. Kuffner served the people of Auglaize County as assistant prosecuting attorney and later as prosecuting attorney. He was subsequently elected to the Auglaize County Common Pleas Court, receiving the Ohio Supreme Court's Award for Superior Judicial Service. Judge Kuffner was past president of the Auglaize County Bar Association, an honorary

lifetime member of the Ohio State Bar Association, and a 50-year member of the American Bar Association.

Judge Kuffner's devotion to community service provides us with an outstanding model of civic participation. President of the local Jaycees and member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge 767, he was a charter member of the St. Marys Kiwanis Club, founded in 1956. He received Mason of the Year honors in 2008 and was a 50-year member of Mercer Lodge No. 121. A life member of VFW Post 9289 and American Legion Post 323, he also held numerous offices through the years at Zion Lutheran Church in St. Marys.

Mr. Speaker, selection for the Hall of Fame is a high honor accorded to no more than 20 Ohioans each year. To be considered for induction, individuals must not only serve the nation honorably in the military, but also reflect the high value of service to others in their post-military careers.

I am pleased to join in the accolades for Judge Jack Kuffner and his inestimable record of service as he is inducted posthumously into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3080) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes:

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the DeFazio/Blumenauer/Jackson Lee/Pingree/Edwards/Bonamici amendment to H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act. Our amendment would delay the so-called environmental streamlining provisions of the bill until the backlog of approved projects is meaningfully reduced. Environmental reviews are essential to the construction of better designed, more cost effective projects that meet important federal priorities like protecting public health and the environment. Unfortunately, the bill as written offers a false promise of expediting projects and reducing the backlog by paring back environmental reviews. The reality is that this will only lead to projects that damage the environment and ultimately cost more in the long run.

This WRRDA bill contains essential authorizations that will invest in our ports, waterways, and flood protection systems. The changes it makes to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund will benefit our nation's small ports and I am cautiously optimistic that we will soon be able to leverage all of the HMTF funds to the benefit of our ports both large and small. It also begins to reduce the project backlog by deauthorizing some older projects that have not yet begun. And even though I am disappointed in the environmental streamlining provisions of the underlying bill, it represents a bipartisan agreement that will keep us moving forward and allow House and Senate negotiators to bring this matter to a speedy resolution.

I urge my colleagues to support the DeFazio/Blumenauer/Jackson Lee/Pingree/Edwards/Bonamici amendment to improve this bill, and to support passage of H.R. 3080.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the founding of the City of Ridgecrest in my district.

Located in the southern portion of the Indian Wells Valley, Ridgecrest embodies what makes America exceptional—love of country, hard work, and dedication. The roots of Ridgecrest began much earlier than 1963, when the city was incorporated. In 1912, local dairymen James and Robert Crum established a small farming settlement named Crumville. As more farming families settled the Naval Ordnance Testing Station was created, the community continued to grow. By 1963, the town was officially incorporated as Ridgecrest and experienced exponential growth as the demand for expertise in the naval station's programs for weapons development increased during the Cold War. Today, the Naval Ordnance Test Station is now the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake (NAWS) and home to the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division.

Growing together with China Lake, the Ridgecrest community also grew, supporting the tireless mission of our nation's defense with zeal. One of the most patriotic communities in America, Ridgecrest remains dedicated to the defense of American ideals and helping members of the armed forces.

Ridgecrest boasts a rich historic and educational history. The city has many cultural and recreational activities, such as the Maturango Museum, the China Lake Naval Museum of Armament and Technology, and the Petroglyph Canyons. Boasting National Blue Ribbon and California Distinguished Schools, Ridgecrest schools, served by the Sierra Sands Unified School District, consistently perform at the highest academic levels. Additionally, with the establishment of Cerro Coso Community College in 1973, Ridgecrest carries a statewide reputation for hosting one of the top community colleges in California, serving over 8,500 students.

Over half a century, Ridgecrest remains a California jewel, honoring and supporting America's great warfighter, and sharing in the success of one of the Navy's premier research, testing, development, and evaluation installations. Such success cannot be replicated without the hardworking people and the close-knit community that is unique to Ridgecrest. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and my friends in the Ridgecrest community as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of its incorporation as a city in the great state of California.

CELEBRATING THE CHRISTENING OF THE USS GERALD R. FORD, CVN 78

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the christening of the USS *Gerald R. Ford*, CVN 78, the first in a new class of supercarriers. The ship will be officially Christened November 9th by the former President's only daughter, who is the ships sponsor, at Newport News Shipyard in Virginia.

It is a fitting tribute to the life and legacy of our 38th President that this new ship, which will be the most powerful warship to ever sail the seas, carries his name.

The USS *Gerald R. Ford* is over 1100 ft long, has a flight deck of approximately 4 acres, displaces 100,000 tons with a complement of 4,660 Sailors. It is a magnificent vessel which will serve the nation for the next 50 years; proudly carrying the name of our former President from my home state of Michigan.

As a former Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, I know that this upcoming ceremony will be a great day for our nation, this House where President Ford served for 25 years, our Navy, and the State of Michigan as a favorite son is afforded his rightful place in naval history.

The USS *Gerald R. Ford* is scheduled to enter active service to the Navy in 2015 after completion of construction by our friends the master shipbuilders in Newport News, VA.

RECOGNIZING THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE NILE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Daughters of the Nile on its 100th anniversary and congratulate its members, in particular the more than 400 members of the Shimron Temple No. 133, Pensacola, Florida, on their years of service to Northwest Florida and communities throughout North America.

Founded in 1913 by Mabel Krows in Seattle, Washington, the Daughters of the Nile is an international fraternal organization for adult women related by birth or marriage to a Shriner, Master Mason, a Daughter of the Nile or a member in good standing of a Masonic organization for girls. On February 20, 1913, Mabel Krows invited wives of the Nile Temple to discuss creating a club modeled after the Zuhrah's Ladies in Minneapolis, of which Mrs. Krows' mother belonged, following the disbanding of the Daughters of Isis in Tacoma, Washington. The Ladies of the Nile expanded to include the wives, daughters, mothers, widows and sisters of Nobles of any Masonic Temple, and the officers for the first Daughters of the Nile were elected on October 16, 1913. Over one hundred years after its founding, the Daughters of the Nile membership has grown to over 26,000 women in 139 cities throughout the United States and Canada.

As proud supporters of Shriners Hospitals for Children, the Daughters of the Nile donates over $1.7 million annually to Shriners, amounting to more than $50 million since 1924. Its contributions to the medical care and rehabilitation of children at twenty-two hospital locations, however, spread well beyond its financial support. The members of Daughters of the Nile are also generous with their time and talent, volunteering over 150,000 hours each year. Their efforts include sewing clothing and quilts, providing toys, books, and other educational and recreational items, as well as helping to organize functions and outreach events for the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am pleased to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Daughters of the Nile and congratulate its members on this important milestone. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing its membership many more years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING DON TUTTLE AS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Don Tuttle, who is being honored, along with his wife Andrea, as the Humboldt County DCC Citizen of the Year, an award he richly deserved.

Don Tuttle's long career with the Humboldt County Public Works Department's Natural Resources Division and his deep involvement in key resource, energy and historical issues has been a great benefit to Humboldt County and California's North Coast. His expertise and meticulous chronicling of events continues to be an asset on which the community relies.

Don Tuttle's positions as administrator of the Eel-Russian River Commission from 1978 to 1988, and as a member of the Trinity River Task Force Technical Advisory Committee, helped shape the recovery of two essential North Coast rivers. As chairman of the Humboldt Bay Harbor Safety Commission, he was instrumental in developing the Humboldt Bay Deepening Project, which allows the harbor to act as a deep-water port and ensures the safety of all mariners. As a longtime member of the Humboldt County Historical Society, and president of the society from 1989 to 1992, Don Tuttle has painstakingly worked to preserve the county's rich history.

Among the vital efforts in which Don Tuttle was instrumental are helping secure funding from Congress for a bank protection project to shield King Salmon from wave and tidal action; assisting in recapturing water diverted from the Eel River for the benefit of salmon and steelhead; developing a mitigation bank in conjunction with the Fay Slough Wildlife Area north of Eureka; and the creation of a vast data bank of aerial photographs, maps, and documents used by many professionals in Humboldt County.

Mr. Speaker, Don Tuttle's tremendous efforts to preserve and protect the Humboldt County community and its natural resources are worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations for his selection as Citizen of the Year.

WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3080) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes:

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chair, I would first like to commend the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for working together on this bipartisan legislation. The collaboration between Chairman SCHUSTER, Ranking Member RAHALL and the rest of the committee demonstrates that we can work together to invest in our nation's infrastructure to make the U.S. more competitive and grow the economy. The backlog of unfinished water infrastructure projects and maintenance is hindering economic recovery and hurting small businesses by slowing trade. This bill helps address the backlog by updating critical infrastructure to allow goods to move more efficiently across our nation's waterways, ports and coasts.

However, like most pieces of legislation, this bill is not perfect. Although this bill makes some critical improvements to current law, I continue to be concerned with changes in environmental assessments and public comment periods in the U.S. Army Corps' project approval process. That is why I supported Rep. PETER DEFAZIO's (OR–04) amendment requiring the Army Corps to decrease their backlog of water infrastructure improvements to under $20 billion before the modified environmental assessment process can go into effect. There are currently over $40 billion in projects that have been authorized under the current approval process, but they lack sufficient appropriations to actually complete them. While I understand the need to improve the Army Corps' project approval process, it would be helpful to start addressing the lack of appropriated funds for previously authorized projects.

Although Rep. DEFAZIO's amendment failed, I still supported this legislation because it makes many important improvements to the Great Lakes water infrastructure that will improve transportation and trade as well as protect against invasive species. I will continue to fight for policies that help the Army Corps decrease its backlog of construction and maintenance projects and protect our precious natural resources.

RETAIL INVESTOR PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, well, here we go again. The House is taking up another bill that seeks to gut the Dodd-Frank Act. H.R. 2374's authors purport that the bill is meant to protect investors. But its practical effect would be just the opposite. The bill would impose onerous—and unnecessary—new requirements on the Securities and Exchange Commission from imposing a common fiduciary standard on broker-dealers and investment advisers alike. Dodd-Frank directed that the Commission study this matter, and it did. The Commission found it necessary in a 2011 report and stands ready, willing, and able to complete a rulemaking. What's worse is that the bill would also prevent the Department of Labor from moving forward with a fiduciary duty rulemaking for employee benefit plans until after the Commission has acted. In the simplest of terms, the Commission's and Department of Labor's common intention with these rulemakings is to protect investors. H.R. 2374's practical effect would be to prevent both from doing so.

This is another example of not having learned the lessons of the past. Investor abuses in part precipitated the 2008 financial crisis. Passing H.R. 2374 would be a terrible step backward and a validation of the practices that nearly brought this country to its knees. The financial services industry is in no way, shape, or form deserving of this type of deregulation. Vote this bill down, and stand up for the financial security of American investors.

RETAIL INVESTOR PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2374, the Retail Investor Protection Act. As you may know, this legislation would prohibit the Secretary of Labor from finalizing a regulation related to investment advisors until the SEC issues a final rule on the standard and conduct for brokers and dealers of securities. The SEC, under Dodd-Frank, already has been designated with the duty of providing universal standards of conduct for brokers and dealers that are similarly in place for investment advisors.

Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I have been disappointed in the Department of Labor's (DOL) efforts to redefine fiduciary duty for the purposes of ERISA. While I have no doubt that the ERISA law needs to be updated, I believe that the Department has not acted in good faith to put out a pragmatic and acceptable rulemaking. I, along with a bipartisan group of my colleagues, was successful in having the DOL withdraw their original rulemaking pertaining to fiduciary status after we raised both financial security concerns on behalf of average consumers and investors and conflicts of intent with the SEC. Unfortunately, since the Department's withdrawal, it has not been amenable to making practical changes going forward.

Over the course of the past couple of years, I have questioned then-Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis and have met with Employee Benefits Security Administration officials, including Assistant Secretary Phyllis Borzi to get a better handle on the impetus of DOL's efforts. Following those conversations, I can report

that, while the Department's intent is in the right place in regard to this rulemaking, its efforts have ultimately been misplaced. For me, concerns remain for the future of low-balance IRA holders who may be orphaned if the DOL abandons the brokerage model in favor of either "do it yourself" online tools, that are often times confusing to average investors, or an advisory model, that typically is out of the price range of average consumers and requires a high minimum balance for account holders. Further, questions remain over the extent of the coordination between DOL and the SEC. The letters I've seen between the agencies are superficial in nature and certainly do not give the indication that any substantial conversations have occurred on the issue. Finally, DOL has not quelled the fears of advisors and broker-dealers that believe that liability concerns might curb access to basic financial information for consumers if a broad fiduciary definition is adopted.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2374 is not an ideal bill and I do have reservations about the precedent this legislation may set in regard to the regular order process for agency rulemakings. However, as I noted above, the Department of Labor has not given me full faith that this process is moving forward in a responsible manner, especially given its shared jurisdiction with the SEC.

Especially in these uncertain economic times, this Congress must be focused on incentivizing responsible investment and augmenting access to financial literacy and education. I do not believe these tests have been met successfully thus far by DOL and because of the potentially stifling affect a shortsighted rule may have on the national economy, I will lend my support to the Retail Investor Protection Act.

HONORING PATRICK W. EMERY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Patrick W. Emery, who, along with his law partners at Abbey, Weitzenberg, Warren & Emery, is a recipient of the Sonoma County Bar Association's 2013 Career of Distinction Award. This is the highest honor presented by the Association and it is, indeed, well deserved.

Mr. Emery has been a trial lawyer in Sonoma County for 38 years and is one of the leading plaintiff's attorneys in Northern California specializing in wrongful death, product failures, medical negligence and consumer class action litigation. He has won some of the largest jury verdicts ever awarded in Sonoma County.

For his work, Mr. Emery has consistently been recognized as a Northern California Super Lawyer. Super Lawyers is a rating service that selects outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process is multi-phased and includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations.

Mr. Emery has served as President of the Sonoma County Bar Association and as a Judge Pro Tem of the Sonoma County Superior Court.

He is a frequent continuing education lecturer on civil litigation and has taught Trial Practice at Empire College of Law in Santa Rosa and currently teaches in the Trial Advocacy Workshop at Stanford Law School.

Mr. Emery's community involvement includes service as the President of the Sonoma County Fair and the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County as well as the Chair of the Sonoma County Civil Service Commission.

Mr. Speaker, Patrick Emery has been an outstanding attorney in Sonoma County for 38 years. He is respected and held in high esteem by his peers as is reflected in the honor he has received from the Sonoma County Bar Association. It is therefore appropriate that we honor him today.

HONORING JANE DAVIS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of my constituents, Jane A. Davis, of Greensburg, Indiana.

Jane was a longtime resident of Greensburg, working in manufacturing at PrintPack for 33 years before her retirement in 1999. On a personal note, my brother Rich and I have very fond memories of summer evenings spent at Jane's house after days playing ball and riding bikes with her son Chad. Their friendships, and the friendship of their entire family, were a very important part of our childhood. Those memories will never be forgotten.

I ask the entire 6th District to keep Jane's children, Kim, Tammy, Lee Ann, Jodi, Brad, and Chad, along with the entire extended Davis family in your thoughts and prayers.

HONORING JOHN J. DIPPEL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John J. Dippel of Westfield, Indiana. He passed away on September 21, 2013, at the age of 75. John was an outstanding civil servant who served both Westfield and the state of Indiana with integrity.

A graduate of Sacred Heart High School in Indianapolis, now Roncalli High School, John Dippel began his service to our great nation in the United States Army, where he served in the 82nd Airborne Division for two years. After his military service, he began working for Indiana Bell/Ameritech for over thirty years before his retirement in 1994. John then began a second career in advertising promotions before being elected to the Westfield Town Council, later the Westfield City Council, in 2007.

In 2008, Westfield was officially recognized as a city. John was an instrumental part of this significant change for the community he loved. He also assisted with the planning and implementation of Grand Park as a member of the Financial Committee and the Westfield Sport Commission. This 400-acre sports campus will host athletic competitions, local, regional and national sports tournaments, and community sporting events.

John J. Dippel was a community leader and a patriot. I am proud that exceptional citizens and public servants, such as John, call my district home and am honored to recognize his life's work today. My condolences and well wishes go out to his wife of 52 years, Marcyann; his sons, Nick, Joe and Daniel and daughters, Maura Kautsky and Andrea Doran; 14 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and his sister, Mary Heisig. My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAVAL AIR WEAPONS STATION CHINA LAKE

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of America's premier weapons development center, the Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake, which is located in Ridgecrest, California, which I represent.

China Lake was originally established as the Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS) in the Indian Wells Valley of California to serve the needs of the Navy-Caltech wartime rocket program. This location was chosen due to its near-perfect flying weather and incredible visibility. Testing began a month after NOTS was formally established and shortly thereafter the Secretary of the Navy expanded its mission to lead the Navy in research, development, and testing of weapons, a mission China Lake still carries out to this day.

Since being founded during World War II, China Lake has been critical in the development of our nation's defense capabilities in every major conflict, including the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of China Lake's notable developments occurred in 1950, when scientists and engineers developed the air-intercept missile (AIM). Known more commonly as the Sidewinder, the AIM has become the world's most recognized air-to-air missile and is one of many weapons that have been developed or tested at China Lake. Other prominent rockets and missiles developed or tested at China Lake include the Mighty Mouse, Zuni, Shrike, Joint Stand-off Weapon (JSOW) and Joint Direct-Attack Munition (JDAM), all of which have given and continue to give our military the capabilities needed to maintain combat superiority over current and future threats.

Spanning over three counties and covering more than 1,100,000 acres, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake is currently home to several commands and detachments that work together each day in support of our warfighters. These include: the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD), which serves within the Naval Air Systems command to maintain the highest standards of excellence in weapons development for the Navy; the Air Test and Evaluation Squadron THREE ONE (VX–31) and the Air Test and Evaluation Squadron NINE (VX–9), which provide the essential expertise needed to plan

and execute ground and flight tests, air-to-ground weapons, air-to-air weapons, sensors, electronic warfare systems, and developmental weapons and weapons systems testing; the Marine Aviation Detachment (MAD), which focuses on the development of cutting-edge technologies for weapons systems; the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachments, which are forces comprised of highly-trained technicians who specialize in explosives, diving, and parachuting; the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southwest China Lake Detachment, which is responsible for the public works, planning, engineering design, construction, real estate, and environmental services of the facilities and real estate at NAWS China Lake. Together, these tenants are made up of the hardworking men and women of the China Lake community, who work each day to maintain a reputation of excellence for the U.S. Navy and the Department of Defense.

For the past 70 years, NAWS has been critical to ensuring our military men and women have the latest cutting-edge technology to protect and defend America when called into harm's way. The weapons and weapons systems developed at China Lake help ensure these brave individuals complete their mission and return safely to their families. I have had the privilege to meet with the amazing individuals at China Lake who are responsible for these incredible innovations in American technology. Their dedication, commitment, and pride in the work they perform are unparalleled. This same commitment is reflected in the Ridgecrest community, where many of the men and women who work at this installation live and raise their families.

Mr. Speaker, NAWS China Lake is a beacon of innovation and excellence in the military community and an important part of my community and my district. I am honored to represent so many individuals, active-duty military and civilians, who go to work each day for the purpose of maintaining and strengthening both the warfighter and this nation's defense. I look forward to another 70 years of amazing achievements, and I ask my colleagues to join me today in wishing the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake a very happy 70th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING ANDREA TUTTLE AS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Andrea Tuttle, who is being honored, along with her husband Don, as the Humboldt County DCC Citizen of the Year, an award she richly deserves.

Andrea Tuttle's extensive work in forestry and climate issues around the world has made her an expert whose knowledge is invaluable in Humboldt County and around the globe. The expertise she has gained in her considerable academic and administrative experience has guided conservation, forestry and climate projects in California, the Pacific Northwest and in Asia.

Earning undergraduate and Ph. D. degrees at the University of California at Berkeley and a master's degree at the University of Washington, Andrea Tuttle was also appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board from 1976 to 1984; worked as staff for Sen. Barry Keene on the state Senate Select Committee on Forest Resources from 1987 to 1991; was appointed by Assembly Speaker Cruz Bustamante to the California Coastal Commission from 1997 to 1999; and was appointed by Gov. Gray Davis as Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection from 1999 through 2004.

Andrea Tuttle is currently an independent consultant on forest and climate policy, the chairwoman of the Pacific Forest Trust and an observer on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with a focus on reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Andrea Tuttle has published in a wide variety of scientific publications on timber management and forest carbon issues, among others. Her years of teaching as an instructor in science and natural resources at Humboldt State University, the College of the Redwoods and at UC Berkeley highlight Andrea Tuttle's desire to share what she has learned for the improvement of the local and global communities.

Mr. Speaker, Andrea Tuttle's dedication to conservation and natural resources at home in Humboldt County and abroad is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations for her selection as Citizen of the Year.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, during which we take actions to address domestic abuse and encourage people to speak up and seek help. It is when everyone can join in the efforts led by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence to end the violence and keep our communities safe.

Domestic violence is a major issue that affects our society as a whole. Many families live day to day with some form of abuse as their reality. Millions of domestic violence incidents are reported each year, and many more go undocumented. While domestic violence is not gender specific, women are the most common group affected by domestic abuse. One in four women experience domestic violence in their life and in New York State alone, 85 percent of the victims of domestic violence in 2010 were women.

In New York City, the NYPD responded to more than 263,000 domestic violence calls last year. To put that into perspective that would be about 700 reports of domestic violence a day or one every two minutes. I am dedicated to making the community safer for my constituents; recently I co-sponsored the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, which was signed into law by President Obama on March 7, 2013. The law addresses the major issue of domestic violence and makes huge strides to help put an end to it. Through the renewal of the 1994 legislation, victims of abuse will have access to resources they need to find help, and law enforcement will be better prepared to respond faster than ever. It is important that we foster an environment where people do not fear to leave an abusive situation.

I commend the outstanding work of our community organizations in addressing this problem: The Harlem Community Justice Center, New York City Family Justice Centers, STEPS to End Family Violence, Sanctuary for Families, The New York Latinas Against Domestic Violence, The New York City Human Resources Administration/ Department of Social Services (24-Hour Hotline: 1–800–621–HOPE), The Center against Domestic Violence of New York (24-Hour Hotline: 1–718–439–1000), The Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (New York State Hotline: 1–800–942–6906, and Safe Horizon (800)–621–HOPE (4673), have all done incredible work in providing invaluable assistance to the victims of domestic violence and in raising awareness.

If you are a victim of domestic violence please raise your voice and get help. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the resources listed above. We as a community support you and we will fight domestic violence together.

COMMENDING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF BELTON, TX MAYOR JIM COVINGTON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the great public service of Belton, TX Mayor Jim Covington. Jim is dedicated to making Belton's beauty, amenities, and growth his top priority.

Located deep in the heart of Texas, Belton is a unique city with friendly people and a rich history. Founded in 1850, Belton serves as the county seat of Bell County, one of the fastest growing areas in Texas. Belton is located on the famous Chisholm Trail, where millions of cattle were driven from Texas to rail heads in Kansas. Texas' state sport is celebrated daily at Belton's Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame.

A Sooner who as a young boy made his way south and took up roots in the Lone Star State, Jim is now a proud Texan. Developing leadership abilities in his youth, he settled in Belton to raise his family and realized he wanted to be a part of making the city a better place.

Jim has been instrumental in infrastructure and park improvements and has kept his eye on managing growth. A proud part of the larger Fort Hood community, he's been involved in troop support for years. Jim stays grounded by balancing his mayoral duties with his work at his wife's real estate firm and by being a devoted father and grandfather.

Jim Covington is an asset to Belton and I'm proud he's Mayor. Under his stewardship, Belton is on the right track.

RECOGNIZING THE MARRIAGE OF JOSHUA DELGADO AND MARVIN TUCKER

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy that I recognize the marriage of two outstanding, loving Riverside residents, Joshua Delgado and Marvin Tucker, who have waited 19 years for their union to be recognized.

Shortly after the Supreme Court struck down Proposition 8, California's marriage equality ban, and the Defense of Marriage Act, the federal law that barred same-sex couples from receiving federal marriage benefits, Josh and Marvin decided to get married. Now, with the legal recognition of the State of California and the guarantee of federal protections, Josh and Marvin will be married equally, as their peers have been for years.

Serving the United States Air Force for more than thirty years, Marvin Tucker currently works as the Emergency Management at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, where he's served since 1997. Finding comfort in a familiar place, Josh and Marvin hosted their wedding at the March Air Reserve Base Chapel on August 3, 2013.

Although Josh and Marvin aren't the first same sex couple in the Air Force, their wedding is the first same sex union with the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, the first on March Air Reserve Base, and the first in the Air Force Reserve Command.

It is with great honor that I wish peace, joy, and happiness to Joshua Delgado and Marvin Tucker in matrimony.

RECOGNIZING THE TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, WATER FOR SOUTH SUDAN, FOR ITS EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER AND IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE SOUTH SUDANESE PEOPLE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my esteemed honor to recognize the ten-year anniversary of the non-profit organization, Water for South Sudan, and commend this Rochester-based organization for its tireless efforts in the fight against contaminated water use in the South Sudan region. I also want to recognize and congratulate the founder of Water for South Sudan, Salva Dut, and his staff for drilling 177 wells in the South Sudan since October 2003. It is an honor to represent the district in which Water for South Sudan was founded.

Water for South Sudan has exhibited immense devotion to the Sudanese population over its ten-year history, and has served 400,000 people to date. Not only does Water for South Sudan provide clean water to the world's youngest nation, the organization also works to alleviate poverty and rebuild communities in one of the most economically depressed nations in the world.

Following a devastating twenty-year civil war, the South Sudanese were left without clean water and protection from deadly diseases, including malaria. With child mortality rates, poverty, and starvation at extreme highs, and educational levels and social and gender equality at extreme lows, there was a need for global action to help the South Sudanese people recover. When many only saw hopelessness in South Sudan, Salva Dut saw promise and stepped in to help lead his nation forward.

At the young age of 11, Salva Dut was forced to leave his family and flee South Sudan in an effort to escape the outbreak of violence and destruction resulting from the civil war. Facing rapidly spreading diseases, hunger, and the threat of attack, Dut's strength led himself and others away from imminent danger. During this time Dut showed admirable leadership by helping 1,500 ''Lost Boys'' like himself reach a United Nations-regulated camp. After more than half a decade living there, he was finally able, along with 3,800 other Lost Boys, to come to America. Dut settled in the welcoming community of Rochester, NY and established the roots that would become Water for South Sudan.

After being separated for 16 years, Dut was able to finally reconnect with his father in South Sudan in 2002. During that trip, he witnessed the devastating effects of parasite and disease-ridden water, as it took hold of his ill father. Dut then decided that he would dedicate his life to bringing clean water to the South Sudan region. This young man, who came to the United States with very little education and a language barrier, went on to become a college student, an American citizen, and the founder of one of the most respected charity organizations to date.

I am very proud of Water for South Sudan, its founder Salva Dut, his dedicated staff, and the supportive residents of the 25th Congressional district. Instead of walking away, Salva Dut and Water for South Sudan have marched forward, meeting the dire need for sustainable and safe water for the South Sudanese.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating, honoring, and thanking Water for South Sudan for its work. I am honored to represent an organization that inspires change on a global level.

HONORING JOHN HALLÉ

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Hallé, President and Chief Executive Officer of Cate Street Capital and recipient of Spurwink Services' 2013 Humanitarian of the Year Award.

Since 1987, Spurwink Services, a non-profit organization that provides mental health and educational services throughout New England, has presented its annual Humanitarian Award to an individual who works to improve the lives of others within the community and state of Maine. Spurwink made an excellent choice in presenting its 2013 Humanitarian of the Year award to John Hallé, who has displayed his deep commitment to the health and wellbeing of the people of Maine through raising funds and awareness for this important organization.

In addition to his outstanding fundraising efforts, John has positively impacted the state of Maine through his business ventures and forward-looking vision. In 2009, after 25 years with a number of high-growth financial companies, John founded Cate Street Capital, which invests in sustainable and innovative technologies that not only create jobs but also help to preserve and protect the environment for future generations.

More recently, John and Cate Street Capital have focused much of their efforts on reviving Great Northern Paper in East Millinocket, Maine. John's efforts have helped restore one of Maine's proudest and most iconic industries and led to the creation of more than 250 jobs.

On November 9, 2013, John Hallé will be honored as Spurwink Services' 2013 Humanitarian of the Year at a dinner gala and award ceremony at the Portland Marriot at Sable Oaks in South Portland, Maine. I am looking forward to being in attendance as John receives this much deserved award.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating John Hallé on being named Spurwink Services' Humanitarian of the Year and recognizing his tremendous contributions to the state of Maine.

IN RECOGNITION OF KEITH SHAPIRO'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Keith Shapiro for his outstanding legal career, but more importantly, his leadership and service to the Jewish community.

Keith's legal career speaks for itself. Having practiced in Chicago for 30 years, Keith is the Chairman and Co-Founder of the Chicago office of Greenberg Traurig and serves as the Vice President of the 1,750-lawyer worldwide firm. His success as an attorney in the practice of global business reorganization and financial restructuring earned him recognition as one of America's 100 Top Global Turnaround Professionals. He continues to serve the legal community as part of the Law Advisory Board of the Emory University School of Law. However, his legal career may only be surpassed by his service to his community.

On November 4, 2013, the American Jewish Committee will award Keith with the Judge Learned Hand Human Relations Award, given annually to a person who, in the words of Judge Hand, does not ''ration justice,'' thereby safeguarding the rights of individuals in our democracy.

I could think of no more deserving recipient, as Keith Shapiro exemplifies service through action. A strong advocate for U.S.-Israel relations, Keith has served on the Executive Council of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee for many years. For over a decade, he has served on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. His is a member of the Board of Trustees of The Jewish Theological Seminary, Vice Chairman of The Anti-Defamation League's Midwest Region, and Chairman of the Anti-

Defamation League's Jerold Solovy First Amendment Freedom Award event.

A proud husband and father, Keith continues to pass along his spirit of service to his three sons and future generations. Keith Shapiro is a model public servant and is deserving of this prestigious honor. Congratulations, Keith.

EL CONCILIO'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 45th anniversary of El Concilio, Council for the Spanish Speaking. Since 1968, El Concilio has worked in Stockton, California, and throughout the San Joaquin Valley to provide assistance to the Spanish-speaking community. El Concilio offers programs that assist with a wide range of services, including immigration assistance, education, English language skills, and financial literacy.

El Concilio is the perfect example of an organization that is committed to working with and for the community to improve the lives of others. By partnering with local and corporate businesses and other organizations, El Concilio is able to engage with the public on a large scale and focus its efforts where they are needed most.

El Concilio's efforts and influence have been instrumental in assisting the Spanish-speaking community. El Concilio has helped unite neighborhoods, foster communication, and provide an anchor in the community where families can receive trustworthy advice and support. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing El Concilio and its staff for their invaluable contributions over the past 45 years.

HONORING THE WORK OF HARKER HEIGHTS, TX MAYOR MIKE AYCOCK

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Harker Heights, TX Mayor Mike Aycock. He's proudly carrying on his family's contributions to public service.

Harker Heights, just over 50 years old, is part of the larger Fort Hood community. One of the fastest growing cities in Texas, Harker Heights offers numerous recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

The son of Bell County Commissioner Joe Aycock, Mike is part of a proud family that's been in Bell County since after the Civil War. Mike settled for good in Harker Heights after college. Nurtured by citizen activists and former mayor Ed Mullen, Aycock rose to the mayor's post and has developed a reputation as a courteous and dedicated public servant who remains focused on doing what's right for Harker Heights.

The relatively young city of Harker Heights deserves a mayor with energy and enthusiasm to tackle the challenges of the future. It has one in Mike Aycock. I'm glad he's there and I look forward to seeing great things happen for Harker Heights.

HONORING PALMER PLACE RESTAURANT & BIERGARTEN'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Palmer Place Restaurant & Biergarten in La Grange, Illinois on its 30th Anniversary. For the past three decades, Palmer Place has been the keystone of downtown La Grange as it has grown into one of the most vibrant communities in suburban Chicago. Since its founding, Palmer Place has served delicious food and quality beers in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

In 1982, Ruth Palmer returned home from a trip to Germany with the inspiration to open what would be the first Biergarten in Chicago's western suburbs. Despite the risky business circumstances, in 1983, Ruth and Mike Palmer founded Palmer Place Restaurant & Biergarten. In the past 30 years the Palmer family has been monumental in reviving downtown La Grange, and helping to make it the thriving business district it is today.

Though the restaurant has grown from 8 employees to 126, Palmer Place remains family owned and operated by Ruth Palmer, and after the passing of Mike Palmer in 1990, their sons Phil and Steve Palmer. Now, the third generation of Palmer's has begun work in the family business: Kyle Palmer, Merle Palmer, and Robert Palmer. The family's commitment to the community has been extraordinary over the past 30 years. In 2012 alone, Palmer Place donated over $50,000 in gift-certificates to local charities in addition to the family conducting and contributing to numerous charitable events. The family's commitment is further illustrated in the active role they have played in the La Grange Business Association, West Suburban Chamber of Commerce, and the Illinois Restaurant Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Palmer Place Restaurant & Biergarten on its 30th Anniversary. The Palmer Family's flourishing restaurant is a shining example of the positive influence that local businesses can have on their communities. May it continue to thrive in La Grange and serve as an example to all small business entrepreneurs.

HONORING W. BARTON WEITZENBERG

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor W. Barton Weitzenberg, who, along with his law partners at Abbey, Weitzenberg, Warren & Emery, is a recipient of the Sonoma County Bar Association's 2013 Career of Distinction Award. This is the highest honor presented by the Association and it is, indeed, well deserved.

Mr. Weitzenberg has been a practicing attorney in Sonoma County for 35 years and he, along with his law firm, has won more large recoveries for his clients than any other attorney in Sonoma County. Mr. Weitzenberg specializes in representing individuals in their claims against insurance companies and large corporations.

For his work, Mr. Weitzenberg has consistently been recognized as a Northern California Super Lawyer. Super Lawyers is a rating service that selects outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process is multi-phased and includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations.

He is also recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America according to Best Lawyers, the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession. A listing in Best Lawyers conferred on a lawyer by his or her peers is widely regarded by both clients and legal professionals as a significant honor.

Mr. Weitzenberg has served as President of the Redwood Empire Trial Lawyers Association, the Sonoma County Trial Lawyers Association, the Consumer Attorneys of Sonoma County, the Richard Sangster Inn of American Inns of Court and has been a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

He is an instructor in Trial Advocacy with the Stanford School of Law and the Empire School of Law in Santa Rosa, California

Mr. Weitzenberg's community involvement includes board membership on the Sonoma County YMCA, the Redwood Empire Blood Bank and the California Water Fowl Association.

Mr. Speaker, Barton Weitzenberg has been an outstanding attorney in Sonoma County for 35 years. He is respected and held in high esteem by his peers as is reflected in the honor he has received from the Sonoma County Bar Association. It is therefore appropriate that we honor him today.

RECOGNIZING FARMEDHERE FOR BEING NAMED A TOP 10 ''UP-AND-COMER'' FOR THE 12TH ANNUAL CHICAGO INNOVATION AWARDS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize FarmedHere, a revolutionary vertical farming facility in Bedford Park, IL for being named a Top 10 ''Up-and-Comer'' for the 12th Annual Chicago Innovation Awards.

In March 2013, FarmedHere opened the world's largest indoor vertical farming operation. At a repurposed warehouse, FarmedHere uses cutting-edge technological advances in aquaponics and aeroponics to supply Chicagoland residents and restaurants with chemical-, herbicide- and pesticide-free herbs, vegetables, and fish. As FarmedHere's operation continues to expand and become more efficient, they are proving that sustainable urban farming is a viable option for Chicagoans.

In providing locally sourced food throughout Chicago, FarmedHere exemplifies environmentally responsible business practices. Instead of expanding horizontally over hundreds of acres, FarmedHere's fields are stacked on top of each other. This vertical growing technology coupled with local distribution reduces energy use, travel time, and costs. FarmedHere extends its green-thinking to its paper packaging, which uses 90 percent less plastic than traditional supermarket boxes. Recently, FarmedHere, in partnership with The Resource Center, a non-profit environmental education organization, established a program that allows FarmedHere to convert all of its organic waste into compost. This compost is then used at other urban farms throughout the Chicago area, helping these farms continue to grow and thrive.

In addition to providing residents with local and environmentally-friendly products, FarmedHere positively affects the Chicago community. FarmedHere provides life changing opportunities for non-violent ex-offenders by hiring and training them to work in their vertical farm. FarmedHere also aims to expand its operations and bring 200 new jobs to the Chicago community by 2014, which will help bolster the local economy.

I was pleased to hear that all of this great work has resulted in FarmedHere's recognition by the Chicago Innovation Awards. Each year the Chicago Innovation Awards recognize the most innovative new products and services in the region across all industries and sectors. By honoring Chicagoland's most creative, the Awards strengthen the region's economic future and spread the spirit of innovation. Chosen from a record-breaking pool of 562 applicants, FarmedHere was named one of ten ''Up-and-Comer'' award winners this year. The ''Up-and-Comer'' award recognizes Chicago's premier start-up organizations and provides these organizations with connections to capital, mentors, and business resources. FarmedHere's prizes include an invitation to ring the NASDAQ Bell in New York City, advertising exposure with the Chicago Transit Authority, invitations to attend meetings with Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Governor Pat Quinn, and a profile in Crain's Chicago Business. As the greatest source of new jobs for the U.S. economy, start-ups like FarmedHere deserve this praise and support.

FarmedHere and vertical farms alike are beneficial for the economy and the environment, and I am proud that this one-of-a-kind facility is located in the 3rd District of Illinois. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the entire FarmedHere family on their recent honor and to wish them many years of continued success.

RUNAWAY REPORTING IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that each year in the United States 1.6 million children and youth run away or are thrown out of their homes. Every child reported to have run away is required by law to be listed in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database as a missing person. This cooperative effort of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies aids in information-sharing and promotes cooperation in investigating and resolving multi-jurisdictional cases. The NCIC database is an important part of the puzzle because it can be accessed by virtually every law enforcement officer in the United States. Without an NCIC entry, officers in one part of the country have no way to know that a child is missing at all.

Sadly, an estimated 16 percent of reported runaways are never entered in the NCIC database as missing persons. Without an NCIC entry, law enforcement officers will not share information or resources, and are far less able to discover or protect a missing child because law enforcement doesn't know to look for him or her.

To help address this problem, my colleague Rep. TED POE and I are introducing the Runaway Reporting Improvement Act. This legislation would require law enforcement agencies to certify that they are complying with the law and entering all runaway children into the NCIC database. Additionally, agencies would be required to give parents or guardians of missing children information about the help available through the 24-hour, toll-free phone numbers for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Runaway Safeline. These two organizations provide referral services and counseling to the parents or guardians of missing children.

The necessary resources are already in place. We simply must do better by our children. The Runaway Reporting Improvement Act will help ensure that existing processes are used to find and protect those most vulnerable.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SUPERSTORM SANDY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today as our nation commemorates the one year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, we remember the 117 victims and their loved ones. Countless lives were affected by this storm, as well as homes, and businesses that were ruined all along Mid-Atlantic shores. Thousands of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut residents were displaced, and to this day they are still working very hard get back on their feet.

For many, it may still feel like it was just yesterday that Superstorm Sandy made landfall, wreaking havoc along its path. I am proud to say that during the immediate aftermath many people, especially in our congressional district, pulled together to help provide aid to all those who were hit the hardest. There are still many families who have not fully recovered from the damages that were incurred and need assistance. Last year, I, along with members of state and federal legislators, came together to push forward the Hurricane Sandy Tax Relief Act of 2012, which was a big step forward on a long road to restoration. We will continue to work hard to ensure the recovery of all those affected by the storm.

Many thanks go out to the rescue workers and first responders who worked around-the-clock to save lives, restore power, and deal with the aftermath of the storm. I know we are a resilient nation and hope for a swift recovery for all those affected by Hurricane Sandy.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere congratulations to the students of the Montgomery County School District for their academic achievement, as evidenced by their top 12 percent ranking in Kentucky's Unbridled Learning assessment and accountability system.

I would also like to congratulate the leadership of this school district, the principals, the teachers, and the involved parents for a job well done. They are a true example of a public school system that is working to the best of its abilities.

I know how hard everyone involved labored to improve their District, and now, their dedication to reforms and unprecedented approach to student achievement has produced incredible results.

This achievement is an example of the leadership and determination that proves Kentucky to be a Commonwealth of Excellence.

It is truly an honor to serve as their Congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Keep up the good work, Montgomery County!

IN RECOGNITION OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR WILLIAM ZITO JR., UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of the forthcoming retirement of Command Sergeant Major William Zito Jr. on January 31, 2014.

CSM William Zito Jr. has served the United States Army with honor and distinction for 22 years. A career of such longevity in support of our national security is, in itself, an accomplishment worthy of recognition. In the case of CSM Zito, his stoic demeanor masks the extraordinary achievements accumulated during an exceptional career that demands more than simply the recognition of a grateful nation. He has earned the respect of thousands of soldiers who have directly benefited from his leadership and the adulation of millions whom he has never met, but profited from his wisdom nonetheless.

William Zito's combat arms occupational specialty took him directly into harm's way numerous times, deploying to the most dangerous battlefields of his generation. As First Sergeant, he deployed first to Kuwait for Operation Enduring Freedom in 2002 and the invasion of Iraq in March of 2003, then returned

again in 2005 to 2006. In 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 3rd Infantry Division, First Sergeant Zito's leadership guided the actions of 130 soldiers whose teamwork under his stewardship received the Presidential and Meritorious Unit awards.

After returning to complete the Sergeants Major Course in 2007, now CSM Zito once again met our nation's call and deployed the 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division to Operation Iraqi Freedom. During this time, CSM Zito was responsible for designing and implementing command policies and training for an 800 member Task Force. CSM Zito successfully managed all of the Task Force's Joint Security Stations as well as partnering with two Iraqi Army Brigades, an Iraqi Police Division and the Kadamiyah Shrine Police. The lives of thousands of American and Iraqi soldiers depended on the leadership of CSM Zito.

Upon his return from foreign battlefields, CSM Zito continued to dedicate himself to the betterment of our nation by graciously allowing Congress to glean what we could from his wisdom. A remarkably small portion of the military are assigned to the unenvious task of explaining the impact on end-users of our legislative ideas. CSM Zito was among the hand-selected cadre, first as Defense Fellow to Representative John Carter and then as Legislative Liaison of the Department of the Army. During these two positions, CSM Zito was responsible for providing guidance on matters relating to military legislation as well as serving as the primary point of contact for enlisted issues. As an effective spokesman, CSM Zito strengthened the Army's relationship with our nation's lawmakers.

Over the course of his 22 years of dedicated service, CSM Zito has repeatedly demonstrated honor and dedication indicative of a great American hero. His valiant efforts both across oceans in enemy territory as well as here domestically have helped to protect and shape our nation. On behalf of the United States Congress and the American people we represent, I extend my deep appreciation to Command Sergeant Major William Zito Jr. for his service to our country. My best wishes on a happy retirement and continued success.

HONORING DR. LINDA RUSHTON SELMAN

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Linda Rushton Selman, whose strong intellect, work ethic, and determination are being recognized through the creation of the Dr. Linda Elizabeth Rushton Selman and Jo Ann Rushton Endowed English Scholarship.

Linda hails from Magnolia, Arkansas, my hometown. She graduated first in her class at Magnolia High School. Her talents, drive and work ethic took her to Sullins College in Virginia, where she earned her Associate of Arts degree and, once again, graduated first in her class. She pursued further education at the University of Arkansas, where she was a ROTC Cadet Colonel, named an Arkansas Traveler and was voted a Razorback Beauty. At UA, she pledged Chi Omega and earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees, with Phi Beta Kappa honors.

Throughout her life, Linda has been steadfast in her commitment to educating and teaching. She has taught at the University of Arkansas and Southern Methodist University, and has spent the majority of her career at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, where she recently began her 38th year in the university's English department. In 1983, she earned her Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas, and while teaching at SAU, she raised four children.

Linda has continued to support the University of Arkansas, with numerous gifts to Fulbright College, the Alumni Association, the graduate school and the English department. She remains active in Chi Omega and is a life member of the Arkansas Alumni Association. She has been a 27-year contributor to the Razorback Foundation and Arkansas Athletics, where she sits in the very same seats at Razorback Stadium and War Memorial Stadium as she did when she rooted for the Razorbacks over 50 years ago.

Through Linda's tenacity and vigor she has made good on the promise she made to her younger sister, Jo Ann, who passed away from a kidney infection in 1952 at the age of two. Linda, who was 11 at the time, promised her dying sister that she would live her life for both of them. Without question, she has honored that promise.

The scholarship in Linda's honor has been established by her husband, Dr. Frank Selman, in an effort to preserve Jo Ann's memory and to honor Linda. I am proud to call Frank and Linda my longtime friends.

On behalf of Arkansans and Americans everywhere, I congratulate Linda Selman for being a leader in education and for the establishment of this scholarship in her name.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF EUGENE BICCARD GLICK

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Eugene (Gene) Biccard Glick of Indianapolis, Indiana. He passed away on October 2, 2013, at the age of 92. Gene was an exceptional philanthropist and businessman who served both Indianapolis and his country with integrity.

A lifelong Hoosier and resident of Indianapolis, Gene graduated from Shortridge High School and later from Indiana University in December of 1942. He bravely served in the 179th Regiment of the 45th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army during World War II and saw action in Italy, France and Germany. While in Germany, Gene, an American Jew, helped liberate the Dachau Concentration Camp. The photographs he took provided evidence of Nazi atrocities and are part of the collection at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum located here in Washington, D.C. For his service, Gene received every European Theater ribbon awarded, in addition to the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

After his tour of duty, Gene returned to Indianapolis, working at People's Bank issuing GI loans. Seeing the housing shortage for returning veterans starting families, he founded the Gene B. Glick Company. Under Gene's guidance, his small company grew to become what is today one of the largest privately held real estate development firms in the nation. Gene Glick exemplified the best of the Hoosier spirit: hard work, determination and entrepreneurship.

Gene Glick was not only a dedicated soldier and a business leader, but also a philanthropist and community activist. In 1982, he and his beloved wife, Marilyn, established the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Family Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in the state of Indiana. Gene also established the Glick Fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation, the Glick Fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis, the Glick Eye Institute at the Indiana University School of Medicine, the Indianapolis Cultural Trail and the Indiana Authors Award. Gene was a tireless advocate for Indiana's Jewish community and for disadvantaged youth across the state. His generosity and humanitarian spirit touched thousands of lives in Indianapolis and beyond.

Throughout his incredible life, Gene was awarded numerous awards and honors. He was inducted into the National Housing Hall of Fame and was a Central Indiana Business Hall of Fame Laureate. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Butler University in 1989. He was recognized as a Sagamore of the Wabash—the highest award given by the Hoosier state—from Indiana governors Robert Orr (1982), Evan Bayh (1992) and Joe Kernan (2005). Gene was named an Indiana Living Legend by the Indiana Historical Society in 2002.

Gene Glick was a patriot and an irreplaceable pillar of the Indianapolis community whose legacy will continue to inspire Hoosiers for generations to come. I am proud that exceptional leaders and public servants, such as Gene, have called my District home and am honored to recognize his life's work today. My condolences and well wishes go out to his four daughters, Marianne Glick, Arlene Grande, Alice Meshbane and Lynda Schwartz, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

IN MEMORY OF JOHNNY A. BURKES

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend, Mr. Johnny A. Burkes of Pleasanton, California, who passed away last Wednesday, October 23rd, at the age of 83.

During his life, Johnny was known as a family man who was dedicated to serving the community around him. He chose a career field where he felt he could make a long lasting, and positive impact: that of financial planning. For over 50 years, through his work, Johnny helped countless individuals and corporations plan for their future.

Johnny was always willing to take time out of his busy career and family life to serve his community. He was a member of several service organizations, including the Native Sons of

California, Elks Club, Rotary International, Masons, and Shriners. He also served for three years as a member of the Board of Trustees for the ValleyCare Charitable Foundation, which helps contribute to state-of-the-art healthcare in the Tri-Valley.

During his life, Johnny enjoyed hunting and sports, and he was an avid fan of the San Francisco Giants and the San Francisco 49ers. He is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife of 65 years, Maxine; his four sons: Michael, Terry, Joey, and Lane; and, his five grandchildren. Johnny will be missed by many.

MEDAL OF HONOR FOR DONALD P. SLOAT

HON. JIM BRIDENSTINE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 28, 2013, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3304, a bill to authorize and request the President of the United States to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor. I am a proud original co-sponsor of H.R. 3304.

The late Mr. Donald P. Sloat was a constituent in the First District of Oklahoma. Then-Specialist Four Donald P. Sloat served our country during the Vietnam Conflict. On January 17, 1970, then-Specialist Four Donald Sloat, a machinegunner with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry, Americal Division was killed saving the lives of three of his fellow soliders by shielding them from a grenade blast with his own body.

For his gallantry and intrepidity, then-Secretary of Defense Robert Gates determined that Mr. Sloat's actions merited the Medal of Honor. I submit the following letter from Secretary Gates to Representative Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. In his letter, Secretary Gates notes that the Medal of Honor must be awarded "within three years after the date of the act justifying the award." Congress must waive the time limit before the President of the United States can award the Medal of Honor to Mr. Sloat. By passing H.R. 3304, the House of Representatives took the first step in ensuring that Mr. Sloat receives the honor he so richly deserves.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2013.

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing in response to requests from Senator Tom Coburn and Representative John Sullivan for award of the Medal of Honor (MoH) to then-Specialist Four (SP4) Donald P. Sloat under the provisions of title 10, U.S.C., section 1130, of "Consideration of proposals for decorations not previously submitted in timely fashion: procedures for review."

I reviewed the proposal for award of the MoH to then-SP4 Sloat for saving the lives of three of his fellow soldiers by shielding them from a grenade blast with his own body on January 17, 1970, during the Vietnam conflict. After giving the nomination careful consideration, I believe then-SP4 Sloat's actions merit award of the MoH. However, title 10, U.S.C., section 3744, requires that the MoH be awarded "within three years after the date of the act justifying the award." Therefore, a statutory time waiver to title 10, U.S.C., section 3744, is required before the President of the United States may, if he so chooses, award the MoH to then-SP4 Sloat.

The final award authority for the MoH rests solely with the President of the United States. My favorable determination in no way presumes what the President's decision might be.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. A similar letter is being sent to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator Tom Coburn, and Representative John Sullivan.

Sincerely,

ROBERT M. GATES,
Secretary of Defense.

DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION RELATING TO DEBT LIMIT INCREASE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 99.

My Republican colleagues can't help themselves. It wasn't enough that they nearly caused a global economic meltdown by forcing the government to close and stonewalling an increase in the debt limit earlier this month. Now they want to do it all over again by revoking the President's authority to raise the debt limit, which Congress granted him in a bipartisan manner. Republicans in the House aren't just welshing on that compromise, but they're also signaling their intention to take the country over the brink again, all to score political points.

This is a farcical exercise and one undeserving of this body's consideration. I would hope that early October's nightmare taught us a lesson or two, but it appears that some of my colleagues haven't learned a thing. All of this boils down to a simple question: Do you support preventing a catastrophic worldwide economic calamity that will decimate the lives of your constituents? If so, then vote down H.J. Res. 99.

RECOGNIZING THE MEMBERS OF HILLSBORO VFW POST 9094

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the members of Hillsboro VFW Post 9094 for their patriotism and volunteerism.

This week, Post 9094 celebrates their 75th anniversary, which is a testament to the lasting commitment these veterans have to helping fellow veterans and non-veterans in Highland County.

The Korean War Memorial is inscribed "Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met."

In conflicts around the globe, the members of VFW Post 9094 answered this call.

Southern Ohio and our nation are eternally grateful to them for their service, and deeply grateful that these dedicated veterans continue to answer the call to support and protect all veterans and families in need in Highland County, as Post 9094 has now done for 75 years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE EXPANSION LIMITATION ACT OF 2013

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my bill, the National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Limitation Act of 2013, which requires that any expansion of a national wildlife refuge be approved by Congress. Currently, there is little Congressional oversight of the Federal Government's ability to arbitrarily designate land as biologically necessary for increasing a public land management unit. While I'm a firm believer in ensuring our environment is flourishing with wildlife, this is not the path to follow. Washington purchasing up private lands will have long term consequences.

Mr. Speaker, by introducing this bill, I hope to prevent the Federal Government from creating instability in economically depressed rural regions by drawing arbitrary acquisition boundaries around private land and creating hundreds of disconnected, protected refuge areas. Aggressively creating islands of "holdout parcel" farmland surrounded by environmentally protected refuge lands has shown to be disruptive to economically important rural industries. Whether by regulation or the Federal Government passively forcing out landowners by excessive regulation and poor refuge maintenance, the private landowners lose.

My district is a prime example of the Federal Government's unwanted advances. In the Eighth District of Tennessee, the Fish & Wildlife Service is attempting to purchase 120,000 additional acres of land, which equates to over 1,000 privately owned parcels along 49 miles of the Mississippi River and 106 miles of the Hatchie River. This land grab is on top of the existing 27,947 acres already purchased and protected by the federal government. Even more alarming, the Fish & Wildlife Service has not even completed purchasing lands within the existing refuge designation.

This expansion equates to the largest refuge east of the Mississippi, impacting our crop production, tax base, freedom of land use, and people's way of life. At a time of government shut downs, sequestration, fiscal cliffs, debt debates, and legislative stalemates, rapid expansion projects seem extremely short sighted. Under-funded, under-maintained refuges lead to a loss of realistic recreational use, productive farm land, and tax revenue for county rolls across the country.

Under current law, it does not require an Act of Congress to spend the $22 million collected each year from waterfowl hunters who must buy an annual federal duck stamp. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to support me in passing the National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Limitation Act of 2013, in order to ensure that Americans who do not want the Federal Government next door have a voice in Congress for wildlife refuge expansion oversight.

TRIBUTE TO KILLEEN MAYOR DAN CORBIN

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the great work of Killeen Mayor Dan Corbin. This experienced leader and Vietnam veteran is the right man to work on behalf of the home of Fort Hood.

A railroad town since the 1880s, Killeen weathered the Great Depression and later became the proud home of Camp Hood in 1942. Recommissioned as Fort Hood eight years later, it's now the largest military base in the world. "The Great Place" is so much a part of daily life in Killeen that the town's motto is "Tanks for the memories."

Dan was born and raised on a dairy and hog farm in northwestern Illinois. A Vietnam veteran, he rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel in the National Army Reserves. During his time in the Army, he earned the Meritorious Service Medal, two Bronze Stars, and three Army Commendation Medals. Knowing firsthand the importance of our veterans, he's active in the American Legion, VFW, and the Fort Hood Area Veterans Advisory Committee. Dan's ability to relate to both enlistees and officers has added an extra dimension to his skills as a public servant. He knows how to be lead and how to lead.

As mayor, Dan has embraced new technology and the internet as part of public service and constituent outreach. His tenure on the Water Sewage and Drainage Committee allows him to use his expertise on critical Texas water issues. He's looking toward a bright future of water reuse, new water treatment capacity, repairs to south sewage treatment plant, and implementing a citywide recycling program. Dan has fostered developments to downtown, work on homeless shelters, and better code enforcement.

As the proud representative of Fort Hood, I'm glad civic-minded leaders like Mayor Dan Corbin are working hard to improve their community. The people of Killeen deserve no less.

WAKE TECH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Wake Technical Community College on its 50th Anniversary.

In the late 1950s, the North Carolina General Assembly launched an innovative concept in higher education and provided funding for new industrial education centers that would train adults with the vocational and technical skills needed in the region for emerging industries.

In 1958, Wake Technical Community College, then named Wake County Industrial Education Center, started offering a few classes to about 70 students. By 1963, the new institution had found a home, and the W.W. Holding Industrial Education Center officially opened in October 1963, with 34 full-time students and an additional 270 students taking classes at community sites. Today, Wake Tech has expanded to five campuses, and is soon to develop a sixth. The college also operates two centers and dozens of community sites throughout Wake County. It offers 180 associates degrees, diplomas and certificates, preparing students for immediate employment and increasingly serving as a gateway to four-year institutions. Enrollment has grown to nearly 70,000 students this year, making Wake Tech the largest community college in North Carolina. It is the second fastest growing community college in all of America!

For years, North Carolina's leaders have recognized the critical role that technical and community colleges play as drivers of economic growth and renewal. Visionaries such as Governor Terry Sanford understood that community colleges could help lift generations of North Carolinians out of poverty, and that they could be a powerful magnet drawing new businesses and industries to our state. Nowhere has the success of this vision been more prominent than in the "Research Triangle." Education has been the catalyst for this economic transformation, and our region's community colleges—Wake Tech in particular—have served as its engine.

Wake Tech has produced world-class business leaders and entrepreneurs, as well as highly capable workers, and has done so while constantly reinventing itself as industries have evolved or given way to new ones. I commend Wake Tech on its ability to recruit and retain quality faculty, and its ability to maintain flexible, accessible, customized educational and training programs for North Carolina citizens. Its effective and beneficial community partnerships, outstanding ability to identify the workforce needs of the region, and commitment to measuring resource allocation and quality outcomes are only part of what make Wake Tech such an asset to the region. Fifty years after opening its doors, Wake Tech is still leading the way in world-class training, education, and workforce development.

In honor of its 50th anniversary, Wake Tech has launched a new logo, featuring a torch to symbolize the role Wake Tech plays in helping students find their way along the path of higher education. The new motto, "Lead the Way" speaks to students' ability to take charge of their lives as they learn and grow, as well as to lead and inspire others. It is also fitting as an allusion to the innovation and focus on the future that have been a hallmark of Wake Tech programs and services for the last 50 years.

I extend my congratulations to Wake Technical Community College on their fiftieth anniversary and look forward to the 50 years to come!

NATIONAL INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, last month was National Infant Mortality Awareness Month. With the theme A Healthy Baby Begins with You and You and You, the month is established to highlight the tragic occurrences of infant deaths across the nation, and to bring attention to programs that can help save lives and ensure our children are healthy. Measured as a rate of infant deaths per 1,000 live births, infant mortality refers to deaths that occurred during infancy, in the first year of life, or from a live birth to age one.

Not all infant deaths are preventable, but with the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), we can begin to reduce the risk of infant death. The ACA is an investment in both the health of women and the health of newborns. Health care for women, preconception health, reproductive health, and maternity and well child care are covered benefits. One in five women of childbearing age is currently uninsured. With the enactment of this law, approximately 17 million women will have an increased opportunity to access and receive regular preventive services and prenatal care.

Although the overall infant mortality rate (IMR) in the United States declined steadily for several decades, it has leveled off for the past several years. In 2011, the rate of infant deaths before age one for the U.S. was 6.05 per 1,000 live births. According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the U.S. IMR continues to be higher than the rates in most other developed countries, and the gap between the U.S. IMR and the rates for the countries with the lowest infant mortality appears to be widening.

In Maryland, infant mortality profoundly impacts women and their families. The most recent Maryland Vital Statistics numbers indicate an overall IMR in our State of 6.3 in 2012. The average IMR dropped from 9.5 to 8.6 in Prince George's County during 2012, while it rose from 5.1 in 2011 to 6.4 in 2012 in Anne Arundel County.

While Prince George's County experienced a decline in the African-American IMR last year—from 10.5 to 9.3—the rate remains significantly higher than the white IMR of 6.4. Likewise, while Anne Arundel County experienced a steep drop in the African-American IMR—from 13.0 in 2011 to 9.0 in 2012—the rate remains nearly double that of the white rate, which in 2012 increased to 5.5. And, in nearby Montgomery County, the IMR was reduced to 5.1 last year but the African-American rate stood at 8.2, almost double the rate for white infants at 4.2. This alarming and ongoing disparity across our region challenges us to continue seeking answers and solutions.

National Infant Mortality Month provides us a chance to raise public education and awareness about the levels at which this problem continues to affect our communities, and to educate women about ways they may reduce infant mortality with good health care during the mother's pregnancy and the early years of the child's life. A number of federal programs strive to reduce the IMR, by improving the

health status of low-income women and children. These federal programs include Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grants, Medicaid, and Healthy Start. Local organizations and clinics like Bright Beginnings of Prince George's County, Mary's Center, Anne Arundel County Department of Health, and Storks Nest in Anne Arundel County, and Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and SMILE in Montgomery County offer a number of approaches to reduce infant mortality and help mothers and children live long and healthy lives.

I will continue to support and bring awareness to programs that improve access to health care and increase the quality of prenatal and newborn care to prevent the causes of infant mortality. Communities can play an important role in this endeavor by encouraging women to seek care before they become pregnant and during their first trimester. Also, we can all share information about some of the factors that affect infant mortality including smoking, substance abuse, poor nutrition, lack of prenatal care, and sudden infant death syndrome. We must ensure that our babies get a healthy start, to celebrate their first birthday and beyond, and bring much needed attention and awareness to the importance of reducing our infant mortality rate.

THE AMERICAN AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY AND THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the three million Americans whose jobs are directly or indirectly connected to our nation's domestic automotive industry and the importance of our trade negotiators to address longstanding concerns with Japan's closed auto market.

This spring, the government of Japan announced it was going to join the United States and ten other Pacific Rim nations in negotiations in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a proposed comprehensive and high-standard free trade agreement with the aim of liberalizing nearly all goods and services within the member countries.

I am a strong proponent of increasing American exports. Exports are vital to expanding our economy, providing new opportunities for our nation's industries and entrepreneurs, and growing the number of well-paying, middle class jobs that are the backbone of our nation's strength.

Nevertheless, I have very strong reservations with Japan's longstanding barriers for auto exporters into its market. Japan has the third largest auto market in the world. At the same time, it ranks last among all advanced economies in terms of auto market import penetration at under six percent.

The barriers Japan places on auto imports are many and longstanding, including currency manipulation, onerous certification and regulatory standards, and anti-competitive networks between Japanese automakers, dealers, and parts suppliers, better known as the kieretsu system.

It is imperative that the Administration and this Congress take action to ensure that Japan will open its auto market to American-made cars and trucks before lowering our tariffs and opening our market even more to Japanese auto imports.

There are several protections our negotiators should secure from our Japanese allies before finalizing this trade deal, including strong and enforceable currency disciplines aimed at preventing TPP countries from using currency to gain a competitive advantage, seeing to it that Japanese automakers fully honor internationally recognized labor standards and allow workers to organize and collectively bargain, and apply strong and effective tariff "snapbacks" that will come into force in the event of a trade violation.

Congress should also act by passing the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act, which I have proudly co-sponsored for the past three Congresses, and would give the Treasury Department and other federal agencies additional tools to combat currency manipulation.

I fear that our domestic auto manufacturers and the hundreds of thousands of American families whose livelihoods rely on our auto industry will be gravely harmed if the Administration and Congress allow our tariffs on Japanese autos to be lowered even further without giving equal access to American-made cars and trucks.

The well-respected Center for Automotive Research found last year that Japan's inclusion in TPP, combined with the on-going currency manipulation Japan has been doing, would result in the loss of 225,000 cars and trucks being made in the U.S. and the loss of nearly 100,000 American jobs.

Failing to open Japan's auto market will only increase our trade deficit, which now stands at $76 billion a year, with $53 billion of the deficit comes from autos alone.

Mr. Speaker, it is our duty, as the elected representatives of the American people, to make sure that trade with Japan is truly two-way and Japan will open its markets to American products as we've opened our markets to their imports.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMPTON

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a legacy of faith in Virginia's Third Congressional District. This year, First Baptist Church of Hampton is celebrating its 150th anniversary, and I would like to take a moment to reflect on the history of this esteemed institution and its contributions to the greater Hampton Roads community.

The history of many African American churches in existence today developed from a small band of worshippers who sat in the "designated section" of a white church. In this respect, First Baptist Church of Hampton is no exception and was borne out of worshippers at the Hampton Baptist Church located a short distance away from the present church site. With Reverend Zechariah Evans as its first pastor, First Baptist Church of Hampton came into its own and built its own building to house services.

The Church continued to grow and prosper, but in September 1944, a catastrophic fire destroyed the church building. Members of the community and sister churches rallied to support First Baptist Church. With generous support from the Hampton Baptist Church and other supporters in the community, the sanctuary was restored and the facility was improved and expanded.

Over the years the Church grew in its capacity, its membership, and its mission. Community outreach became an integral part of the work of the Church. The accomplishments of First Baptist Church of Hampton are far too many to list, but among them are the founding of the People's Building and Loan Association under Reverend Richard Spiller and the organization of the Big Brothers of America in Hampton under the leadership of Reverend Seymour J. Gaines.

On July 6, 2006, First Baptist Church officially elected Reverend Dr. Richard W. Wills, Sr. as its tenth and current pastor and he has continued to lead the church in its strong tradition, dedicated to fellowship and social action.

Over the years, the First Baptist community has continued to grow and flourish. The church now offers programs to increase healthy living through its Health Ministry program, hosts voter registration drives, provides housing for the homeless through "A Night's Welcome," and remains steadfast in providing for the least of these, through its efforts in meal service and food distribution.

On Saturday, October 26th, I was honored to join Reverend Wills and everyone at First Baptist for their anniversary celebration banquet, which featured Reverend Al Sharpton and many other luminaries from across the Commonwealth of Virginia and across the country. President Barack Obama also provided a celebratory letter commemorating the church's rich history and its 150th anniversary. The banquet was truly an event to remember and offered a chance for the celebration, reflection, and hope that such a monumental anniversary invokes.

As First Baptist Church of Hampton continues to celebrate this historic milestone, the church can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on its future as "[a] place on the harbor where haven meets heaven." I would like to congratulate Reverend Wills and all of the members of First Baptist Church of Hampton on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary. I wish them many more years of dedicated service to the community.

RECOGNIZING MOHAMED ALI, RECIPIENT OF THE CHAMPION OF CHANGE AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mohamed Ali from Federal Way, Washington, who serves as Co-Chair of the King County Somali Health Board and Program Coordinator for the Hepatitis B Coalition of Washington at WithinReach. Mohamed was recently honored by the White House as a Champion of Change.

The White House presented Ali with the Champion of Change Award for his heroic efforts during a winter storm in the Puget Sound

region last year. Mr. Ali's proactive approach to the dangers of carbon monoxide within his community helped save lives and protect vulnerable families trying to heat their homes in the winter.

By acting as a liaison between King County Public Health and the local Somali community, Mohamed ensured that safety warnings for carbon monoxide were translated for individuals who do not speak English and that the community was informed about the risks of burning fuel indoors during power outages.

In addition, Mohamed worked with volunteers at a local mosque to establish a hotline for the community to ask questions about the storm and request aid. He was also instrumental in coordinating the establishment of a nearby aid station that offered heat and hot meals. As a result of Ali's and others' efforts, King County reported zero deaths and ninety percent fewer hospitalizations than during the region's last major winter storm.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Mohamed Ali for being honored with the Champion of Change award and recognize his service to the King County community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT WALTER CRENSHAW, THE OLDEST LIVING TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I salute and congratulate Sergeant Walter Crenshaw, a fellow veteran, on reaching this milestone celebrating his 104th birthday. As the oldest living Tuskegee Airman, he has lived a truly inspiring life and for that I commend him.

From Mr. Crenshaw's induction into the United States Army Air Corps in October 1942 where he ultimately attained the rank of Sergeant, until now, he has been an example of what hard-work and devotion can do. I am particularly thankful for his dedication to our country in the face of strife racism, paving the way for myself and fellow African-American and minority servicemen. Mr. Crenshaw and the Tuskegee Airmen persevered through racial, military, and political barriers to become the first African American military aviators in the United States Armed Forces, showing that there is strength in unity and support.

A leader is one who knows the way, follows that path, and shows others the course to take. Walter Crenshaw's life is a demonstration of true leadership, and as he celebrates 104 years of life may he take pride in the contributions he has made through his service.

OBAMACARE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act is more than a website. That's the comforting assurance President Obama is giving to the American people as the continuing train wreck of the law's implementation grinds on.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the President. The law is more than a website. Unfortunately, that means its flaws extend past the website as well. Simply put, its bad technology mixed with bad policy.

From broken websites to broken promises this law is taking on water and sinking fast, taking hardworking Americans with it.

Last Friday, I spoke with a self-employed father of two in my district who is feeling the harmful effects of the ACA head on. He received a notice in the mail that said his insurance—which he liked—was going to triple. The same plan, just hundreds more. I think he put it best when he said, ''the President guaranteed, 'If you like your plan you can keep it'. Well the fact is, I can keep my plan, I just can't afford my plan now . . .''

News reports now say that over two million people will lose the health plan they currently have, even after hearing the President's promise for three years.

This is unacceptable.

That's why I am supporting legislation that actually allows people to keep their coverage under the ACA—even as the President's new regulations and mandates try and take it away.

Furthermore, I will continue in joining members from both parties in both chambers, in asking the President to delay the individual mandate of the ACA. President Obama said he would negotiate once government was fully funded and operational—now is the time for him to address bipartisan ideas for improvement that help out the American people.

HONORING BILL DAVIS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Indiana State Representative Bill Davis. After serving House District 33 for 9 years, State Representative Davis will begin the next chapter of his career, serving the State as the Executive Director of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

During his time in the State legislature, Bill Davis served on the House Ways and Means Committee, where he helped craft balanced budgets that included no tax increases for Hoosiers. As a legislator, Bill Davis was committed to efficient government that used the taxpayers' money wisely. Bill served as Chairman of the Committee on Public Policy and was a leader on issues affecting Hoosier farmers and teachers.

Bill's leadership in business and government will greatly benefit Hoosiers as he serves as the Executive Director of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs. On a personal note, Bill and I served together in the Indiana General Assembly. He was a great colleague and an even better friend.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in honoring Bill Davis for his years of service in the Indiana General Assembly and in congratulating him on his next role as Executive Director of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE OCTOBER 31, 2013 HONOR FLIGHT OF THE QUAD CITIES

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, over 90 Iowa veterans of World War II and the Korean War will travel to our Nation's capital. For many of these veterans, tomorrow will be the first time they will see the National World War II Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial that were built in their honor.

They will travel to Washington as part of an Honor Flight. These flights demonstrate that we as a State and as a country will never forget the debt we owe those who have worn our Nation's uniform.

We truly owe these heroes a debt of gratitude for their selfless service to our great Nation. On the eve of their visit, I rise to humbly thank these Iowa and American heroes for their service to our country.

Their sacrifices and determination in the face of great threats to our way of life are truly humbling and continue to inspire us today. Their generations and our country did not seek to be tested. But, when called upon to do so, they defended our Nation abroad and rebuilt our Nation here at home to make it even stronger. They rose to defend not just our Nation, but the freedoms, democracy, and values that make our country the greatest Nation on earth.

Their patriotism, service, and sacrifice not only defined their generation—they stand as a testament to the fortitude of our Nation and the American people. Their legacy endures today.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Honor Flight of the Quad Cities and Iowa's veterans of World War II and the Korean War to our Nation's capital. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our great Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBARA ARO-VALLE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Barbara Aro-Valle of Hayward, California, who recently left her position as the Executive Director for New Haven Schools Foundation. Barbara will be honored for her outstanding service to the foundation during a luncheon November 14, 2013.

Barbara was born and raised in Hayward, California, where she graduated from James Logan High School. Barbara and her husband, Richard, married in 1979 and together they have two children, Monica and Andrew.

After high school, Barbara worked for ten years as a dental assistant before taking a job at California State University Hayward (CSU–H) as the Director of Facilities Reservations and Special Events. While working full time and caring for her children, Barbara earned a bachelor's degree in human development from CSU–H, now called California State University East Bay.

While her children attended school in the New Haven Unified School District, Barbara became actively involved as a parent volunteer in the band and color guard programs. In 2002, Barbara was elected to the New Haven School Board. During her time on the board, Barbara assisted in hiring a new school superintendent and successfully negotiated a three-year contract with the school's teachers union.

Five years later, in 2007, Barbara accepted a position as Executive Director of the New Haven Schools Foundation. Barbara has been integral to the foundation's evolution, starting from the very beginning.

Under her direction, the foundation has expanded its scholarship program, reinstated the Annual Scholarship Luncheon, and planned the annual casino night gala. Additionally, she helped bring indispensable funds to support grant programs. These programs allowed the school district to ward off significant cuts to co-curricular programs in recent years.

I thank Barbara for her unparalleled dedication to the New Haven Schools Foundation, which has assisted students, teachers, and the community as a whole. I wish Barbara the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SALADO MAYOR DANNEY McCORT

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the committed public service of Salado Mayor Danney McCort. This proud native Texan is not afraid to roll up his sleeves to improve his community.

Salado is a picturesque, historic village on Salado Creek just east of Interstate Highway 35 between Waco and Austin in southern Bell County. The clear, bubbling springs of the creek, which made it a favorite camping ground for Indians thousands of years before Spanish explorers arrived in Texas, have had much to do with the development of the area. The town is the proud home to the Stagecoach Inn, the oldest continuously running hotel in Texas.

Growing up on a farm cultivated a work ethic in Danney that has served him well both professionally and personally. His career as a builder and engineer with the Veterans Administration, along with his love of home repair and do-it-yourself projects, fostered in Danney a can-do spirit that is a reflection of the Salado Community.

Mayor since 2012, Danney's worked to annex the 1–35 corridor, obtain a sewer system for downtown Salado, and foster music and culture in his thriving city. Along with his engineering knowledge, he knows firsthand the importance of water to Texas communities, farms, and livestock.

Salado deserves great leadership and Mayor Danney McCort is delivering. I look forward to continuing my longstanding and productive relationship with him.

HONORING ANTONIO MACIAS

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Antonio Marcias, a World War II veteran and an exceptional El Pasoan. Listening to the story of Antonio and other World War II veterans reminds me why we call theirs the "greatest generation."

In 1943, while still a United States resident, Mr. Macias volunteered for the Second World War. He served in Pacific Theatre in Okinawa as a U.S. Navy Sailor and completed his service as a "Motor Machinist's Mate Third Class." As the war ended, he was honorably discharged in 1945. After completing his service, Mr. Macias returned home to El Paso, Texas, where he worked as a rancher, a sheet metal worker, and at the local Phelps Dodge Refinery for 33 years. He retired in 1978 and became the owner of a small business specializing in landscaping. Now, at the age of 95, Mr Macias continues to reside in El Paso with his wife of over 65 years and is a tireless advocate for improving services for El Paso's many veterans. Mr. Macias is an exceptional asset to the community, and as one of my staffers put it "he is an inspiration to El Paso."

Like so many other individuals from his generation, Mr. Macias put his life on the line for his country. We are grateful for his service and appreciate that he continues to be a vital part of the El Paso community. Thank you, Antonio Macias, for making El Paso, Texas, and the nation proud.

CENTENNIAL OF FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY AT CASE WESTERN

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kelvin Smith Library at Case Western Reserve University, which celebrates this year 100 years of service as a congressionally-designated Federal Depository Library. As one of the Nation's more than 1,200 Federal Depository Libraries, Case Western Reserve serves students, faculty, and the constituents of Ohio's 11th Congressional District with free access to the publications of all three branches of government.

In its 100 years as a Federal Depository Library, Case Western Reserve has made government information available in a variety of formats, from ink on paper to the latest digital technologies. In the mid-1990s, Case Western Reserve was one of a handful of libraries nationally which pioneered making online government information freely available through a partnership between the Government Printing Office, which administers the Federal Depository Library Program, and the Cleveland Free Net. The University Libraries have maintained an outstanding retrospective collection of government publications, and have provided countless hours of expert assistance to researchers.

Throughout its 100 year history as a Federal Depository Library, Case Western Reserve has been recognized by the Government Printing Office for providing outstanding expert service to its primary clientele and to the residents of my Congressional district. I would like to recognize the library staff and Associate Provost and University Librarian Arnold Hirshon as they mark the 100th anniversary of depository designation. I wish them much success as they enter their second century of Keeping America Informed.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,081,509,219,228.50. We've added $6,454,632,170,315.42 to our debt in 4 years. This is $6.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING RICHARD W. "DICK" ABBEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Richard W. "Dick" Abbey, who, along with his law partners at Abbey, Weitzenberg, Warren & Emery, is a recipient of the Sonoma County Bar Association's 2013 Career of Distinction Award. This is the highest honor presented by the Association and it is, indeed, well deserved.

Mr. Abbey has been a member of the law firm of Abbey, Weitzenberg, Warren & Emery since 1973. Over the course of those 40 years, he has specialized in real estate, commercial and corporate law as well as in financial institution litigation and transactions. In recent years he has focused on representing businesses within the wine industry.

As a mediator, he has successfully achieved a number of simple and multi-party mediations that have involved a wide range of business and real estate matters.

Mr. Abbey has consistently been recognized as a Northern California Super Lawyer. Super Lawyers is a rating service that selects outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process is multi-phased and includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations.

Mr. Abbey has also been a member of the County Bar Association for 40 years and served a term as president of the organization. He has also been a Professor of Law at Empire College of Law in Santa Rosa, a member of both the State Bar of California and the American Bar Association, President and Member of the Board of the Sonoma County Family YMCA and a Member of the Board of the Redwood Empire Food Bank.

Mr. Speaker, Richard "Dick" Abbey has been an outstanding attorney in Sonoma County for 40 years. He is respected and held in high esteem by his peers, which is reflected in this honor he has received from the Sonoma County Bar Association. It is therefore appropriate that we honor him today.

ON THE PASSING OF CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, my sincere condolences go out to the family and loved ones of my dear friend and colleague, Congressman Ike Skelton, a man whose contributions to this country reflected his devotion to service and his love for this nation.

Ike's passing is one that hits close to home as I reflect on the 34 years he spent in Congress, representing the state of Missouri, and building his reputation as an expert in military defense. As Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Ike showed a great concern for those who fought to defend, and was recognized by the U S Navy Memorial Foundation for his support of the navy and military during his years in Congress. Offering words of advice, and showing a genuine sense of care for humanity, Ike was a mentor and a friend, advocating for those who dedicated their lives to serve their community and this country.

To lose yet another leader who embodied the spirit of selflessness and compassion towards his work and the people he served, is deeply saddening. Although words cannot help to ease the loss we bear, may we all take comfort in knowing that Congressman Skelton lived a life that will forever be remembered in our hearts.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIPARTISAN STUDENT AND FAMILY TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, education is key to the economic well-being of our citizens and our democracy. Today, I am pleased to join my colleague, DIANE BLACK from Tennessee, in introducing the Student and Family Tax Simplification Act. This bipartisan bill simplifies our tax code and dramatically strengthens our investment in students and their families, expanding aid for the lowest-income students.

Tax-based aid represents more than half of all non-loan federal aid, playing an important role in promoting college affordability, access, and completion. As partners in the Ways and Means Education and Family Benefits Tax Working Group, Congressman BLACK and I heard from dozens of experts about the need to improve education tax benefits. There was surprising agreement among politically-diverse stakeholders about the problems of and promising reforms to tax-based education benefits. The Student and Family Tax Simplification Act is a bipartisan effort to implement stakeholder recommendations for reform.

Education tax experts described current education tax benefits as complex and poorly targeted. The greatest agreement centered on creating one credit for current education costs to improve the simplicity, awareness, and use of tax benefits. Stakeholders highlighted that the complexity of multiple benefits makes it difficult for taxpayers to understand whether they qualify for a benefit and which benefit best meets their needs. Indeed, a study by the Government Accountability Office showed that 1.5 million tax filers who qualified for either the Tuition and Fees Deduction or the Lifetime Learning Credit in 2009 did not claim the credit or deduction; another 237,000 did not claim optimal benefits. To improve the effectiveness of the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), both conservative and progressive stakeholders urged policymakers to target benefits to low- and moderate-income taxpayers whose college enrollment and persistence decisions are more sensitive to cost.

The Student and Family Tax Simplification Act simplifies education benefits by consolidating the Hope Tax Credit, the Tuition and Fees Deduction, and the Lifetime Learning Credit into the AOTC, creating a single credit for current educational expenses. The bill also extends the AOTC permanently rather than allowing it to expire in 2017 and preserves the value of the credit over time by adjusting for inflation starting in 2018, an important provision given that college expenses have risen much quicker than inflation for many years.

In addition, the bill creates an improved, more robust education tax benefit for low-income students in multiple ways. It adopts the upper phase-out limits for the Hope tax credit adjusted for inflation, which focuses aid on families whose incomes are in the bottom 80% of income distribution. The bill also doubles the current phase-out range for single and joint filers to create a more gradual phase-out of the benefit and to reduce the effective marginal tax rate associated with the phase-out. These changes phase-out the credit for single tax filers between $43,000 to $63,000 ($86,000 to $126,000 for joint tax filers).

The bill expands aid to low-income students by increasing the amount of credit available and removing obstacles to claiming the credit. This bill increases the maximum refundable credit from $1,000 to $1,500. It also changes the process of awarding the credit from covering a proportion of total eligible expenses to covering the first qualified expenses. Currently, a family would have to have $4,000 in expenses to claim the $1,000 refundable credit; under the new bill, low-income families could claim the full $1,500 refundable credit after only $1,500 in eligible expenses, greatly enhancing the effectiveness of the credit for low-income families.

The bill also allows students to combine Pell grants and AOTC to address unmet financial need. Due to poor coordination between Pell grants and the tax code, an estimated 1 million college students with unmet financial need do not receive any benefit from the AOTC, with the vast majority of these students attending low-cost institutions such as community colleges. The bill improves coordination between the AOTC and Pell without double counting the same expenses as well as excludes Pell grants from taxation to simplify compliance.

In closing, the Student and Family Tax Simplification Act will help streamline education tax benefits, making it easier for students and families to understand and take advantage of education tax benefits. Further, it will substantially increase federal assistance for education for the lowest-income students and families, improving the affordability of higher education.

HONORING JO ANN GORA

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ball State University President Jo Ann Gora. After serving as President of Ball State for 10 years, President Gora announced she will be retiring from the position in June of 2014.

After serving as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Old Dominion University and then as Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts, Boston, Jo Ann Gora became the fourteenth President of Ball State in 2004. She is the first woman to serve as president of a public university in the history of the state of Indiana.

President Gora's dynamic leadership brought transformative improvements to the Ball State community. During her tenure as president, Ball State University undertook massive renovation and construction projects dramatically transforming the campus. The University raised more philanthropic funds than in the history of the institution. President Gora also oversaw the raising of admissions standards, and numerous academic programs achieved national rankings and recognition under her leadership.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in honoring President Jo Ann Gora for her service as the president of Ball State University. I am confident she will bring the same tenacity and leadership to the next chapter of her life.

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF TEMPLE MAYOR DANNY DUNN

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work of Temple Mayor Danny Dunn. This eighth generation Texan honors his home state's illustrious past yet looks forward to its even brighter future.

Founded as a railroad construction camp in the 1880s, Temple quickly became home to hospitals, industry, and higher education. Over the years, the Temple area became an ideal place for military personnel to move to for their retirement.

A native son of Temple, Danny got his love of public service as a young boy attending civic events when others were playing flag football. His dreams of becoming Temple's Mayor came true in 2012 and he's made the most of his time in office. He's focused his energies on building and improving his hometown through strategic growth and development, while maintaining Temple's current infrastructure.

As a licensed Texas real estate broker, Danny knows the importance of making sure Temple offers the best of small town living with the best of big city amenities. Danny relies on an extensive network of community activists, ranging from former mayors, Rotary Club members, and faith leaders, to guide him on how to best work for Temple.

Mayor Danny Dunn is lucky enough to know you don't have to leave home to know that's where you belong. I join the people of Temple who are glad he's stayed and is working to making his city a great place to live.

''ANTI-CHRISTIAN TERROR IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN''

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call my colleagues' attention to a recent op-ed written by Steven Nasatir, president of the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. ''Anti-Christian Terror is Everyone's Concern,'' (The Washington Post, October 24, 2013) is a call to end religious persecution, and I join Mr. Nasatir in his demand for that action.

All of us who believe in the need for tolerance should be concerned about the attacks on Christian minorities around the world. Passage of H.R. 301, bipartisan legislation to create a Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia, is one important step we can take.

I want to thank Steve Nasatir for his leadership in the fight for religious and human rights and for this article, which reminds us that we each have a responsibility to speak out when we see persecution and work to end it.

ANTI-CHRISTIAN TERROR IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN

An Egyptian woman mourns during the funeral of several Copt Christians who were killed in Warraq's Virgin Mary church in Cairo, Egypt, Monday, Oct. 21, 2013. Egypt's Christians were stunned Monday by a drive-by shooting in which masked gunmen sprayed a wedding party outside a Cairo church with automatic weapons fire, killing several, including two young girls, in an attack that raised fears of a nascent insurgency by extremists after the military's ouster of the president and a crackdown on Islamists.

The persecution of any religious minority anywhere by anyone is an evil injustice. It requires all persons of conscience to speak out and, when possible, take action.

The upcoming 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht makes this an auspicious time to raise awareness about the contemporary violence targeting religious minorities and their places of worship. Of particular concern are attacks against Christian minorities that have occurred with alarming frequency from Syria to Egypt, from Iraq to Pakistan, and from Kenya to Sudan.

November 9 marks 75 years since the pogrom against Jews committed by mobs throughout the Nazi Reich. Often called Kristallnacht, or the ''Night of Broken Glass,'' when rioters killed or injured hundreds of Jews; burned over 1,000 synagogues; destroyed 7,000 Jewish-owned shops and businesses; vandalized cemeteries and schools, and; sent 30,000 Jews to German concentration camps. It marked a turning point in the escalating campaign of persecution culminating in the Holocaust.

These events, seared into Jewish collective memory, make us doubly aware—and duty bound—to raise our voices when the deadly brew of religious bigotry and wanton violence are mixed.

Today in Syria, a once thriving Christian population—a community nearly as ancient as that country's once great Jewish community—has been depopulated by 25 percent, according an estimate the Patriarch Melkite Greek Catholic Patriarch Gregorios III Laham shared with the BBC.

In September, The Associated Press reported that Syrian Christians in Maaloula—a community dating to the birth of Christianity and that still speaks Aramaic—were driven out or forcibly converted to Islam by rebels aligned with al-Qaeda.

''It is chaos, it is violence, it is blood, it is death. Life has been paralyzed. We have lost everything,'' said Archbishop Theophile Georges Kassab of Homs.

In Egypt, some supporters of ousted President Mohammed Morsi last summer unleashed their rage against that nation's Christians, a historic community constituting 20 percent of the country's population. Mobs burned dozens of Christian schools, convents, monasteries, institutions, and churches of any, and all Christian denominations. And just days ago, gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire outside a Coptic Christian church during a wedding, murdering four, including an 8-year-old girl.

''It never happened before in history that such a big number of churches were attacked on one day,'' Bishop Thomas, a Coptic Orthodox bishop in Assiut told Al Jazeera. ''We normally used to have attacks once a month or so.''

As Kristallnacht teaches, the burning of houses of worship can be a red alert that worse is yet to come. September saw the horrific Taliban bombing of Anglican worshippers in Pakistan, which took 85 lives, and, according to accounts shared by witnesses, the targeting for murder of Kenyan Christians—deliberately separated from others in a chilling reminder of Nazi ''selections''—by al Shabaab terrorists in a Nairobi shopping mall.

Attacks like these have contributed to a decline in the Christian population in the Middle East and North Africa from 9.5 percent to 3.8 percent of the total population from 1910 to 2010, according to a Pew Forum report on Global Christianity.

Tellingly, Israel is the only Middle East country where the Christian population has grown in the last half century, from 34,000 to 158,000, in large measure, according to many observers, because of the religious freedoms enjoyed there.

As a Jew, I'm proud of the status of religious minorities in the Jewish state. As an American, I'm especially proud to live in a society where people of different faiths (and no faith) share the values of tolerance and coexistence. Despite isolated though sometimes deadly instances of religiously-inspired terror during the past few decades, ours is a nation where no Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, or person of any other faith must live in fear because of who they are.

It is time to sound the alarm about the religious persecutions of Christians and others. Let us raise our voices, and call on our elected representatives to take action. People of all faiths should support passage of H.R. 301, legislation that would direct our President to appoint a State Department Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia.

The bill will facilitate U.S. government responses to human rights violations, combat acts of religious intolerance and incitement targeting religious minorities, and help address the needs of religious minorities.

Further, we must demand that international institutions designed to protect human rights, especially the United Nations, must actually do so without prejudice.

For people of conscience, for people of all faiths, now is not the time to be silent.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE BAHAMAS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the independence of The Bahamas, which took place on July 10, 2013.

The proud history and rich culture of the Bahamian people date back centuries, having evolved amid significant influences from foreign settlers and traders who were drawn to their islands' beauty, resources, and strategic location. The very islands were inhabited as early as 300 to 400 AD, and settled by the Lucayan Indians from 900 AD to 1500 AD. In 1492, Christopher Columbus made landfall in the New World on San Salvador and, within 25 years, about 40,000 natives were sent to work in the mines of Hispaniola.

British settlement began in 1648 with the arrival of English Puritans led by Captain William Sayle, known as ''Eleutheran Adventurers,'' who sought religious freedom. The capital of The Bahamas, Nassau, was established around 1670 as a commercial port, and experienced several decades of conflict between Spanish, French, and British military forces, as well as privateers and pirates. By 1718, the King of England appointed Captain Woodes Rogers to serve as the first Royal Governor and restore order in The Bahamas, now a crown colony.

Following the American War of Independence, the British issued land grants to American Loyalists who went into exile in The Bahamas. With them they brought slaves and forced the Spanish to retreat from the region. Today, the majority of Bahamians trace back their roots to the thousands of West Africans who were enslaved and brought to the islands in order to work on cotton plantations by those loyal to the British Crown. When Britain abolished its slave trade in 1807, thousands of liberated Africans from foreign slave ships were resettled as free persons in The Bahamas. During the early 19th century, hundreds of American slaves and Black Seminoles escaped from Florida and settled primarily on Andros Island in The Bahamas.

Bahamians were granted self-rule in 1964, and became members of the Commonwealth of Nations in 1969. In December 1972, the Government of The Bahamas, headed by Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Lynden Pindling and the Opposition headed by Sir Kendal Isaacs, led a delegation to London to discuss the Independence Constitution. Less than a year later, on July 10, 1973, The Bahamas became a free and sovereign country, ending

325 years of peaceful British rule. Nowadays, Bahamians typically commemorate their independence with a week-long celebration beginning on July 3rd consisting of a number of ''Junkanoo'' street parades, fireworks, political speeches, and other events.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the people of The Bahamas and the Bahamian diaspora worldwide in commemorating the 40th anniversary of their independence. This resolution reaffirms the strong friendship and partnership between our two countries, which are united by a shared history, common values, and a commitment to democracy and human rights.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. JOHNNIE JACQUELINE YOUNG MIMS SANDERS

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Johnnie Jacqueline Young Mims Sanders who will celebrate her 100th birthday on October 31, 2013. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering best wishes to Mrs. Sanders on this most historic occasion.

Mrs. Sanders was born on the last day of October in 1913 in my Congressional District in Vance County in the City of Henderson, North Carolina. She has dedicated her life to improving the lives of generations of North Carolinians through teaching, ministry, and community involvement.

Mrs. Sanders graduated from Henderson Institute in 1932. The Institute was established in 1887 and was the only secondary school in Vance County that was open to African Americans. She continued her education at my alma mater of North Carolina Central University—then North Carolina College for Negros—ultimately graduating with three degrees including a Bachelor of Arts in 1942, Bachelor of Science in 1946, and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education in 1951.

Drawn to educating and shaping young minds, Mrs. Sanders served as an educator for 46 years. She was a teacher at Kittrell Grade School and Eaton-Johnson Elementary School. Following that, she served as a Media Specialist at both Eaton-Johnson and E.M. Rollins Elementary Schools and also coordinated the organization of the Enrichment Center while working in the Vance County Schools' Central Office.

There is no doubt that Mrs. Sanders positively influenced the lives of countless young people while in the classroom. Outside the classroom, she has and continues to be one of the cornerstones of Shiloh Baptist Church in Henderson, where, ''Mother Sanders,'' as she is known, helps to mentor and advise young and old alike. For the past 93 years she has dedicated herself to her church and has been part of many ministries including teaching at the Baptist Training Union and singing in the Chancel Choir, often performing solos.

Mrs. Sanders' kindness and dedication to her community reached far beyond the classroom and church. Over the last century, Mrs. Sanders has helped young people and adults continue their education, sponsored trips to state and national church conventions, and organized and funded recreational trips across the United States. She has even helped people in the community start businesses without ever expecting anything in return. She is a true humanitarian and Vance County, the City of Henderson, and our great state of North Carolina are privileged to count her as one of their own.

For the majority of the last century, Mrs. Sanders has helped to improve the lives of her friends, neighbors, and strangers alike through her work with countless civic organizations. She has been a member of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina, and the General Baptist State Convention just to name a few. And, even at the age of 100, she continues to serve others through her work with the Golden Age Club, the North Carolina Association of Educators, and as a representative for the Senior Health Insurance Program.

Mr. Speaker, for the past century, Mrs. Sanders has lived a life worthy of emulating. Her dedication to education, her church, and her community deserve our highest praise. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our deep appreciation for the selfless way with which she has led her life.

HONORING CLARENCE E. SASSER

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the heroism of Specialist Fifth Class Clarence E. Sasser of the United States Army.

Specialist Fifth Class Clarence E. Sasser was a private in the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division and when he earned the U.S. military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his selfless and courageous acts on January 10, 1968, in Vietnam.

As a combat medic in Vietnam, Specialist Sasser served our country above and beyond the call of duty.

On January 10th, 1968, his company was making an air assault when it took fire from enemy positions on three sides of the landing zone.

While under enemy fire, Specialist Sasser helped drag a wounded soldier to cover, all while refusing medical treatment for a wound in his left shoulder. He then returned to help more of his fellow soldiers. He quickly treated soldiers in need and then continued to search for other wounded.

Near the end of the action, even with two additional wounds immobilizing his legs, he crawled through mud toward another soldier 100 meters away, and while faint from blood loss and in agonizing pain, he continued treating soldiers for hours until they were all evacuated.

Specialist Sasser received the Medal of Honor from President Richard Nixon in 1969 and on November 7, 2013, he will become the eighth Texas Aggie to be added to Texas A&M University's Medal of Honor Hall of Honor.

Specialist Sasser was born in Chenango, Texas, and following his military service he attended Texas A&M University on a scholarship offered by then President James Earl Rudder in August 1969.

After attending Texas A&M, he began working at an oil refinery for more than five years before going on to work at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, it is such a great privilege that Specialist Sasser's Medal of Honor and associated citation will be housed and showcased on the campus of Texas A&M University, which I am honored to represent.

Specialist Sasser's sacrifice and heroic efforts will never be forgotten. It is for his fearless courage, heroism and true dedication to our country that Texas A&M is proud to remember and honor the actions of Specialist Fifth Class Clarence E. Sasser.

I would like to close by asking all Americans to please pray for our country and for our brave American men and women who serve in the military to protect her.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST WESLEY ACUNA

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Army Specialist Wesley Acuna of Round Rock, TX who was recently awarded the Expert Field Medical Badge. This symbol of excellence is a sign of his technical and tactical proficiency.

With only a 17-percent pass rate, the Expert Field Medical Badge remains one of the most prestigious and coveted awards a medical professional can obtain in the Army. The testing process, which mirrors the dynamic role medics play in operations today, emphasizes tactical combat casualty care, evacuation, communication, and warrior skills. The security of America permits no compromise when it comes to upholding these high standards.

Inspired by the support from both his section and his unit, Spc. Acuna excelled through these challenging tests and finally persevered through the grueling final stages of the qualifying event, a 12 mile march in full combat load in the blazing Kuwaiti desert. Under harsh and stressful conditions, he proved himself as both expert medical professional and skilled warrior. That he was one of 21 elite soldiers to be awarded the Expert Field Medical Badge speaks volumes about his excellence, professionalism, and determination.

Despite his tremendous accomplishment, Spc. Acuna has no time to rest on his laurels. He is currently deployed to the Middle East with the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The needs of his mission and his country continue.

Spc. Wesley Acuna's commitment to excellence not only displays the best values of central Texas, but is a reflection of the greatness of the men and women of our armed forces. I commend his achievements and celebrate his commitment and perseverance.

OCTOBER AS THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize this October as the 26th anniversary of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the United States. Every day women across our nation live in fear of being abused by a partner. An estimated 1.5 million people in the United States fall victim to domestic abuse each year and one in four women will experience domestic violence at some point in her life. Like a cancer, this abuse knows no limits and crosses all ethnic, socioeconomic, and party lines.

For years, the consequences of domestic violence were ignored or minimized, but our nation has since witnessed many advances to protect and support victims of domestic abuse. The reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), passed into law this year, will be critical in strengthening the ability of governments, law enforcement, and service providers to combat domestic violence.

But the effects of domestic violence are far-reaching and plague generation after generation, so we must continue to work hard to intervene in ways that fit individual victims' needs and prevent future violence. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting stronger public policy initiatives to meet the overwhelming need that remains for victim services and a range of domestic violence programs. As community leaders, we must pursue every opportunity for domestic violence education, advocacy, and prevention services. These are the means by which we can help turn domestic violence victims into survivors and prevent future domestic abuse.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL WORK AND FAMILY MONTH

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Work and Family Month.

As a mother of three school-aged children, I know how difficult it is to juggle a demanding career while caring for a family. Despite our best attempts, our schedules are never entirely predictable—fevers, flight delays, and life's unexpected surprises have a way of throwing off the schedules we planned so meticulously. As we try to navigate life's twists and turns, a big part of our success hinges on the flexibility in our work environments.

Advances in technology are making greater workplace flexibility possible, but there is still a lot more we can do to make a healthy work-life balance become the norm rather than the exception.

The importance of employers promoting policies that support their employees' success within and outside the workplace must not be underestimated. Study after study shows that employers who offer effective work-life balance programs are able to attract and retain more talented employees and also maintain a healthier and happier workforce. Workers who have more input and flexibility with their schedules, such as accommodating work hours and paid sick leave, are able to care for their dependents without worrying about their job security—whether that means caring for a sick child home from school with the flu, a husband or wife recovering from a surgery, or an elderly parent who needs help getting to the doctor. Workers who can successfully manage their personal lives are less stressed, which results in a more productive workforce and lower costs associated with employee turnover.

More and more children are now growing up in a household with two full-time working parents, or are being raised by a single parent who works. For the sake of healthy children and families, employers must update their practices to reflect 21st century realities.

Investing in the health and wellbeing of our nation's workforce is not just smart for business; it's smart for our nation's long-term success. As research shows, increased parental involvement is associated with greater academic achievement and lower dropout rates for children, some of whom will become our nation's next generation of leaders.

So as we recognize National Work and Family Month, I encourage my fellow policy makers, employers, and employees to come together to create workplaces that are more flexible and supportive of our nation's hard working families.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for votes on Tuesday, October 29, 2013, due to the death of a very close family friend. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

H.R. 2374—"To amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide protections for retail customers, and for other purposes," Amendment No. 1. Vote: "no"

Motion to Recommit H.R. 2374, with Instructions: Vote: "no"

H.R. 2374—"To amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide protections for retail customers, and for other purposes." Vote: "yes"

CONGRATULATING THE FULBRIGHT-HAYES DOCTORAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH ABROAD GRANT RECIPIENTS FROM DUKE UNIVERSITY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Duke University students Ms. Sarah Jones Dickens, Ms. Caroline Garriott, and Ms. McKenzie Johnson for being recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as 2013 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Grant recipients.

Since 1961, the Department of Education has provided funding for the Fulbright-Hays Program, which seeks to improve relations and understanding between the U.S. and foreign counties. Fulbright-Hays DDRA Grants are awarded on an annual basis to outstanding graduate students who wish to conduct research in foreign countries for periods of six to twelve months. Ms. Dickens plans to conduct her research in Cambodia; Ms. Garriott plans to research in South America and Europe; and Ms. Johnson plans to research in South Sudan.

Duke University students received three of the 80 Fulbright-Hays DDRA Grants awarded this year. The Department of Education awarded $3 million to students on a competitive basis from 34 different institutions of higher education for the program in 2013. These achievements are a tribute to the exceptional academic accomplishments of these students and the innovative and quality academic environment at Duke University.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these students and the faculty at Duke University for their commitment to academic excellence. The global approach toward education and the understanding of other cultures demonstrated by these gifted students is essential for achievement and success in today's competitive worldwide economy. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating these students' great achievement by being recognized as a 2013 Fulbright-Hays DDRA Grant recipients.

HONORING SARAH (SALLY) LEONHARD

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. Sarah Leonhard, who retired last month after more than 18 years of dedicated service to the Greater Baden Medical Services (GBMS) and the surrounding community of Southern Maryland.

Sally, as she is known to many, received a bachelor's degree from Loyola University in New Orleans, a medical degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine, and a law degree from the University of Maryland in Baltimore.

Few people can claim to embody the spirit of compassion and community engagement as completely as Sally. An active participant in the Regional Primary Care Coalition, she was also the president of the Community Health Integrated Partnership. Sally is licensed by both the Maryland Board of Physicians and the Maryland State Bar.

The state of Maryland has long benefited from Sally's tenure in the health care field. In addition to serving as the Chief Executive Officer of GBMS for the past 12 years, she previously served as the Medical Director for the multi-site Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Under her leadership, the FQHC has grown to provide primary health care services to more than 15,000 patients annually in Prince George's, Charles, and St. Mary's counties.

Sally has played a pivotal role in ensuring uninsured and underserved individuals and families throughout Southern Maryland have access to affordable primary care, and her leadership will be greatly missed. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Sarah Leonhard on an exceptional career in the field of public health. On behalf of all Marylanders, I wish her the best in all future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHITE MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the White Memorial Medical Center. Since its beginnings in 1913, the White Memorial Medical Center has shown a deep commitment to providing health services to the residents of Los Angeles. The Seventh-day Adventist Church founded the hospital with the guiding principles of efficiency, honesty, compassion and respect. The hospital was named after Ellen G. White, a Seventh-day Adventist pioneer, who had the vision of integrating healing, healthy living and whole-person care.

Initial treatments were administered at White Memorial Medical Center's First Street Clinic. Since then, the hospital has seen major growth and expansion. In 1950, the hospital expanded by adding a new wing that doubled the number of beds and added a radiation laboratory, an electroencephalography unit, a psychiatric ward and comprehensive emergency facilities. Recently, the hospital undertook a $250 million project to renovate and modernized its facilities. Funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for seismic upgrades and $30 million in community support made these renovations possible.

Today, White Memorial Medical Center along with its physicians and community partners provides valuable services to the community of Boyle Heights and the greater County of Los Angeles. The hospital serves over 126,000 patients each year and is staffed by 462 physicians, 86 residents, 1,879 employees and nearly 700 volunteers. Services offered include behavioral medicine, diabetes care, cardiac and vascular care, intensive and general medicine care, oncology, orthopedic care, rehabilitation, specialized and general surgery, stroke care and specialized medical services for women and children.

As a major teaching hospital, White Memorial Medical Center plays a significant role in training physicians, nurses and other medical professionals. Training programs focus on teaching doctors to care for the underserved and deliver culturally competent care to its neighboring communities. The hospital also serves the international community by sponsoring medical mission teams around the world and sending supplies to its adopted sister hospital in Zambia, Africa.

I salute the White Memorial Medical Center on the occasion of its centennial celebration. I wish it continued success in its ongoing effort to serve as a teaching hospital and its work with local community-based organizations to bring health, safety and wellness programs to the residents of Los Angeles. Happy Birthday White Memorial! May the next 10 years be even better and brighter.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHILD SAFETY NETWORK

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Child Safety Network. As the nation's largest distributor of child safety information, CSN has tirelessly fought to make our nation a safer place for children by preventing child abuse, abduction, injury, and exploitation.

Through the youth violence prevention and intervention initiatives, as well promoting the safety of all children who ride public school buses, CSN's efforts to safeguard children and educate parents are impressive and imperative. For instance, adding free extended driving training to the 2,700 school districts that currently use CSN's endorsed training courses has reduced preventable accidents by over 30 percent.

CSN has worked with schools and schools districts in CA–17, and have worked extensively with the California State PTA and the National PTA Association. Throughout the past several years, CSN has provided free child safety information, including the free CSN Safe Family CD to thousands of parents in CA–17. The Safe Family CD and the CSN website provide child safety and health information, immunization schedules for children, child product recall information, and several new child safety programs which include School Bus Safety and driver training, extending Drug Free School Zones to Bus Stops, child nutritional information, preventing child bullying, and many other issues.

As the Representative of California's 17th district, as an educator of over 30 years, a parent and a grandparent, I am grateful to the countless CSN staff and volunteers who are committed to raising safer and healthier children. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Child Safety Network for their admirable work these last 25 years in my district, California, and our nation—and I extend my warmest wishes in their next 25 years.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GLORIA JOHNSON

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, today we pay tribute to the life of Gloria Johnson, a nationally recognized activist and San Diego community leader who worked tirelessly for more than 50 years for social justice and civil rights. With Gloria's passing this September, it is fitting we honor her as a strong-willed, compassionate, loyal, and tenacious trailblazer whose legacy will continue through those she mentored and in the communities she nurtured. Gloria will be remembered as a champion for women, the LGBT community, and progressive values.

Gloria was born on August 26 and took immense pride in the fact she shared her birthday with Women's Equality Day, and she lived in accordance with its principles. Gloria was a member of the National Organization for Women for more than 40 years, including serving as a state board member and president of the local chapter. She campaigned for the Equal Rights Amendment, even receiving jail time for civil disobedience after protesting the measure's defeat. In addition to campaigning arduously for women leaders including Hilary Clinton, Nancy Pelosi, and many in our local and state legislatures, Gloria served as a mentor to many young women and was appointed to the Governor's Committee on Women's Issues and inducted into the county's Women's Hall of Fame, thus promoting women's rights in multiple forums.

Gloria worked for the County of San Diego for thirty years, serving as a champion for the LGBT community. During the latter half of her tenure, and at the onset of the AIDS epidemic, she was one of the first social workers in San Diego to work with individuals suffering from the disease in the county's AIDS Case Management Program. Gloria took immense pride in that work, for which San Diego's LGBT community is profoundly grateful. Additionally, she served as cochair of a committee created to defeat a 1978 California state initiative that would have banned gays and lesbians from teaching in public schools.

While she most recently served as cochair of the California Democratic Party LGBT Caucus, Gloria's extensive political activism and leadership began many years prior. In 1977, she joined the newly formed San Diego Democratic Club (now Democrats for Equality), became president of the club in 1980, and remained a sitting board member until her death. Named one of The Advocate's top 400 U.S. gay leaders in 1984, she also served as founding member of Lesbian Rights Task Force and board member of the National Stonewall Democrats.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the life of Gloria Johnson. Gloria's active leadership, steadfast beliefs, pioneering character, and inclusive spirit will be missed by many.

HONORING BRAD STUTZMAN

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of journalist Brad Stutzman. With his retirement approaching, he will soon begin the next chapter of his life.

Brad began his newspaper career 35 years ago in his hometown of Binghamton, N.Y. where he worked as a copy boy. Moving to Texas in 1981, Brad quickly put his stamp on journalism in the Lone Star State writing news and feature articles along with editorials and columns. His commentaries also appear in the Pflugerville Pflag, Cedar Park-Leander Statesman, Bastrop Advertiser, and Smithville Times. Brad Stutzman has served as editor for the Round Rock Leader, my hometown paper, since 2005.

Brad's writing, which can be both funny and informative, brings to life the words of fellow journalist John Grogan of The Philadelphia Inquirer, ''In the English language, it all comes down to this: Twenty-six letters, when combined correctly, can create magic. Twenty-six letters form the foundation of a free, informed society.'' Fortunately for the people of central Texas, Brad used his tremendous gifts in service of superb journalism.

I've been friends with Brad for a long, long time. People in politics always seem to have trouble with reporters and editors in many instances. Yet I've always found him to be a fair and impartial reporter and his editorial policies were intelligent and well written and in most cases I agreed with him. I consider Brad a friend and I'll miss him. I'm sorry to see him go.

Retirement is something to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. Both Erika and I wish Brad and his wife Ellen only the best in the years ahead.

HONORING DR. ROBERT M. WHITE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the first Federal Coordinator for Meteorology and the first Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Dr. Robert M. White.

Fifty years ago, the Bureau of the Budget issued a Circular to propose policy and procedures for the coordination of Federal meteorological services. In October of 1963, President John F. Kennedy appointed Dr. White to be chief of the U.S. Weather Bureau. Shortly thereafter in January of 1964, he became the first Federal Coordinator for Meteorology. Dr. White was the first and only Administrator of the Environmental Sciences Services Administration (ESSA) from 1965 to 1970, and served as the founding Administrator of NOAA from 1970 to 1977.

Dr. White made groundbreaking contributions to the federal coordination of meteorology in the United States. He advocated for the expansion of numerical weather prediction techniques and advanced the practical use of global weather observing technology through the launch of the first two operational meteorological satellites. He advanced weather radar research and development on Doppler technology, providing the foundation for our current NEXRAD radar system. Furthermore, he led U.S. participation in the Global Atmospheric Research Program (GARP) and directed research essential to the modernization and association restructuring of the National Weather Service.

In 1978, at the request of the World Meteorological Organization, he chaired the first World Climate Conference in Geneva. After leaving Federal service, he was elected President of the National Academy of Engineering. He was awarded the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement in 1992 for his contributions to global environmental science.

I commend Dr. White for the profound vision he brought to his government service, which furthered our understanding of meteorology and the natural environment, including the oceans and marine resources.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, October 31, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 5

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine housing finance reform, focusing on protecting small lender access to the secondary mortgage market.

SD–538

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the online Federal health insurance marketplace, focusing on enrollment challenges and the path forward.

SD–430

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Bankruptcy and the Courts

To hold hearings to examine if limiting the scope of civil discovery will diminish accountability and leave Americans without access to justice.

SD–226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Subcommittee on Conservation, Forestry and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine wildfires.

SR–328A

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security

To hold hearings to examine the United States aviation industry and jobs, focusing on keeping American manufacturing competitive.

SR–253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Oversight

To hold hearings to examine methane emissions from oil and gas operations.

SD–406

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

NOVEMBER 6

10 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Bureau of Prisons and cost-effective strategies for reducing recidivism.

SD–226

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Sloan D. Gibson, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary, Linda A. Schwartz, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, and Constance B. Tobias, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SR–418

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine transportation, focusing on independence for seniors.

SD–562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the ''America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act'' (America COMPETES), focusing on science and the United States economy.

SR–253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia

To hold hearings to examine the ongoing recovery from Hurricane Sandy one year later.

SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.

SD–226

NOVEMBER 7

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the impact of sequestration on the national defense; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217, following the open session.

SD–G50

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Draft Regional Recommendation regarding the Columbia River Treaty.

SD–366

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

NOVEMBER 14

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Steven Croley, of Michigan, to be General Counsel, and Christopher Smith, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, both of the Department of Energy, and Esther Puakela Kia'aina, of Hawaii, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas.

SD–366

NOVEMBER 20

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine S. 182, to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Anchorage, Alaska, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversion interest to the City, S. 483, to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area in the State of California, S. 771, to provide to the Secretary of the Interior a mechanism to cancel contracts for the sale of materials CA–20139 and CA–22901, S. 776, to establish the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness in the State of New Mexico, to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of National Forest System land in the State, S. 841, to designate certain Federal land in the San Juan National Forest in the State of Colorado as wilderness, S. 1305, to provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado, S. 1341, to modify the Forest Service Recreation Residence Program as the program applies to units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain by implementing a simple, equitable, and predictable procedure for determining cabin user fees, S. 1414, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Oregon to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, S. 1415, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Oregon to the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and S. 1479, to address the forest health, public safety, and wildlife habitat threat presented by the risk of wildfire, including catastrophic wildfire, on National Forest System land and public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management by requiring the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to expedite forest management projects relating to hazardous fuels reduction, forest health, and economic development.

SD–366

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7637–S7687

Measures Introduced: Sixteen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1611–1626, and S. Res. 277–278. **Pages S7673–74**

Measures Reported:

H.R. 2094, to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the preference given, in awarding certain asthma-related grants, to certain States (those allowing trained school personnel to administer epinephrine and meeting other related requirements).

H.R. 2747, to amend title 40, United States Code, to transfer certain functions from the Government Accountability Office to the Department of Labor relating to the processing of claims for the payment of workers who were not paid appropriate wages under certain provisions of such title.

S. 1302, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1557, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals.

S. 1561, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve provisions relating to the sanctuary system for surplus chimpanzees, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7673**

Measures Passed:

CHIMP Act Amendments: Senate passed S. 1561, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve provisions relating to the sanctuary system for surplus chimpanzees, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7684–85**

United States Parole Commission Extension Act: Senate passed H.R. 3190, to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission. **Page S7685**

School Bus Safety Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 278, designating October 2013 as "School Bus Safety Month". **Pages S7685–86**

Adjournment Resolution: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 62, providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives. **Page S7686**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency relative to the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan as declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–23) **Page S7670**

Suh Nomination Referral—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the nomination of Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, sent to the Senate by the President on October 30, 2013, be referred jointly to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Environment and Public Works. **Page S7684**

Watt Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 31, 2013, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Melvin L. Watt, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, with the time until 12 noon equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders or their designees; and that following the swearing in of Senator-elect Booker, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination, and that there be two minutes of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form prior to a cloture vote on the nomination. **Pages S7663–64, S7686**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Alan F. Estevez, of the District of Columbia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense. **Pages S7639–46, S7687**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 91 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. 223), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having

voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Pages S7640–41

By 62 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. EX. 225), Katherine Archuleta, of Colorado, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years. **Pages S7647–63, S7687**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 81 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. 224), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Pages S7646–47

Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be United States Governor of the International Monetary Fund for a term of five years; United States Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of five years; United States Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of five years; United States Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Pages S7663, S7687

Subsequently, the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination was withdrawn. **Page S7663**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Joseph S. Hezir, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury.

Jonathan Elkind, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs).

Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife.

Charles Hammerman Rivkin, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Economic and Business Affairs).

Robert C. Barber, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iceland.

Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs).

Mark Gilbert, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to New Zealand.

Tina S. Kaidanow, of the District of Columbia, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

Theodore Reed Mitchell, of California, to be Under Secretary of Education.

Massie Ritsch, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Communications and Outreach, Department of Education.

William A. LaPlante, Jr., of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

Routine lists in the Air Force, and Army.

Pages S7686–87

Messages from the House: **Page S7670**

Measures Referred: **Page S7670**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S7670**

Executive Communications: **Pages S7670–73**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S7673**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7674–75**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7675–83**

Additional Statements: **Page S7669**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S7683–84**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S7684**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S7684**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—225) **Pages S7641, S7647, S7663**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:43 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 31, 2013. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7686.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

JOBS ACT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment concluded a hearing to examine the JOBS Act at a year and a half, focusing on assessing progress and unmet opportunities, after receiving testimony from Keith Higgins, Director, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission; Alan Lewis, Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage, Inc., Denver, Colorado; Robert R. Kaplan, Jr., Kaplan Voekler Cunningham and Frank, PLC, Richmond, Virginia; Rick Fleming, North American Securities Administrators Association, Inc., Burke, Virginia; and Sherwood Neiss, Crowdfund Capital Advisors LLC, Miami, Florida.

TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, after receiving testimony from Michael L. Ducker, FedEx Express, Memphis, Tennessee; Ryan McCormick, Montana Grain Growers Association, Great Falls; Dave Ricks, Lilly Biomedicines, Indianapolis, Indiana; and William P. Roenigk, National Chicken Council, Washington, DC.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1562, to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1557, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals;

S. 1561, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve provisions relating to the sanctuary system for surplus chimpanzees, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R. 2094, to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the preference given, in awarding certain asthma-related grants, to certain States (those allowing trained school personnel to administer epinephrine and meeting other related requirements);

S. 1302, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R. 2747, to amend title 40, United States Code, to transfer certain functions from the Government Accountability Office to the Department of Labor relating to the processing of claims for the payment of workers who were not paid appropriate wages under certain provisions of such title; and

The nominations of Michael Keith Yudin, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, and James Cole, Jr., of New York, to be General Counsel, both of the Department of Education, and Chai Rachel Feldblum, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 235, to provide for the conveyance of certain property located in Anchorage, Alaska, from the United States to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 611, to make a technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

S. 920, to allow the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the State of Minnesota to lease or transfer certain land, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

INDIAN AFFAIRS LEGISLATION

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 1074, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe, S. 1132, to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and S. 161, to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, after receiving testimony from Senators Kaine, Burr, and Hagan; Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs; Stephen R. Adkins, Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Charles City, Virginia; Paul Brooks, Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, Pembroke; and Gerald Gray, Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, Black Eagle.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of John B. Owens, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Matthew Frederick Leitman, Judith Ellen Levy, Laurie J. Michelson, and Linda Vivienne Parker, all to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, who were all introduced by Senator Levin, and Peter Joseph Kadzik, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS LEGISLATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 875, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the reporting of cases of infectious diseases at facilities of the Veterans Health Administration, S. 1148, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide notice of average times for processing claims, S. 1155, to provide for advance appropriations for certain information technology accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to include mental health professionals in training programs of the Department, S. 1165, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements relating to the immunization of veterans, S. 1211, to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the use of the phrases GI Bill and Post-9/11 GI Bill to give a false impression of approval

or endorsement by the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 1216, to improve and increase the availability of on-job training and apprenticeship programs carried out by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, S. 1262, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans conservation corps, S. 1281, to prohibit discrimination on the basis of military service, S. 1295, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide veterans with notice, when veterans electronically file claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, that relevant services may be available from veterans service organizations, S. 1296, to amend the Wounded Warrior Act to establish a specific timeline for the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to achieve interoperable electronic health records, S. 1361, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for veterans status of an individual who performed service as a coastwise merchant seaman during World War II, S. 1399, to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend the interest rate limitation on debt entered into during military service to debt incurred during military service to consolidate or refinance student loans incurred before military service, S. 1411, to specify requirements for the next update of the current strategic plan for the Office of Rural Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs for improving access to, and the quality of, health care services for veterans in rural areas, S. 1434, to designate the Junction City Community-Based Outpatient Clinic located at 715 Southwind Drive, Junction City, Kansas, as the Lieutenant General Richard J. Seitz Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, S. 1471, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of the Army to reconsider decisions to inter or honor the memory of a person in a national cemetery, S. 1540, to amend title 38, United States Code, to include contracts and grants for residential care for veterans in the exception to the requirement that the Federal Government recover a portion of the value of certain projects, S. 1547, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to review the dialysis pilot program implemented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and submit a report to Congress before expanding that program, S. 1556, to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration, S. 1558, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program of outreach for veterans, S. 1559, to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the method of determining whether Filipino veterans are United States residents for purposes of eligibility for receipt of the full-dollar rate of compensation under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, S. 1573, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the payment of temporary compensation to a surviving spouse of a veteran upon the death of the veteran, S. 1576, to redesignate the Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare System located at 10000 Bay Pines Boulevard in Bay Pines, Florida, as the "C.W. Bill Young Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center", S. 1578, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to cover the costs associated with the care of veterans at medical foster homes, S. 1579, to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to improve the protections provided to members of the uniformed services and their families, S. 1580, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require recipients of per diem payments from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the provision of services for homeless veterans to comply with codes relevant to operations and level of care provided, S. 1581, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide counseling and treatment for sexual trauma to members of the Armed Forces, to require the Secretary to screen veterans for domestic abuse, to require the Secretary to submit reports on military sexual trauma and domestic abuse, S. 1582, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit reports on the provision of services by the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans with hearing loss and other auditory system injuries and the measures that can be taken jointly by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense with respect to hearing loss and other auditory system injuries, S. 1583, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct an education program and peer support program for the education and training of family members and caregivers of veterans with mental health disorders, S. 1584, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide replacement automobiles for certain disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces, S. 1585, to amend title 38, United States Code, to update the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance program to base premium rates on the Commissioners 2001 Standard Ordinary Mortality Table instead of the Commissioners 1941 Standard Ordinary Table of Mortality, S. 1586, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve dental health care for veterans, S. 1588, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for reimbursement for emergency medical treatment to certain veterans that were unable to receive care from the Department of Veterans Affairs in the 24-month period preceding the furnishing of such emergency treatment, S. 1589, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure the Department of Veterans Affairs has an up-to-date policy on

reporting of cases of infectious diseases, to require an independent assessment of the Veterans Integrated Service Networks and medical centers of the Department, S. 1593, to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to enhance the protections accorded to servicemembers and their spouses with respect to mortgages, an original bill entitled, ''Veterans Health Care Eligibility Expansion and Enhancement Act'', and an original bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces, to provide certain services to those descendants, after receiving testimony from Senators Reed, Nelson, Franken, Coats, and Heinrich; Robert I. Jesse, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health, David R. McLenachen, Director, Pension Fiduciary Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Richard Hipolit, Assistant General Counsel, and Jane Clare Joyner, Deputy Assistant General Counsel, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and Colonel Robert F. Norton, USA (Ret.), Military Officers Association of America, Adrian M. Atizado, Disabled American Veterans, and Richard Weidman, Vietnam Veterans of America, all of Washington, DC.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported H.R. 3302, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Bay Pines, Florida, as the ''C.W. Bill Young Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center''.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 66 public bills, H.R. 3380–3445; and 11 resolutions, H.J. Res. 100–101; H. Con. Res. 62–63; and H. Res. 395–401, were introduced. **Pages H6951–54**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H6957–58**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 982, to amend title 11 of the United States Code to require the public disclosure by trusts established under section 524(g) of such title, of quarterly reports that contain detailed information regarding the receipt and disposition of claims for injuries based on exposure to asbestos; and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–254);

H.R. 2655, to amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–255); and In the Matter regarding the arrests of Members of the House during a protest outside the United States Capitol on October 8, 2013 (H. Rept. 113–256). **Page H6951**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Cramer to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6905**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:54 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H6911**

House Democracy Partnership—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members to the House Democracy Partnership: Representative Roskam, Chairman; Representatives Fortenberry, Boustany, Conaway, Buchanan, Crenshaw, Wilson (SC), Brooks (IN), Latham, Black, and Ribble. **Pages H6915–16**

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Representatives Pitts, Aderholt, Gingrey, and Burgess. **Page H6916**

Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act: The House passed H.R. 992, to amend provisions in section 716 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act relating to Federal assistance for swaps entities, by a recorded vote of 292 ayes to 122 noes, Roll No. 569. **Pages H6916–28**

Rejected the Brownley motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 190 yeas to 223 nays, Roll No. 568. **Pages H6925–27**

H. Res. 391, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 992) and (H.R. 2374), was agreed to yesterday, October 29th.

Relating to the Disapproval of the President's Exercise of Authority To Suspend the Debt Limit: The House agreed to H.J. Res. 99, relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to suspend the debt limit, as submitted under section 1002(b) of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 on October 17, 2013, by a yea-and-nay vote of 222 yeas to 191 nays with 2 answering

"present", Roll No. 570. Consideration of the measure began yesterday, October 29th. **Page H6928**

H.J. Res. 99 was considered under the provisions of H. Res. 391 and section 1002(e)(2)(C) of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014.

Adjournment Resolution: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 62, providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives. **Page H6928**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in memory of Ike Skelton, former Member of Congress. **Pages H6928–29**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, November 1st unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in H. Con. Res. 62, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution. **Page H6944**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to Sudan is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2013—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 113–70). **Pages H6943–44**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6926–27, H6927, and H6928. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and at 5:11 p.m., the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Friday, November 1, 2013, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of H. Con. Res. 62, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

Committee Meetings

PPACA IMPLEMENTATION FAILURES: ANSWERS FROM HHS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "PPACA Implementation Failures: Answers from HHS". Testimony was heard from Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

CHINA'S MARITIME AND OTHER GEOGRAPHIC THREATS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats held a hearing entitled "China's Maritime and other Geographic Threats". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ESTABLISHING A SYRIAN WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa; and Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled "Establishing a Syrian War Crimes Tribunal?". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CYBERSECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications; and Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies held a hearing entitled "Cyber Incident Response: Bridging the Gap Between Cybersecurity and Emergency Management". Testimony was heard from Roberta Stempfley, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, National Protection and Programs Directorate, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

FACILITY PROTECTION: IMPLICATIONS OF THE NAVY YARD SHOOTING ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency held a hearing entitled "Facility Protection: Implications of the Navy Yard Shooting on Homeland Security". Testimony was heard from L. Eric Patterson, Director, Federal Protective Service, Department of Homeland Security; Greg Marshall, Chief Security Officer, Department of Homeland Security; Caitlin Durkovich, Assistant Secretary, Infrastructure Protection, Department of Homeland Security; and Mark Goldstein, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office.

REGULATORY CRIME: IDENTIFYING THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

Committee on the Judiciary: Over-Criminalization Task Force held a meeting entitled "Regulatory Crime: Identifying the Scope of the Problem". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on the following legislation: H.R. 298, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Mill Springs Battlefield located in Pulaski and Wayne Counties, Kentucky, and the feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System, and for other purposes; H.R. 585, the "Anchorage Land Conveyance Act of 2013"; H.R. 1846, the "Lower East Side

Tenement National Historic Site Amendments Act''; H.R. 2799, to establish the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council Advisory Committee to advise the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture on wildlife and habitat conservation, hunting, recreational shooting, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2954, to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 298; H.R. 1846; and H.R. 2799. The following bills were ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 585; and H.R. 2954.

CULTURE OF MISMANAGEMENT AND WASTEFUL CONFERENCE SPENDING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''A Culture of Mismanagement and Wasteful Conference Spending at the Department of Veterans Affairs''. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Veterans Affairs officials: Gina Farrisee, Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration; Edward Murray, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Finance; Richard J. Griffin, Deputy Inspector General, Office of Inspector General; and Gary K. Abe, Deputy Assistant Inspector General, Office of Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General.

PROVIDING THE TOOLS FOR SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY AND BASIC ENERGY RESEARCH: THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SCIENCE MISSION

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled ''Providing the Tools for Scientific Discovery and Basic Energy Research: The Department of Energy Science Mission''. Testimony was heard from Patricia Dehmer, Deputy Director for Science Programs, Office of Science, Department of Energy; Horst Simon, Deputy Director, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab; John Hemminger, Chair, Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee, Office of Science, Department of Energy.

REVIEW OF FAA'S CERTIFICATION PROCESS: ENSURING AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE, AND SAFE PROCESS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled ''Review of FAA's Certification Process: Ensuring an Efficient, Effective, and Safe Process''. Testimony was heard from Dorenda Baker, Director of Aircraft Certification Service, Federal Aviation Administration; Gerald Dillingham, Director, Civil Aviation Issues, Government Accountability Office; Jeff Guzzetti, Assistant Inspector General for Aviation Audits, Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

FOCUSED ISSUES ON DIGNIFIED BURIALS: A NATIONAL CEMETERY UPDATE

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing entitled ''Focused Issues on Dignified Burials: A National Cemetery Update''. Testimony was heard from Patrick K. Hallinan, Executive Director of Army National Cemeteries Program, Department of Defense; Glenn Powers, Deputy Under Secretary for Field Programs, National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

BUDGET RESOLUTION

Conferees met to resolve the differences between the Senate and House adopted versions of 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, but did not complete action thereon, and will meet again on November 13, 2013.

FARM BILL

Conferees met to resolve the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 2642, to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to the call.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR MINORITIES IN EUROPE

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission received a briefing on the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, focusing on how the movement has impacted Europe and the continuing work of the United States in advancing human rights for minorities in Europe from Ivan Ivanov, European Roma Information Office, Brussels, Belgium.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2013

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Wanda

Felton, of New York, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and Katherine M. O'Regan, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine housing finance reform, focusing on a government guarantee for mortgage-backed securities, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider S. Res. 268, condemning the September 2013 terrorist attack at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, and reaffirming United States support for the people and Government of Kenya, S. Res. 277, recognizing the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali, and the nominations of Gregory B. Starr, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security, Mark Bradley Childress, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania, Thomas Frederick Daughton, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia, Matthew T. Harrington, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho, Eunice S. Reddick, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Niger, John Hoover, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone, Michael Stephen Hoza, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon, Tomasz P. Malinowski, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Crystal Nix-Hines, of California, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, Pamela K. Hamamoto, of Hawaii, to be Representative to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador, Philip S. Goldberg, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines, Robert O. Blake, Jr., of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia, Karen Clark Stanton, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Timothy M. Broas, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Donald Lu, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Albania, Robert A. Sherman, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic, Anne W. Patterson, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, Adam M. Scheinman, of Virginia, to be Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, with the rank of Ambassador, Rose Eilene Gottemoeller, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Frank A. Rose, of Massachusetts, to be Assistant Secretary for Verification and Compliance, Dwight L. Bush, Sr., of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco, James Walter Brewster, Jr., of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, Brian A. Nichols, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Peru, and Carlos Roberto Moreno, of California, to be Ambassador to Belize, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Syria, 10:15 a.m., SD–419.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Daniel W. Yohannes, of Colorado, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, and Anthony Luzzatto Gardner, of New York, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador, both of the Department of State, 2:15 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine attaining a quality degree, focusing on innovations to improve student success, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine government clearances and background checks, focusing on the Navy Yard tragedy, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 42, to provide anti-retaliation protections for antitrust whistleblowers, S. 822, to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and the nominations of Robert Leon Wilkins, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Brian J. Davis, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Timothy L. Brooks, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, James Donato, Beth Labson Freeman, and Vince Girdhari Chhabria, all to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Pedro A. Delgado Hernandez, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, Carolyn B. McHugh, of Utah, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Pamela L. Reeves, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, and James Maxwell Moody, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, October 31

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Melvin L. Watt, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination at approximately 12:10 p.m.

At 12 noon, Senator-elect Booker, of New Jersey, will be sworn in.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Friday, November 1

House Chamber

Program for Friday: The House will meet in pro forma session at 10 a.m.

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