United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2014 No. 150

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 10, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID W. JOLLY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

NOTICE

If the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 24, 2014, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, will be published on Wednesday, December 31, 2014, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT–59 or S–123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Tuesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Wednesday, December 31, 2014, and will be delivered on Monday, January 5, 2015.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the *Congressional Record* may contain subject matter, or relate to any event, that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators' statements should also be formatted according to the instructions at http://webster/secretary/cong__record.pdf, and submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at "Record@Sec.Senate.gov".

Members of the House of Representatives' statements may also be submitted electronically by e-mail, to accompany the signed statement, and formatted according to the instructions for the Extensions of Remarks template at https://housenet.house.gov/legislative/research-and-reference/transcripts-and-records/electronic-congressional-record-inserts. The Official Reporters will transmit to GPO the template formatted electronic file only after receipt of, and authentication with, the hard copy, and signed manuscript. Deliver statements to the Official Reporters in Room HT–59.

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman.*

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, 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, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

THANKING THE PEOPLE OF THE 23RD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say thank you to the wonderful people of the 23rd District of Texas who, for the last 2 years, have given me the great privilege of serving as their voice here in the people's House.

I am living proof that this is a nation of opportunity and that the American Dream still exists. God has blessed me in many ways. I was born into a warm and loving family. My parents, Pete

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and Elena, taught me to work hard and respect others. I am married to a wonderful wife, Maria Elena, who has stood with me through the peaks and valleys of the last 25 years. We are the parents of a phenomenal son, Nicolas Miguel, who has brought us joy we never knew possible and has taught us the true meaning of love. In addition, though my roots are humble, I have had the privilege of working in this Chamber. Few people get the privilege to serve here.

Yet Congress isn't what it once was. Agreements are few, partisan rancor is common, statesmanship is rare. Who are the giants of history among us? Where are the statesmen and -women who accomplished historic feats through significant signature legislative achievements?

But we know that progress is still possible. We saw this session that when Congress puts party labels aside and gets to work, like we did on VA reform, we can accomplish some great things for the American people. But those occasions were far too rare.

More often, this Chamber saw bickering and pettiness, and this Congress made history as the least productive and most unpopular Congress in the history of this proud Nation. The American people responded by making history of their own. On election day, a record number of them simply threw up their hands, wondered what is the point, and didn't go to the polls.

It is easy to see why Americans are so tired of politics, to understand why many of us don't check in on election day; when our democracy needs us the most, we check out.

Polarization, discontent, dissatisfaction, disappointment, dismay—all now normal in the course of our public discourse. Old-fashioned values like truth and good manners and respect for others' views and appreciation are no longer in vogue. Candidates and officeholders and super-PACs are shrill and mean—and yes, for some, the word would be even un-Christian—to one another.

Politicians distort truth and attempt to stampede people with fear, and many times our fears or our lack of faith win out. We fail to realize how really truly lucky we are as Americans.

Before chiding people for not meeting their civic responsibilities, Congress as a body should reflect on whether it has been meeting its own responsibility because even Congress complains about Congress, yet it does nothing to change. Most Americans are somewhere in the middle, but that is not where Congress is. In our current system, super-PACs attack those Members who stake out middle grounds.

The American people deserve better than they are getting. Our country deserves better. Our future and our children's future is too important. Both Congress and our country must rise to the occasion and confront and conquer our own internal paralysis. Patriotism must trump partisanship.

A robust democracy requires active participation. Congress—indeed, America—needs all of us. It needs Democrats and Republicans and Libertarians and Latinos and Anglos and African Americans and Asians—Americans all.

Soon I will have the highest title that any American can have—not the title of an elected official, but the title of citizen. And as a citizen, I hope to continue to remind Congress of the importance of governing well and our fellow Americans of the importance of participating in our electoral system.

I have faith that ours is a resilient Nation blessed by God. Despite our frustrations and our fears and our failings, despite ourselves, we still live in the greatest Nation the world has ever known.

Sure, times are tough, but they were tougher for our parents and our grandparents. If you think back a moment and you compare your life to theirs, you can see how far you and all of us have come.

The job now is not to be mad about and continually relive the old battles of the past nor to be afraid of the future, but to look forward and to build our future together.

I leave this institution with no regrets and many accomplishments for the people of home, particularly grateful for the opportunity to work with and serve our veterans and our Active Duty military and amazed at the incredible and still untapped potential of our amazing democracy.

I want to say thank you to each of my employees and thank you again to all the people of the 23rd District of Texas, especially to those I have had the privilege of representing since I first became a State legislator in 1991.

I wish my successor well, and I offer my prayers for all the Members of the 114th Congress. You are capable of doing great things for America when you remember to put people and policy ahead of partisanship and politics.

May God bless Texas, and may God bless the United States of America.

PROUDLY RESTORING OFFICERS OF PRIOR ENLISTMENT RETIREMENT ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Proudly Restoring Officers of Prior Enlistment Retirement, or PROPER, Act legislation that I will be introducing this week that will support America's involuntarily separated servicemembers.

For the first time since the 1990s, the Army is shrinking. As our military continues to draw down in the Middle East, all service branches have been tasked with making difficult force reduction decisions.

Our All-Volunteer service has made considerable sacrifices, valiantly fighting two concurrent wars while solely remaining dedicated to the mission at hand.

As the Pentagon continues to implement a drawdown policy, provisions in the law could create unwarranted and unnecessary reductions to military retirement pay for thousands of involuntarily separated servicemembers.

Mr. Speaker, these men and women have honorably served our country and deserve better. For example, some prior enlisted soldiers who received a commission into the officer corps are now facing a difficult situation. Years after being commissioned, the Army has made the determination to relieve these experienced soldiers from military service.

To make the situation worse, many of these individuals do not have the required time in the officer corps and are forced to receive a lesser retirement pension. Mr. Speaker, after having earned an officer's rank, these soldiers have been reduced in rank for retirement purposes.

Mr. Speaker, our soldiers have honorably served our country and deserve better. These men and women deserve to collect full pension and benefits equivalent to their service in uniform and not subjected to an arbitrary reduction in rank and pay after being involuntarily separated from the military.

To prevent this injustice, I will soon be introducing the Proudly Restoring Officers of Prior Enlistment Retirement, or PROPER, Act. The PROPER Act does not prevent further troop reduction. It merely assures these soldiers and those affected, through each military branch, can be made financially whole with due respect for their service.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, as The New York Times said in an editorial last week, there is an immigration crisis looming next year, but it has nothing to do with the border. Rather, it is the huge effort that will be needed to fulfill the President's executive actions and get millions—millions—of American families out of harm's way by protecting them from deportation and destruction.

Sure, we are celebrating the series of executive actions taken by the President, but we are also rolling up our sleeves and getting to work. So I want to talk just a little bit about what we are doing in the city of Chicago and what I am hoping my colleagues here in Congress and my colleagues across the country in community-based organizations, the legal community, and immigrant and Latino neighborhoods in every State will do to help with getting people ready to sign up when the window to submit applications opens in 180 days and the government's review of cases begins.

This coming Saturday, the 13th, at 9:30 in the morning I will be at Rebano Church on the north side of Chicago, and more than 500 families have already preregistered for an orientation. We will go over what the President's announcement means for individual immigrants and their families. Then those who have preregistered will have an opportunity for a one-on-one preliminary evaluation of their eligibility from people we are calling family defenders.

We are already scheduling follow-up events this month and into the new year, and we will be ready to accommodate the huge demand for accurate and trustworthy information.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel has been my consistent and outstanding partner in the effort, and we are both committed to making Chicago the model for the rest of the country; and for the advocates, the legal community, the business community, the public sector, we are all working together to make that a reality.

That is right. New York. Listen up, L.A. Get ready, Miami, Houston, and Dallas. We are going to work to protect as many families as we possibly can in the city of Chicago, and we are challenging you to keep up.

But it is not just the major immigrant gateway cities where we need to organize to protect American families. As the President showed us yesterday, cities in the South like Nashville are leading the way to integrate and assimilate immigrant populations. The spirit of inclusion is of utmost importance as we help families come forward, register with the government, submit their paperwork and fingerprints, and get ready and into the system.

I have told my House colleagues that I plan to be on the road a lot at the start of next year, traveling anywhere they need me to travel to help them conduct outreach and educate immigrant communities where they live. But it is not just the blue districts where we must support our immigrant communities and make sure they register. It will be necessary in red districts, too; States like South Carolina, Arizona, and Alabama, States that tried unsuccessfully to push their immigrant community farther underground. I will accept invitation from those States, too, to get the word out and educate the community in whatever way I can.

I can't tell you how many people have come up to me and said: Congressman, I don't know if this will help my family, my dad, my mom, my neighbor, or my parishioner, but I hope they will not still have to live in fear of deportation.

There are millions who will not be able to come forward and sign up because their cases cannot be reviewed under the President's guidelines. I tell them that what the President has announced is bold, it is broad, and it is extremely generous and helpful to the United States and our immigrants who have no other way to get in the system and on the books; but it cannot go as far and it does not replace the need for congressional action and legislation.

But let us all remember that, by the end of this week, the clock is going to have run out on the best chance the House has had in decades to address immigration in a bipartisan and measured manner. The Senate did half the work by giving us more than a year to craft a bipartisan answer to their proposal, and we tried in many, many different ways to help this House rise to the occasion, to get out of the partisan ditch we have dug for ourselves and to put the country on a path to a safe, legal, orderly immigration system that protects the country and its people by welcoming its strivers and innovators from around the world.

In the end, the House was asleep at the switch and let the country down. But even as I work with people across the country to protect as many American families as possible, I pledge to my colleagues in both parties in the most sincere way possible, please work with us to solve the immigration issue so that we can move forward as a nation.

CELEBRATING LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL LANCERS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today a proud alumnus of Cincinnati's La Salle High School because, for the first time in the school's 54-year history, the Lancers have won the Ohio State football championship.

Last Friday evening the Lancers claimed the title with a 55–20 victory, breaking the record for most points ever scored in an Ohio Division II championship game.

La Salle's offense was so strong this season that in each of their five playoff games they averaged nearly 50 points. Leading the offense was junior running back Jeremy Larkin, who ran over 2,500 yards in just 15 games, scored 42 touchdowns, and is now a finalist for the coveted Ohio Mr. Football Award.

□ 1015

All season long, La Salle competed with the best of the best, finishing with 14 wins and one nail-biting loss to the St. X Bombers, including victories over such powerhouses as Moeller, Elder, and Colerain High Schools.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, La Salle is my alma mater. I graduated in 1971 and played football all 4 years. I played on the defensive line. And in my senior year, we won seven games, lost one—coincidentally, to future Speaker JOHN BOEHNER's Moeller High School, where he played football too, although he had already graduated 3 years earlier—and we tied Elder 0–0 in the Pit and tied St. X's 18–18.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today a very proud alumnus of my high school.

I also want to mention that my brother Dave, who is 10 years younger than me, also played football at La Salle, and he was a defensive back there.

La Salle will always have a special place in my heart. I learned many of life's most important lessons in her halls and on the football field. As a matter of fact, my political career got my start at La Salle when I was first elected to student council there.

La Salle is a great school. I want to thank the coaches and the teachers and the staff and especially the parents who have made the sacrifices to pay the tuition there to make it possible for their sons to receive a tremendous education at La Salle.

Mr. Speaker, boxing legend Muhammad Ali once said ''Champions aren't made in the gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them—a desire, a dream, and a vision.''

This season, the Lancers had the desire to make every practice count and play every game as if it were their last. They shared a dream that was strong enough to overcome the many distractions that high school kids often face in today's world, and their coaches gave them the vision that their hard work and sacrifice would pay off in the end.

Mr. Speaker, Lancers roll deep. This season illustrated that to the team, the school, and the community. Congratulations on a season well played and a job well done. Go, Lancers.

CONCLUDING MY SERVICE IN CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, it has been my honor and privilege to serve in Congress for the past 10 years, representing the people of the 13th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

As many of you know, my mother came to this country alone at the age of 16, a refugee of the Holocaust. America offered her safety, freedom, and opportunity. Her experience of fear and tragedy, resilience and hope inspired my commitment to public service, my love of our country, and all it can be.

As I conclude my congressional service, I want to thank my family and friends who believed in me and supported me, my constituents who trusted me, the civic and elected leaders, activists and advocates who gave voice to the wide array of concerns and causes, and to my talented staff, who enabled me to do all that we did.

I am proud of what we accomplished together, from the new parks and bike paths along the north Delaware River in northeast Philadelphia to the revitalization of main streets in towns across Montgomery County. We made our streets safer, promoted economic growth, and improved the lives of families across the Philadelphia region.

I came to Congress in 2005 at a time of war. As the daughter of a Korean war veteran, I know how important it is for veterans to find meaningful work to support themselves and their families when they come home. That is why my first legislative initiative to become law addressed the needs of young men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan by offering incentives to employers to hire our newest veterans.

In the time since that first legislative victory, I have sought to embrace innovative ideas, to find common ground, and to turn these ideas into action. I successfully championed legislation that is now law, including extending tax credits for energy-efficient commercial buildings, establishing incentives that changed the way physicians write prescriptions to reduce errors and save lives, new tax credits and grants to startup biotech companies, and changes in Medicare to improve access to primary care for our seniors.

Ensuring all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care has been a priority for me throughout my professional life, in both the private sector and in elected office. I am proud of the role I played in the achievement of health coverage for all Americans and protecting and strengthening Medicare and advancing access to care for women and for children, including those with preexisting conditions. Today, we see the benefits of this effort, with millions of Americans who now have meaningful health coverage for themselves and their families.

For this success and others, I want to express my appreciation to the other Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle who enabled us to get things done for the people we represent and for the Nation. I value the work that we did together, and I value your friendship.

As the only woman in the Pennsylvania delegation, I am proud that I had the opportunity to stand up for women's rights and for women to be leaders in Pennsylvania and across our Nation.

I am so honored to have served my State and our Nation here in Congress. It is my hope that we, Democrats and Republicans, activists, and everyday Americans can come together to continue to seek ways to ensure safety and security, prosperity and justice, hope and opportunity for the people of our great Nation, just as my mother would have hoped.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN FRANK WOLF, INDEFATIGABLE DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN DIGNITY

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Chairman FRANK WOLF of Virginia will cast his last vote this week, capping off a remarkable 34-year career of altruistic deeds, selfless service, bold humanitarian initiatives, and durable achievement.

Both of us got elected in 1980, the Ronald Reagan class. Many of us wanted to have a Special Order tomorrow night, including the gentleman from Virginia, BOB GOODLATTE, to honor him. But he said, ''Absolutely not.'' That is the kind of guy he is. He never seeks any attention. But I am here today. Tough. I am going to speak about him.

At home and overseas, FRANK WOLF, the William Wilberforce of the United States House of Representatives, has been an indefatigable defender of human rights and human dignity. Last week, WORLD magazine named FRANK WOLF the 2014 Daniel of the Year.

Whether it be helping a young mother in a refugee camp in Sudan or political prisoners in Russia or jailed pastors in China or any number of the marginalized and persecuted, FRANK WOLF has always sought to rescue and to protect.

FRANK WOLF is the author of the landmark International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, which established both an independent commission and a State Department office led by an ambassador at large wholly dedicated to safeguarding—via sanctions, if necessary—religious freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I saw firsthand his devotion to human rights in a myriad of ways, including trips with FRANK to a prison camp in the Soviet Union, the infamous Perm camp 35; a gulag in China, Beijing prison number 2, right after Tiananmen Square; Vukovar, a city under military siege during the war in Yugoslavia; and Romania on behalf of persecuted believers, just to name a few. He has chaired the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission with great distinction.

A man of deep Christian faith, FRANK WOLF not only passionately believes in Jesus Christ but ''walks'' as St. Paul admonishes us, in a way worthy of his calling. FRANK WOLF is a devoted family man. He, along with his wife, Carolyn, have five adult children and 16 grandchildren, all of whom are the apples of his eye.

In his district, FRANK WOLF has delivered as well. His casework is superb and responsive; his staff reflects their boss' commitment to assist and to solve problems big and small.

As chairman of several Appropriations subcommittees over the years—including his latest assignment as chair of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science—he has authored nine major appropriations laws, including five transportation statutes that funded major projects in his district and throughout the Nation.

FRANK WOLF's many other accomplishments include: His bipartisan Bring Jobs Back to America Act, designed to return manufacturing jobs to the U.S. from countries like China; raising awareness of the growing threat from cyber attacks; efforts to address America's unconscionable debt—it is $18 trillion now—through bipartisan reforms; the formation of two anti-gang task forces operating in the region, as well as the creation of the National Gang Intelligence Center in the FBI; and the funding of the 103-mile Metrorail system.

He led the way in obtaining about $1 billion to extend Metrorail through Tysons and out to Dulles Airport and to Loudon County. He pushed for lower carpool restrictions on I–66 and has helped many commuters get to the Capitol and to Washington. He led efforts to place Ronald Reagan Washington National and Washington Dulles International airports under a regional authority, providing the capital to build a new terminal at Reagan National and vastly expand Dulles.

He has been a leader in fighting with great tenacity Lyme disease. He has fought to address hunger by creating the Feds Feed Families food drive, which has generated more than 15 million pounds of donated food. And in 2014, he put language into an omnibus bill to create the National Commission on Hunger.

And one of the Nation's newest national parks is in his 10th District, the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historic Park, established in 2002 through yet another one of FRANK's laws.

Finally, let me make it clear: FRANK WOLF's departure from the House is only the end of his current place of service to humanity and marks a new beginning, a transition to the private sector, where he will continue and even expand upon his extraordinary life's work.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN MARCIA FUDGE

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to stand with my fellow members of the Congressional Black Caucus to pay tribute to the outstanding leadership of our outgoing chair, MARCIA FUDGE of Ohio.

Chair FUDGE has done much more than occupy a position in her time as CBC chair. She has truly led this caucus at a time where it required active leadership.

It has often been said that Chair FUDGE's work ethic, problem-solving approach, and coalition building has earned her the reputation as an insightful leader, and over the past year, that leadership has been on display to an impressive degree. Her legislative priorities have included job creation, protecting voting rights, health and nutrition, protecting Medicare and Social Security, education, and housing.

Chair FUDGE'S simple philosophy is reflected in her daily pledge, ''To do the people's work.'' That dedicated approach has enabled her to be an extraordinary chair of the Congressional

Black Caucus and keep faith with this historic role.

To some, they say we are the conscience of the Congress. But I say, under Chair FUDGE, we have been much, much more because we have not relied just on our conscience. We have risen to levels of involvement not achieved very often in this body.

On a personal note, it has been my pleasure to witness the growth and maturity of a leader I am proud to call not only my chair but my close personal friend as well. And I do not mean that in the way that we often use that word on this floor. She is a close personal friend.

Mr. Speaker, as you see here, we come from various backgrounds and experiences. I am from South Carolina; our chairlady is from Ohio. We have had a different set of experiences, which means that we will not always see things the same way. But what has made her an effective leader is the fact that she can look to the west, to Ms. BARBARA LEE, look south to Ms. JACKSON LEE, go down to Texas to Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, over to Alabama, and bring all of these experiences together and form a cohesive approach.

I am proud to call her my leader and proud to call her my personal friend.

I yield to the gentleman from Detroit (Mr. CONYERS), the dean of the Congressional Black Caucus who, come January 6, will be the dean of the entire United States Congress.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I feel, as all of us do, that we rise today to honor an accomplished public servant, an effective problem-solver, and a tireless advocate for our society's most vulnerable, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE of Ohio.

□ 1030

As she concludes her tenure as chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, she makes us all obligated to share our deep appreciation for her courage and her thoughtfulness.

Since taking office 6 years ago, Congresswoman FUDGE has been a national leader in the fight for job creation, the safety net, access to health care, and quality nutrition, and she has been able to motivate some 43 other Members of the Congressional Black Caucus in supporting these issues that have made her so outstanding.

It is fortuitous that she came to lead the Congressional Black Caucus at a time of unprecedented attacks on the Nation's nutrition-support systems that are essential for saving lives and eliminating the opportunity gap.

She has been unwavering and unstinting in her defense of people who rely on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP—as well as child nutrition and school feeding programs—for survival. There's no better way to reduce inequality than to ensure that children have access to the nutrition they need to prosper.

As the Senior Member of the Judiciary Committee, I am also extremely grateful for Chairwoman FUDGE's leadership and extraordinary insight and energy in advocating for voting rights and for victims of excessive force.

Chairwoman FUDGE has played an indispensable role in preserving the CBC's legacy as the "Conscience of the Congress."

MOURNING THE LOSS OF JUDY BAAR TOPINKA, ILLINOIS STATE COMPTROLLER

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, my home State of Illinois mourns the loss of a great friend and a great leader, our State comptroller, Judy Baar Topinka.

I awoke this morning to my phone buzzing incessantly, and I was sad to pick up that phone and hear the news that my friend passed away unexpectedly early this morning. Illinois has lost a great leader.

Judy was somebody who was an institution in Republican politics in my home State. She was the most gregarious politician I have ever met in my life. Judy was somebody who made everyone feel at ease walking through the State capitol in Illinois. I am proud to represent that State capitol now in Springfield, and it is going to be a sad day to walk into that capitol and not see Judy.

Mr. Speaker, Judy was somebody who knew no strangers. If she met you, whether you were standing out in front of the capitol building guarding the door or if you were the Governor of the State of Illinois, she treated you the exact same way.

She is somebody who inspired me to get into this arena of public service. As a young candidate for State representative in 1996, I had the opportunity to have many people tell me that I shouldn't run, but I had Judy Baar Topinka to thank for encouraging me to go for it. I lost that race, but I made so many friends like Judy.

Judy came to my hometown of Taylorville to do some campaign events with me one day. It was summer. It was a long day of events, and Judy went to my house to lay down and rest for a bit. I had a 1-year-old Boston terrier bulldog who decided that he really liked Judy.

He jumped up on that couch and started kissing her in the only way that my dog knew how. He went right to her face. Instead of helping Judy, we took pictures. Since that day, every single time I have seen Judy Baar Topinka, she asks me about that dog. In 2012, when my dog Bruiser passed away, Judy was actually sad when I broke the news.

Illinois is going to lose not just my friend, but we lose our comptroller who was just reelected. Illinois mourns the loss of Judy, and I stand here today—with no intention of coming to the House floor—to talk about my friend. I mourn the loss of my friend.

Illinois will never be the same without Judy Baar Topinka, and America will never be the same without leaders like her.

THE FAA'S REPORT ON THE RESPONSE TO THE SABOTAGE AND FIRE AT CHICAGO CENTER

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is far too common for Members of Congress to come to the floor of this Chamber to weave their narrative of incompetent Federal bureaucracies, lazy and unresponsive members of the unionized Federal workforce, and greedy and irresponsible Federal contractors. I rise today to tell a very different story.

On September 26, 2014, commercial flights in nearly every airport around this country were delayed or canceled after the Chicago Air Route Traffic Control Center, also known as Chicago Center, in Aurora, Illinois, was disabled in an act of sabotage by a disturbed individual.

A fire destroyed the communications equipment that processes flight plan data and enabled air traffic controllers at the facility to communicate with pilots in the 91,000 square miles of airspace for which they are responsible. This could have led to a tragic loss of life. However, due to the efforts of controllers at Chicago Center and adjacent air traffic control facilities, all planes in the air when Chicago Center lost communications were landed safely.

Nearly 200 of the controllers at Chicago Center then traveled to 12 air traffic control towers and terminal radar approach controls throughout the Midwest to help direct air traffic. At the same time, technicians, mechanics, and electricians were working around the clock to replace damaged equipment and restore the Chicago Center facilities.

In total, they replaced 10 miles of cable, dozens of racks of computers, and 835 communication circuits to restore the center's voice communications, radar flight planning, and weather capabilities.

As a scientist who has installed giant experiments and accelerators on tight time scales, I respect what they have accomplished. Professional restoration crews also removed fire, soot, smoke, and water damage from the affected areas, and all of this was accomplished in just over 2 weeks.

Mr. Speaker, despite significant challenges, Chicago airports were able to operate at more than 90 percent capacity within days of the fire. One week after the fire, Administrator Huerta visited Chicago Center with me and my colleagues in the Senate to assess the progress of the restoration.

While it was clear that the damage had been extensive, I drew confidence from what I saw. Everyone understood what they needed to do for the sake of

the traveling public. They set an aggressive schedule for repairs, and they kept it.

The air traffic controllers, FAA employees, and contractors who responded to this crisis performed admirably and deserve our sincere thanks and appreciation. Under difficult circumstances, members of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association from throughout the Midwest rose to the challenge and kept the flying public safe. Within 4 days of the fire, O'Hare Airport regained its title as the busiest airport in the world.

I would like to say a special thank you to Toby Hauck, the Chicago Center NATCA Facility Representative; Gerry Waloszyk, the Chicago Center PASS facility Representative; Bill Cound, the Chicago Center Air Traffic Manager; Mike Paulsen, the Chicago Center Technical Operations Group Manager; and everyone else who worked to restore Chicago Center. Because of all of you, by October 13, repairs were completed, and Chicago Center returned to full capacity.

Mr. Speaker, important lessons have been learned, that the fire that crippled Chicago Center not only affected flights departing and arriving in the Midwest, but also those flying through Chicago's airspace to reach their destinations.

Between Friday and Sunday, more than 3,000 flights were canceled at O'Hare alone. The estimated cost to the airlines has been reported to be more than $350 million in total. However, what made this crisis unique wasn't the number of delays or cancelled flights. It was that just one person was able to disrupt the travel plans of so many thousands of people.

The systems that protect the flying public must be made more robust. Although the fundamental redundancy had been built into the system—the ability for nearby radar systems to see into the Chicago airspace—the FAA must and is improving contingency plans to restore service much faster than it was able to do.

In the long term, the best way to ensure the safety and reliability of the National Airspace System is to facilitate the transition to the NextGen air traffic transportation system.

Mr. Speaker, currently, the ground-based radar system is the foundation of the National Airspace System. NextGen will rely on GPS satellites that are more accurate than ground-based radar. It will also include a transition from radio voice communications to a digital network that is similar to the mobile phone service. This transition to NextGen will enable air traffic controllers to reestablish air traffic control services much more quickly after this type of disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the FAA's response team on a job well done and to support the President's request for full funding for implementing NextGen in the 114th Congress.

THE OPEN ACT

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the 30 million Americans who suffer from a rare disease. One in ten, Mr. Speaker, 10 percent of the country suffers from a rare disease.

Over 95 percent of these diseases have no treatments because each rare disease impacts a small number of patients. That is why I introduced the OPEN Act, the Orphan Product Extensions Now Accelerating Cures and Treatments.

My bill has the potential to help millions of people, and the idea was born from an event in my district. Over the summer, I held two 21st Century Cures roundtables in my district. The 21st Century Cures is a bipartisan initiative to examine and improve the discovery-development-delivery cycle.

Treatments for patients suffering from chronic and rare diseases, whether it is from medical devices or medicine, must be discovered on the ground level through basic science; developed into a practical, usable, and marketable product; and delivered to the patients so that the treatment may be effectively utilized.

Mr. Speaker, the first roundtable featured patients and patient advocates. From some of those patients, I heard about the importance of repurposing drugs. This led to the introduction of the OPEN Act. My bill will leverage the free market to incentivize drugs to be repurposed to treat rare diseases and pediatric cancers.

Repurposing drugs has a twofold benefit. First, the OPEN Act has the potential to result in new treatments for individuals with rare diseases. As I mentioned, the vast majority of individuals suffering from rare diseases don't have treatments, let alone cures; yet I hear often about individuals with rare diseases who will take medication that has not been tested for their condition.

The OPEN Act incentivizes the testing of mainstream drugs on rare diseases. This bill opens the door for new treatments. The OPEN Act can also create a new surge in biotechnology jobs and investments. Creating jobs and helping the sick are laudable goals, Mr. Speaker. My bill takes a step toward accomplishing that.

This bill can help millions of people. It will ensure repurposed medications are safe and effective for rare conditions and can be reimbursed through insurance coverage—so important. This is a bipartisan piece of legislation which I introduced with my colleagues, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. HASTINGS.

Helping those with rare diseases is a cause worth supporting, and I am proud to have introduced the OPEN Act.

AMERICA'S BRIGHT ECONOMIC FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take note of the historic gains our economy made last month. With the recent addition of 314,000 new jobs, unemployment under 6 percent, and the best single-year job creation since the 1990s, our economic future looks bright, but we still have work to create a better economic future for American families.

I recently held my second annual hiring event where 400 jobseekers met with 75 employers looking to hire. I also hosted five job search boot camps where we taught jobseekers interview skills, how to prepare a resume, and strategies to successfully navigate hiring events.

My district is home to many innovative centers that will serve as engines in driving America's economy. I recently visited job training facilities like the Kankakee Area Career Center and the Canadian National job training center which are preparing people for careers in trades and transportation.

□ 1045

With centers like these and workers like the ones we have in Illinois, I am optimistic about America's continued economic recovery. I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue growing jobs here at home.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge two women. The first we have heard about already, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE), the great leader of the CBC. MARCIA has taken the CBC to another level. Also, MARCIA has taken a special election freshman like me and helped me make it through my first session.

MARCIA, I want to thank you for the faith you have in me for asking me to become the next CBC Health Care Brain Trust chair. I thank you and I salute you. The CBC is not only fortunate to have you, the Deltas are, the Links are, Congress is, and the great State of Ohio. Thank you so much.

Lastly, like my colleague Representative RODNEY DAVIS, I want to acknowledge the passing of Illinois' comptroller, Judy Baar Topinka. Judy was a true public servant who combined service and fun. She definitely made her mark in Illinois serving as the first female treasurer, the head of the Republican Party, and then as comptroller. Judy had a special way of relating with all people. My thoughts and prayers are with Judy's family, friends, and staff.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the constitutional issues involving the

President's executive orders on amnesty far transcend the issue of illegal immigration. The President's action strikes at the very heart of our separation of powers. The Constitution reserves to Congress alone the power to enact and alter law, and it charges the President with the responsibility to faithfully execute those laws.

If the President can seize legislative power in this manner and then boast to an audience that he, himself, has changed the law, then the separation of powers becomes meaningless, and our constitutional Republic will have crossed a very bright line that separates a nation of laws from the unhappy societies where rulers boast that the ''law is in their mouths.''

If this precedent stands, every succeeding President, Republican and Democrat, will cite it as authority to make or alter law by decree. This cannot be allowed to happen.

The question occurs: What can the House do?

Well, it took its first step last week by passing H.R. 5759 that declares the President's action unconstitutional and null and void. This was a symbolic act since the bill is subject to Presidential veto, but it was a warning that the President should have heeded. Obviously, he has not.

What else can the Congress do?

One of the fundamental checks held by Congress is the power of appropriation. It can close the purse by forbidding the use of Federal funds to proceed with this unconstitutional act.

I realize that is a very difficult thing to do with a dysfunctional Senate, but a temporary funding measure into January or February would protect us against the prospect of a government shutdown while we try to engage the Senate to rise in defense of the Constitution. And if the Democratic Senate will not defend our Constitution, and I am afraid that is a strong possibility, a few weeks from now the Republican Senate certainly will.

Why in the world would we want to lock in Federal spending through next September that reflects the priorities of the Democratic Senate that voters just thoroughly repudiated last month? Why in the world would we want to so greatly weaken our position to insist on the complete defunding of the President's unconstitutional act in the next congressional session just 3 weeks hence?

Meanwhile, it is imperative that the House take every action available to engage the Supreme Court to resolve this constitutional crisis. Several States have already filed suit, and the House needs to join them. In addition, the House needs to vote as an institution to challenge this act directly. This is too important to be treated as an afterthought on current litigation over ObamaCare. It needs to be voted on separately, unequivocally, and now.

Since the earliest days of our Republic, the Supreme Court has invalidated legislative acts that conflicted with the Constitution. Now it must be called upon to invalidate an executive act that strikes at the very core of our Constitution. Regardless of the ideologies of individual Justices, I cannot believe that any of them would sit idly by as the Executive seizes such fundamental powers from the legislative branch.

On behalf of the House, the Speaker announced last month that we would fight this act tooth and nail. To adjourn tomorrow, having taken only a symbolic vote, while abandoning our actual powers to challenge this act undermines the credibility of the House majority.

Elements on the extreme left argue that this act was justified due to congressional inaction over immigration reform. They fault the House for not adopting a Senate immigration measure, but they forget the House passed a strong immigration bill this summer and the Senate refused to consider it.

Since when has congressional disagreement over legislation been license for the President to legislate himself? This argument abandons the Constitution and the rule of law for the expediency of one-man rule. We should recognize such arguments for what they are: the authoritarianism of the extreme left. We should reject these arguments and those who make them.

Mr. Speaker, the Roman Republic died when Julius Caesar seized the legislative authority of the Roman Senate. Repeated acts of usurpation went unchallenged until the constitutional structure of the Republic simply disintegrated.

Let that not be the epitaph of the American Republic. Of this crisis, let history record that men and women of good will on both sides of the aisle joined together to defend the Constitution that they swore to uphold, and that this generation passed that Constitution and all of the freedoms it has preserved, intact and inviolate, to the many generations of Americans who followed.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN MARCIA FUDGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand here this morning as a proud American and proud of this Republic which elected the first African American President 6 years ago, and reelected him 2 years ago by an overwhelming vote.

I rise today to celebrate my outstanding colleague and dear friend, Representative MARCIA FUDGE, on the completion of her term as the 23rd chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

I have had the honor and privilege of working along with Representative FUDGE on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee when she first was elected to the House of Representatives in 2008. Since that time, I have watched her thrive as a fearless leader on Capitol Hill, not only for her constituents of Ohio's 11th District, but for African Americans and other underrepresented citizens all over the country and internationally. As chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative FUDGE is only the seventh woman to serve in this capacity, and she has been groundbreaking in her fight to tackle difficult issues facing underrepresented communities of color during her 2-year term as chair.

Mr. Speaker, under Representative FUDGE's leadership, the Congressional Black Caucus has continued to be the conscience of Congress, working tirelessly to steer good policy to the forefront. Over these past 2 years, Representative FUDGE, in her role as chair, has faithfully represented the underrepresented voices as they pertain to job creation, education, health care, national security, and a host of other pressing issues. Her intricate policy knowledge, political savvy, and ability to build coalitions have been of tremendous value to the Congressional Black Caucus and to the Nation.

I can speak on behalf of all of my colleagues—and you have just witnessed them here present in the Chamber—in saying that we will sorely miss her leadership, and we thank her for her service as chair. I am confident that Ms. FUDGE will continue to serve selflessly and devote her time and talents to the CBC and its goals, and I look forward to continuing our important work together because it is far from being over.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, let me just thank my colleagues. Certainly, it has been a high honor to serve as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and I will express that later on today at our meeting.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the recent tragedies that have occurred in my hometown of Cleveland, Ohio, but also the positive change that can come out of these tragedies.

In November 2012, Malissa Williams and Timothy Russell lost their lives following a high-speed chase involving more than 60 police vehicles. Cleveland police officers fired 137 rounds into their vehicle. The pair were unarmed.

I immediately wrote to the Department of Justice seeking an independent review and investigation surrounding the circumstances that led to this use of deadly force by law enforcement.

Following the death of Michael Brown and the unrest that followed, I again wrote to the Department of Justice in August 2014 asking for action. While waiting on the results of the Department of Justice investigation,

tragedy again struck my district on November 22, 2014, when a 12-year-old boy, Tamir Rice, was shot dead by a Cleveland police officer in a park outside the Cudell Recreation Center.

While my heart is still heavy, I believe some good will rise from the ashes of this tragedy.

On Thursday, December 4, Attorney General Eric Holder announced the Department of Justice had concluded its review and found that the Cleveland Division of Police had exhibited systemic deficiencies and engaged in a pattern of excessive force. The city of Cleveland is committed to righting these wrongs through a court-enforced consent decree.

The DOJ's announcement in Cleveland last week is an encouraging first step to tackling the systemic issues that are plaguing our communities. However, let us not for one second think our work is done. The use of excessive force, particularly when it comes to minority communities, is not a concern unique to Cleveland. The deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner are tragic reminders that this is a national concern.

The killing of men of color by those sworn to protect and serve must stay foremost in our minds until it stops.

I am encouraged by the young people who have taken to the streets to protest peacefully. They have finally found something that has energized them to be active and vocal about the change they seek. I urge them to continue to let their voices be heard to keep up the drumbeat for justice.

Having worked in the criminal justice system for many years, I understand more than most that police have a very difficult and dangerous job and deserve our respect and our thanks. Each day our police officers put their lives on the line to protect and serve, and they should be commended for the work they do. Yet we cannot ignore that there exists a feeling of distrust of police in many communities across the country. This must end today. A new era, an era of peace and collaborative community involvement, must begin now.

ENSURING GOVERNANCE OF THE NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege as well to come to the floor of the House and pay tribute to our outgoing chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Before I do that, however, I believe it is important to say to this body that our charge and responsibility is to ensure the governance of this Nation. As the appropriations omnibus unfolded, I believe the continuing resolution that has been put forward is evidence of the nonresponsibility and the nonthought of those who have the obligation to govern this Nation. I believe it is important to raise the question of where is the objectivity.

The continuing resolution is to fund the Nation's homeland security. That means that we are saying to those who just lost their lives in Yemen, to the Americans who have been seen being beheaded by ISIL, to Boko Haram, al Shabaab, to al Qaeda, and many other franchise terrorists that America will stand bare and unprepared, that her national security will be in jeopardy. Mr. Speaker, it is crucial that we speak against a continuing resolution that funds homeland security partially.

Let me also say that I believe in this great Nation. I believe in the Constitution, and I fully realize that the executive order that was issued by the President dealing with the humanitarian relief and the discretion by agencies, prosecutorial discretion, is within the context of his authority under article II.

□ 1100

I am fully aware that the President's executive order was well vetted by constitutional specialists, White House counsel, and the Department of Justice, objectively looking as to whether or not the President was making new law. In this executive order on immigration, no immigration status was conferred, no citizenship was conferred. The only thing that was determined in those executive orders is prosecutorial discretion on deporting individuals and deferring deportation.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the response is extreme. Not funding Homeland Security is extreme. I join with Secretary Johnson in standing against this discriminatory practice on an agency that is crucial to the security of airports and ports and the borders and protecting the American people.

As I ask for a reconsideration, it allows me to speak of a lady who represents the best of the Constitution, and that is Chairwoman FUDGE, who understood the quality of all and the importance of guiding this caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus, around the issues of justice. Let me thank her for the considerations made during tragedies like Trayvon Martin, as we began with briefings and involvement in that case, and looked to support members of the Congressional Black Caucus who were fighting in their districts to bring about justice; her continued support of Members when the tragedies of Michael Brown and Eric Garner occurred, and many other incidents; her balance, as we all have, respecting and appreciating the service of law enforcement officers, including those whom we oversee on the Judiciary Committee: the DEA, the FBI, the ATF, and many others, but recognizing that the Constitution, as she so understands it, must be a document for all.

Let me, particularly, thank Chairwoman FUDGE for her dedicated commitment to the nutrition of children across America. She is almost like Shirley Chisholm, who came to the Agriculture Committee. People wondered what she would do there. But she understood, as a local elected official, that food stamps were not a handout, they were a hand-up. I thank her for that.

And then to lay a marker for the issues of all Members, her understanding of the energy industry, particularly in States like Louisiana and Texas, where she encouraged Members to introduce the energy industry to the Congressional Black Caucus in terms of giving information. That is what we are: we learn, we get information.

And then, of course, her commitment to having an international presence, that people would know that the Congressional Black Caucus cares about the international community. That is an important step.

As we move forward in 2015, I wish the incoming chair much success. I think it is extremely important that we say thanks where appreciation is due, and I want to say, ''Thank you.''

Many people claim friendship, but I will say to you, Chairwoman FUDGE, you have now gotten 40-plus new friends to your portfolio, and we will claim you as a friend because, as we worked together in this last Congress, as we worked with the United States President, President Barack Obama, as we worked with the Senate, as we worked with Federal agencies, as we worked with our community, you became a friend to us.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN MARCIA FUDGE

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague, a distinguished congresswoman with a sweet name, MARCIA FUDGE, as her tenure as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus ends.

First of all, I want to thank MARCIA FUDGE for welcoming me to Capitol Hill, for being such a good friend and mentor. In my short time in Congress, she has been an invaluable resource to me, and I truly appreciate that.

As a servant of the people, I have long admired her as a woman for not just talking the talk, but for walking it, too.

Secondly, I want to thank MARCIA FUDGE for her phenomenal leadership. She has successfully guided the Congressional Black Caucus in promoting some of the most pressing issues and concerns of the people in our communities. She has been the collective voice of the caucus, bringing light to necessary issues of social and economic justice.

As we have seen with the recent events in the Michael Brown and Eric Garner cases, it is absolutely critical that we have a strong and collective voice to shed light on these injustices

and to make positive change in our communities.

She has certainly put the caucus on a solid foundation, which I know my North Carolina colleague, G.K. BUTTERFIELD, will continue.

On behalf of the residents of North Carolina's 12th Congressional District, I salute Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE on her great leadership as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and I say, ''Thank you, thank you, thank you.''

H.R. 5407 DESERVES A HEARING

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say without reservation, hesitation, or equivocation, I have preeminent respect for the constabulary. I have a relative who was a part of the constabulary. I believe that police officers have a very difficult job, and they do it under stressful circumstances, and I believe that most police officers are doing a good job every day.

I also want to say that there are many people without the constabulary, however, who would have us get over Michael Brown, get over Eric Garner, get on with it. And then there are those who say in the alternative—not in these exact words but with words connoting this—they say, if you can't get over Garner, get over Brown, because Garner is a better case for you to take to the court of public opinion.

To these people I say, we can't get over Garner and we can't get over Brown, because if the truth be told, Garner and Brown are two sides of the same coin, two sides of one coin. If the truth be told, without the eye of the camera, without what appears to be clear and convincing evidence, without what appears to be evidence that is beyond reproach, without the eye of the camera, Garner would be Brown. The Garner case is only what it is because the camera was there to capture the essence of what happened.

If the truth be told, without the camera, there would be questions about how Garner was arrested, there would be questions about how he was taken to the ground, there would be questions about whether he made comments about his inability to breathe. How many times did he say, ''I can't breathe?'' There would be questions about whether or not he made some effort to harm some officer. There would be questions about whether the guns were somehow at risk of being taken from an officer.

If the truth be told, without the eye of the camera, Garner would be Brown.

This is why, Mr. Speaker, I have made an appeal to this House to bring H.R. 5407 to the floor. Let it go to a hearing. H.R. 5407 is the TIP Act, the Transparency in Policing Act. H.R. 5407 would accord the Justice Department the opportunity to do a survey and ascertain the cost of equipping municipalities, counties, police departments—the constabulary, if you will—with cameras. Then it would go on to require those that can afford it to have the cameras, and those that cannot, it provides an exemption to them.

H.R. 5407 is good legislation. It is not a panacea; it won't cure all. For those who are concerned about the camera not being enough to cause a proper decision to be reached before a grand jury, it may not be, but it sure does provide the opportunity to galvanize the country around the notion that something needs to be done. It is not a panacea, not a cure-all, but it does present an opportunity for officers to be exonerated.

H.R. 5407 would do more to help officers than anything out there right now that I can see, because it gives the evidence of what actually occurred at an event, it can cause officers not to be questioned about what they did, and it will cause those who would perpetrate dastardly deeds and fraudulent circumstances upon officers to be properly prosecuted.

H.R. 5407 is a bill that is before the House and has a good many supporters right now, more than 40.

I believe that H.R. 5407 deserves a hearing. I make an appeal, I beseech, and I implore my colleagues, who have the preeminent authority to make a decision as to whether it moves forward, to please give H.R. 5407 an opportunity to be heard. This is not an appeal from one Congressperson; this is an appeal from those who are concerned about proper policing.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN MARCIA FUDGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I come today unscripted to speak to you about a lady that made a difference in the lives of this Nation. Fifty-nine years ago, one week ago, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat so she could make a stand for civil rights and justice. She said she was only tired of giving in.

That day, her remaining in her seat, made a difference for a person like me, a young girl in 1955, who vowed to make a difference because this woman, known as the ''Mother of the Modern Civil Rights Movement,'' took a stand.

In the Third Congressional District last week, Governor Bob Taft, the Central Ohio Transit Authority, my Third Congressional District, and the Ohio State University stood together and hosted hundreds of individuals to talk about redefining our communities, standing up for justice.

I am proud that Congressman HAKEEM JEFFRIES joined a panel with other scholars like Sharon Davies and Curtis Austin as we talked about moving forward, as we talked about moving forward from the Trayvon Martins, from the Michael Browns, from the Eric Garners, and the list goes on, across this Nation.

We must come together for our children, for our families, and, yes, we must also stand up for justice that meets the standards of the values of this Nation.

Today, I join my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to thank another woman, our Rosa Parks, our Sojourner Truth—Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, for being the seventh woman to be the president and the leader of the Congressional Black Caucus.

To you, Congresswoman FUDGE, to you, Mr. Speaker, I say, thank you for the Congressional Black Caucus through her leadership being more than the conscience of the Congress, but for being scholarly, for standing up for justice, for daring to be different, and, also, for understanding agriculture, the judiciary system. You see, she is not only a Member of Congress, she has served as a mayor, she has served as a judge, she is a prominent lawyer. But, more important than all of these, she is a crusader for children, she is a crusader for the least of us, and she understands relationships and partnerships, and working far beyond the CBC. She reaches across both sides of the aisle because, at the end of the day, she really realizes the fight is not about one of us, the fight is for all of us.

□ 1115

CONDEMNING ANTI-SEMITISM

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

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, a few months ago, I stood here on the House floor to speak out against the troubling surge in global anti-Semitic demonstrations that followed the latest confrontation between Israel and Hamas terrorists. Crimes ranged from the desecration of synagogues and other Jewish institutions and businesses, to murders and acts of violence and terrorism against Jews.

At that time, I had just led a bipartisan coalition of over 70 Members of Congress in speaking out against the rise in anti-Semitism and calling on the United States to continue to be a global leader in combating such acts of hatred wherever they occur. The United States must lead by example which is why I am proud this body has continued to condemn anti-Semitism and support efforts to combat such actions.

With little agreement between the parties and Congress currently, I have been proud to see continual bipartisan cooperation on this issue that not only impacts Jews, but all ethnic, religious, and minority groups; unfortunately, with anti-Semitic violence and incitement continuing to increase dramatically, leading by example is not enough.

That is why I have joined with my good friends, the gentlemen from Florida, Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. DIAZ-BALART,

and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) in leading over 80 of our colleagues from both sides of the aisle to urge the United Nations to take decisive action against anti-Semitic attacks globally.

It is beyond troubling that across the world we are seeing anti-Semitic rhetoric being circulated widely on television, radio, and the Internet and that there are even national political parties that openly espouse racist views. Even more troubling is that these hateful actions are taking place in many of our fellow member states at the U.N.

The United Nations must join the United States in taking actions to encourage member states to become global partners in combating anti-Semitism, which poses a severe threat to international peace and security. The U.N. can stem the surge of anti-Semitism through a variety of methods, including raising awareness of the global prevalence of anti-Semitic attitudes.

The U.N. should urge the adoption, implementation, and enforcement of strong hate crime laws. Hate crime laws demonstrate that a society will not tolerate unlawful actions motivated by bigotry and that minority and ethnic groups are valued members.

It should also encourage countries to expand education on diversity and tolerance because it is crucial that children are brought up in an atmosphere of inclusion and taught the significance of valuing individuals of all backgrounds and religious beliefs.

Additionally, the U.N. must encourage heads of state to forcefully speak out about the dangers of anti-Semitism which can create an environment where violence and escalating tensions can grow and impact all communities.

I thank all of my colleagues in this body who continue to stand up against such bigotry and violent acts of hatred, both here at home and abroad, as we continue to enlist others in our international community to promote freedom and equality under the law. I also want to thank the local Jewish community relations council in my district which recently held a community forum on addressing anti-Semitism.

This is a conversation that must be held in every community across our Nation and around the world. I hope to see the United Nations and all member states join us in expanding this dialogue by denouncing such actions and taking decisive action in their own countries to halt these hate crimes and acts of hatred.

Only by working together across party lines and across the globe can we successfully eradicate such hate in our world.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 10, 2014.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 10, 2014 at 9:39 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1474.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1067.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4199.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 4681.

That the Senate passed with amendments H. Con. Res. 107.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend Aaron McEmrys, Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Arlington, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Creator God, spirit of light, we come here today with our spirits open to the Sun of Your loving gaze. We come humbled by the work entrusted to us—to tend to Your children—for we know that we are, all of us, Your children, bearers of Your divine spark.

May we remember this no matter how thick the stacks of paper on our desks.

When we are weary, may we be filled with Your generosity of spirit. We will pass it on with interest.

When we don't know which way to turn, may we find stillness and listen for the soft voice of wisdom.

Help us today to do justice, to serve mercy, and to walk humbly with You and the better angels of our nature.

Most of all, beloved God, may we practice the arts of kindness in all that we do and all that we are.

To this we say amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND AARON MCEMRYS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to introduce and welcome Reverend Aaron McEmrys from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, which is in the heart of my congressional district.

Reverend McEmrys is an accomplished religious leader who thrives on collaboration and draws his energy from working with people. He has led a life of service and generosity, caring for his neighbors and working to protect his flock.

I am proud to share his views as a passionate supporter of marriage equality, of addressing the disparity in wealth and income throughout the country, of workers' rights, and addressing the growing problems caused by global climate change.

He has spent years fighting to improve the daily lives of the neediest among us, spending years with the Hopi and Navajo Indian populations.

Reverend McEmrys holds a master's of divinity from the Meadville Lombard Theological School and a bachelor's of science in labor studies from the National Labor College, so he is well prepared to lead a highly informed and politically engaged congregation.

I am proud to consider him a constituent, a valued constituent, and thank him for opening our day with such a meaningful prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair will entertain up

to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HANNAH AND FRIENDS

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representative JOLLY to recognize a wonderful organization in my district dedicated to helping children and adults with special needs, Hannah's House.

Many football fans know the name Charlie Weis. He has coached at the University of Notre Dame, New England Patriots, and the New York Jets.

What many of you don't know is he and his wife, Maura, are passionate about helping people off the field.

In 2003, Charlie and Maura founded Hannah and Friends for their daughter Hannah, who has global developmental delays. They wanted to find a way to inspire a special group of people with abilities different from the athletes that he coached. Hannah and Friends provides grants to low- and middle-income families who have children with disabilities.

Hannah and Friends is helping individuals with special needs every day to realize their potential and plan for their future and to achieve their own personal best.

THE GREAT LAKES

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes represents the largest source of freshwater on this planet. They support more than 1.5 million jobs. They provide those who live near them with countless opportunities for outdoor enjoyment and recreation.

My community of western New York considers its proximity to Lake Erie as one of its greatest assets. We must strive to guard the Great Lakes against imminent and future threats, and this week the House did just that.

Today we introduce the Guarding the Great Lakes Act, which will continue to help protect the Great Lakes from Asian carp and other invasive species. The act will also take necessary steps to focus on permanent solutions by beginning work on water quality and flood mitigation projects.

Yesterday the House passed the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act, providing $300 million in Federal funding annually to support projects related to the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes for each of the next 5 years. These are two excellent steps forward as we continue to protect these great bodies of water.

CONGRATULATIONS, KARON KARAMI

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am grateful to express my appreciation for Karon Karami, the South Carolina Second Congressional District's scheduler and office manager.

After interning for several months in the Washington office, Karon joined the Wilson team in December 2012. Although a native of Great Falls, Virginia, and a graduate of the University of Virginia, Karon has grown to adopt South Carolina as her second home.

The scheduling position is most challenging, but Karon has excelled. Her ability to connect with constituents, coordinate with my wife, Roxanne, and her eagerness to assist them has made a difference for the citizens of South Carolina.

Beginning in January, Karon will join New Hampshire's First Congressional District Congressman-elect Frank Guinta's office. I know her parents, Mo and Fatemah Karami, are proud of her accomplishments. I wish Karon best wishes and look forward to seeing her future successes.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and the President should take actions to never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. The President's pardoning of Guantanamo terrorists endangers American families.

''ORION''—INNOVATE, EXPLORE, DISCOVER

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable achievement of the *Orion* spacecraft's first test flight. The project represents the next frontier for NASA's deep space exploration program.

Last Friday, December 5, *Orion* lifted off from Cape Canaveral, and by all accounts, it was a flawless mission. This test flight sent Orion 3,604 miles above Earth, traveling at over 20,000 miles per hour.

Orion and the Space Launch System are national priorities aimed at taking our astronauts to Mars and beyond. This exploration will inspire our Nation and capture the hearts and minds of young Americans.

More importantly, I am proud to say Colorado played an enormous role in making *Orion* a reality. Lockheed Martin and United Launch Alliance facilities played a leading role in this mission.

Other Colorado contractors that played an important role include Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Advanced Solutions Inc., Ball Aerospace, Deep Space Systems, Denver Research Institute, Erickson Metals of Colorado, ISYS Technologies, Red Canyon Engineering, SEAKR Engineering, St. Vrain Manufacturing Syzygx, Syzygx, and TTJ&B Inc.

Orion supports thousands of jobs all around the country and is an engine for innovation and space exploration in our State and the Nation. This is something that we all can be proud of as a Nation, and we look forward to further space exploration.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN MIKE McINTYRE

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

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and colleague from North Carolina, Congressman MIKE MCINTYRE. MIKE and I are blessed to represent the southeastern region of North Carolina and some of the most hardworking, genuine, and thoughtful people you will ever meet.

MIKE has his priorities in order. He has dedicated his life to God, his family, and serving his constituents, and he has done so with unparalleled honor and integrity.

In Congress, he has been a voice for common sense, and he has never been afraid to reach across the aisle to get things done for our local communities. During his years of service on the House Agriculture and the House Armed Services Committees, MIKE has, time and again, stood up for issues folks care about back home in North Carolina.

I am honored that I inherited Robeson County from MIKE, a place my family has called home for generations, and I am thrilled to call MIKE and his amazing wife, Dee, my constituents.

I can tell you firsthand that MIKE is respected across southeastern North Carolina because he has a sincere passion for the people he represents and serves.

I thank MIKE MCINTYRE for his leadership to North Carolina over the years. It has been a privilege to get to know MIKE, to call him a friend, and to work with him to make life better for the folks of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the House will join me in wishing MIKE and Dee well in their future endeavors. We are going to miss him around here.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to renew the call for Congress to act on comprehensive immigration reform. The job of Congress is to legislate, and immigration reform needs a legislative solution. It is, therefore, disappointing that we will be finishing this Congress in a few days without the House having passed or even voted on comprehensive immigration reform. But I hope that starting immediately in the new Congress, we can work together to pass comprehensive, commonsense, and compassionate legislation that will provide opportunities to those who

want to come here and opportunities for the 12 million undocumented residents who are already here.

This legislation can grow our economy, decrease our deficit, secure our borders, protect our workers, unite families, and provide an earned pathway to citizenship. A majority of Americans support this framework, and it has the support of both labor and business as well as religious and civic organizations. Let us come back in January ready to get the job done and pass comprehensive immigration reform.

GRUBER WASN'T TALKING ABOUT REPUBLICANS

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, a lot of my Republican friends have been upset with the comments of Jonathan Gruber, where he was quoted accurately as saying about ObamaCare: ''A lack of transparency is a huge political advantage. Call it the stupidity of the American voter or whatever.''

He also said that they—President Obama and the Democrats—proposed it and it ''passed because the American people are too stupid to understand the difference.''

Now, I would say to my Republican colleagues: chill out. Don't worry. Not a single Republican voted for that bill. Not a single Republican in the Senate voted for that bill. He wasn't talking about Republicans. He wasn't talking about the Democrats, Independents, or Republicans who voted for Republicans to come to the House or the Senate. He was talking about the people he was paid millions by to work on ObamaCare. That is right—he called the Democrats stupid.

He wasn't talking about Republicans. He knew we were smarter than that.

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RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF COACH VINCENT ASCOLESE

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the life of the legendary North Bergen High School football coach Vincent Ascolese.

Coach Ascolese, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, neighbor, and friend, passed away on December 3 after a long battle with cancer.

His career as a high school football coach spanned 50 years, beginning with 11 years in Hoboken, New Jersey, and then taking over the North Bergen football program in 1973. He retired after the 2011 season as New Jersey's third winningest coach in history.

As a member of the Hudson County Hall of Fame and the New Jersey Football Coaches Hall of Fame, he guided the North Bergen Bruins to 12 Hudson County crowns and six State championships.

As a Jersey City native, Coach Ascolese was named Hudson County Coach of the Year 14 times, and in 1997, he was named the Toyota Coach of the Year for the Eastern United States. In 2011, North Bergen's home field was renamed as the Vincent Ascolese Field.

Coach Ascolese will be remembered for his lasting impact on and off the field and his ability to inspire his players and the community. My thoughts are with the Vincent Ascolese family, former players, and the North Bergen community.

HONORING JOSE DIAZ-BALART

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my friend, journalist, and television anchorman, Jose Diaz-Balart.

For over 30 years, Jose has been reporting on momentous events from international crises to breaking news in order to properly inform his diverse audience.

As the first U.S. journalist to broadcast in two languages—English and Spanish—simultaneously on two networks, Jose has proven to be a valuable voice to the Hispanic American community. Throughout his career Jose has been the recipient of many accolades, including three Emmys, the George Foster Peabody Award, and the 2014 CHCI Medallion of Excellence.

Jose's role in our society should not be taken for granted. There are hundreds of journalists in Cuba and around the world who are being persecuted and imprisoned for showcasing the realities within their own countries. Jose speaks for them.

I congratulate Jose for 30 years within the industry and thank him for his commitment to the principles of independent journalism and freedom of the press.

THE CR/OMNIBUS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last night, the House Rules Committee filed the 2015 government funding bill.

My top priority is keeping the government open, and this bill will prevent the kind of widespread economic damage that would be caused by a government shutdown, but funding the government is more than just about dollars and cents. It is a statement about our national values. We must make difficult choices with limited resources and fight for what we stand for.

This so-called CR/Omnibus provides $1.1 trillion to fund the government through 2015. It provides funding to combat ISIL and support our troops, fight Ebola in West Africa, and it invests in critical science and research programs.

However, I am deeply disappointed that it responds to the President's executive action on immigration by providing only short-term funding for the Department of Homeland Security. I strongly oppose several controversial policy riders that impact women's health and the environment.

As we begin a meaningful debate on this bill and as the new Congress approaches, we must ensure actions and decisions reflect our values and our ideals to ensure that we protect our country, grow the economy, and provide every American a fair shot at success.

THE CHRISTMAS RESOLUTION

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, it is the most wonderful time of the year, a time when millions of Americans gather together to celebrate Christmas. For many of us, Christmas is a time to remember the humble birth of our Savior on a holy night more than 2,000 years ago in the town of Bethlehem. We give thanks for Jesus' message of love and peace and remember the sacrifice He made for us all. It is a season of giving, of love, and of joy.

According to a recent poll, 9 out of 10 Americans celebrate Christmas. Sadly, however, there is a troubling effort in America led by a vocal minority to remove the symbols and traditions of Christmas from the public arena.

There have been many examples of atheist groups working to remove public nativity displays and other decorations. Just last year in my home State of Colorado, an anti-religious organization filed a lawsuit against school officials for their support of student-led involvement with Operation Christmas Child.

Mr. Speaker, these petty efforts by groups offended by the religious significance of Christmas violates the freedom of religion our Founding Fathers provided for us in the Constitution. This Congress and in Congresses past, I have introduced a resolution to protect the symbols and traditions of Christmas for those who celebrate the holiday.

The resolution also disapproves of efforts to ban references to Christmas. We must not allow those who chose to take offense to shut down the religious celebration of every other American.

THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

(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, I rise in support of my newly-introduced

resolution which recognizes today as the 66th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the celebration of Human Rights Day.

Sixty-six years ago today, the world spoke for the first time with one voice to proclaim the fundamental rights and freedoms of all people. Today, it is our duty to continue to speak out for human rights for all people. Imprisoned bloggers in Vietnam, LGBT activists in Russia, and murdered students in Mexico all have shown us that there is still a great amount of work left to do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to take up my resolution and encourage my colleagues to set aside today to recognize Human Rights Day in honor of all those who are struggling to reclaim their fundamental rights.

SUPPORTING THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY ACT

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

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5656, the Global Food Security Act of 2014, which is a recognition here by the House of Representatives of the important lead role that the United States of America can and must play in fighting poverty and hunger throughout the world.

The simple truth is that a hunger epidemic of crisis proportion is spreading across the developing world leading to mass unrest, armed conflict, needless suffering, and death.

Every day, more than 21,000 people die of hunger or hunger-related causes. The United Nations reports that in developing countries, 842 million people are chronically hungry, one out of every three children who die before the age of 5 die of hunger, and one out of four children suffer mental or physical impairments due to malnutrition.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has been more than willing to spend trillions on warfare. Today, I call upon the Congress of the United States to declare war on hunger and give people in need a good reason to be grateful to America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

BORDER PATROL AGENT PAY REFORM ACT OF 2014

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1691) to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1691

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 ''Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to strengthen U.S. Customs and Border Protection and ensure that border patrol agents are sufficiently ready to conduct necessary work and will perform overtime hours in excess of a 40-hour workweek based on the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

(2) to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection has the flexibility to cover shift changes and retains the right to assign scheduled and unscheduled work for mission requirements and planning based on operational need.

(b) RATES OF PAY.—Subchapter V of chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5549 the following:

''§ 5550. Border patrol rate of pay

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'basic border patrol rate of pay' means the hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol, as determined without regard to this section;

''(2) the term 'border patrol agent' means an individual who is appointed to a position assigned to the Border Patrol Enforcement classification series 1896 or any successor series, consistent with classification standards established by the Office of Personnel Management;

''(3) the term 'level 1 border patrol rate of pay' means the hourly rate of pay equal to 1.25 times the otherwise applicable hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol agent;

''(4) the term 'level 2 border patrol rate of pay' means the hourly rate of pay equal to 1.125 times the otherwise applicable hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol agent; and

''(5) the term 'work period' means a 14-day biweekly pay period.

''(b) RECEIPT OF BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.—

''(1) VOLUNTARY ELECTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days before the first day of each year beginning after the date of enactment of this section, a border patrol agent shall make an election whether the border patrol agent shall, for that year, be assigned to—

''(i) the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

''(ii) the level 2 border patrol rate of pay; or

''(iii) the basic border patrol rate of pay, with additional overtime assigned as needed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

''(B) REGULATIONS.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall promulgate regulations establishing procedures for elections under subparagraph (A).

''(C) INFORMATION REGARDING ELECTION.—Not later than 60 days before the first day of each year beginning after the date of enactment of this section, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall provide each border patrol agent with information regarding each type of election available under subparagraph (A) and how to make such an election.

''(D) ASSIGNMENT IN LIEU OF ELECTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A)—

''(i) a border patrol agent who fails to make a timely election under subparagraph (A) shall be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

''(ii) a border patrol agent who is assigned a canine shall be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

''(iii) if at any time U.S. Customs and Border Protection concludes that a border patrol agent is unable to perform overtime on a daily basis in accordance with this section, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall assign the border patrol agent to the basic border patrol rate of pay until such time as U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines that the border patrol agent is able to perform scheduled overtime on a daily basis;

''(iv) unless the analysis conducted under section 2(e) of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014 indicates that, in order to more adequately fulfill the operational requirements of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, such border patrol agents should be allowed to elect or be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, a border patrol agent shall be assigned to the basic border patrol rate of pay if the agent works—

''(I) at U.S. Customs and Border Protection headquarters;

''(II) as a training instructor at a U.S. Customs and Border Protection training facility;

''(III) in an administrative position; or

''(IV) as a fitness instructor; and

''(v) a border patrol agent may be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay in accordance with subparagraph (E).

''(E) FLEXIBILITY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), and notwithstanding any other provision of law, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall take such action as is necessary, including the unilateral assignment of border patrol agents to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, to ensure that not more than 10 percent of the border patrol agents stationed at a location are assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay.

''(ii) WAIVER.—U.S. Customs and Border Protection may waive the limitation under clause (i) on the percent of border patrol agents stationed at a location who are assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay if, based on the analysis conducted under section 2(e) of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines it may do so and adequately fulfill its operational requirements.

''(iii) CERTAIN LOCATIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply to border patrol agents working at the headquarters of U.S. Customs and Border Protection or a training location of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

''(F) CANINE CARE.—For a border patrol agent assigned to provide care for a canine and assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay in accordance with subparagraph (D)(ii)—

''(i) that rate of pay covers all such care;

''(ii) for the purposes of scheduled overtime under paragraph (2)(A)(ii), such care shall be counted as 1 hour of scheduled overtime on each regular workday without regard to the actual duration of such care or whether such care occurs on the regular workday; and

''(iii) no other pay shall be paid to the border patrol agent for such care.

''(G) PAY ASSIGNMENT CONTINUITY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014, and in

consultation with the Office of Personnel Management, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall develop and implement a plan to ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that the assignment of a border patrol agent under this section during the 3 years of service before the border patrol agent becomes eligible for immediate retirement are consistent with the average border patrol rate of pay level to which the border patrol agent has been assigned during the course of the career of the border patrol agent.

''(ii) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, U.S. Customs and Border Protection may take such action as is necessary, including the unilateral assignment of border patrol agents to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay, the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, or the basic border patrol rate of pay, to implement the plan developed under this subparagraph.

''(iii) REPORTING.—U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit the plan developed under clause (i) to the appropriate committees of Congress.

''(iv) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than 6 months after U.S. Customs and Border Protection issues the plan required under clause (i), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the effectiveness of the plan in ensuring that border patrol agents are not able to artificially enhance their retirement annuities.

''(v) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means—

''(I) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

''(II) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

''(vi) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to limit the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to assign border patrol agents to border patrol rates of pay as necessary to meet operational requirements.

''(2) LEVEL 1 BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay—

''(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with—

''(i) 8 hours of regular time per workday, which may be interrupted by an unpaid off-duty meal break; and

''(ii) 2 additional hours of scheduled overtime during each day the agent performs work under clause (i);

''(B) for paid hours of regular time described in subparagraph (A)(i), the border patrol agent shall receive pay at the level 1 border patrol rate of pay;

''(C) compensation for the hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in subparagraph (A)(ii) is provided indirectly through the 25 percent supplement within the level 1 border patrol rate of pay, and the border patrol agent may not receive for such hours—

''(i) any compensation in addition to the compensation under subparagraph (B) under this section or any other provision of law; or

''(ii) any compensatory time off;

''(D) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay for hours of work in excess of 100 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g);

''(E) the border patrol agent shall be charged corresponding amounts of paid leave, compensatory time off, or other paid time off for each hour (or part thereof) the agent is absent from work during regular time (except that full days off for military leave shall be charged when required);

''(F) if the border patrol agent is absent during scheduled overtime described in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

''(i) the border patrol agent shall accrue an obligation to perform other overtime work for each hour (or part thereof) the border patrol agent is absent; and

''(ii) any overtime work applied toward the obligation under clause (i) shall not be credited as overtime work under any other provision of law; and

''(G) for the purposes of advanced training, the border patrol agent—

''(i) shall be paid at the level 1 border patrol rate of pay for the first 60 days of advanced training in a calendar year; and

''(ii) for any advanced training in addition to the advanced training described in clause (i), shall be paid at the basic border patrol rate of pay.

''(3) LEVEL 2 BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay—

''(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with—

''(i) 8 hours of regular time per workday, which may be interrupted by an unpaid off-duty meal break; and

''(ii) 1 additional hour of scheduled overtime during each day the agent performs work under clause (i);

''(B) for paid hours of regular time described in subparagraph (A)(i), the border patrol agent shall receive pay at the level 2 border patrol rate of pay;

''(C) compensation for the hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in subparagraph (A)(ii) is provided indirectly through the 12.5 percent supplement within the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, and the border patrol agent may not receive for such hours—

''(i) any compensation in addition to the compensation under subparagraph (B) under this section or any other provision of law; or

''(ii) any compensatory time off;

''(D) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay for hours of work in excess of 90 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g);

''(E) the border patrol agent shall be charged corresponding amounts of paid leave, compensatory time off, or other paid time off for each hour (or part thereof) the agent is excused from work during regular time (except that full days off for military leave shall be charged when required);

''(F) if the border patrol agent is absent during scheduled overtime described in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

''(i) the border patrol agent shall accrue an obligation to perform other overtime work for each hour (or part thereof) the border patrol agent is absent; and

''(ii) any overtime work applied toward the obligation under clause (i) shall not be credited as overtime work under any other provision of law; and

''(G) for the purposes of advanced training, the border patrol agent—

''(i) shall be paid at the level 2 border patrol rate of pay for the first 60 days of advanced training in a calendar year; and

''(ii) for any advanced training in addition to the advanced training described in clause (i), shall be paid at the basic border patrol rate of pay.

''(4) BASIC BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the basic border patrol rate of pay—

''(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with 8 hours of regular time per workday; and

''(B) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay for hours of work in excess of 80 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g).

''(c) ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER PREMIUM PAY.—A border patrol agent—

''(1) shall receive premium pay for nightwork in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) of section 5545 and Sunday and holiday pay in accordance with section 5546, without regard to the rate of pay to which the border patrol agent is assigned under this section, except that—

''(A) no premium pay for night, Sunday, or holiday work shall be provided for hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii) or (3)(A)(ii) of subsection (b), consistent with the requirements of paragraph (2)(C) or (3)(C) of subsection (b); and

''(B) section 5546(d) shall not apply and instead eligibility for pay for, and the rate of pay for, any overtime work on a Sunday or a designated holiday shall be determined in accordance with this section and section 5542(g);

''(2) except as provided in paragraph (3) or section 5542(g), shall not be eligible for any other form of premium pay under this title; and

''(3) shall be eligible for hazardous duty pay in accordance with section 5545(d).

''(d) TREATMENT AS BASIC PAY.—Any pay in addition to the basic border patrol rate of pay for a border patrol agent resulting from application of the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay—

''(1) subject to paragraph (2), shall be treated as part of basic pay solely for—

''(A) purposes of sections 5595(c), 8114(e), 8331(3)(I), and 8704(c);

''(B) any other purpose that the Director of the Office of Personnel Management may by regulation prescribe; and

''(C) any other purpose expressly provided for by law; and

''(2) shall not be treated as part of basic pay for the purposes of calculating overtime pay, night pay, Sunday pay, or holiday pay under section 5542, 5545, or 5546.

''(e) TRAVEL TIME.—Travel time to and from home and duty station by a border patrol agent shall not be considered hours of work under any provision of law.

''(f) LEAVE WITHOUT PAY AND SUBSTITUTION OF HOURS.—

''(1) REGULAR TIME.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For a period of leave without pay during the regular time of a border patrol agent (as described in paragraph (2)(A)(i), (3)(A)(i), or (4)(A) of subsection (b)) within a work period, an equal period of work outside the regular time of the border patrol agent, but in the same work period—

''(i) shall be substituted and paid for at the rate applicable for the regular time; and

''(ii) shall not be credited as overtime hours for any purpose.

''(B) PRIORITY FOR SAME DAY WORK.—In substituting hours of work under subparagraph (A), work performed on the same day as the period of leave without pay shall be substituted first.

''(C) PRIORITY FOR REGULAR TIME SUBSTITUTION.—Hours of work shall be substituted for regular time work under this paragraph before being substituted for scheduled overtime under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4).

''(2) OVERTIME WORK.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For a period of absence during scheduled overtime (as described in paragraph (2)(F) or (3)(F) of subsection (b))

within a work period, an equal period of additional work in the same work period—

''(i) shall be substituted and credited as scheduled overtime; and

''(ii) shall not be credited as overtime hours under any other provision of law.

''(B) PRIORITY FOR SAME DAY WORK.—In substituting hours of work under subparagraph (A), work performed on the same day as the period of absence shall be substituted first.

''(3) APPLICATION OF COMPENSATORY TIME.—If a border patrol agent does not have sufficient additional work in a work period to substitute for all periods of absence during scheduled overtime (as described in paragraph (2)(F) or (3)(F) of subsection (b)) within that work period, any accrued compensatory time off under section 5542(g) shall be applied to satisfy the hours obligation.

''(4) INSUFFICIENT HOURS.—If a border patrol agent has a remaining hours obligation of scheduled overtime after applying paragraphs (2) and (3), any additional work in subsequent work periods that would otherwise be credited under section 5542(g) shall be applied towards the hours obligation until that obligation is satisfied.

''(g) AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE OVERTIME WORK.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to require a border patrol agent to perform hours of overtime work in accordance with the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, including if needed in the event of a local or national emergency.''.

(c) OVERTIME WORK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) In applying subsection (a) with respect to a border patrol agent covered by section 5550, the following rules apply:

''(1) Notwithstanding the matter preceding paragraph (1) in subsection (a), for a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay under section 5550—

''(A) hours of work in excess of 100 hours during a 14-day biweekly pay period shall be overtime work; and

''(B) the border patrol agent—

''(i) shall receive pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay (as determined in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)) for hours of overtime work that are officially ordered or approved in advance of the workweek; and

''(ii) except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5), shall receive compensatory time off for an equal amount of time spent performing overtime work that is not overtime work described in clause (i).

''(2) Notwithstanding the matter preceding paragraph (1) in subsection (a), for a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay under section 5550—

''(A) hours of work in excess of 90 hours during a 14-day biweekly pay period shall be overtime work; and

''(B) the border patrol agent—

''(i) shall receive pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay (as determined in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)) for hours of overtime work that are officially ordered or approved in advance of the workweek; and

''(ii) except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5), shall receive compensatory time off for an equal amount of time spent performing overtime work that is not overtime work described in clause (i).

''(3) Notwithstanding the matter preceding paragraph (1) in subsection (a), for a border patrol agent who is assigned to the basic border patrol rate of pay under section 5550—

''(A) hours of work in excess of 80 hours during a 14-day biweekly pay period shall be overtime work; and

''(B) the border patrol agent—

''(i) shall receive pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay (as determined in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)) for hours of overtime work that are officially ordered or approved in advance of the workweek; and

''(ii) except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5), shall receive compensatory time off for an equal amount of time spent performing overtime work that is not overtime work described in clause (i).

''(4)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), during a 14-day biweekly pay period, a border patrol agent may not earn compensatory time off for more than 10 hours of overtime work.

''(B) U.S. Customs and Border Protection may, as it determines appropriate, waive the limitation under subparagraph (A) for an individual border patrol agent for hours of irregular or occasional overtime work, but such waiver must be approved in writing in advance of the performance of any such work for which compensatory time off is earned under paragraph (1)(B)(ii), (2)(B)(ii), or (3)(B)(ii). If a waiver request by a border patrol agent is denied, the border patrol agent may not be ordered to perform the associated overtime work.

''(5) A border patrol agent—

''(A) may not earn more than 240 hours of compensatory time off during a leave year;

''(B) shall use any hours of compensatory time off not later than the end of the 26th pay period after the pay period during which the compensatory time off was earned;

''(C) shall be required to use 1 hour of compensatory time off for each hour of regular time not worked for which the border patrol agent is not on paid leave or other paid time off or does not substitute time in accordance with section 5550(f);

''(D) shall forfeit any compensatory time off not used in accordance with this paragraph and, regardless of circumstances, shall not be entitled to any cash value for compensatory time earned under section 5550;

''(E) shall not receive credit towards the computation of the annuity of the border patrol agent for compensatory time, whether used or not; and

''(F) shall not be credited with compensatory time off if the value of such time off would cause the aggregate premium pay of the border patrol agent to exceed the limitation established under section 5547 in the period in which it was earned.''.

(2) MINIMIZATION OF OVERTIME.—U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall, to the maximum extent practicable, avoid the use of scheduled overtime work by border patrol agents.

(d) RETIREMENT.—Section 8331(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''and'';

(2) in subparagraph (H), by inserting ''and'' after the semicolon;

(3) by inserting a new subparagraph after subparagraph (H) as follows:

''(I) with respect to a border patrol agent, the amount of supplemental pay received through application of the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay for scheduled overtime within the regular tour of duty of the border patrol agent as provided in section 5550;''; and

(4) in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (H), by striking ''subparagraphs (B) through (H)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (B) through (I)''.

(e) COMPREHENSIVE STAFFING ANALYSIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall conduct a comprehensive analysis, and submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report, that—

(A) examines the staffing requirements for U.S. Border Patrol to most effectively meet its operational requirements at each Border Patrol duty station;

(B) estimates the cost of the staffing requirements at each Border Patrol duty station; and

(C) includes—

(i) a position-by-position review at each Border Patrol station to determine—

(I) the duties assigned to each position;

(II) how the duties relate to the operational requirements of U.S. Border Patrol; and

(III) the number of hours border patrol agents in that position would need to work each pay period to meet the operational requirements of U.S. Border Patrol;

(ii) the metrics used to determine the number of hours of work performed at each Border Patrol station, broken down by the type of hours worked;

(iii) a cost analysis of the most recent full fiscal year by the type of full-time equivalent hours worked;

(iv) a cost estimate by the type of full-time equivalent hours expected to be worked during the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(v) an analysis that compares the cost of assigning the full-time equivalent hours needed to meet the operational requirements of U.S. Border Patrol to existing border patrol agents through higher rates of pay versus recruiting, hiring, training, and deploying additional border patrol agents.

(2) INDEPENDENT VALIDATOR.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Comptroller General receives the report under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(A) examines the methodology used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to carry out the analysis; and

(B) indicates whether the Comptroller General concurs with the findings in the report under paragraph (1).

(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(f) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to—

(1) limit the right of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to assign both scheduled and unscheduled work to a border patrol agent based on the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in excess of the hours of work normally applicable under the election of the border patrol agent, regardless of what the border patrol agent might otherwise have elected;

(2) require compensation of a border patrol agent other than for hours during which the border patrol agent is actually performing work or using approved paid leave or other paid time off; or

(3) exempt a border patrol agent from any limitations on pay, earnings, or compensation, including the limitations under section 5547 of title 5, United States Code.

(g) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 5547 of title 5, United States Code is amended by—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking, ''and'' before ''5546''; and

(ii) by inserting '', and 5550'' after ''5546 (a) and (b)''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) Any supplemental pay resulting from receipt of the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay under section 5550 shall be considered premium pay in applying this section.''.

(2) Section 13(a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 213(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (16), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (17), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(18) any employee who is a border patrol agent, as defined in section 5550(a) of title 5, United States Code.''.

(3) The table of sections for chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5549 the following:

''5550. Border patrol rate of pay.''.

(h) REGULATIONS.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall promulgate regulations to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. 3. CYBERSECURITY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the end of subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 141 et seq.), add the following:

''SEC. 226. CYBERSECURITY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

''(2) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.—The term 'collective bargaining agreement' has the meaning given that term in section 7103(a)(8) of title 5, United States Code.

''(3) EXCEPTED SERVICE.—The term 'excepted service' has the meaning given that term in section 2103 of title 5, United States Code.

''(4) PREFERENCE ELIGIBLE.—The term 'preference eligible' has the meaning given that term in section 2108 of title 5, United States Code.

''(5) QUALIFIED POSITION.—The term 'qualified position' means a position, designated by the Secretary for the purpose of this section, in which the incumbent performs, manages, or supervises functions that execute the responsibilities of the Department relating to cybersecurity.

''(6) SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE.—The term 'Senior Executive Service' has the meaning given that term in section 2101a of title 5, United States Code.

''(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

''(1) ESTABLISH POSITIONS, APPOINT PERSONNEL, AND FIX RATES OF PAY.—

''(A) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may—

''(i) establish, as positions in the excepted service, such qualified positions in the Department as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Department relating to cybersecurity, including positions formerly identified as—

''(I) senior level positions designated under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code; and

''(II) positions in the Senior Executive Service;

''(ii) appoint an individual to a qualified position (after taking into consideration the availability of preference eligibles for appointment to the position); and

''(iii) subject to the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3), fix the compensation of an individual for service in a qualified position.

''(B) CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER LAWS.—The authority of the Secretary under this subsection applies without regard to the provisions of any other law relating to the appointment, number, classification, or compensation of employees.

''(2) BASIC PAY.—

''(A) AUTHORITY TO FIX RATES OF BASIC PAY.—In accordance with this section, the Secretary shall fix the rates of basic pay for any qualified position established under paragraph (1) in relation to the rates of pay provided for employees in comparable positions in the Department of Defense and subject to the same limitations on maximum rates of pay established for such employees by law or regulation.

''(B) PREVAILING RATE SYSTEMS.—The Secretary may, consistent with section 5341 of title 5, United States Code, adopt such provisions of that title as provide for prevailing rate systems of basic pay and may apply those provisions to qualified positions for employees in or under which the Department may employ individuals described by section 5342(a)(2)(A) of that title.

''(3) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION, INCENTIVES, AND ALLOWANCES.—

''(A) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION BASED ON TITLE 5 AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary may provide employees in qualified positions compensation (in addition to basic pay), including benefits, incentives, and allowances, consistent with, and not in excess of the level authorized for, comparable positions authorized by title 5, United States Code.

''(B) ALLOWANCES IN NONFOREIGN AREAS.—An employee in a qualified position whose rate of basic pay is fixed under paragraph (2)(A) shall be eligible for an allowance under section 5941 of title 5, United States Code, on the same basis and to the same extent as if the employee was an employee covered by such section 5941, including eligibility conditions, allowance rates, and all other terms and conditions in law or regulation.

''(4) PLAN FOR EXECUTION OF AUTHORITIES.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress with a plan for the use of the authorities provided under this subsection.

''(5) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to impair the continued effectiveness of a collective bargaining agreement with respect to an office, component, subcomponent, or equivalent of the Department that is a successor to an office, component, subcomponent, or equivalent of the Department covered by the agreement before the succession.

''(6) REQUIRED REGULATIONS.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall prescribe regulations for the administration of this section.

''(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and every year thereafter for 4 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a detailed report that—

''(1) discusses the process used by the Secretary in accepting applications, assessing candidates, ensuring adherence to veterans' preference, and selecting applicants for vacancies to be filled by an individual for a qualified position;

''(2) describes—

''(A) how the Secretary plans to fulfill the critical need of the Department to recruit and retain employees in qualified positions;

''(B) the measures that will be used to measure progress; and

''(C) any actions taken during the reporting period to fulfill such critical need;

''(3) discusses how the planning and actions taken under paragraph (2) are integrated into the strategic workforce planning of the Department;

''(4) provides metrics on actions occurring during the reporting period, including—

''(A) the number of employees in qualified positions hired by occupation and grade and level or pay band;

''(B) the placement of employees in qualified positions by directorate and office within the Department;

''(C) the total number of veterans hired;

''(D) the number of separations of employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band;

''(E) the number of retirements of employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band; and

''(F) the number and amounts of recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives paid to employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band; and

''(5) describes the training provided to supervisors of employees in qualified positions at the Department on the use of the new authorities.

''(d) THREE-YEAR PROBATIONARY PERIOD.—The probationary period for all employees hired under the authority established in this section shall be 3 years.

''(e) INCUMBENTS OF EXISTING COMPETITIVE SERVICE POSITIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An individual serving in a position on the date of enactment of this section that is selected to be converted to a position in the excepted service under this section shall have the right to refuse such conversion.

''(2) SUBSEQUENT CONVERSION.—After the date on which an individual who refuses a conversion under paragraph (1) stops serving in the position selected to be converted, the position may be converted to a position in the excepted service.

''(f) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the National Protection and Programs Directorate shall submit a report regarding the availability of, and benefits (including cost savings and security) of using, cybersecurity personnel and facilities outside of the National Capital Region (as defined in section 2674 of title 10, United States Code) to serve the Federal and national need to—

''(1) the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

''(2) the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3132(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended in the matter following subparagraph (E)—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by inserting ''or'' after the semicolon; and

(3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

''(iii) any position established as a qualified position in the excepted service by the Secretary of Homeland Security under section 226 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002;''.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 225 the following:

''Sec. 226. Cybersecurity recruitment and retention.''.

SEC. 4. HOMELAND SECURITY CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Homeland Security Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives.

(2) CYBERSECURITY WORK CATEGORY; DATA ELEMENT CODE; SPECIALTY AREA.—The terms ''Cybersecurity Work Category'', ''Data Element Code'', and ''Specialty Area'' have the meanings given such terms in the Office of Personnel Management's Guide to Data Standards.

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security.

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(c) NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE MEASUREMENT INITIATIVE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) identify all cybersecurity workforce positions within the Department;

(B) determine the primary Cybersecurity Work Category and Specialty Area of such positions; and

(C) assign the corresponding Data Element Code, as set forth in the Office of Personnel Management's Guide to Data Standards which is aligned with the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education's National Cybersecurity Workforce Framework report, in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) EMPLOYMENT CODES.—

(A) PROCEDURES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish procedures—

(i) to identify open positions that include cybersecurity functions (as defined in the OPM Guide to Data Standards); and

(ii) to assign the appropriate employment code to each such position, using agreed standards and definitions.

(B) CODE ASSIGNMENTS.—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall assign the appropriate employment code to—

(i) each employee within the Department who carries out cybersecurity functions; and

(ii) each open position within the Department that have been identified as having cybersecurity functions.

(3) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit a progress report on the implementation of this subsection to the appropriate congressional committees.

(d) IDENTIFICATION OF CYBERSECURITY SPECIALTY AREAS OF CRITICAL NEED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date on which the employment codes are assigned to employees pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(B), and annually through 2021, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall—

(A) identify Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas of critical need in the Department's cybersecurity workforce; and

(B) submit a report to the Director that—

(i) describes the Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas identified under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) substantiates the critical need designations.

(2) GUIDANCE.—The Director shall provide the Secretary with timely guidance for identifying Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas of critical need, including—

(A) current Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas with acute skill shortages; and

(B) Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas with emerging skill shortages.

(3) CYBERSECURITY CRITICAL NEEDS REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall—

(A) identify Specialty Areas of critical need for cybersecurity workforce across the Department; and

(B) submit a progress report on the implementation of this subsection to the appropriate congressional committees.

(e) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STATUS REPORTS.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) analyze and monitor the implementation of subsections (c) and (d); and

(2) not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the status of such implementation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. 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 materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we love the Border Patrol and the men and women who serve on the Border Patrol. We cannot thank them enough for the hard and tough duties that they provide. It is difficult. It is hard.

I have been out there in Arizona as they do this out on ATVs, chasing drug runners. It is amazing what they do and how they do it. We love them, and the bill before us, Mr. Speaker, is a good bill to help them and their families, provide a better service to them and their families, but actually save some money for the Federal Government. This is truly a bill, Mr. Speaker, that is a win-win situation. I am honored to have that bill before us today, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

The Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014 would replace Border Patrol's current pay system and create a consistent and reliable pay system, enhance border security, and save taxpayers literally hundreds of millions of dollars.

Established in 1924, today's Border Patrol relies on roughly 21,000 agents to secure some 6,000 miles of international borders between Mexico and Canada and 2,000 miles of coastal waters surrounding Florida and Puerto Rico.

Properly paying Border Patrol agents and responsibly managing a payroll system are critical to the mission of the United States Customs and Border Patrol, often referred to as CBP.

Thirteen months ago, November 20, 2013, the Subcommittee on National Security held a hearing to examine the Border Patrol's compensation policies. The hearing focused on a report by the Office of Special Counsel documenting abuse of a type of overtime within the Border Patrol.

The OSC testified to longstanding abuse of overtime within the Border Patrol, including by headquarters employees who regularly extended their day by roughly 2 hours and padding their paychecks by an additional 25 percent.

Administratively uncontrollable overtime, AUO, was established more than 40 years ago to pay employees for ''irregular, unscheduled, but necessary overtime.'' The Department of Homeland Security is one of the largest users of AUO within the Federal Government, with Border Patrol accounting for more than 75 percent of the paid AUO.

Border Patrol agents receive between 10 and 25 percent of their basic pay through AUO, depending on the average number of irregular overtime performed per week. Generally, agents themselves are responsible for recognizing without supervision the circumstances which require them to remain on duty beyond regular hours.

They are down on the border; they are pursuing somebody who is coming across illegally. You can't just say, ''Well, time to go home.'' Oftentimes, they work for hours and hours in continued pursuit of these people that had come across illegally.

Under AUO, most agents earn up to 25 percent of their base salary for time worked in excess of 80 hours in a pay period. Agents may earn additional overtime compensation that is generally paid at 50 percent above the regular rate. Total overtime costs for Border Patrol agents, including pay and benefits, was $627 million in 2013 while total compensation costs for those agents was $3.1 billion in that same year.

During the hearing, it became clear that AUO is ill-suited to be meet the needs of today's Border Patrol. In response, I joined with Senators TESTER and MCCAIN in introducing legislation to provide Border Patrol a cost-effective and flexible overtime system called the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act. DHS pledged to work with the committee to find a solution at an affordable cost, and that is why we are here today.

Mr. Speaker, under current law, Border Patrol agents who work beyond 85.5 hours to meet mission requirements are generally paid time and a half.

Under the bill, agents will annually elect one of three pay options: number one, work 100 hours per biweekly pay period and increase their base salary by 25 percent; work 90 hours and receive a 12.5 percent base salary increase; or work no overtime at all.

Unscheduled overtime will be treated as comp time with no monetary compensation. The bill eliminates Fair Labor Standards Act overtime which results in significant savings to the taxpayer.

The Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act generally requires 90 percent of Border Patrol agents to work 100 hours each per pay period while CBP expects that most remaining agents would work 90 hours per pay period. This staffing floor will allow supervisors to more effectively plan border security operations.

To help ensure accountability, the bill requires the Border Patrol to undertake a detailed assessment of its operational requirements and staffing needs at every Border Patrol station within 1 year of enactment and submit it to Congress for review.

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The GAO will examine CBP's methodology and analysis and within 90 days submit a report to Congress indicating whether GAO concurs with CBP's assessments. Border Patrol has flexibility in the staffing floor based on the results of that assessment.

The bill grants CBP management authority to unilaterally assign agents to work additional hours if the security situation along the border necessitates it. The bill reflects months of negotiation and congressional review and is supported by the National Border Patrol Council.

I personally cannot thank the National Border Patrol Council enough for their good work, tenacity on this issue, and their deep desire to make the agents' lives better. They represent some 17,000 agents. CBO estimated that implementing the Senate bill, S. 1691, would save roughly $100 million per year. Costs would decline under Senate bill S. 1691 mostly because Border Patrol agents would no longer receive compensation required under the FLSA.

This is an important bill, Mr. Speaker. There is a lot of good, bipartisan support. If I am not mistaken, it passed unanimously in the Senate. We have held hearings in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. I want to personally thank Chairman ISSA for his good work. I also want to thank Leader MCCARTHY and Speaker BOEHNER for allowing this bill to come to the floor. Homeland Security Chairman MCCAUL and Congresswoman MILLER have been pivotal on this. Members from both sides of the aisle, like DAVE REICHERT, Mr. O'ROURKE, and RON BARBER have worked hard on this issue and care about this as well. I, again, appreciate their bipartisan support. And bicameral support, there has been good work from Senator TESTER and Senator MCCAIN, who cares deeply about Border Patrol issues, and certainly Senator CARPER for making this a reality. It is an honor to have this bill before us today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. CHAFFETZ, for not only coming forward to manage this bill, but I thank him because he is the sponsor of a bipartisan bill very similar to the bill before us today, H.R. 3463; and I rise in strong support of S. 1691, the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014, a bipartisan bill sponsored by Senators TESTER and MCCAIN.

S. 1691 would enhance the Custom and Border Protection's ability to secure and patrol more than 6,000 miles of our Nation's borders between Mexico and Canada, and 2,000 miles of our coastal waters surrounding Florida and Puerto Rico. It would also respond to the growing threat of cyber attacks. This legislation, which is supported by the administration and the Border Patrol Council, would also save the American taxpayers about $100 million annually, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The bill would dramatically simplify the current pay system for our country's more than 21,000 courageous Border Patrol agents by eliminating compensation for overtime through what is called administratively uncontrollable overtime. Under a newly created pay system, Border Patrol agents would have three work schedule and compensation options. They could choose to, one, work 100 hours for each pay period and receive an increase in base salary by 25 percent; two, work 90 hours each pay period and receive an increase in base salary by 12.5 percent; or three, work 80 hours per pay period with no overtime. All unscheduled overtime worked beyond these hours would be treated as compensatory time off, with an annual maximum of 240 hours.

The legislation would also set a minimum staffing requirement requiring that at least 90 percent of Border Patrol agents in any given location work 100 hours every pay period to ensure that Customs and Border Protection has the man-hours it needs to respond to threats and to secure the border.

Under this new system, Border Patrol agents would work millions of hours longer than they do today, which equates to adding 1,500 agents to patrol the Nation's borders.

S. 1691 would require Customs and Border Protection to submit to Congress a staffing plan detailing the agency's operational and staffing requirements to ensure hours worked matched the agency's needs. The Government Accountability Office would also be required to review the plan as an independent check.

This bill would also address concerns regarding past abuses by prohibiting agents at headquarters and training academies and fitness instructors from working more than 80 hours per pay period unless the staffing plan shows a need for these employees to work additional hours.

The legislation would also provide Customs and Border Protection with flexibility to lower the staffing floor set by the bill if the staffing plan shows that the agency can meet its operational requirements in a given location with fewer man-hours.

S. 1691 would also require Customs and Border Protection, in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management, to develop a plan to prevent Border Patrol agents from artificially boosting their retirement annuities by selecting a higher rate of pay than they had historically within 3 years of being eligible to retire. The Government Accountability Office would be required to review this plan and to report to Congress on its effectiveness.

An amendment introduced by Senator CARPER also would add provisions allowing the Department of Homeland Security to recruit and retain cyber professionals by granting authority to hire qualified experts on an expedited basis and to pay them competitive salaries, wages, and incentives. The legislation also would require the Department to report annually on the program's progress.

S. 1691 would provide much-needed reform to the compensation of Border Patrol agents and ensure that the Department of Homeland Security has the personnel it needs to deal with increasing cyber attacks.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to continue to thank some other Members for making this possible.

YVETTE CLARKE has been very helpful. She worked diligently on H.R. 3107, which passed 395–8. It has been included in the Senate version, and I am glad to have her involvement in this.

I also want to thank BLAKE FARENTHOLD for his good work on this. Coming from Texas, he cares deeply about these issues and was very helpful in supporting it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE), an original cosponsor of H.R. 3463, the House companion version of S. 1691.

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman NORTON for her work in managing this bill on the floor today and for yielding me this time to speak in support of it. And I especially want to thank my colleague Mr. CHAFFETZ from the State of Utah for his work on the House version of this bill.

On behalf of my community in El Paso, Texas, and especially on behalf of the Border Patrol agents, more than 2,500 in my community, I want to give

you our thanks from the largest city on the U.S.-Mexico border.

I support this bill because I do represent more than 2,500 agents in El Paso. In addition, for the more than 21,000 agents on our northern and southern borders, this is an important bill that provides a consistent and reliable pay system that addresses problems in administratively uncontrollable overtime and provides more predictable work schedules for our Border Patrol agents.

We ask these brave men and women to put their lives on the line to do what I think is the toughest job in Federal employment, but so far we have failed to provide financial certainty both to those agents and to their families.

I want to remind my colleagues that El Paso, Texas, the community I have the honor of representing, which is conjoined with Ciudad Juarez to form the largest truly binational community in the world, is the safest city in the State of Texas today. It is the safest city in the United States, and that is not an anomaly. It has been the safest city in America 4 years running, and we have, in large part, to thank the Border Patrol agents who help to secure our border for that. Not only do they keep our communities and our country secure, they do it in a very professional way. In 2013, there were exactly zero complaints filed against the Border Patrol in the El Paso sector. So I want to thank them for the great job that they do.

This bill creates a reliable pay system that responsibly secures our border. Supporting our agents, which this bill does, is the key to keeping our border communities and our country safe.

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

I want to thank Mr. O'ROURKE for his passion on this issue. He is a fine gentleman to work with on these types of issues and others. I am happy to serve with him on both Homeland Security and in this body. I thank him for his good work.

There has been good bipartisan work on both sides of the aisle and in both bodies to get to this point today.

I also thank ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON for her personal commitment to these issues, and Federal workers in general.

This truly is a win-win situation. We make life better for Border Patrol agents and their families. We give more certainty to them and their families to help them with their mortgages. We also happen to save money for the American taxpayer. I appreciate the creativity and good work to get to this point.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE), the ranking member of the Cybersecurity Subcommittee of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished ranking member from the District of Columbia, Ms. HOLMES NORTON, for yielding me this time, and I want to thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) for his leadership on these very important matters of homeland security.

I rise today in support of S. 1691, and I am pleased that today we are considering legislation containing language I introduced earlier this year to address fundamental cyber workforce challenges at the Department of Homeland Security. Important parts of my bipartisan bill, H.R. 3107, the Homeland Security Cybersecurity Boots-on-the-Ground Act, are included in the measure we are considering today.

The cyber workforce language included in S. 1691 generally does two important things. First, it grants special hiring authority to DHS to bring on board topnotch cyber recruits. The Department desperately needs a more flexible hiring process with incentives to secure talent in today's highly competitive cyber skills market. Second, it requires the Secretary of the Department to assess its cyber workforce to give Congress and the Office of Personnel Management a clearer picture of the needs and challenges that DHS faces in carrying out its important cyber mission in helping protect both the dot-gov and dot-com arenas.

Importantly, the bill also directs the Comptroller General to analyze, monitor, and report on the implementation of DHS cybersecurity workforce measures.

Today, many of the Department's top cyber positions are filled by nonpermanent contractors, and DHS reports having difficulty competing with other executive branch agencies and the private sector for talent. In an effort to address DHS's cyber workforce challenges, the Department asked the Homeland Security Advisory Committee to assemble a task force on cyber skills to provide recommendations on the best ways DHS can foster the development of a national cybersecurity workforce and DHS can improve its capability to recruit and retain cybersecurity talent.

The legislation I introduced sought to address a number of the task force's key recommendations, as does this bill, S. 1691. Cybersecurity is a complex mission for the Department and requires a wide range of talent at all levels. Given the urgent nature of the DHS' recruitment efforts, it is essential the Department have at its disposal certain hiring authorities and training procedures in place.

Before I close, I would like to acknowledge that there is a lot of interest on our side of the aisle to make progress on cybersecurity. Hopefully, in the coming days, old jurisdictional squabbles can be laid aside for the betterment of the country, as was done on this bill, and again, the Oversight Committee can work with the Homeland Security Committee to bring forth critical cybersecurity legislation. We need to put in place legislation to advance the ball with respect to protecting Federal civilian networks and codifying DHS' role.

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

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

I want to say how much I appreciate the views of the two Members who have spoken, the bipartisan way in which this bill has been handled in the House and in the Senate, and look forward to more bipartisanship to come, Mr. CHAFFETZ.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In conclusion, I thank the gentlewoman from Washington, D.C. I look forward to working with her on a host of issues as we serve on the same committee. I can only hope that as many of them can be as bipartisan as possible. We both have a tenacious nature to fight to represent the constituencies which we represent, and do so in the spirit of making this country better.

Really, that is the reason that this bill has come here today with good, broad bipartisan support. I cannot thank enough Brandon Judd from the National Border Patrol Council. He heads that group. He has been absolutely wonderful on this issue, good leadership from him.

It is my honor to recommend to my colleagues and urge all Members to support the passage of S. 1691.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1691.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4681) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.
Sec. 3. Budgetary effects.

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 102. Classified Schedule of Authorizations.
Sec. 103. Personnel ceiling adjustments.
Sec. 104. Intelligence Community Management Account.

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—General Matters

Sec. 301. Increase in employee compensation and benefits authorized by law.
Sec. 302. Restriction on conduct of intelligence activities.
Sec. 303. National intelligence strategy.
Sec. 304. Software licensing.
Sec. 305. Reporting of certain employment activities by former intelligence officers and employees.
Sec. 306. Inclusion of Predominantly Black Institutions in intelligence officer training program.
Sec. 307. Management and oversight of financial intelligence.
Sec. 308. Analysis of private sector policies and procedures for countering insider threats.
Sec. 309. Procedures for the retention of incidentally acquired communications.
Sec. 310. Clarification of limitation of review to retaliatory security clearance or access determinations.
Sec. 311. Feasibility study on consolidating classified databases of cyber threat indicators and malware samples.
Sec. 312. Sense of Congress on cybersecurity threat and cybercrime cooperation with Ukraine.
Sec. 313. Replacement of locally employed staff serving at United States diplomatic facilities in the Russian Federation.
Sec. 314. Inclusion of Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities in United States diplomatic facilities in the Russian Federation and adjacent countries.

Subtitle B—Reporting

Sec. 321. Report on declassification process.
Sec. 322. Report on intelligence community efficient spending targets.
Sec. 323. Annual report on violations of law or executive order.
Sec. 324. Annual report on intelligence activities of the Department of Homeland Security.
Sec. 325. Report on political prison camps in North Korea.
Sec. 326. Assessment of security of domestic oil refineries and related rail transportation infrastructure.
Sec. 327. Enhanced contractor level assessments for the intelligence community.
Sec. 328. Assessment of the efficacy of memoranda of understanding to facilitate intelligence-sharing.
Sec. 329. Report on foreign man-made electromagnetic pulse weapons.
Sec. 330. Report on United States counterterrorism strategy to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaeda and its affiliated or associated groups.
Sec. 331. Feasibility study on retraining veterans in cybersecurity.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The term ''congressional intelligence committees'' means—

(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term ''intelligence community'' has the meaning given that term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

SEC. 3. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the conduct of the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the following elements of the United States Government:

(1) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.
(2) The Central Intelligence Agency.
(3) The Department of Defense.
(4) The Defense Intelligence Agency.
(5) The National Security Agency.
(6) The Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force.
(7) The Coast Guard.
(8) The Department of State.
(9) The Department of the Treasury.
(10) The Department of Energy.
(11) The Department of Justice.
(12) The Federal Bureau of Investigation.
(13) The Drug Enforcement Administration.
(14) The National Reconnaissance Office.
(15) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.
(16) The Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 102. CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) SPECIFICATIONS OF AMOUNTS AND PERSONNEL LEVELS.—The amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 101 and, subject to section 103, the authorized personnel ceilings as of September 30, 2015, for the conduct of the intelligence activities of the elements listed in paragraphs (1) through (16) of section 101, are those specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations prepared to accompany the bill H.R. 4681 of the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) AVAILABILITY.—The classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in subsection (a) shall be made available to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and to the President.

(2) DISTRIBUTION BY THE PRESIDENT.—Subject to paragraph (3), the President shall provide for suitable distribution of the classified Schedule of Authorizations, or of appropriate portions of the Schedule, within the executive branch.

(3) LIMITS ON DISCLOSURE.—The President shall not publicly disclose the classified Schedule of Authorizations or any portion of such Schedule except—

(A) as provided in section 601(a) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (50 U.S.C. 3306(a));

(B) to the extent necessary to implement the budget; or

(C) as otherwise required by law.

SEC. 103. PERSONNEL CEILING ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) AUTHORITY FOR INCREASES.—The Director of National Intelligence may authorize employment of civilian personnel in excess of the number authorized for fiscal year 2015 by the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) if the Director of National Intelligence determines that such action is necessary to the performance of important intelligence functions, except that the number of personnel employed in excess of the number authorized under such section may not, for any element of the intelligence community, exceed 3 percent of the number of civilian personnel authorized under such Schedule for such element.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL.—The Director of National Intelligence shall establish guidelines that govern, for each element of the intelligence community, the treatment under the personnel levels authorized under section 102(a), including any exemption from such personnel levels, of employment or assignment in—

(1) a student program, trainee program, or similar program;

(2) a reserve corps or as a reemployed annuitant; or

(3) details, joint duty, or long term, full-time training.

(c) NOTICE TO CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The Director of National Intelligence shall notify the congressional intelligence committees in writing at least 15 days prior to each exercise of an authority described in subsection (a).

SEC. 104. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence for fiscal year 2015 the sum of $507,400,000. Within such amount, funds identified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

(b) AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL LEVELS.—The elements within the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence are authorized 794 positions as of September 30, 2015. Personnel serving in such elements may be permanent employees of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence or personnel detailed from other elements of the United States Government.

(c) CLASSIFIED AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account by subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated for the Community Management Account for fiscal year 2015 such additional amounts as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a). Such additional amounts for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF PERSONNEL.—In addition to the personnel authorized by subsection (b) for elements of the Intelligence Community Management Account as of September 30, 2015, there are authorized such additional personnel for the Community Management Account as of that date as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a).

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability Fund for fiscal year 2015 the sum of $514,000,000.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—General Matters

SEC. 301. INCREASE IN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Appropriations authorized by this Act for salary, pay, retirement, and other benefits for Federal employees may be increased by such additional or supplemental amounts as may be necessary for increases in such compensation or benefits authorized by law.

SEC. 302. RESTRICTION ON CONDUCT OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

The authorization of appropriations by this Act shall not be deemed to constitute authority for the conduct of any intelligence activity which is not otherwise authorized by the Constitution or the laws of the United States.

SEC. 303. NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 108 the following:

"SEC. 108A. NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in 2017, and once every 4 years thereafter, the Director of National Intelligence shall develop a comprehensive national intelligence strategy to meet national security objectives for the following 4-year period, or a longer period, if appropriate.

''(b) REQUIREMENTS.—Each national intelligence strategy required by subsection (a) shall—

''(1) delineate a national intelligence strategy consistent with—

''(A) the most recent national security strategy report submitted pursuant to section 108;

''(B) the strategic plans of other relevant departments and agencies of the United States; and

''(C) other relevant national-level plans;

''(2) address matters related to national and military intelligence, including counterintelligence;

''(3) identify the major national security missions that the intelligence community is currently pursuing and will pursue in the future to meet the anticipated security environment;

''(4) describe how the intelligence community will utilize personnel, technology, partnerships, and other capabilities to pursue the major national security missions identified in paragraph (3);

''(5) assess current, emerging, and future threats to the intelligence community, including threats from foreign intelligence and security services and insider threats;

''(6) outline the organizational roles and missions of the elements of the intelligence community as part of an integrated enterprise to meet customer demands for intelligence products, services, and support;

''(7) identify sources of strategic, institutional, programmatic, fiscal, and technological risk; and

''(8) analyze factors that may affect the intelligence community's performance in pursuing the major national security missions identified in paragraph (3) during the following 10-year period.

''(c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on each national intelligence strategy required by subsection (a) not later than 45 days after the date of the completion of such strategy.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 108 the following new item:

''Sec. 108A. National intelligence strategy.''.

SEC. 304. SOFTWARE LICENSING.

Section 109 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3044) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking ''usage; and'' and inserting ''usage, including—

''(A) increasing the centralization of the management of software licenses;

''(B) increasing the regular tracking and maintaining of comprehensive inventories of software licenses using automated discovery and inventory tools and metrics;

''(C) analyzing software license data to inform investment decisions; and

''(D) providing appropriate personnel with sufficient software licenses management training; and'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''usage.'' and inserting ''usage, including—

''(A) increasing the centralization of the management of software licenses;

''(B) increasing the regular tracking and maintaining of comprehensive inventories of software licenses using automated discovery and inventory tools and metrics;

''(C) analyzing software license data to inform investment decisions; and

''(D) providing appropriate personnel with sufficient software licenses management training; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) based on the assessment required under paragraph (2), make such recommendations with respect to software procurement and usage to the Director of National Intelligence as the Chief Information Officer considers appropriate.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Director of National Intelligence receives recommendations from the Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community in accordance with subsection (b)(3), the Director of National Intelligence shall, to the extent practicable, issue guidelines for the intelligence community on software procurement and usage based on such recommendations.''.

SEC. 305. REPORTING OF CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES BY FORMER INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

(a) RESTRICTION.—Title III of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3071 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 303 the following new section:

"SEC. 304. REPORTING OF CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES BY FORMER INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each element of the intelligence community shall issue regulations requiring each employee of such element occupying a covered position to sign a written agreement requiring the regular reporting of covered employment to the head of such element.

''(b) AGREEMENT ELEMENTS.—The regulations required under subsection (a) shall provide that an agreement contain provisions requiring each employee occupying a covered position to, during the two-year period beginning on the date on which such employee ceases to occupy such covered position—

''(1) report covered employment to the head of the element of the intelligence community that employed such employee in such covered position upon accepting such covered employment; and

''(2) annually (or more frequently if the head of such element considers it appropriate) report covered employment to the head of such element.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COVERED EMPLOYMENT.—The term 'covered employment' means direct employment by, representation of, or the provision of advice relating to national security to the government of a foreign country or any person whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized, in whole or in major part, by any government of a foreign country.

''(2) COVERED POSITION.—The term 'covered position' means a position within an element of the intelligence community that, based on the level of access of a person occupying such position to information regarding sensitive intelligence sources or methods or other exceptionally sensitive matters, the head of such element determines should be subject to the requirements of this section.

''(3) GOVERNMENT OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term 'government of a foreign country' has the meaning given the term in section 1(e) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 611(e)).''.

(b) REGULATIONS AND CERTIFICATION.—

(1) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each element of the intelligence community shall issue the regulations required under section 304 of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(2) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees—

(A) a certification that each head of an element of the intelligence community has prescribed the regulations required under section 304 of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a) of this section; or

(B) if the Director is unable to submit the certification described under subparagraph (A), an explanation as to why the Director is unable to submit such certification, including a designation of which heads of an element of the intelligence community have prescribed the regulations required under such section 304 and which have not.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended—

(1) by striking the second item relating to section 302 (Under Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries) and the items relating to sections 304, 305, and 306; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 303 the following new item:

''Sec. 304. Reporting of certain employment activities by former intelligence officers and employees.''.

SEC. 306. INCLUSION OF PREDOMINANTLY BLACK INSTITUTIONS IN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER TRAINING PROGRAM.

Section 1024 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3224) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting ''and Predominantly Black Institutions'' after ''universities''; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

''(4) PREDOMINANTLY BLACK INSTITUTION.—The term 'Predominantly Black Institution' has the meaning given the term in section 318 of the Higher education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059e).''.

SEC. 307. MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT OF FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall prepare a plan for management of the elements of the intelligence community that carry out financial intelligence activities.

(b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall establish a governance framework, procedures for sharing and harmonizing the acquisition and use of financial analytic tools, standards for quality of analytic products, procedures for oversight and evaluation of resource allocations associated with the joint development of information sharing efforts

and tools, and an education and training model for elements of the intelligence community that carry out financial intelligence activities.

(c) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall brief the congressional intelligence committees on the actions the Director proposes to implement the plan required by subsection (a).

SEC. 308. ANALYSIS OF PRIVATE SECTOR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR COUNTERING INSIDER THREATS.

(a) ANALYSIS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the National Counterintelligence Executive, shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees an analysis of private sector policies and procedures for countering insider threats.

(b) CONTENT.—The analysis required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a review of whether and how the intelligence community could utilize private sector hiring and human resources best practices to screen, vet, and validate the credentials, capabilities, and character of applicants for positions involving trusted access to sensitive information;

(2) an analysis of private sector policies for holding supervisors and subordinates accountable for violations of established security protocols and whether the intelligence community should adopt similar policies for positions of trusted access to sensitive information;

(3) an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of applying mandatory leave policies, similar to those endorsed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Securities and Exchange Commission to identify fraud in the financial services industry, to certain positions within the intelligence community; and

(4) recommendations for how the intelligence community could utilize private sector risk indices, such as credit risk scores, to make determinations about employee access to sensitive information.

SEC. 309. PROCEDURES FOR THE RETENTION OF INCIDENTALLY ACQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED COMMUNICATION.—The term ''covered communication'' means any nonpublic telephone or electronic communication acquired without the consent of a person who is a party to the communication, including communications in electronic storage.

(2) HEAD OF AN ELEMENT OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term ''head of an element of the intelligence community'' means, as appropriate—

(A) the head of an element of the intelligence community; or

(B) the head of the department or agency containing such element.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801).

(b) PROCEDURES FOR COVERED COMMUNICATIONS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT TO ADOPT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act each head of an element of the intelligence community shall adopt procedures approved by the Attorney General for such element that ensure compliance with the requirements of paragraph (3).

(2) COORDINATION AND APPROVAL.—The procedures required by paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) prepared in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence; and

(B) approved by the Attorney General prior to issuance.

(3) PROCEDURES.—

(A) APPLICATION.—The procedures required by paragraph (1) shall apply to any intelligence collection activity not otherwise authorized by court order (including an order or certification issued by a court established under subsection (a) or (b) of section 103 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1803)), subpoena, or similar legal process that is reasonably anticipated to result in the acquisition of a covered communication to or from a United States person and shall permit the acquisition, retention, and dissemination of covered communications subject to the limitation in subparagraph (B).

(B) LIMITATION ON RETENTION.—A covered communication shall not be retained in excess of 5 years, unless—

(i) the communication has been affirmatively determined, in whole or in part, to constitute foreign intelligence or counterintelligence or is necessary to understand or assess foreign intelligence or counterintelligence;

(ii) the communication is reasonably believed to constitute evidence of a crime and is retained by a law enforcement agency;

(iii) the communication is enciphered or reasonably believed to have a secret meaning;

(iv) all parties to the communication are reasonably believed to be non-United States persons;

(v) retention is necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human life, in which case both the nature of the threat and the information to be retained shall be reported to the congressional intelligence committees not later than 30 days after the date such retention is extended under this clause;

(vi) retention is necessary for technical assurance or compliance purposes, including a court order or discovery obligation, in which case access to information retained for technical assurance or compliance purposes shall be reported to the congressional intelligence committees on an annual basis; or

(vii) retention for a period in excess of 5 years is approved by the head of the element of the intelligence community responsible for such retention, based on a determination that retention is necessary to protect the national security of the United States, in which case the head of such element shall provide to the congressional intelligence committees a written certification describing—

(I) the reasons extended retention is necessary to protect the national security of the United States;

(II) the duration for which the head of the element is authorizing retention;

(III) the particular information to be retained; and

(IV) the measures the element of the intelligence community is taking to protect the privacy interests of United States persons or persons located inside the United States.

SEC. 310. CLARIFICATION OF LIMITATION OF REVIEW TO RETALIATORY SECURITY CLEARANCE OR ACCESS DETERMINATIONS.

Section 3001(b)(7) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(b)(7)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''2014—'' and inserting ''2014, and consistent with subsection (j)—'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''to appeal a determination to suspend or revoke a security clearance or access to classified information'' and inserting ''alleging reprisal for having made a protected disclosure (provided the individual does not disclose classified information or other information contrary to law) to appeal any action affecting an employee's access to classified information''; and

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''information,'' inserting ''information following a protected disclosure,''.

SEC. 311. FEASIBILITY STUDY ON CONSOLIDATING CLASSIFIED DATABASES OF CYBER THREAT INDICATORS AND MALWARE SAMPLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of the National Security Agency, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall conduct a feasibility study on consolidating classified databases of cyber threat indicators and malware samples in the intelligence community.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The feasibility study required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An inventory of classified databases of cyber threat indicators and malware samples in the intelligence community.

(2) An assessment of actions that could be carried out to consolidate such databases to achieve the greatest possible information sharing within the intelligence community and cost savings for the Federal Government.

(3) An assessment of any impediments to such consolidation.

(4) An assessment of whether the Intelligence Community Information Technology Enterprise can support such consolidation.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Director of National Intelligence completes the feasibility study required by subsection (a), the Director shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a written report that summarizes the feasibility study, including the information required under subsection (b).

SEC. 312. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CYBERSECURITY THREAT AND CYBERCRIME COOPERATION WITH UKRAINE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) cooperation between the intelligence and law enforcement agencies of the United States and Ukraine should be increased to improve cybersecurity policies between these two countries;

(2) the United States should pursue improved extradition procedures among the Governments of the United States, Ukraine, and other countries from which cybercriminals target United States citizens and entities;

(3) the President should—

(A) initiate a round of formal United States-Ukraine bilateral talks on cybersecurity threat and cybercrime cooperation, with additional multilateral talks that include other law enforcement partners such as Europol and Interpol; and

(B) work to obtain a commitment from the Government of Ukraine to end cybercrime directed at persons outside Ukraine and to work with the United States and other allies to deter and convict known cybercriminals;

(4) the President should establish a capacity building program with the Government of Ukraine, which could include—

(A) a joint effort to improve cyber capacity building, including intelligence and law enforcement services in Ukraine;

(B) sending United States law enforcement agents to aid law enforcement agencies in Ukraine in investigating cybercrimes; and

(C) agreements to improve communications networks to enhance law enforcement cooperation, such as a hotline directly connecting law enforcement agencies in the United States and Ukraine; and

(5) the President should establish and maintain an intelligence and law enforcement cooperation scorecard with metrics designed to measure the number of instances that intelligence and law enforcement agencies in the United States request assistance from intelligence and law enforcement agencies in Ukraine and the number and type of responses received to such requests.

SEC. 313. REPLACEMENT OF LOCALLY EMPLOYED STAFF SERVING AT UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that, not later than one year after the

date of the enactment of this Act, every supervisory position at a United States diplomatic facility in the Russian Federation shall be occupied by a citizen of the United States who has passed, and shall be subject to, a thorough background check.

(2) EXTENSION.—The Secretary of State may extend the deadline under paragraph (1) for up to one year by providing advance written notification and justification of such extension to the appropriate congressional committees.

(3) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on progress made toward meeting the employment requirement under paragraph (1).

(b) PLAN FOR REDUCED USE OF LOCALLY EMPLOYED STAFF.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with other appropriate government agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan to further reduce the reliance on locally employed staff in United States diplomatic facilities in the Russian Federation. The plan shall, at a minimum, include cost estimates, timelines, and numbers of employees to be replaced.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to infringe on the power of the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint ambassadors, other public ministers, and consuls.''

SEC. 314. INCLUSION OF SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION FACILITIES IN UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND ADJACENT COUNTRIES.

(a) SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION FACILITY REQUIREMENT.—Each United States diplomatic facility that, after the date of the enactment of this Act, is constructed in, or undergoes a construction upgrade in, the Russian Federation, any country that shares a land border with the Russian Federation, or any country that is a former member of the Soviet Union shall be constructed to include a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility.

(b) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—The Secretary of State may waive the requirement under subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that such waiver is in the national security interest of the United States and submits a written justification to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 180 days before exercising such waiver.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

Subtitle B—Reporting

SEC. 321. REPORT ON DECLASSIFICATION PROCESS.

Not later than December 31, 2016, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a report describing—

(1) proposals to improve the declassification process throughout the intelligence community; and

(2) steps the intelligence community could take, or legislation that may be necessary, to enable the National Declassification Center to better accomplish the missions assigned to the Center by Executive Order No. 13526 (75 Fed. Reg. 707).

SEC. 322. REPORT ON INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY EFFICIENT SPENDING TARGETS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1, 2016, and April 1, 2017, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on the status and effectiveness of efforts to reduce administrative costs for the intelligence community during the preceding year.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include for each element of the intelligence community the following:

(1) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to devise alternatives to government travel and promote efficient travel spending, such as teleconferencing and video conferencing.

(2) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to limit costs related to hosting and attending conferences.

(3) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to assess information technology inventories and usage, and establish controls, to reduce costs related to underutilized information technology equipment, software, or services.

(4) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to limit the publication and printing of hard copy documents.

(5) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to improve the performance of Federal fleet motor vehicles and limit executive transportation.

(6) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to limit the purchase of extraneous promotional items, such as plaques, clothing, and commemorative items.

(7) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to consolidate and streamline workforce training programs to focus on the highest priority workforce and mission needs.

(8) Such other matters relating to efforts to reduce intelligence community administrative costs as the Director may specify for purposes of this section.

SEC. 323. ANNUAL REPORT ON VIOLATIONS OF LAW OR EXECUTIVE ORDER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 511. ANNUAL REPORT ON VIOLATIONS OF LAW OR EXECUTIVE ORDER.

''(a) ANNUAL REPORTS REQUIRED.—The Director of National Intelligence shall annually submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on violations of law or executive order relating to intelligence activities by personnel of an element of the intelligence community that were identified during the previous calendar year.

''(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall, consistent with the need to preserve ongoing criminal investigations, include a description of, and any action taken in response to, any violation of law or executive order (including Executive Order No. 12333 (50 U.S.C. 3001 note)) relating to intelligence activities committed by personnel of an element of the intelligence community in the course of the employment of such personnel that, during the previous calendar year, was—

''(1) determined by the director, head, or general counsel of any element of the intelligence community to have occurred;

''(2) referred to the Department of Justice for possible criminal prosecution; or

''(3) substantiated by the inspector general of any element of the intelligence community.''.

(b) INITIAL REPORT.—The first report required under section 511 of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a), shall be submitted not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the head of each element of the intelligence community, shall—

(1) issue guidelines to carry out section 511 of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a); and

(2) submit such guidelines to the congressional intelligence committees.

(d) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 510 the following new item:

''Sec. 511. Annual report on violations of law or executive order.''.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to alter any requirement existing on the date of the enactment of this Act to submit a report under any provision of law.

SEC. 324. ANNUAL REPORT ON INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year and along with the budget materials submitted in support of the budget of the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report for such fiscal year on each intelligence activity of each intelligence component of the Department, as designated by the Under Secretary, that includes the following:

(1) The amount of funding requested for each such intelligence activity.

(2) The number of full-time employees funded to perform each such intelligence activity.

(3) The number of full-time contractor employees (or the equivalent of full-time in the case of part-time contractor employees) funded to perform or in support of each such intelligence activity.

(4) A determination as to whether each such intelligence activity is predominantly in support of national intelligence or departmental missions.

(5) The total number of analysts of the Intelligence Enterprise of the Department that perform—

(A) strategic analysis; or

(B) operational analysis.

(b) FEASIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report that—

(1) examines the feasibility and advisability of including the budget request for all intelligence activities of each intelligence component of the Department that predominantly support departmental missions, as designated by the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, in the Homeland Security Intelligence Program; and

(2) includes a plan to enhance the coordination of department-wide intelligence activities to achieve greater efficiencies in the performance of the Department of Homeland Security intelligence functions.

(c) INTELLIGENCE COMPONENT OF THE DEPARTMENT.—In this section, the term ''intelligence component of the Department'' has the meaning given that term in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101).

SEC. 325. REPORT ON POLITICAL PRISON CAMPS IN NORTH KOREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on political prison camps in North Korea.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) describe the actions the United States is taking to support implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including the eventual establishment of a tribunal to hold individuals accountable for abuses; and

(2) include, with respect to each political prison camp in North Korea to the extent information is available—

(A) the estimated prisoner population of each such camp;

(B) the geographical coordinates of each such camp;

(C) the reasons for confinement of the prisoners at each such camp;

(D) a description of the primary industries and products made at each such camp, and the end users of any goods produced in such camp;

(E) information regarding involvement of any non-North Korean entity or individual involved in the operations of each such camp, including as an end user or source of any good or products used in, or produced by, in such camp;

(F) information identifying individuals and agencies responsible for conditions in each such camp at all levels of the Government of North Korea;

(G) a description of the conditions under which prisoners are confined, with respect to the adequacy of food, shelter, medical care, working conditions, and reports of ill-treatment of prisoners, at each such camp; and

(H) unclassified imagery, including satellite imagery, of each such camp.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in an unclassified form and may include a classified annex if necessary.

SEC. 326. ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY OF DOMESTIC OIL REFINERIES AND RELATED RAIL TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis shall conduct an intelligence assessment of the security of domestic oil refineries and related rail transportation infrastructure.

(b) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees—

(1) the results of the assessment required under subsection (a); and

(2) any recommendations with respect to intelligence sharing or intelligence collection to improve the security of domestic oil refineries and related rail transportation infrastructure to protect the communities surrounding such refineries or such infrastructure from potential harm that the Under Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 327. ENHANCED CONTRACTOR LEVEL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

Section 506B(c) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3098(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (11), by striking ''or contracted'';

(2) by redesignating paragraph (12) as paragraph (13); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

''(12) The best estimate of the number of intelligence collectors and analysts contracted by each element of the intelligence community and a description of the functions performed by such contractors.''.

SEC. 328. ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFICACY OF MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING TO FACILITATE INTELLIGENCE-SHARING.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Program Manager of the Information Sharing Environment, shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives an assessment of the efficacy of the memoranda of understanding signed between Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial agencies to facilitate intelligence-sharing within and separate from the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Such assessment shall include—

(1) any language within such memoranda of understanding that prohibited or may be construed to prohibit intelligence-sharing between Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial agencies; and

(2) any recommendations for memoranda of understanding to better facilitate intelligence-sharing between Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial agencies.

SEC. 329. REPORT ON FOREIGN MAN-MADE ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE WEAPONS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on the threat posed by man-made electromagnetic pulse weapons to United States interests through 2025, including threats from foreign countries and foreign non-State actors.

(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 330. REPORT ON UNITED STATES COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY TO DISRUPT, DISMANTLE, AND DEFEAT AL-QAEDA AND ITS AFFILIATED OR ASSOCIATED GROUPS.

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a comprehensive report on the United States counter-terrorism strategy to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaeda and its affiliated or associated groups.

(2) COORDINATION.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be prepared in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Defense, and the head of any other department or agency of the United States Government that has responsibility for activities directed at combating al-Qaeda and its affiliated or associated groups.

(3) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A definition of—

(i) al-Qaeda core, including a list of which known individuals constitute al-Qaeda core;

(ii) an affiliated group of al-Qaeda, including a list of which known groups constitute an affiliate group of al-Qaeda;

(iii) an associated group of al-Qaeda, including a list of which known groups constitute an associated group of al-Qaeda; and

(iv) a group aligned with al-Qaeda, including a description of what actions a group takes or statements it makes that qualify it as a group aligned with al-Qaeda.

(B) A list of any other group, including the organization that calls itself the Islamic State (also known as ''ISIS'' or ''ISIL''), that adheres to the core mission of al-Qaeda, or who espouses the same violent jihad ideology as al-Qaeda.

(C) An assessment of the relationship between al-Qaeda core and the groups referred to in subparagraph (B).

(D) An assessment of the strengthening or weakening of al-Qaeda and the groups referred to in subparagraph (B) from January 1, 2010, to the present, including a description of the metrics that are used to assess strengthening or weakening and an assessment of the relative increase or decrease in violent attacks attributed to such entities.

(E) An assessment of whether or not an individual can be a member of al-Qaeda core if such individual is not located in Afghanistan or Pakistan.

(F) An assessment of whether or not an individual can be a member of al-Qaeda core as well as a member of a group referred to in subparagraph (B).

(G) A definition of defeat of core al-Qaeda.

(H) An assessment of the extent or coordination, command, and control between core al-Qaeda and the groups referred to in subparagraph (B), specifically addressing each such group.

(I) An assessment of the effectiveness of counterterrorism operations against core al-Qaeda and the groups referred to in subparagraph (B), and whether such operations have had a sustained impact on the capabilities and effectiveness of core al-Qaeda and such groups.

(4) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(b) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 331. FEASIBILITY STUDY ON RETRAINING VETERANS IN CYBERSECURITY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit to Congress a feasibility study on retraining veterans and retired members of elements of the intelligence community in cybersecurity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 4681.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will enter into the RECORD at the end of my remarks the Joint Explanatory Statement prepared by the House and Senate Intelligence Committees.

Mr. Speaker, when Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and I assumed the helm of the committee, we committed to return to the practice of passing the annual intelligence authorization bill, recognizing that it is one of the most critical tools that Congress has to control the intelligence activities of the

United States Government. I am proud today that we are bringing the fifth such authorization bill to the floor since Mr. RUPPERSBERGER assumed the role of ranking member and I assumed the role of chairman 4 years ago.

As most of the intelligence budget involves highly classified programs, the bulk of the committee's direction is found in the classified annex to the bill, which is very similar to the version passed by the House earlier this year.

At an unclassified level, I can report that the classified annex increases the President's budget request by less than 1 percent and is consistent with the Bipartisan Budget Act funding caps. Key committee funding initiatives, vital to national security, are preserved in this bill. These funding initiatives are offset by reductions to unnecessary programs and increased efficiencies.

The bill's modest net increase reflects the committee's concern that the President's request does not properly fund a number of important initiatives and leaves several unacceptable shortfalls when it comes to the matters of national security. The bill also provides substantial intelligence resources to help defeat Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

Earlier this year, the House passed its version of this bill with overwhelming bipartisan support. This bill contains all of the provisions that were not previously enacted into law in the fiscal year 2014 bill, along with provisions added by the Senate. None of these provisions are considered controversial, and we have worked through and vetted to make sure that is accurate with both Republican and Democrat staff and Members.

Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves in a very interesting time in history. ISIL is attempting to build a state across the Middle East, from Lebanon to Iraq, including Syria, Jordan, and Israel. The group already controls a swath of land across Iraq and Syria about the size of the State of Indiana, and it is growing. The goal of our counterterrorism strategy is to deny safe haven from which terrorists can plot attacks against the United States and/or our allies. Regrettably, we have not prevented ISIL from establishing such a safe haven, and, as a result, we face a growing threat from that region.

At the same time, state actors like Russia and China view this time as an opportunity to expand their reach and expand their influence. Uneven leadership in recent years has emboldened these adversaries to change the international order, at the expense of U.S. interests.

We rightly demand that our intelligence agencies provide policymakers with the best and most timely information possible on the threats we face. We ask them to track terrorists wherever they train, plan, and fundraise. We ask them to stop devastating cyber attacks that steal American jobs through theft of intellectual property. We ask them to track nuclear and missile threats. We demand they get it right every time.

This bill will ensure that the dedicated men and women of our intelligence community have the funding and authorities and support that they need to meet their mission and to keep us safe.

I take this moment, Mr. Speaker, at a time when certainly voices both around the country and around the world are seeking to condemn the very courageous men and women who show up in the intelligence business to provide the information to keep America safe. They are silent warriors. They are faithful patriots. They don't ask for recognition. They don't ask for time. You don't see their names in the front pages of the paper or on TV. They really don't seek that recognition.

But they seek the very purpose of being the first to be able to develop that one piece of information that might prevent further conflict, it might prevent a terrorist attack, it might prevent a nuclear launch, it might prevent one Nation from attacking another.

In the haze of what seems to be self-loathing these days, by targeting that against these very courageous men and women who cannot defend themselves in public, we are doing a disservice to their courage and their commitment to keep America safe. We find that it is easy to, at some point, go back and point fingers at what we believe may or may not have happened in the work of keeping America safe. It is realistically and holistically unfair that we would do that to these very brave souls who risk their lives today.

But here is the good news for Americans. These folks that work in the shadows understand that they have accepted these dangerous and quiet roles, and they will get up this morning, like they have every other morning, and understand it is between them and the United States when it comes to any terrorist attack, or worse, bigger, broader conflict somewhere in the world.

So they will do their job; they will do their duty; they will do their mission. They will read the papers and fold them and put them on their desk and go about their work, their important work. But it is wrong that years later we ask these people to have to believe that they might have to get a lawyer to do their job.

The next time that America asks them to do something hard and difficult in defense of the United States, we shouldn't be giving them lawyers and subpoenas and the United Nations condemning their actions and looking for prosecutions in their effort to tear the United States down one more level. We ought to be giving them ticker tape parades when they come home from these places and say: Thank you for your sacrifice, and thank you for your family's sacrifice. We can sleep better at night knowing that you have had the courage to stand where no other American was willing to stand in defense of the United States.

I hope they take this as certainly my final bill on this particular floor to encourage them to do their good work, to know that Americans who are kissing their kids and putting them on the bus this morning understand that it takes their efforts to keep this country safe, that somebody that shows up for work and is engaged in international commerce understands that it takes their work to keep America safe. Believe me, outside of this town, people across America understand the value and importance and really the essential work that these people do for the defense of America. We should not condemn them, we should be proud of their work, and we should stand behind them. This bill I think represents the work in a bipartisan way that allows them to continue that work, to do the work that protects America.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank my good friend DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER. Over the last 4 years, these five budgets could not have happened without your work and your staff's work in making sure that we had the best product available to make sure that the intelligence community had the resources that they need, the policies that they need, the support that they need, and, yes, every once in a while, the kick in the can that they needed.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, when DUTCH and I assumed the helm of the Committee, we committed to return to the practice of passing the annual intelligence authorization bill, recognizing that it is one of the most critical tools Congress has to control the intelligence activities of the U.S. Government. I am proud today that we are bringing the fifth such authorization bill to the floor since I assumed the Chairmanship four years ago.

As most of the intelligence budget involves highly classified programs, the bulk of the Committee's direction is found in the classified annex to the bill, which is very similar to the version passed by the House earlier this year.

At an unclassified level, I can report that the classified annex increases the President's budget request by less than one percent and is consistent with the Bipartisan Budget Act funding caps. Key Committee funding initiatives, vital to national security, are preserved in this bill. These funding initiatives are offset by reductions to unnecessary programs and increased efficiencies. The bill's modest net increase reflects the Committee's concern that the President's request does not properly fund a number of important initiatives and leaves several unacceptable shortfalls. The bill also provides substantial intelligence resources to help defeat ISIL.

Earlier this year the House passed its version of this bill by an overwhelming bipartisan vote. This bill contains all of those provisions that were not previously enacted into law in the FY 14 bill, along with provisions added by the Senate. None of those provisions are considered controversial.

Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves in a very interesting time in history. ISIL is attempting to

build a state across the Middle East—from Lebanon to Iraq, including Syria, Jordan, and Israel. The group already controls a swath of land across Iraq and Syria. The goal of our counterterrorism strategy is to deny safe haven from which terrorists can plot attacks against the United States and our allies. Regrettably, we have not prevented ISIL from establishing such a safe haven, and as a result we face a growing threat from the region.

At the same time, state actors like Russia and China view this time as an opportunity to expand their reach and influence. Uneven leadership in recent years has emboldened these adversaries to change the international order—at the expense of U.S. interests.

We rightly demand that our intelligence agencies provide policy makers with the best and most timely information possible on the threats we face. We ask them to track terrorists wherever they train, plan, and fundraise. We ask them to stop devastating cyber attacks that steal American jobs. We ask them to track nuclear and missile threats. And we demand they get it right—every time.

This bill will ensure that the dedicated men and women of our Intelligence Community have the funding and authorities—and support—they need to meet their mission and to keep us safe.

Before closing, I want to take a moment to thank the men and women of this country who serve in our Intelligence Community today. It has been a distinct honor to get to know so many of them, and I am proud to have played a role in contributing to their success.

I would also like to extend thanks to all of my dedicated staff on the Committee who worked hard over the years to get us back on track in passing the annual Authorization bill and in our daily oversight of the Intelligence Community.

Thank you to my current committee staff: Darren Dick, Katie Wheelbarger, Sarah Geffroy, Andy Keiser, Bryan Smith, Ashley Lowry, Susan Phalen, Tom Corcoran, Michael Ellis, Chelsey Campbell, Geof Kahn, Brooke Eisele, Randy Smith, Jim Hildebrand, Shannon Stuart, Rachel Wilson, Lisa Major, Diane Rinaldo. Thank you, as well as to those who are no longer with the staff but played an influential role in committee activities during my tenure as Chairman: Michael Allen, Chris Donesa, Jamil Jaffer, Nathan Hauser, Todd Jones, Frank Garcia, George Pappas, Will Koella, Leah Scott, Fred Fleitz, and Stephanie Pelton.

Finally, a big thank you to our dedicated Security and Information Technology staff who keep us up and running everyday: Brandon Smith, Kristin Jepson and Kevin Klein.

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANY THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

The following consists of the explanatory material to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

This joint explanatory statement shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

This explanatory statement is accompanied by a classified annex that contains a classified Schedule of Authorizations. The classified Schedule of Authorizations is incorporated by reference in the Act and has the legal status of public law.

The classified annex and classified Schedule of Authorizations are the result of negotiations between the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to reconcile differences in their respective versions of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. The congressionally directed actions described in Senate Report No. 113–233, the classified annex that accompanied Senate Report No. 113–233, and the classified annex that accompanied House Report No. 113–463 should be carried out to the extent they are not amended, altered, substituted, or otherwise specifically addressed in either this Joint Explanatory Statement or in the classified annex to this Statement.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION

The following is a section-by-section analysis and explanation of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

Section 101. Authorization of appropriations

Section 101 lists the United States Government departments, agencies, and other elements for which the Act authorizes appropriations for intelligence and intelligence-related activities for Fiscal Year 2015.

Section 102. Classified Schedule of Authorizations

Section 102 provides that the details of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for intelligence and intelligence-related activities and the applicable personnel levels by program for Fiscal Year 2015 are contained in the classified Schedule of Authorizations and that the classified Schedule of Authorizations shall be made available to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives and to the President.

Section 103. Personnel ceiling adjustments

Section 103 is intended to provide additional flexibility to the DNI in managing the civilian personnel of the Intelligence Community (IC). Section 103 provides that the DNI may authorize employment of civilian personnel in Fiscal Year 2015 in excess of the number of authorized positions by an amount not exceeding three percent of the total limit applicable to each IC element under Section 102. The DNI may do so only if necessary to the performance of important intelligence functions.

Section 104. Intelligence Community Management Account

Section 104 authorizes appropriations for the Intelligence Community Management Account (ICMA) of the DNI and sets the authorized personnel levels for the elements within the ICMA for Fiscal Year 2015.

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

Section 201. Authorization of appropriations

Section 201 authorizes appropriations in the amount of $514,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2015 for the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability Fund.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—GENERAL MATTERS

Section 301. Increase in employee compensation and benefits authorized by law

Section 301 provides that funds authorized to be appropriated by the Act for salary, pay, retirement, and other benefits for federal employees may be increased by such additional or supplemental amounts as may be necessary for increases in compensation or benefits authorized by law.

Section 302. Restriction on conduct of intelligence activities

Section 302 provides that the authorization of appropriations by the Act shall not be deemed to constitute authority for the conduct of any intelligence activity that is not otherwise authorized by the Constitution or laws of the United States.

Section 303. National intelligence strategy

Section 303 amends the National Security Act of 1947 to require the DNI to develop a comprehensive national intelligence strategy every four years beginning in 2017.

Section 304. Software licensing

Section 304 amends Section 109 of the National Security Act of 1947, which requires chief information officers within the IC to prepare biennial inventories and assessments concerning the use and procurement of software licenses, to make certain enhancements to the biennial assessments required under Section 109.

Section 305. Reporting of certain employment activities by former intelligence officers and employees

Section 305 requires the head of each element of the IC to issue regulations that require an employee occupying positions with access to particularly sensitive information within such element to sign a written agreement that requires the regular reporting of any employment by, representation of, or the provision of advice relating to national security to the government of a foreign country, or any person whose activities are supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized by any government of a foreign country, for a two-year period after the employee ceases employment with the IC element.

Section 306. Inclusion of Predominantly Black Institutions in intelligence officer training program

Section 306 amends the National Security Act of 1947 to include predominantly black institutions in the intelligence officer training programs established under Section 1024 of the Act.

Section 307. Management and oversight of financial intelligence

Section 307 requires the DNI to prepare a plan for management of the elements of the IC that carry out financial intelligence activities.

Section 308. Analysis of private sector policies and procedures for countering insider threats

Section 308 directs the DNI to submit to the congressional intelligence committees an analysis of private sector policies and procedures for countering insider threats.

Section 309. Procedures for the retention of incidentally acquired communications

Section 309 requires the head of each element of the IC to adopt Attorney General-approved procedures that govern the retention of nonpublic telephone or electronic communications acquired without consent of a person who is a party to the communications, including communications in electronic storage.

The procedures required under this section shall apply to any intelligence activity that is reasonably anticipated to result in the acquisition of such telephone or electronic communications to or from a United States person not otherwise authorized by court order, subpoena, or similar legal process, regardless of the location where the collection occurs. The procedures shall prohibit the retention of such telephone or electronic communications for a period in excess of five years, unless the communications are determined to fall within one of several categories, enumerated in subsection (b)(3)(B), for which retention in excess of five years is authorized, to include communications that have been affirmatively determined to constitute foreign intelligence or counterintelligence, communications that are reasonably

believed to constitute evidence of a crime and are retained by a law enforcement agency, and communications that are enciphered or reasonably believed to have a secret meaning.

Because it may be necessary in certain instances for IC elements to retain communications covered by this section for a period in excess of five years that do not fall into the categories specifically enumerated in subsection (b)(3)(B), subsection (b)(3)(B)(vii) provides flexibility for the head of each element of the intelligence community to authorize such extended retention where the head of the element determines that it is necessary to protect the national security of the United States. In the absence of such a determination, Section 309 is intended to establish a default rule for intelligence collection activities, not otherwise authorized by legal process, that requires agencies to delete communications covered by this section after five years, unless a determination is made that the communications constitute foreign intelligence or counterintelligence or otherwise meet the retention requirements set forth in this section.

Section 310. Clarification of limitation of review to retaliatory security clearance or access determinations

Section 310 makes a technical amendment to Section 3001(b)(7) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to clarify that the policies and procedures prescribed by that section (to permit individuals to appeal adverse security clearance or access determinations) are only required to apply to adverse security clearance or access determinations alleged to be in reprisal for having made a protected whistleblower disclosure.

Section 311. Feasibility study on consolidating classified databases of cyber threat indicators and malware samples

Section 307 requires the DNI to conduct a feasibility study on consolidating classified databases of cyber threat indicators and malware samples in the IC and to provide a report to the congressional intelligence committees summarizing the feasibility study.

Section 312. Sense of Congress on cybersecurity threat and cybercrime cooperation with Ukraine

Section 312 expresses the sense of Congress concerning cybersecurity threat and cybercrime cooperation between the United States and Ukraine.

Section 313. Replacement of locally employed staff serving at United States diplomatic facilities in the Russian Federation

Section 313 requires the Secretary of State to ensure that every supervisory position at a U.S. diplomatic facility in the Russian Federation is occupied by a citizen of the United States who has passed a background check and to provide Congress with a plan to further reduce reliance on locally employed staff.

Section 314. Inclusion of Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities in United States diplomatic facilities in the Russian Federation and adjacent countries

Section 314 requires that each U.S. diplomatic facility that is constructed in, or undergoes a construction upgrade in, the Russian Federation, any country that shares a land border with the Russian Federation, or any country that is a former member of the Soviet Union, shall be constructed to include a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility. The Secretary of State may waive the requirements of this section upon a determination that it is in the national security interest of the United States.

SUBTITLE B—REPORTING

Section 321. Report on declassification process

Section 321 requires the DNI to submit a report to Congress describing proposals to improve the declassification process and steps the IC could take or legislation that may be necessary, to enable the National Declassification Center to better accomplish the missions assigned to the Center by Executive Order 13526.

Section 322. Report on intelligence community efficient spending targets

Section 322 requires the DNI to submit a report to the congressional intelligence committees on the status and effectiveness of efforts to reduce administrative costs for the IC during the preceding year.

Section 323. Annual report on violations of law or executive order

Section 323 requires the DNI to report annually to the congressional intelligence committees on violations of law or executive order by personnel of an element of the IC that were identified during the previous calendar year. Under the National Security Act, the President is required to keep the congressional intelligence committees fully and currently informed of the intelligence activities of the United States government. Nonetheless, this annual reporting requirement is necessary to ensure that the intelligence oversight committees of the House and Senate are made fully aware of violations of law or executive order, including, in particular, violations of Executive order 12333 for activities not otherwise subject to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Section 324. Annual report on intelligence activities of the Department of Homeland Security

Section 324 requires the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the DHS to provide the congressional intelligence committees with a report on each intelligence activity of each intelligence component of the Department that includes, among other things, the amount of funding requested, the number of full-time employees, and the number of full-time contractor employees. In addition, Section 324 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report that examines the feasibility and advisability of consolidating the planning, programming, and resourcing of such activities within the Homeland Security Intelligence Program (HSIP).

The HSIP budget was established to fund those intelligence activities that principally support missions of the DHS separately from those of the NIP. To date, however, this mechanism has only been used to supplement the budget for the office of Intelligence and Analysis. It has not been used to fund the activities of the non-IC components in the DHS that conduct intelligence-related activities. As a result, there is no comprehensive reporting to Congress regarding the overall resources and personnel required in support of the Department's intelligence activities.

Section 325. Report on political prison camps in North Korea

Section 325 requires the DNI to submit a report on political prison camps in North Korea to the congressional intelligence committees.

Section 326. Assessment of security of domestic oil refineries and related rail transportation infrastructure

Section 326 requires the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis to conduct an intelligence assessment of the security of domestic oil refineries and related rail transportation infrastructure.

Section 327. Enhanced contractor level assessments for the intelligence community

Section 327 amends the National Security Act of 1947 to require that the annual personnel level assessments for the IC, required under Section 506B of the Act, include a separate estimate of the number of intelligence collectors and analysts contracted by each element of the IC and a description of the functions performed by such contractors.

Section 328. Assessment of the efficacy of memoranda of understanding to facilitate intelligence-sharing

Section 328 requires the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis to provide appropriate congressional committees with an assessment of the efficacy of the memoranda of understanding signed between Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial agencies to facilitate intelligence-sharing within and separate from the Joint Terrorism Task Force. This study should help identify any obstacles to intelligence sharing between agencies, particularly any obstacles that might have impeded intelligence sharing in the wake of the April 2013 bombing of the Boston Marathon, and find improvements to existing intelligence sharing relationships.

Section 329. Report on foreign man-made electromagnetic pulse weapons

Section 329 requires the DNI to provide appropriate congressional committees with a report on the threat posed by manmade electromagnetic pulse weapons to United States interests through 2025.

Section 330. Report on United States counterterrorism strategy to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaeda and its affiliated or associated groups

Section 330 requires the DNI to provide appropriate congressional committees with a report on the United States counterterrorism strategy to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaeda and its affiliated or associated groups.

Section 331. Feasibility study on retraining veterans in cybersecurity

Section 331 requires the DNI to submit to Congress a feasibility study on retraining veterans and retired members of elements of the IC in cybersecurity.

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

Chairman ROGERS, this is my last opportunity on the floor to thank you again for your leadership. It has, once again, produced a strong, bipartisan, and bicameral Intelligence Authorization Act.

Our committee believes that our Nation's security is too important to be a political football. We have had different views, we argue, but we work it out for the good of American people.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that your legacy of bipartisanship, hard work, rigorous oversight, and problem-solving continues and spreads throughout the Congress. It is amazing what we can accomplish when we work together to solve problems.

I also want to thank our counterparts in the Senate Intelligence Committee, Senators FEINSTEIN and CHAMBLISS, for working very closely with us and each member of our committee. On the Democratic side, I want to acknowledge all the hard work of Mr. THOMPSON—who is sitting here to my left—Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LANGEVIN,

Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. HIMES, and Ms. SEWELL. And I want to thank our staff and the dedicated men and women of the intelligence community who work every day and all night throughout the world to protect us. I do agree with the chairman's statements about those men and women throughout the world who are out there protecting us and putting their lives on the line.

Now, today, we look beyond this Congress. We come together to set the stage for the continuing oversight of intelligence programs, personnel, and dollars. By doing so, we reinforce to the American people, and to the world, that there are checks and balances. We reinforce that the tools we authorize are for the sole purpose of keeping us, our allies, and our partners safe.

In May, the House passed the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 by 345 votes to 19. The Senate, however, took up each year separately. Over the summer, this House passed the FY14 bill, which the President signed.

So, we now take up the FY15 bill, which the Senate amended and sent back to us. This amended bill largely mirrors the relevant portions of the House-passed combined bill.

Passing a detailed Intelligence Authorization Act ensures that our intelligence agencies spend money only on programs Congress is informed of, approves, and can continuously oversee.

□ 1300

Oversight is extremely important. It helps to make sure that everything our intelligence agencies do follows the Constitution and the laws of the United States and maximizes the civil liberties and privacy of Americans. At the same time, the intelligence agencies need the clear authorization, direction, and guidance from Congress to do their vital work to protect and defend America, its allies, and its partners.

The Intelligence Authorization Act is split into four parts: the unclassified legislative text; the unclassified report; the classified annex, which explains our intent for the classified aspects of the bill; and the classified schedule of authorizations.

While we have made cuts to certain areas and added money in others to produce a responsible, well thought out, and fiscally prudent budget, the budget for fiscal year 2015 slightly exceeds the President's request.

While over the last 4 years we have reduced the intelligence community's budget by over a billion dollars, this year's bill acknowledges the need to make corrections after the drastic cuts of sequestration and the Budget Control Act.

Additionally, this bill acknowledges the need to step up our intelligence efforts to counter evolving threats such as ISIL. It is a dangerous world out there, and our bill accounts for that.

Let me also mention some specifics in the bill. First, it continues to emphasize the value of our space programs and endorses aggressive action to decrease our reliance on Russian-made engines to launch our national security satellites.

Two, it makes investments into research and development to defend against next generation threats and to stay ahead of countries like China and Russia. Three, it further improves the continuous evaluation of insider threats while safeguarding privacy and civil liberties.

Next, it enables better intelligence and information sharing to prevent foreign fighters coming in and out of Syria. It also enables cutting-edge Defense Intelligence Agency technology. We must stay ahead of the curve in technology.

The bill also further refines the Department of Defense human intelligence capabilities while supporting communitywide human intelligence efforts to better understand the enemies' plans and intentions. It also establishes increased accountability measures for our most sensitive programs.

The committee has worked with the intelligence community and the Senate to produce this solid, bipartisan bill. This bill also incorporates the valuable floor amendments the House passed in May. It represents a culmination of our committee's work through extensive hearings and briefings, travel, and in-depth studies. The bill is strong, and I am proud to support it.

For the sake of keeping the country, its allies, and partners safe and for the sake of thoroughly overseeing even the most classified intelligence programs, I urge my colleagues to pass the bill today.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thought I would take a moment to extend my thanks to all the dedicated staff on the committee, certainly from the Republican side and to the Democrats as well, who worked hard over the years to get us back on track in passing this annual authorization bill in our daily oversight of the intelligence community.

If you will indulge me, Mr. Speaker, thank you to my current committee staff: Darren Dick, Katie Wheelbarger, Sarah Geffroy, Andy Keiser, Bryan Smith, Ashley Lowry, Susan Phalen, Tom Corcoran, Michael Ellis, Chelsey Campbell, Geof Kahn, Brooke Eisele, Randy Smith, Jim Hildebrand, Shannon Stuart, Rachel Wilson, Lisa Major, and Diane Rinaldo.

Thank you as well to staff who have played an influential role in the committee activities during my tenure as chairman in reengaging this as a force for oversight in the Intelligence Committee: Michael Allen, Chris Donesa, Jamil Jaffer, Nathan Hauser, Todd Jones, Frank Garcia, George Pappas, Will Koella, Leah Scott, Fred Fleitz, and Stephanie Pelton.

Finally, a big thank you to our dedicated security and information technology staff, by the way, who have done well to beat back the hordes of our nation state actors who, for some reason, Mr. Speaker, took a good interest in what we were doing in that classified space, and they kept us up and running every single day: Brandon Smith, Kristin Jepson, and Kevin Klein.

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

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), a great member of our committee who specialized in infrastructure and also worked very hard to make sure that our Embassies have the intelligence information they need to protect themselves.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for all the good work you did on the committee as the ranking member. I also want to thank Chairman ROGERS for the good work that he did as the chairman.

Working together, he was very accommodating and allowed all of us to be able to address specific issues that were of concern to us and regarding the security of our great Nation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are going to miss you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the passage of this bill. This bill will provide greater national security for our country and the people that we all represent.

The bill contains two important provisions that I authored that protect our communities at home and diplomatic facilities abroad.

My district is home to several oil refineries, employing thousands of people, providing well-paying, good, middle class jobs, and are a key part of our regional economy.

As domestic oil production continues to increase in the region, I have heard from several of my constituents and my local governments about their growing concern regarding the security of the shipment and storage of crude oil and subsequent refined products. I believe we have the responsibility to protect our workers, our domestic refineries, and our communities from potential threats.

Included in this bill is a provision that directs the Department of Homeland Security Office of Intelligence and Analysis to conduct an assessment of the security of our Nation's oil refineries and related rail transportation infrastructure. It directs the office to make recommendations on how to improve intelligence collection and sharing of information to better protect those facilities in the surrounding communities from any harm.

Additionally, studies conducted in response to the terrible 2012 attack on Benghazi identified the need for security personnel at U.S. diplomatic posts to receive threat information in a more timely manner.

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

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. In response to this need, this bill requires the Director of National Intelligence to provide an assessment of the status of threat information sharing between the intelligence community and diplomatic security personnel and to propose actions to help make sure security personnel at U.S. Embassies are better able to request and receive security enhancements in a timely manner.

By making sure our intelligence community is taking concerns seriously and sharing the necessary information, we can better assess and mitigate threats and increase security at home and abroad and make our country safer.

I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this good piece of legislation.

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

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California, Mr. ADAM SCHIFF, a great member of our committee with a tremendous work ethic. He reads almost every piece of intelligence information and comes to quality and informed conclusions.

He also has focused a lot and specialized in working with legislation involving transparency and accountability and has spent a lot of time on an area that is very important to our Intelligence Committee, the space program.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to join my colleagues in urging the House to support the 2015 Intelligence Authorization Act which has now returned to us from the Senate, but before I address the substance of the bill, I would like to congratulate Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER for their extraordinary efforts to get this bill passed and to the President.

As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I know how hard they and the staff have worked to make this happen, and I would especially like to congratulate Chairman ROGERS and wish him well as he prepares to leave the House at the end of the year. It has been a great pleasure working with you, and I wish you all the very best.

These are challenging days for America's intelligence officers and analysts. As ISIS continues to threaten the Middle East; as Russia's ''little green men'' continue to coordinate attacks on the Ukrainian Government; as North Korea's young, isolated, and often dangerously erratic leader continues his behavior; and as the international community continues its efforts to secure Iran's agreement to dismantle its nuclear weapons program and infrastructure, our intelligence professionals play a vital role in keeping us safe and secure.

Developing and maintaining actionable intelligence on ISIS is of particular urgency. While the intelligence community has been following ISIS' growth for some time, the group's takeover of a large swath of Syria and Iraq has made it a top intelligence priority.

If we are to be effective in partnering with regional allies to degrade and destroy ISIS, we need to be able to develop the very best intelligence and accurate ground truth. That takes time, and it takes assets—on the ground, in the air, in space—to collect information. It also takes the world class analysts of our intelligence community to turn that information into recommendations for policymakers.

We must also remain focused on Russian efforts to destabilize its neighbors, particularly Ukraine, but also the Baltic States. Our intelligence community has given us insight into Russian involvement in these efforts and into the events that led to the tragic downing of the Malaysian airliner last summer.

The bill also prioritizes vital efforts at nonproliferation and will help give us the tools that we need to assess events on the ground in North Korea and Iran and wherever there is a threat of WMD.

These are but a few of the important matters covered in the Intelligence Authorization bill. As a member of the committee who has been proud to work closely with both the chair and ranking member, I am confident it supports our intelligence professionals while providing oversight that is so critical to the proper functioning of our intelligence agencies.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to vote for this important bipartisan and bicameral bill. It is the single most effective oversight tool we have, and it ensures that our intelligence community has what it needs to keep us and our allies safe. Intelligence is often the first line of defense against a dangerous world. Without it, we are in the dark, and we are vulnerable.

Finally, once again, let me just say thank you to my good friend, Mr. Chairman, and to the members of the committee, to our colleagues in the Senate, and to the men and women of the intelligence community. It has been my honor and privilege to work with you under your great leadership during the 113th Congress.

I also want to thank the Republican and Democratic staffs for working together. That is what makes it work. You are only as good as your team and your staff.

I also would like to acknowledge the Democratic staff: Staff Director Heather Molino, Amanda Rogers-Thorpe, Bob Minehart, Linda Cohen, Carly Blake, Allison Getty, Deb Haynie, and Michael Bahar.

I also thank staff members who were with us but have retired: Mike Shank, Janet Fisher, and Khizer Sayed.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank my friends on the other side of the aisle, from Dutch to Heather, and the whole entire team for putting this product together by putting our country first. It is very important.

I challenge every Member to read this material next year when it is announced that you can review the classified annex. Review the classified annex. I think they will have a better perspective at the huge number of challenges facing the United States when it comes to real threats developing around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would again say thanks to all, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the Intelligence Authorization Act. As a member of the Armed Services and Intelligence Committees, I know these Authorization bills provide the necessary accountability, direction, and resources for those who keep our nation safe.

Today's bill reflects the continuation of the Committee's bipartisan and bicameral work, and I want to thank Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER for their strong and consistent leadership on these critical issues.

Today I want to highlight two areas of specific interest to me.

First, this legislation strikes a careful balance between ensuring that our nation's secrets are kept safe and providing appropriate transparency with the American people. There are lawful ways to raise concerns of wrongdoing and procedures to declassify information when appropriate. In the past, Congress has strengthened these avenues, including by enhancing whistleblower protections and the role of Inspectors General.

As it has each year, this bill adds to the mission of counterintelligence to ensure that information is protected and that the tools utilized by security professionals are handled lawfully and with full consideration for the privacy and civil liberties of our intelligence professionals. This bill continues this important direction, asking the DNI to establish appropriate guidelines to govern how publicly available information can be utilized.

Second, this bill continues to support the work of the men and women at the front lines of cybersecurity. It helps cyber professionals at NSA, FBI, and DHS to hone their tools and skills to protect us, while supporting initiatives to grow the next-generation cyber workforce. And it will further aid the Intelligence Community in understanding and defending certain networks from cyber threats.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of our work on this bill, and I urge its passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) that the House suspend the

rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 4681.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

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PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 2244, TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 12, 2014, THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2015

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 775 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 775

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 2244) to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services; and (2) one motion to commit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of December 11, 2014, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day of the second session of the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress after December 11, 2014—

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

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

SEC. 4. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 5. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 6. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XIII.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), my dear friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives is considering a rule for consideration of a bill to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, or a program known as TRIA. Without this bill, TRIA is set to expire on December 31, meaning that the House and the Senate must now act or the program will end at the end of this year.

Since TRIA was signed into law in 2002, it has served as an effective means of dealing with the problem of availability of terrorism insurance. TRIA has enabled the private insurance market to provide an essential type of coverage that otherwise may not exist.

However, like many other government programs, TRIA needs to be looked at and reformed in order to serve its original purpose, and that is why we are here today, Mr. Speaker.

Thanks to the leadership of Chairman JEB HENSARLING and Vice Chairman RANDY NEUGEBAUER of the Financial Services Committee, S. 2244 provides for many of those necessary reforms that will protect taxpayers, promote market stability, and provide for economic security for the American people, all in one, brand-new package.

What we are doing here today is important and essential for many people, but it is here to maintain the stability of a marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take us back to 2001, shortly after the terrorist attacks on 9/11. None of us will ever forget where we were when we first heard and saw of the terrorist attacks that attacked our homeland in New York City, at the Pentagon, and in a field in Pennsylvania. The accompanying stories of heroism and the deeds by Americans and others were simply heroism at its finest at a time of attack on this country.

What some might not remember, though, is the remarkable amount of economic uncertainty and damage that was caused to America and in the following weeks and months after 9/11. While we mourned the loss of many loved ones, our economy was shaken to its core.

Those attacks created and caused $32.5 billion in losses, approximately $20 billion of which were incurred by insurance companies. A second similar attack would have left the U.S. insurance economy insolvent, which in turn, being insolvent, would have undermined our entire economic structure of the free enterprise system. That is why TRIA was pressed into law, to provide a Federal backstop to avoid an immediate terrorism risk insurance crisis.

Sadly, terrorism has continued to be an ongoing threat to our Nation and, for the foreseeable future, I think that we need to remain vigilant and prepared for those consequences. So the cost of terrorism still looms large, and acts of terrorism are uninsurable risks that could sink our insurance markets without this new, updated program.

In this way, TRIA is a vital economic piece of our Nation's comprehensive security strategy because it allows for the American economy to recover more quickly in the event of an attack. I believe it does more than that. I believe it puts in place building blocks for us to understand responsibility, economic security, and how we would build back based upon rule of law and understanding about what would happen at a time of chaos.

TRIA provides certainty, certainty to our marketplace, by giving policyholders and insurers the tools that they need to understand and to develop a market-based solution to the economic threat that could be posed by terrorism. It gives policyholders and insurance providers the opportunity to model risk and to diversify their exposure with an understanding of what the law would provide.

I am encouraged by the reforms championed by, yesterday, up in the Rules Committee, Chairman JEB HENSARLING from the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, who has placed many of these new items directly into the bill as a result of hard negotiation.

These are called reforms, Mr. Speaker, and three reforms stand out to me as being particularly important.

First, section 102. It would decrease the Federal share of losses under the program by 1 percentage point annually until it equals 80 percent. That means that the Federal taxpayers will be responsible for less of the initial costs incurred after a terrorist attack than under the current law.

Second, section 103. 103 would increase the program trigger to $200 million in $20 million increments over 5 years. This means that TRIA would not kick in, the government program would not kick in until there was $200 million in insurable losses following an attack, ensuring that the government would not only get involved if an attack had a massive impact, but we would know the rules ahead of time.

Third, section 104. Section 104 would increase the amount of Federal assistance that the Treasury Secretary must recoup from the insurance industry following a certified act of terrorism. This means that Federal taxpayers are getting, once again, a better and well-understood deal with insurers than they would have gotten before this important reform.

Finally, S. 2244 would provide a much-needed change to Dodd-Frank. It is a piece of legislation that was passed a few years ago that is causing chaos in the marketplace: higher cost, uncertainty, and overwhelming regulation by the Federal Government. Federal regulators have interpreted parts of Dodd-Frank to apply to nonfinancial companies who are called ''end users.''

These end users are people who were never expected to become subject to the requirements of Dodd-Frank, such as ranchers, farmers, and small business owners. This Dodd-Frank fix would clarify that true derivatives end users are exempt from the margin requirements applied by Dodd-Frank to derivatives contracts. With this reform, end users will be able to use derivatives to hedge risks, which allows them to maintain low and stable prices for consumers. That, in turn, frees up capital that can be used to create brand-new jobs, current jobs, and to grow our free enterprise system in America.

This fix is not particularly controversial. In fact, the current policy of requiring nonfinancial companies to adhere to the same margin requirements as financial companies was not intended when the original bill passed.

To fix this problem, earlier in this Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 634. Yes, I voted for it, along with 410 other Members of this body, in a bill presented by and authored by Congressman MICHAEL GRIMM of New York, 411–12, overwhelming, broad bipartisan consensus as we looked at the impact of that bill.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the young chairman of the Financial Services Committee, JEB HENSARLING, for his hard work. I also applaud the vice chairman of the committee, RANDY NEUGEBAUER from Lubbock, Texas, who has worked very hard on this reauthorization of TRIA. It is essentially his bill. It came out of his subcommittee, and he has done yeoman's work to make sure that we understand what the deal is through law, how to protect taxpayers, what the government role is, and it means that we can move forward from here with the certainty that American taxpayers and the industry have a well-understood deal.

I am also glad, though, that this is good for small business; it is good for farmers; it is good for ranchers; it is good for Members of Congress, 411 of us that had voted for pieces of this bill before today.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman, my good friend from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), the chairman of the Rules Committee for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2244 reauthorizes, through December 31, 2020, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, also known as TRIA.

This much-needed reauthorization ensures that the program will continue to protect our Nation's taxpayers in the event of severe loss from an act of terror, while providing the security and stability necessary for our Nation's businesses to grow and invest.

TRIA was a direct response by the Federal Government to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the resulting disruptions from that act of terrorism to coverage under commercial policies in the marketplace.

Since 2002, it has provided companies with affordable access to terrorism insurance coverage, while serving as a backstop for insurers against the most severe terrorism-related losses.

Currently, in order to receive payment for claims, insurance companies must pay a deductible equivalent to 20 percent of the previous year's direct earned premium for covered commercial lines.

□ 1330

Furthermore, the insured loss must be at least $100 million before the Federal Government will cover 85 percent of each company's losses up to $100 billion, with the other 15 percent of losses the obligation of insurers.

In addition to extending TRIA by 6 years, S. 2244 also makes a number of important changes to the program. Gradually, as Mr. SESSIONS explained, it will increase the program's threshold from $100 million to $200 million as well as slightly increase the amount the government recoups from private insurers up to 140 percent. Moreover, this legislation decreases the government's share of losses from 85 to 80 percent.

I am pleased to share that the final measure before us today does not include a contentious provision that would have bifurcated TRIA based on the type of terrorist attack, essentially treating nuclear, biological, chemical, and radiological attacks differently than conventional attacks. The reauthorization of TRIA is broadly supported by members of the business community and by many of my colleagues in Congress on both sides of the aisle.

However, while we can agree that TRIA is both necessary and must be reauthorized, S. 2244 also includes an unrelated provision that changes the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. In particular, it exempts manufacturers, energy companies, and agricultural firms, known as end users, from having to put up collateral when they are trading derivatives.

With less than 2 legislative days left before funding for the Federal Government expires, I am troubled by the addition of this extraneous, nongermane derivative end user margin provision, which is a disappointing setback to the progress made during the last few weeks of bipartisan negotiations, and it risks the entire bill's defeat over in the other body.

These last-minute changes to Dodd-Frank were not previously agreed to, as they were included without informing Democrats after an agreement was reached on Monday night. After months of negotiations, my friends, the House Republicans, then announced an emergency Rules Committee meeting with only 2½-hours' notice.

Almost 3,000 lives were lost and an estimated $40 billion in insured losses sustained in the absolutely horrible attacks of 9/11. TRIA helped our Nation rebuild and recover, and it continues to protect the American people today. Such an important program deserves better than the partisan sleight of hand represented by the last-minute addition.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I note that today we have a speaker for our friends, the Democrats, as well as the vice chairman of the Committee on Financial Services who are here, really, I believe, to give this body a real shot in the arm about how important this legislation is. I think about what a great job the process has gone through and achieved.

I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER). Then I want to bring him back as he wants to talk a little bit more, but we want to make sure that we get to our colleague from New York before it takes too much time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the chairman of the Rules Committee for allowing me this time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important piece of legislation to our country. We have heard a little bit of the history that, after 9/11, the insurance industry took a pretty substantial hit. Their reserves were drained to pay out on these claims. As they were looking at writing new business, they were very concerned about what the future held because America had never experienced that kind of disaster in the past, so they were trying to figure out how to underwrite those in the future. TRIA was put into place temporarily to be a backstop for the industry for them to get back on their feet. They have gotten back on their feet, and their reserves are at all-time highs, and they have had a number of years now to model this risk.

The reason it was originally important to do that was, basically, in order to continue the construction projects or the number of projects around the country, the insurance industry needed some assurance that they wouldn't have to bear that kind of event again.

When we began to look at this process when we knew this was going to expire at the end of this year, we knew that there were kind of three options out there. One was to let the program expire as it was meant to be a temporary program. There were some Members who wanted to do that, and some Members did not. Others wanted to just extend the program the way it was. Under the Bush administration, though, we began a process to begin to reform this and to begin to transition more and more of the risk away from the taxpayers and back to the insurance companies. Unfortunately, when it was last reauthorized, none of those reforms were built into it. Even the President of the United States says that TRIA needs to be reformed, and he has offered up, for example, to change the trigger levels.

One of the things we have done with this bill is we didn't really change the overall structure of TRIA. We could have written a whole new terrorism insurance program. We didn't think that was good for the market. The market had already begun to adapt to the current framework, so we felt, if we worked within the existing framework—changing some of the triggers and some of the knobs on this particular program—that that would begin to allow the industry to take on more of the risk and for the taxpayers to take less of that risk. I think we have accomplished that with this bill.

As has been pointed out, I think a lot of people, quite honestly, don't know a lot about TRIA. One of the things is that the insurance industry takes the first losses under this program. So, if there were a loss today, as the gentleman mentioned, 20 percent of the previous year's premiums, which, if industrywide, would be about $40 billion today, would go directly to the insurance companies. Should those losses exceed that—should we have another catastrophic event—then what would happen is that the taxpayers and the insurance industry would begin to share those expenses with a provision now. We have strengthened that in this bill. I think one of the more important parts of it is that the taxpayers would get their money back and would get some return on their money. I think we are headed in a good direction.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I would respond to the point that some extraneous things were put in this bill. When it came over from the Senate, it came over with an extraneous item in it as well, and that was to change the structure of future Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

They also sent over a program which, quite honestly, I agree with, which is something that is in this bill, of allowing your local insurance agent—if he is licensed in or she is licensed in the State one resides in, to do business in other States. None of the policy that is in this bill is new policy. This is policy that this body has voted on in the past. With that, I think we have got a good bill.

I see my good friend from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) over there, and I am anxious to hear her thoughts on that because this is an issue that she has been very interested in.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased at this time to yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), who is the ranking member of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentleman, my good friend, for yielding and for all of his hard work on this issue and on many others.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule because I believe the approach we are taking jeopardizes the passage in the Senate of a good, bipartisan compromise to extend the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, or TRIA.

TRIA is incredibly important to New York—and to the entire country—and it is critically important that we pass a long-term extension of this bill. After 9/11, all construction in New York City stopped. You could not even build a hot dog stand. Thousands of people lost their jobs, and business ground to a halt because we could not get terrorism insurance. The only insurance available was from Lloyd's of London, and it was difficult to get and incredibly expensive.

If we do not reauthorize TRIA, no business will be able to get terrorism insurance in this country, and all construction will stop, costing thousands of jobs in our country. I must say, of all of the government programs that helped New York rebuild, I would say this program was the most important, and it did not cost taxpayers one dime.

I want to emphasize that I strongly support the TRIA compromise in this bill that was reached between Chairman HENSARLING and Vice Chair NEUGEBAUER, along with Senator SCHUMER and Ranking Member WATERS. However, the deal reached did not include the end user margin bill that is also included in the underlying TRIA bill, which Senator SCHUMER and many other Senators are strongly objecting to.

The reason this was not part of the agreement is that adding unrelated bills that amend Dodd-Frank makes it much more difficult to pass this bill in the Senate. Where there are any changes to Dodd-Frank, many Senators take exception. It is very difficult to pass them. This, unfortunately, jeopardizes the chances of passing this important reauthorization of TRIA in the Senate, and it is extremely important to the overall economy of this country to pass this bill.

Separately, I want to note for the record that I support the end user margin bill, which would simply clarify that end users of derivatives, such as airlines and manufacturers, are not subject to Dodd-Frank's margin capital requirements.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 2 minutes.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I voted for this bill in committee, which, as noted, passed this body with 400 votes, and also on the floor. However, I strongly oppose this rule because it puts TRIA's passage in the Senate in jeopardy, and this is truly unfortunate.

Before the Rules Committee, Ranking Member WATERS and I suggested that we divide this out, have TRIA and the other bill—the Dodd-Frank, the regulatory bill—separate so that there would not be a problem in the Senate. Unfortunately, that did not happen, and I am extremely concerned that this puts in jeopardy the passage of a bill that is critically important to the economy of this country.

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

Exactly what the gentlewoman speaks about was part of the long discussion that we had in the Rules Committee yesterday. The gentleman from Dallas, Texas, Chairman HENSARLING, very clearly went through—piece, by piece, by piece—the things which the Senate had added which were extraneous to TRIA and that were in their bill that they passed. Likewise, the chairman outlined what he was for. He described a bill that got 411 votes in this body.

One thing was a very pleasant surprise, and I thought it was very wisely done by the Secretary of the Treasury. I would like to read what Secretary Jacob Lew said in a letter that was addressed on December 7, just this week, to the Honorable CHARLES E. SCHUMER. CHUCK SCHUMER is the leader of this TRIA bill in the Senate.

He said:

> Dear Senator Schumer, I want to thank you for your leadership on extending the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act and its program. As you know well, TRIA is critical to our economic and national security. Terrorism insurance is necessary for a broad range of economic activities in areas across the country and would be prohibitively expensive or unavailable in the absence of the program.
>
> There is clear bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House to enact a long-term extension while making reforms to further reduce taxpayer exposure. Time is running short to head off an unnecessary, unprecedented, and disruptive lapse of the program, which is scheduled to expire in just a few weeks.
>
> Given the economic necessity and national security implications of this legislation, TRIA's reauthorization should not be delayed due to disagreements over entirely unrelated financial regulatory issues. I appreciate the hard work you and your bipartisan colleagues are doing to reauthorize a long-term extension of the TRIA.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert this in the RECORD.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, DC, December 7, 2014.

Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SCHUMER: I write to thank you for your leadership on extending the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) and its Program. As you know well, TRIA is critical to our economic and national security. Terrorism insurance is necessary for a broad range of economic activities in areas across the country, and would be prohibitively expensive or unavailable in the absence of the Program.

There is clear bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House to enact a long-term extension while making reforms to further reduce taxpayer exposure. Time is running short to head off an unnecessary, unprecedented, and disruptive lapse of the Program, which is scheduled to expire in a few weeks.

Given the economic necessity and national security implications of this legislation, TRIA's reauthorization should not be delayed due to disagreements over entirely unrelated financial regulatory issues. I appreciate the hard work you and your bipartisan colleagues are doing to reauthorize a long-term extension of the TRIA.

Sincerely,

JACOB J. LEW.

□ 1345

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, this is from the Secretary of the Treasury, who is asking Mr. SCHUMER, please, let's work to get this done because it makes sense.

I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from Lubbock, Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER), the vice chairman of the committee, who can further delve into the issues about how important this measure is.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I think the point that we want to continue making here is that when we use the existing framework, the objective here was to give certainty to the industry—both the insurance industry and to the people that the insurance industry is insuring—so that over the next 6 years, they will know what the policy is. But at the same time, we are beginning to transition some of these reforms that hopefully will be a trend for future reauthorizations, should they be necessary. And let me emphasize that: should they be necessary.

One of the things that we do know is that the industry is doing a better job of being able to model what the potential risks are. There is some mitigation going on to make sure that new structures, new facilities take into account preventing the potential for certain types of attacks. So we want to encourage that kind of behavior. But it doesn't encourage that kind of behavior if there isn't some economic incentive. There is no economic incentive if the taxpayers keep having to pick up the bills on a number of these programs.

I am very pleased with the reforms that are built into this. I think we bring the market certainty in that we didn't materially change the program and that we are doing a long-term reauthorization.

I think the interesting thing is—and I think we can make the point—there is really not anything controversial in this bill. Now, there are some people who don't like the fact that there have been some things included in it. But, quite honestly, we are taking up a Senate bill that was sent over to us with extraneous policy built into it. It is policy that, quite honestly, some of us agree with, particularly the NARAB. And why that NARAB provision, NARAB II, is important, as I said earlier, is because your local insurance agent now can do business in adjoining States without having to go take a license test in each individual State. It doesn't preempt the States' ability to regulate the insurance activity in that State but actually streamlines it and basically is a small business bill.

The other issue that has been talked about is this Business Risk Mitigation and Stabilization Act. That is an important piece of legislation because a lot of our small businesses are out there. They are trying to raise capital. They are trying to create jobs. And there are certain risks that they just don't want to take or they feel like it is in the best interest of their business to be able to help someone risk-share that with. And many of the products that they buy to share that risk, the risk factor of doing business with that company is already priced into that transaction.

But we have an overinterpretation here now, where not only are those businesses paying a risk premium but they are also having to put up additional collateral. So this begins to keep the working collateral for the company so that they can invest in new equipment and in things that can help create new jobs in this country.

I want to talk about the fact that 411 people, including the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), voted for this piece of legislation. So this is not something that we are trying to sneak in on anybody. This is something that was voted on, in this House, by 411 votes.

And Mr. Dodd and Mr. Frank, the primary authors of the Dodd-Frank bill, both said that this was never an intention of Dodd-Frank and have spoken in favor of some kind of reform to that in the future.

So this is a good piece of legislation, and I am a little concerned that my colleagues think that it is in jeopardy. Well, the only reason it would be in jeopardy is if our colleagues over on the other side of the building decide, for some reason, that they don't want to reauthorize TRIA. That is certainly a decision that they would be making on their own. But, again, nothing in this bill is policy that has not been considered by this body in the past.

So, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this rule. We need to move this forward. Time is running short, and the marketplace needs that certainty. I am confident that we will pass this bill in the House today, and we are going to encourage our folks over in the Senate to ratify that. We hope the President of the United States will help bring market certainty to the American industry in the future.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time, although I certainly don't intend to use that much time.

But I do wish to point out, Mr. Speaker, since there has been discussion regarding the changes that are extraneous to the base bill—more specifically, the changes with reference to Dodd-Frank—and other changes that the Senate included in the measure that has now come to the House: my understanding is, and I stand to be corrected, that the changes that were made in the Senate were not measures having to do with Dodd-Frank. It appears that that is where the provisions are likely to come into play in that my friends on the other side included the Dodd-Frank language after the negotiations had been put forward.

The fact of the matter is, it does appear that several Members of the other body have indicated that they are opposed to it. I don't believe that means that they are opposed to TRIA, but I do believe it means that they are opposed to changes in Dodd-Frank.

TRIA has been a widely successful program that has created jobs, fostered certainty in the marketplace, and protected U.S. economic security, all at no cost to the taxpayer. Reauthorization, in my judgment, is essential to current and future commercial development in communities all across this country and to our Nation's long-term economic prosperity.

I don't believe my Republican colleagues really want to play chicken with this vital national and economic security program in order to strong-arm the process on an unrelated financial services provision.

You know, Mr. Speaker and friends, when the 113th Congress began, it began with the distinguished Speaker of the House enunciating, among other things, that we would have an open and transparent process.

This is the 83rd closed rule that my friends on the other side have brought to this body. It rivals any in the history of this country, and I have been in the majority and in the minority as a member of the Rules Committee and have seen Members of my party advocate and pass closed rules.

When I came to the body in 1992, I had very little understanding about the process, and I recall very vividly when I went home for the first time—the Democrats were in the majority—and all of the talk on the radio shows that I would appear on was, Your party is passing closed rules. I am not so sure that generally the public is mindful of this inside process, but the essence of it allows that Members who are not on

the relevant committees or Members who did not have their amendments made in order before the Rules Committee are precluded under closed rules from having an opportunity to put forward their ideas which might benefit the legislation or, if they feel like the legislation is deserving of burdening it, might very well do that as well.

But I will close by saying that I never thought that we would have 83 closed rules.

I am privileged to be able to serve in the 114th Congress, and my great hope is that we get past this particular method of cutting off other Members in this body from having full participation in the world's greatest deliberative body.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I thank the distinguished gentleman from Florida not only for the effort that we have had today but also at the Rules Committee yesterday, where the committee heard really, really great points, perhaps on both sides, but great points about how important this legislation is not only to the country but to the stability of the marketplace and the ability to keep and grow jobs.

I also heard the gentleman very clearly talk about his displeasure of having a number of closed rules. And I would just thank the gentleman for reminding me, as chairman of the committee, and would respond back that almost every single week we were in session, we put into play more amendments for Democrats than HARRY REID did in 6 years for any Republican in the United States Senate. And I have tried to make sure that what I do is based upon some bit of fairness.

But the facts of the case are, the last time this TRIA bill was on the floor, then-Chairman Barney Frank asked for and received a closed rule, so he did the same thing in 2007. Republicans have also, under these processes, done the same thing, except that in 2005 and 2007, they were done on suspension, meaning that we had about 10 minutes to talk about the effort.

Today what we have tried to do is to have a full debate in the Rules Committee. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), among others, was allowed as much time as anybody wanted to discuss the ideas and fully vet the views of not only the ranking member and the gentlewoman from New York but also the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) to explain to the Rules Committee that most Members are not aware of all the arguments, the real need to make sure that TRIA was done well, and it was better to do it well. And certainly putting a closed rule means we can get through things in these remaining days. Good legislation—this bill is a 411-vote piece of legislation.

You heard from Chairman NEUGEBAUER from Lubbock, Texas—really, the architect of much of this legislation and the person who has the authority and the responsibility to the subcommittee—who worked with Chairman HENSARLING to develop leading-edge ideas that they could feel free to bring to this body and support.

So I think it is just critical that we are here today. We are going to get our work done. It is really noncontroversial, except if we just want to roll over and second-guess what the Senate wants to do. They had their shot at it, and they added some ''extraneous measures,'' none that had been passed with 90-plus percent of their body. We are going to work through this, and it is going to be doing the right thing for the right reason.

As I have said, I think it is important that we know why we are here, what we are doing. We have talked about the Secretary of Treasury, Secretary Lew, writing a letter to CHUCK SCHUMER, the lead in the Senate, saying, Hey, listen, let's get this thing done. It is so important.

Chairman NEUGEBAUER, Chairman HENSARLING, the just-in-time arrival of a bill, the Rules Committee, a long debate, a long discussion—there is plenty of time to debate on the floor today. Any Member that wanted to could show up here. There is just not a lot to be upset about. It is just really a good mark of the fine work that the gentlemen from Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER and Mr. HENSARLING, have done.

So it was really a pretty interesting meeting yesterday. I got to learn a lot. And the members of the Rules Committee said, this is the right thing to do. Let's not get in the way. It is important to the country.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to say that I think the Secretary is right. I think the chairman of the committee is right. I think the vice chairman of the committee is right. I think many of the people who came up to the Rules Committee yesterday were right.

This is a great piece of legislation. This package will provide a long-term extension to TRIA. It is going to make reforms to protect taxpayers. It is going to make sure the industry understands what it is. It is a bipartisan fix. It is going to include a bill with 411 votes out of this body. I think it is a darn good deal, and I am delighted to do that.

So I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes.'' Vote ''yes'' on this rule and ''yes'' on the underlying legislation.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, the preliminary estimate of the amendment in the nature of a substitute, which was available at the time Rules Committee Report 113–654 was prepared, estimated that the legislation would reduce the deficit by $457 million over 10 years. The final table provided by CBO estimates that the legislation would reduce the deficit by $456 million.

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

The previous question was ordered.

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

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on adopting the resolution will be followed by 5-minute votes on suspending the rules and passing S. 1000 and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 231, nays 189, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 554]

YEAS—231

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Eshoo
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
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
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
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (CA)
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
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—189

Adams
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
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
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—14

Braley (IA)
Campbell
Capuano
DeLauro
Duckworth
Hall
Hastings (WA)
Kelly (IL)
LaMalfa
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Smith (WA)
Woodall

□ 1427

Mr. KILDEE, Ms. CHU, and Mr. SCHNEIDER changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. TIBERI and THOMPSON of California changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 554 I was detained at a Press Conference. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 554, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CHESAPEAKE BAY ACCOUNTABILITY AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1000) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a crosscut budget for restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 555]

YEAS—416

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—18

Adams
Braley (IA)
Burgess
Campbell
Capuano
Duckworth
Gibson
Green, Al
Hall
LaMalfa
Maloney, Sean
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Norcross
Pocan
Smith (WA)
Waters

□ 1436

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and 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. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 555, had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I missed the following vote: S. 1000—Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on this bill.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall No. 555 on passage of the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014 under suspension of this rules, I would have voted ''yes.''

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). The Chair would ask all present to rise for the purpose of a moment of silence.

The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in remembrance of our brave men and women in uniform who have given their lives in the service of our country in Iraq and Afghanistan and their families, and of all who serve in our Armed Forces and their families.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

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

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 261, nays 155, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 556]

YEAS—261

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Beatty
Becerra
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Cole
Collins (NY)
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
DelBene
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gerlach
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Grayson
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Himes
Hinojosa
Horsford
Huelskamp
Huffman
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kildee
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lankford
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Noem
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Pascrell
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Ribble
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stutzman
Takano
Thornberry
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Wagner
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoho
Young (IN)

NAYS—155

Adams
Amash
Bass
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bishop (NY)
Brady (PA)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Cartwright
Chaffetz
Chu
Clawson (FL)
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Connolly
Costa
Crawford
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
Delaney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Duffy
Ellison
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Flores
Foxx
Fudge
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gosar
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Gutiérrez
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Holding
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kilmer
Kind
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Lance
Langevin
Lee (CA)
Lewis
LoBiondo
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
McDermott
McGovern
McKinley
Miller, George
Moore
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neal
Nolan
Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schock
Sewell (AL)
Shuster
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Stivers
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Owens

NOT VOTING—17

Barton
Braley (IA)
Campbell
Capuano
DeLauro
Duckworth
Forbes
Gohmert
Grijalva
Hall
Kennedy
Larsen (WA)
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Smith (WA)
Young (AK)

□ 1447

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 556, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4007. An act to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2952. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the laws relating to the advancement of security technologies for critical infrastructure protection, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2444. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

S. 2519. An act to codify an existing operations center for cybersecurity.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACQUISITION REFORM ACT

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Transportation Security Administration has not consistently implemented Department of Homeland Security policies and Government best practices for acquisition and procurement.

(2) The Transportation Security Administration has only recently developed a multiyear technology investment plan, and has underutilized innovation opportunities within the private sector, including from small businesses.

(3) The Transportation Security Administration has faced challenges in meeting key performance requirements for several major acquisitions and procurements, resulting in reduced security effectiveness and wasted expenditures.

SEC. 3. TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION ACQUISITION REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XVI of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296; 116 Stat. 2312) is amended to read as follows:

''TITLE XVI—TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

''Subtitle A—General Provisions

''SEC. 1601. DEFINITIONS.

''In this title:

''(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term 'Administration' means the Transportation Security Administration.

''(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

''(3) PLAN.—The term 'Plan' means the strategic 5-year technology investment plan developed by the Administrator under section 1611.

''(4) SECURITY-RELATED TECHNOLOGY.—The term 'security-related technology' means any technology that assists the Administration in the prevention of, or defense against, threats to United States transportation systems, including threats to people, property, and information.

''Subtitle B—Transportation Security Administration Acquisition Improvements

''SEC. 1611. 5-YEAR TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLAN.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

''(1) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act, develop and submit to Congress a strategic 5-year technology investment plan, that may include a classified addendum to report sensitive transportation security risks, technology vulnerabilities, or other sensitive security information; and

''(2) to the extent possible, publish the Plan in an unclassified format in the public domain.

''(b) CONSULTATION.—The Administrator shall develop the Plan in consultation with—

''(1) the Under Secretary for Management;

''(2) the Under Secretary for Science and Technology;

''(3) the Chief Information Officer; and

''(4) the aviation industry stakeholder advisory committee established by the Administrator.

''(c) APPROVAL.—The Administrator may not publish the Plan under subsection (a)(2) until it has been approved by the Secretary.

''(d) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The Plan shall include—

''(1) an analysis of transportation security risks and the associated capability gaps that would be best addressed by security-related technology, including consideration of the most recent quadrennial homeland security review under section 707;

''(2) a set of security-related technology acquisition needs that—

''(A) is prioritized based on risk and associated capability gaps identified under paragraph (1); and

''(B) includes planned technology programs and projects with defined objectives, goals, timelines, and measures;

''(3) an analysis of current and forecast trends in domestic and international passenger travel;

''(4) an identification of currently deployed security-related technologies that are at or near the end of their lifecycles;

''(5) an identification of test, evaluation, modeling, and simulation capabilities, including target methodologies, rationales, and timelines necessary to support the acquisition of the security-related technologies expected to meet the needs under paragraph (2);

''(6) an identification of opportunities for public-private partnerships, small and disadvantaged company participation, intragovernment collaboration, university centers of excellence, and national laboratory technology transfer;

''(7) an identification of the Administration's acquisition workforce needs for the management of planned security-related technology acquisitions, including consideration of leveraging acquisition expertise of other Federal agencies;

''(8) an identification of the security resources, including information security resources, that will be required to protect security-related technology from physical or cyber theft, diversion, sabotage, or attack;

''(9) an identification of initiatives to streamline the Administration's acquisition process and provide greater predictability and clarity to small, medium, and large businesses, including the timeline for testing and evaluation;

''(10) an assessment of the impact to commercial aviation passengers;

''(11) a strategy for consulting airport management, air carrier representatives, and Federal security directors whenever an acquisition will lead to the removal of equipment at airports, and how the strategy for consulting with such officials of the relevant airports will address potential negative impacts on commercial passengers or airport operations; and

''(12) in consultation with the National Institutes of Standards and Technology, an identification of security-related technology interface standards, in existence or if implemented, that could promote more interoperable passenger, baggage, and cargo screening systems.

''(e) LEVERAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR.—To the extent possible, and in a manner that is consistent with fair and equitable practices, the Plan shall—

''(1) leverage emerging technology trends and research and development investment trends within the public and private sectors;

''(2) incorporate private sector input, including from the aviation industry stakeholder advisory committee established by the Administrator, through requests for information, industry days, and other innovative means consistent with the Federal Acquisition Regulation; and

''(3) in consultation with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, identify technologies in existence or in development that, with or without adaptation, are expected to be suitable to meeting mission needs.

''(f) DISCLOSURE.—The Administrator shall include with the Plan a list of nongovernment persons that contributed to the writing of the Plan.

''(g) UPDATE AND REPORT.—Beginning 2 years after the date the Plan is submitted to Congress under subsection (a), and biennially thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress—

''(1) an update of the Plan; and

''(2) a report on the extent to which each security-related technology acquired by the Administration since the last issuance or update of the Plan is consistent with the planned technology programs and projects identified under subsection (d)(2) for that security-related technology.

''SEC. 1612. ACQUISITION JUSTIFICATION AND REPORTS.

''(a) ACQUISITION JUSTIFICATION.—Before the Administration implements any security-related technology acquisition, the Administrator, in accordance with the Department's policies and directives, shall determine whether the acquisition is justified by conducting an analysis that includes—

''(1) an identification of the scenarios and level of risk to transportation security from those scenarios that would be addressed by the security-related technology acquisition;

''(2) an assessment of how the proposed acquisition aligns to the Plan;

''(3) a comparison of the total expected lifecycle cost against the total expected quantitative and qualitative benefits to transportation security;

''(4) an analysis of alternative security solutions, including policy or procedure solutions, to determine if the proposed security-related technology acquisition is the most effective and cost-efficient solution based on cost-benefit considerations;

''(5) an assessment of the potential privacy and civil liberties implications of the proposed acquisition that includes, to the extent practicable, consultation with organizations that advocate for the protection of privacy and civil liberties;

''(6) a determination that the proposed acquisition is consistent with fair information practice principles issued by the Privacy Officer of the Department;

''(7) confirmation that there are no significant risks to human health or safety posed by the proposed acquisition; and

''(8) an estimate of the benefits to commercial aviation passengers.

''(b) REPORTS AND CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 30-day period preceding the award by the Administration of a contract for any security-related technology acquisition exceeding $30,000,000, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives—

''(A) the results of the comprehensive acquisition justification under subsection (a); and

''(B) a certification by the Administrator that the benefits to transportation security justify the contract cost.

''(2) EXTENSION DUE TO IMMINENT TERRORIST THREAT.—If there is a known or suspected imminent threat to transportation security, the Administrator—

''(A) may reduce the 30-day period under paragraph (1) to 5 days to rapidly respond to the threat; and

''(B) shall immediately notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives of the known or suspected imminent threat.

''SEC. 1613. ACQUISITION BASELINE ESTABLISHMENT AND REPORTS.

''(a) BASELINE REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Before the Administration implements any security-related technology acquisition, the appropriate acquisition official of the Department shall establish and document a set of formal baseline requirements.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The baseline requirements under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) include the estimated costs (including lifecycle costs), schedule, and performance milestones for the planned duration of the acquisition;

''(B) identify the acquisition risks and a plan for mitigating those risks; and

''(C) assess the personnel necessary to manage the acquisition process, manage the ongoing program, and support training and other operations as necessary.

''(3) FEASIBILITY.—In establishing the performance milestones under paragraph (2)(A), the appropriate acquisition official of the Department, to the extent possible and in consultation with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall ensure that achieving those milestones is technologically feasible.

''(4) TEST AND EVALUATION PLAN.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall develop a test and evaluation plan that describes—

''(A) the activities that are expected to be required to assess acquired technologies against the performance milestones established under paragraph (2)(A);

''(B) the necessary and cost-effective combination of laboratory testing, field testing, modeling, simulation, and supporting analysis to ensure that such technologies meet the Administration's mission needs;

''(C) an efficient planning schedule to ensure that test and evaluation activities are completed without undue delay; and

''(D) if commercial aviation passengers are expected to interact with the security-related technology, methods that could be used to measure passenger acceptance of and familiarization with the security-related technology.

''(5) VERIFICATION AND VALIDATION.—The appropriate acquisition official of the Department—

''(A) subject to subparagraph (B), shall utilize independent reviewers to verify and validate the performance milestones and cost estimates developed under paragraph (2) for a security-related technology that pursuant to section 1611(d)(2) has been identified as a high priority need in the most recent Plan; and

''(B) shall ensure that the use of independent reviewers does not unduly delay the schedule of any acquisition.

''(6) STREAMLINING ACCESS FOR INTERESTED VENDORS.—The Administrator shall establish a streamlined process for an interested vendor of a security-related technology to request and receive appropriate access to the baseline requirements and test and evaluation plans that are necessary for the vendor to participate in the acquisitions process for that technology.

''(b) REVIEW OF BASELINE REQUIREMENTS AND DEVIATION; REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

''(1) REVIEW.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The appropriate acquisition official of the Department shall review and assess each implemented acquisition to determine if the acquisition is meeting the baseline requirements established under subsection (a).

''(B) TEST AND EVALUATION ASSESSMENT.—The review shall include an assessment of whether—

''(i) the planned testing and evaluation activities have been completed; and

''(ii) the results of that testing and evaluation demonstrate that the performance milestones are technologically feasible.

''(2) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after making a finding described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives that includes—

''(A) the results of any assessment that finds that—

''(i) the actual or planned costs exceed the baseline costs by more than 10 percent;

''(ii) the actual or planned schedule for delivery has been delayed by more than 180 days; or

''(iii) there is a failure to meet any performance milestone that directly impacts security effectiveness;

''(B) the cause for such excessive costs, delay, or failure; and

''(C) a plan for corrective action.

"SEC. 1614. INVENTORY UTILIZATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Before the procurement of additional quantities of equipment to fulfill a mission need, the Administrator, to the extent practicable, shall utilize any existing units in the Administration's inventory to meet that need.

''(b) TRACKING OF INVENTORY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish a process for tracking—

''(A) the location of security-related equipment in the inventory under subsection (a);

''(B) the utilization status of security-related technology in the inventory under subsection (a); and

''(C) the quantity of security-related equipment in the inventory under subsection (a).

''(2) INTERNAL CONTROLS.—The Administrator shall implement internal controls to ensure up-to-date accurate data on security-related technology owned, deployed, and in use.

''(c) LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish logistics principles for managing inventory in an effective and efficient manner.

''(2) LIMITATION ON JUST-IN-TIME LOGISTICS.—The Administrator may not use just-in-time logistics if doing so—

''(A) would inhibit necessary planning for large-scale delivery of equipment to airports or other facilities; or

''(B) would unduly diminish surge capacity for response to a terrorist threat.

"SEC. 1615. SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING GOALS.

''Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives that includes—

''(1) the Administration's performance record with respect to meeting its published small-business contracting goals during the preceding fiscal year;

''(2) if the goals described in paragraph (1) were not met or the Administration's performance was below the published small-business contracting goals of the Department—

''(A) a list of challenges, including deviations from the Administration's subcontracting plans, and factors that contributed to the level of performance during the preceding fiscal year;

''(B) an action plan, with benchmarks, for addressing each of the challenges identified in subparagraph (A) that—

''(i) is prepared after consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the heads of Federal departments and agencies that achieved their published goals for prime contracting with small and minority-owned businesses, including small and disadvantaged businesses, in prior fiscal years; and

''(ii) identifies policies and procedures that could be incorporated by the Administration in furtherance of achieving the Administration's published goal for such contracting; and

''(3) a status report on the implementation of the action plan that was developed in the preceding fiscal year in accordance with paragraph (2)(B), if such a plan was required.

"SEC. 1616. CONSISTENCY WITH THE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES AND DIRECTIVES.

''The Administrator shall execute the responsibilities set forth in this subtitle in a manner consistent with, and not duplicative of, the Federal Acquisition Regulation and the Department's policies and directives.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by striking the items relating to title XVI and inserting the following:

''TITLE XVI—TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

''Subtitle A—General Provisions

''Sec. 1601. Definitions.

''Subtitle B—Transportation Security Administration Acquisition Improvements

''Sec. 1611. 5-year technology investment plan.

''Sec. 1612. Acquisition justification and reports.

''Sec. 1613. Acquisition baseline establishment and reports.

''Sec. 1614. Inventory utilization.

''Sec. 1615. Small business contracting goals.

''Sec. 1616. Consistency with the Federal acquisition regulation and departmental policies and directives.''.

(c) PRIOR AMENDMENTS NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect any amendment made by title XVI of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 as in effect before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORTS.

(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress that contains an assessment of the Transportation Security Administration's implementation of recommendations regarding the acquisition of security-related technology that were made by the Government Accountability Office before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF SUBTITLE B OF TITLE XVI.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and 3 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress that contains an evaluation of the Transportation Security Administration's progress in implementing subtitle B of title XVI of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended by section 3, including any efficiencies, cost savings, or delays that have resulted from such implementation.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF INVENTORY TRACKING.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall submit a report to Congress on the feasibility of tracking security-related technology, including software solutions, of the Administration through automated information and data capture technologies.

SEC. 6. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW OF TSA'S TEST AND EVALUATION PROCESS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress that includes—

(1) an evaluation of the Transportation Security Administration's testing and evaluation activities related to security-related technology;

(2) information on the extent to which—

(A) the execution of such testing and evaluation activities is aligned, temporally and otherwise, with the Administration's annual budget request, acquisition needs, planned procurements, and acquisitions for technology programs and projects; and

(B) security-related technology that has been tested, evaluated, and certified for use by the Administration but was not procured by the Administration, including the reasons the procurement did not occur; and

(3) recommendations—

(A) to improve the efficiency and efficacy of such testing and evaluation activities; and

(B) to better align such testing and evaluation with the acquisitions process.

SEC. 7. NO ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719, the Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act, a bill that I introduced in July of last year, which passed the House unanimously 1 year ago.

This commonsense, bipartisan legislation is the culmination of 2 years of collaborative efforts by my colleagues in the House and Senate and 4 years of strong oversight by the Transportation Security Subcommittee.

H.R. 2719 will save significant tax dollars by forcing TSA to make thoughtful, informed decisions about what kinds of technology to deploy in our Nation's airports. We simply cannot afford to see TSA repeat the mistakes of the past which have resulted in technologies such as ''puffer machines'' and body scanners being pulled out of airports prematurely and others sitting idle in warehouses, never to see the light of day.

H.R. 2719 requires TSA to develop and share with industry and the public a detailed 5-year technology investment plan. The bill gives Congress early warning about any cost overruns, delays, or technical failures encountered by TSA.

It ensures that TSA is implementing acquisition best practices as identified by the Government Accountability Office and other experts. It also mandates a better process for managing security equipment in TSA's inventory. Finally, the Senate strengthened the bill by, among other things, requiring more consultation with experts in the public and private sectors during the acquisition process.

I would like to thank the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, Mr. MCCAUL, for his assistance in moving this bill through the committee and the House, as well as the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. THOMPSON, for his work alongside myself and our chairman. I really appreciate the work and cooperation of Mr. THOMPSON and the ranking member for our subcommittee, Mr. RICHMOND. Again, their work made this a better bill.

I would also like to thank Senator AYOTTE for introducing a companion bill in the Senate and leading the effort to see it through the Senate Commerce Committee and the full Senate. I would also like to thank Senators ROCKEFELLER, THUNE, and TESTER and their staffs for their strong support and their important efforts to move this bill.

Finally, I would like to thank the 18 industry groups that have endorsed this bill, including the Security Manufacturers Coalition, Airlines for America, Airports Council International—North America, the American Association of Airport Executives, the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, the Security Industry Association, the U.S. Travel Association, and many others who provided valuable feedback and worked with us throughout this process.

I will insert into the RECORD a letter from these groups and others.

NOVEMBER 12, 2014.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Senate Majority Leader, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Minority Leader, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADERS REID AND MCCONNELL: Together our associations proudly represent the strength of the aviation, aerospace, and travel industry, which combined contribute billions of dollars to the U.S. economy every year and maintain thousands of high-tech jobs in the United States. We write to express our strong support for S. 1893, the Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act introduced by Senator Kelly Ayotte (R–NH) and S. 1804, the Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act introduced by Senator Jon Tester (D–MT). Companion versions (H.R. 2719 and H.R. 1204) of these two bills passed the House of Representatives with overwhelming bipartisan support on December 3, 2013, and were reported unanimously from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on July 24, 2014.

Both bills were developed with significant input from our industries and represent important progress toward streamlining the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) acquisition process and improving decision-making, by including industry stakeholders on issues affecting aviation'' security. These no-cost, common-sense bills will benefit the transportation industry by requiring TSA to conduct meaningful private sector engagement and coordination, strategic planning, and transparent technology procurements, which will save taxpayer dollars and strengthen security in the long term.

As associations concerned with improving aviation safety and security, we ask that you bring S.1804/H.R. 1204 and S. 1893/H.R. 2719 to the Senate floor for the Senate's prompt consideration and passage in order to send these critical bills to the President for his signature.

Sincerely,

American Association of Airport Executives, Airlines for America, Aeronautical Repair Station Association, General Aviation Manufacturers Association, International Air Transport Association, National Association of State Aviation Officials, NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots, Security Manufacturers Coalition, U.S. Travel Association, Airports Council Intemational-North America, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Cargo Airline Association, Helicopter Association International, National Air Transportation Association, National Business Aviation Association, Security Industry Association, Southwest Airlines Pilots Association, National Air Carrier Association.

Mr. HUDSON. This no-cost, bipartisan legislation will go a long way toward improving transparency and accountability for TSA. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719, the Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act.

For years, both as chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I have been troubled by the way TSA goes about technology acquisition. Time and again, taxpayer dollars have been wasted on technologies that either do not work or cannot be upgraded to meet the agency's need.

I have also been troubled by TSA's apparent inability to effectively manage its inventory of security-related technology and meet its goals for contracting with small and disadvantaged businesses.

The bill before us today addresses these concerns through greater transparency and accountability. In this age of tight budgets, TSA cannot purchase technologies on a whim and outside of robust acquisition controls. Under H.R. 2719, of which I was proud to be an original cosponsor, TSA will be required to develop and publish a multiyear technology investment plan that will guide the agency's security-related technology purchases.

This plan will give both the agency and Congress a clear understanding of how taxpayer dollars will be allocated in future years.

The bill also requires TSA to develop a plan for managing its inventory of security-related technologies. Last year, the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General found that TSA had more than 17,000 items in its warehouse inventory, at an estimated cost of $185 million. The IG concluded that TSA may be able to put approximately $800,000 per year to better use by managing its inventory more effectively.

For fiscal year 2012, TSA's goal for prime contracting with small businesses was set at 23 percent; yet the agency barely reached 16 percent. While TSA improved its performance in 2013, it still failed to meet its goal for prime contracting with small businesses.

To address TSA's chronic problems meeting its small business contracting goal, the bill requires TSA to consult with other Federal agencies that get small business contracting done and done right. Under H.R. 2719, TSA will be required to develop an action plan for improving its performance and report to Congress on its progress in implementing the plan.

□ 1500

For too long TSA has relied upon the same limited number of companies to

develop and produce the security-related technologies it puts into the field. Doing so comes at the peril of small and minority-owned businesses that are essential to innovation. This dynamic also results in additional cost to taxpayers due to a lack of competition in the marketplace.

H.R. 2719 received the unanimous support of the Committee on Homeland Security and this full House later last year. The Senate amendment to this bill that we are considering today makes minor and beneficial modifications.

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

Mr. HUDSON. I have no further speakers. If the gentleman from Mississippi has no further speakers, I am prepared to close once the gentleman does.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I have one speaker before I close. I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. THOMPSON for his leadership as ranking member and formerly chair, and Mr. HUDSON. Let me also acknowledge Mr. RICHMOND, who is the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Transportation Security.

It is clear that this committee, Homeland Security overall, has worked together for the betterment of the national security of this Nation, and these legislative initiatives in particular. I remember distinctly the hearings, the collaboration with a number of groups, and so I rise today to speak on the transportation security bill regarding best practices to improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, and for other purposes.

The Transportation Security Administration, now under Homeland Security, is one of our vital organs that relates to the security of America. We only need look at special holidays throughout the Nation and throughout the year and realize how vital the aviation system is and how important it is to work together with the Transportation Security Administration, covering TSOs and certainly a large component of research and technology dealing with the security of our airports.

This initiative is an important one. It is almost unspeakable to have this size of inventory, some $185 million in assessment, languishing in warehouses under the name of the Transportation Security Administration.

Over the years as a ranking member and chairwoman on Transportation Security and now Border Security, likewise I have joined my colleagues in fighting for small businesses because there lies technology.

So this initiative to open the doors for the idea of a multiyear technology investment plan and underutilized innovation opportunities that can be provided in this area of security I believe is very important, and then of course to insist that 16 percent not be the number that we rely upon in terms of investment and opportunity for minorities and small businesses.

I support this initiative, and I must at this moment add my support for the legislation dealing with insisting on an aviation security advisory committee. I want to congratulate Mr. THOMPSON on that and indicate that the issue of aviation security matters needs collaboration.

Let me finish by saying, as we experienced over the last year, a decision to add or take away what item you could bring through security—we found out that collaboration on this is crucial.

So this is an important initiative, and I thank both the managers on the floor, and I support both of these initiatives and congratulate them for moving the security of America further.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to thank Subcommittee Chairman HUDSON and Ranking Member RICHMOND for working in collaboration to develop this important legislation.

I would also like to acknowledge the bipartisan staff work that went in to getting us to this point. Specifically, I want to acknowledge Brian Turbyfill on my staff and Amanda Parikh on the majority staff for their work on this legislation over the past 2 years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719 so that this bill can be enacted and TSA's acquisition process is on a path to improvement.

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

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the former chairman for his kind remarks and for the collaborative nature in which we have worked throughout this Congress. I appreciate his leadership and advice. I believe we have done good work, and we have done it because we have listened to each other and we have worked well together. I appreciate your leadership, as well as that of CEDRIC RICHMOND, the ranking member on this committee.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge that this would not be possible had they not worked so closely with us. I would also like to thank the chairman for mentioning our staffs. Our staffs have worked very hard, they have worked in a bipartisan manner, and I attach myself to his compliments for our staff there and thank him for that kindness.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the accomplishments we have made on this subcommittee. In particular I am proud of this piece of legislation, H.R. 2719. It was developed with input from stakeholders in an exhaustive process with subject matter experts across government and industry to address different deficiencies we had identified throughout the TSA's acquisition process.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on Senator AYOTTE's amendment to H.R. 2719, and let's send this bill to the President for his signature.

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

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2719, the ''Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act.''

H.R. 2719 addresses longstanding concerns that I and other Members of this Committee have raised about the Transportation Security Administration's stewardship of taxpayer funds when pursuing, acquiring, and deploying security-related technologies.

Importantly, the bill also seeks to address TSA's lackluster record of contracting with small businesses.

Last year, the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, of which I am the Ranking Member, held a hearing with industry stakeholders where we heard from representatives of both small and large businesses on how to improve TSA's acquisition practices and to engage with small businesses more effectively.

There are ample small, minority-owned and disadvantaged businesses that are ready, willing and able to provide services and technologies to TSA that would enhance our security and likely reduce contracting costs.

If TSA cannot identify such businesses, I will be happy to refer them to some.

The bill takes a significant step toward holding TSA accountable for achieving its goals for contracting with small and disadvantaged businesses by requiring the agency to develop an action plan to accomplish its goals and report to Congress on how it plans to get there.

I thank the Subcommittee Chairman, the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. HUDSON, for his willingness to include small businesses in the discussion as we developed the legislation before the House today.

I also congratulate Chairman HUDSON on his work on this legislation.

As the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I was proud to work with the Chairman to lay the groundwork for this legislation through multiple hearings with both industry and TSA.

The bill tackles head on the lack of transparency and accountability that has plagued TSA's acquisition practices since the Agency's inception.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719 is sound, bipartisan legislation that deserves the support of the Full House.

I would like to express my gratitude to Chairman HUDSON for the bipartisan manner in which he operated the Subcommittee on Transportation Security this Congress.

I look forward to continuing to work with the gentleman in his new role as a Member on the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

With that Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the bill.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 2719, the Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act, which was developed, introduced, and championed by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security,

the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. HUDSON. The Senate amendment to H.R. 2719, offered by Senator AYOTTE, would strengthen the underlying bill and ensure that TSA is consulting stakeholders throughout the technology acquisition process. I thank the Senator for working with our Committee to move this common sense bill across the finish line.

As Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I have seen first-hand the need for TSA to develop a comprehensive investment plan for acquiring new technologies and to use its limited resources in a more efficient and effective manner. H.R. 2719 sets clear mandates for TSA to develop and maintain a five-year acquisition strategy that will help industry make informed investment decisions and lead to more effective technologies in our nation's airports to meet the evolving terrorist threats we face. The requirements of this bill will also ensure that Congress receives early warning and insight into potentially wasteful spending practices, which will strengthen the Committee's oversight and enable TSA to be a better steward of taxpayer dollars.

I would like to thank Chairman HUDSON for his dedicated effort to reform TSA, as well as the Ranking Member of the Full Committee and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee for their strong support of this important legislation, which will hold TSA accountable and increase transparency for the millions of dollars the agency spends every year on technology. I would also like to express appreciation to the many stakeholder associations that have provided their input and given their support to this no-cost, bipartisan bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719 and send this bill to the President for his signature.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2719.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

AVIATION SECURITY STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION ACT OF 2013

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1204) to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. AVIATION SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 449 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 44946. Aviation Security Advisory Committee

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Assistant Secretary shall establish within the Transportation Security Administration an aviation security advisory committee.

''(b) DUTIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall consult the Advisory Committee, as appropriate, on aviation security matters, including on the development, refinement, and implementation of policies, programs, rulemaking, and security directives pertaining to aviation security, while adhering to sensitive security guidelines.

''(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Committee shall develop, at the request of the Assistant Secretary, recommendations for improvements to aviation security.

''(B) RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBCOMMITTEES.—Recommendations agreed upon by the subcommittees established under this section shall be approved by the Advisory Committee before transmission to the Assistant Secretary.

''(3) PERIODIC REPORTS.—The Advisory Committee shall periodically submit to the Assistant Secretary—

''(A) reports on matters identified by the Assistant Secretary; and

''(B) reports on other matters identified by a majority of the members of the Advisory Committee.

''(4) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Advisory Committee shall submit to the Assistant Secretary an annual report providing information on the activities, findings, and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, including its subcommittees, for the preceding year. Not later than 6 months after the date that the Secretary receives the annual report, the Secretary shall publish a public version describing the Advisory Committee's activities and such related matters as would be informative to the public consistent with the policy of section 552(b) of title 5.

''(5) FEEDBACK.—Not later than 90 days after receiving recommendations transmitted by the Advisory Committee under paragraph (4), the Assistant Secretary shall respond in writing to the Advisory Committee with feedback on each of the recommendations, an action plan to implement any of the recommendations with which the Assistant Secretary concurs, and a justification for why any of the recommendations have been rejected.

''(6) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after providing written feedback to the Advisory Committee under paragraph (5), the Assistant Secretary shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives on such feedback, and provide a briefing upon request.

''(7) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Prior to briefing the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives under paragraph (6), the Assistant Secretary shall submit to such committees a report containing information relating to the recommendations transmitted by the Advisory Committee in accordance with paragraph (4).

''(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) APPOINTMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act of 2014, the Assistant Secretary shall appoint the members of the Advisory Committee.

''(B) COMPOSITION.—The membership of the Advisory Committee shall consist of individuals representing not more than 34 member organizations. Each organization shall be represented by 1 individual (or the individual's designee).

''(C) REPRESENTATION.—The membership of the Advisory Committee shall include representatives of air carriers, all-cargo air transportation, indirect air carriers, labor organizations representing air carrier employees, labor organizations representing transportation security officers, aircraft manufacturers, airport operators, airport construction and maintenance contractors, labor organizations representing employees of airport construction and maintenance contractors, general aviation, privacy organizations, the travel industry, airport-based businesses (including minority-owned small businesses), businesses that conduct security screening operations at airports, aeronautical repair stations, passenger advocacy groups, the aviation security technology industry (including screening technology and biometrics), victims of terrorist acts against aviation, and law enforcement and security experts.

''(2) TERM OF OFFICE.—

''(A) TERMS.—The term of each member of the Advisory Committee shall be 2 years. A member of the Advisory Committee may be reappointed.

''(B) REMOVAL.—The Assistant Secretary may review the participation of a member of the Advisory Committee and remove such member for cause at any time.

''(3) PROHIBITION ON COMPENSATION.—The members of the Advisory Committee shall not receive pay, allowances, or benefits from the Government by reason of their service on the Advisory Committee.

''(4) MEETINGS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall require the Advisory Committee to meet at least semiannually and may convene additional meetings as necessary.

''(B) PUBLIC MEETINGS.—At least 1 of the meetings described in subparagraph (A) shall be open to the public.

''(C) ATTENDANCE.—The Advisory Committee shall maintain a record of the persons present at each meeting.

''(5) MEMBER ACCESS TO SENSITIVE SECURITY INFORMATION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of a member's appointment, the Assistant Secretary shall determine if there is cause for the member to be restricted from possessing sensitive security information. Without such cause, and upon the member voluntarily signing a nondisclosure agreement, the member may be granted access to sensitive security information that is relevant to the member's advisory duties. The member shall protect the sensitive security information in accordance with part 1520 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

''(6) CHAIRPERSON.—A stakeholder representative on the Advisory Committee who is elected by the appointed membership of the Advisory Committee shall chair the Advisory Committee.

''(d) SUBCOMMITTEES.—

''(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Committee chairperson, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary, may establish within the Advisory Committee any subcommittee that the Assistant Secretary and Advisory Committee determine to be necessary. The Assistant Secretary and the Advisory Committee shall create subcommittees to address aviation security issues, including the following:

''(A) AIR CARGO SECURITY.—The implementation of the air cargo security programs established by the Transportation Security Administration to screen air cargo on passenger aircraft and all-cargo aircraft in accordance with established cargo screening mandates.

''(B) GENERAL AVIATION.—General aviation facilities, general aviation aircraft, and helicopter operations at general aviation and commercial service airports.

''(C) PERIMETER AND ACCESS CONTROL.—Recommendations on airport perimeter security, exit lane security and technology at commercial service airports, and access control issues.

''(D) SECURITY TECHNOLOGY.—Security technology standards and requirements, including their harmonization internationally, technology to screen passengers, passenger baggage, carry-on baggage, and cargo, and biometric technology.

''(2) RISK-BASED SECURITY.—All subcommittees established by the Advisory Committee chairperson in coordination with the Assistant Secretary shall consider risk-based security approaches in the performance of their functions that weigh the optimum balance of costs and benefits in transportation security, including for passenger screening, baggage screening, air cargo security policies, and general aviation security matters.

''(3) MEETINGS AND REPORTING.—Each subcommittee shall meet at least quarterly and submit to the Advisory Committee for inclusion in the annual report required under subsection (b)(4) information, including recommendations, regarding issues within the subcommittee.

''(4) SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS.—Each subcommittee shall be co-chaired by a Government official and an industry official.

''(e) SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS.—Each subcommittee under this section shall include subject matter experts with relevant expertise who are appointed by the respective subcommittee chairpersons.

''(f) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Committee and its subcommittees.

''(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term 'Advisory Committee' means the aviation security advisory committee established under subsection (a).

''(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term 'Assistant Secretary' means the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration).

''(3) PERIMETER SECURITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'perimeter security' means procedures or systems to monitor, secure, and prevent unauthorized access to an airport, including its airfield and terminal.

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'perimeter security' includes the fence area surrounding an airport, access gates, and access controls.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for subchapter II of chapter 449 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''44946. Aviation Security Advisory Committee.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204, the Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act. This bill was introduced by my colleague from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security.

I would like to thank the ranking member for developing this legislation, which would ensure stable, open lines of communication between TSA and a multitude of aviation security stakeholders.

I also thank the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) for his support and work on this bill in seeing it through committee and the House.

Additionally, our colleagues in the Senate, particularly Senators ROCKEFELLER, TESTER, THUNE, and AYOTTE, played an integral role in bringing this bill to the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1204, which passed unanimously out of our committee, and passed the House 1 year ago, is an important piece of legislation that requires exactly the sort of stakeholder outreach that Congress expects from the TSA.

TSA should constantly solicit feedback from the aviation community before making new security policies, especially when these policies could translate into big headaches for the traveling public or the aviation industry.

Last year, we saw firsthand what can happen when TSA tries to make policy decisions in a vacuum. TSA announced it was going to allow small knives and sports equipment to be carried onto airplanes before consulting key stakeholders. The result was a very public disagreement and, eventually, a complete reversal of the decision. Had the process been handled differently, the outcome may have been very different.

The Aviation Security Advisory Committee, or ASAC, already provides important input to TSA on policy decisions, and includes U.S. air carriers, all cargo air carriers, airport operators, flight attendants, law enforcement and many other groups. This bill codifies the existing ASAC into law and gives additional groups a seat at the table.

It also requires TSA to provide feedback on the ASAC recommendations, which it doesn't consistently do today, and makes it possible for the ASAC to discuss sensitive security information, as appropriate.

Eighteen diverse industry associations, including U.S. airlines, airports, the travel industry, general aviation, and technology manufacturers support this bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204, the Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act of 2014, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset, I would like to thank Chairmen MCCAUL and HUDSON and Ranking Member RICHMOND for their support of the measure before us today.

I would like to thank Senator TESTER for working with me to introduce companion legislation.

Finally, I commend Chairman ROCKEFELLER for taking an interest in this legislation and moving it through the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us today has gone through regular order and is the product of thoughtful deliberation and bipartisan agreement.

Indeed, the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204 improves upon the bill passed by the House in December of last year by enhancing transparency while preserving the ability of the Aviation Security Advisory Committee to effectively and efficiently conduct its important work.

By concurring in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204, and sending the bill to the President for his signature, the House will be ensuring that stakeholders, including labor organizations, airports, small business operators at airports, and airlines, have a permanent seat at the table when TSA is developing policies and procedures that directly impact their work and businesses.

When Congress established TSA in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the agency was granted broad latitude to develop, implement, and modify aviation security policies and procedures.

As a result, in many instances, TSA is not required to, and does not go through, the Federal rulemaking process to establish new policies or modify those already on the books.

I have introduced H.R. 1204 to ensure that input from the key stakeholders is sought, received, and considered by TSA. To that end, my bill not only makes the Aviation Security Advisory Committee permanent but puts new requirements on TSA to consult with this body and give its recommendations thoughtful and timely consideration.

It also requires the establishment of subcommittees within the larger Aviation Security Advisory Committee to focus on air cargo security, general aviation security, perimeter security, and security technology.

Whatever your views on TSA, I believe we can all agree that aviation security policymaking should reflect meaningful consultation and coordination with key stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, as you have heard, H.R. 1204 has broad bipartisan support within Congress and is supported by a wide array of stakeholders. The Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent, and the House initially passed the bill last December with over 400 Members voting in favor.

I urge my colleagues to display the same level of support for the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204 so that this bipartisan legislation can be sent to the President for his signature.

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

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, this is an important bipartisan bill that I believe will make a real difference for the future of aviation security.

I want to thank all those on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the Hill who played a key role in moving this bill.

I would also like to thank the staff, not just for their work on this bill, but also the other transportation security bills that we sent to the President this Congress: Brian Turbyfill, Cedric Haynes, Jake Vreeburg, Kyle Klein, Nicole Halavik, Matt Haskins, Gerry Sleefe and Amanda Parikh.

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I thank all of you for your service to our country and for your hard work.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' and to send this bill to the President for his signature.

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

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204.

Soliciting input from impacted stakeholders is critical to developing effective policies.

H.R. 1204, introduced by Ranking Member Thompson, codifies that sentiment by making permanent the Aviation Security Advisory Committee.

The Aviation Security Advisory Committee is a valuable asset to our nation's aviation security because it helps ensure that the policies that TSA develops are responsive to the security challenges and can be effectively integrated.

As the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I have seen firsthand just how critical it is for TSA to solicit and heed stakeholder recommendations.

I congratulate Ranking Member Thompson for his stewardship of this legislation and look forward to the House concurring in the Senate amendment so that this legislation can become law.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank Administrator Pistole for his service.

For over four years, Administrator Pistole led the Transportation Security Administration honorably and effectively.

Thanks to his leadership, TSA is a more efficient, risk-based, agency.

Administrator Pistole is expected to step down from his post at the end of the year. He will be missed.

With that Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1204, the Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act, sponsored by the gentleman from Mississippi, the Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, Mr. THOMPSON.

This legislation, as amended by the Senate, will ensure that TSA is maintaining open lines of communication with relevant stakeholder groups through the Aviation Security Advisory Committee (ASAC). H.R. 1204 codifies the existing ASAC and prohibits TSA from allowing the Committee's charter to lapse, as has happened in the past. It also ensures a diverse group of stakeholders have a seat at the table, requires TSA to provide feedback on the Committee's recommendations, and makes it possible for the Committee to discuss sensitive security information, as appropriate.

The ASAC and all of its members have a vested interest in the security of our nation's critical aviation systems and can help TSA make well-informed, effective policy decisions. The type of collaborative effort that the ASAC fosters is vitally important to our nation's aviation security, and I thank the Ranking Member for developing H.R. 1204 and for his leadership on this issue. I also thank the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, Mr. HUDSON, and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Mr. RICHMOND, for their commitment to improving TSA. Finally, I wish to thank our colleagues in the Senate for their work on this bill, including Senators TESTER, ROCKEFELLER, THUNE, and AYOTTE.

I urge my colleagues to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204 and send this bill to the President for his signature.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1204.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 775, I call up the bill (S. 2244) to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 775, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in House Report 113–654 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

S. 2244

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

TITLE I—EXTENSION OF TERRORISM INSURANCE PROGRAM

Sec. 101. Extension of Terrorism Insurance Program.
Sec. 102. Federal share.
Sec. 103. Program trigger.
Sec. 104. Recoupment of Federal share of compensation under the program.
Sec. 105. Certification of acts of terrorism; consultation with Secretary of Homeland Security.
Sec. 106. Technical amendments.
Sec. 107. Improving the certification process.
Sec. 108. GAO study.
Sec. 109. Membership of Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.
Sec. 110. Advisory Committee on Risk-Sharing Mechanisms.
Sec. 111. Reporting of terrorism insurance data.
Sec. 112. Annual study of small insurer market competitiveness.

TITLE II—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS REFORM

Sec. 201. Short title.
Sec. 202. Reestablishment of the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers.

TITLE III—BUSINESS RISK MITIGATION AND PRICE STABILIZATION

Sec. 301. Short title.
Sec. 302. Margin requirements.
Sec. 303. Implementation.

TITLE I—EXTENSION OF TERRORISM INSURANCE PROGRAM

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF TERRORISM INSURANCE PROGRAM.

Section 108(a) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2014'' and inserting ''December 31, 2020''.

SEC. 102. FEDERAL SHARE.

Section 103(e)(1)(A) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note) is amended by inserting ''and beginning on January 1, 2016, shall decrease by 1 percentage point per calendar year until equal to 80 percent'' after ''85 percent''.

SEC. 103. PROGRAM TRIGGER.

Subparagraph (B) of section 103(e)(1) (15 U.S.C. 6701 note) is amended in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(1) by striking ''a certified act'' and inserting ''certified acts'';

(2) by striking ''such certified act'' and inserting ''such certified acts''; and

(3) by striking ''exceed'' and all that follows through clause (ii) and inserting the following: ''exceed—

''(i) $100,000,000, with respect to such insured losses occurring in calendar year 2015;

''(ii) $120,000,000, with respect to such insured losses occurring in calendar year 2016;

''(iii) $140,000,000, with respect to such insured losses occurring in calendar year 2017;

''(iv) $160,000,000, with respect to such insured losses occurring in calendar year 2018;

''(v) $180,000,000, with respect to such insured losses occurring in calendar year 2019; and

''(vi) $200,000,000, with respect to such insured losses occurring in calendar year 2020 and any calendar year thereafter.''.

SEC. 104. RECOUPMENT OF FEDERAL SHARE OF COMPENSATION UNDER THE PROGRAM.

Section 103(e) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (6) to read as follows:

''(6) INSURANCE MARKETPLACE AGGREGATE RETENTION AMOUNT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (7), the insurance marketplace aggregate retention amount shall be the lesser of—

''(i) $27,500,000,000, as such amount is revised pursuant to this paragraph; and

''(ii) the aggregate amount, for all insurers, of insured losses during such calendar year.

''(B) REVISION OF INSURANCE MARKETPLACE AGGREGATE RETENTION AMOUNT.—

''(i) PHASE-IN.—Beginning in the calendar year that follows the date of enactment of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014, the amount set forth under subparagraph (A)(i) shall increase by $2,000,000,000 per calendar year until equal to $37,500,000,000.

''(ii) FURTHER REVISION.—Beginning in the calendar year that follows the calendar year in which the amount set forth under subparagraph (A)(i) is equal to $37,500,000,000, the amount under subparagraph (A)(i) shall be revised to be the amount equal to the annual average of the sum of insurer deductibles for all insurers participating in the Program for the prior 3 calendar years, as such sum is determined by the Secretary under subparagraph (C).

''(C) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014, the Secretary shall—

''(i) issue final rules for determining the amount of the sum described under subparagraph (B)(ii); and

''(ii) provide a timeline for public notification of such determination.''; and

(2) in paragraph (7)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''for each of the periods referred to in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (6)''; and

(ii) in clause (i), by striking ''for such period'';

(B) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) [Reserved.]'';

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking ''occurring during any of the periods referred to in any of subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (6), terrorism loss risk-spreading premiums in an amount equal to 133 percent'' and inserting '', terrorism loss risk-spreading premiums in an amount equal to 140 percent''; and

(ii) by inserting ''as calculated under subparagraph (A)'' after ''mandatory recoupment amount''; and

(D) in subparagraph (E)(i)—

(i) in subclause (I)—

(I) by striking ''2010'' and inserting ''2017''; and

(II) by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2019'';

(ii) in subclause (II)—

(I) by striking ''2011'' and inserting ''2018'';

(II) by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2019''; and

(III) by striking ''2017'' and inserting ''2024''; and

(iii) in subclause (III)—

(I) by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2019''; and

(II) by striking ''2017'' and inserting ''2024''.

SEC. 105. CERTIFICATION OF ACTS OF TERRORISM; CONSULTATION WITH SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1)(A) of section 102 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note) is amended in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''concurrence with the Secretary of State'' and inserting ''consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on January 1, 2015.

SEC. 106. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

The Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note) is amended—

(1) in section 102—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively;

(ii) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as so redesignated), by striking ''An entity has'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity has''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—An entity, including any affiliate thereof, does not have 'control' over another entity, if, as of the date of enactment of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014, the entity is acting as an attorney-in-fact, as defined by the Secretary, for the other entity and such other entity is a reciprocal insurer, provided that the entity is not, for reasons other than the attorney-in-fact relationship, defined as having 'control' under subparagraph (A).'';

(B) in paragraph (7)—

(i) by striking subparagraphs (A) through (F) and inserting the following:

''(A) the value of an insurer's direct earned premiums during the immediately preceding calendar year, multiplied by 20 percent; and'';

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (B); and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated by clause (ii)—

(I) by striking ''notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) through (F), for the Transition Period or any Program Year'' and inserting ''notwithstanding subparagraph (A), for any calendar year''; and

(II) by striking ''Period or Program Year'' and inserting ''calendar year'';

(C) by striking paragraph (11); and

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (12) through (16) as paragraphs (11) through (15), respectively; and

(2) in section 103—

(A) in subsection (b)(2)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking '', purchase,''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking '', purchase,'';

(B) in subsection (c), by striking ''Program Year'' and inserting ''calendar year'';

(C) in subsection (e)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A), as previously amended by section 102—

(I) by striking ''the Transition Period and each Program Year through Program Year 4 shall be equal to 90 percent, and during Program Year 5 and each Program Year thereafter'' and inserting ''each calendar year'';

(II) by striking the comma after ''80 percent''; and

(III) by striking ''such Transition Period or such Program Year'' and inserting ''such calendar year''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''the period beginning on the first day of the Transition Period and ending on the last day of Program Year 1, or during any Program Year thereafter'' and inserting ''a calendar year''; and

(iii) in paragraph (3), by striking ''the period beginning on the first day of the Transition Period and ending on the last day of Program Year 1, or during any other Program Year'' and inserting ''any calendar year''; and

(D) in subsection (g)(2)—

(i) by striking ''the Transition Period or a Program Year'' each place that term appears and inserting ''the calendar year'';

(ii) by striking ''such period'' and inserting ''the calendar year''; and

(iii) by striking ''that period'' and inserting ''the calendar year''.

SEC. 107. IMPROVING THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section—

(1) the term ''act of terrorism'' has the same meaning as in section 102(1) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note);

(2) the term ''certification process'' means the process by which the Secretary determines whether to certify an act as an act of terrorism under section 102(1) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note); and

(3) the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Treasury.

(b) STUDY.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct and complete a study on the certification process.

(c) REQUIRED CONTENT.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include an examination and analysis of—

(1) the establishment of a reasonable timeline by which the Secretary must make an accurate determination on whether to certify an act as an act of terrorism;

(2) the impact that the length of any timeline proposed to be established under paragraph (1) may have on the insurance industry, policyholders, consumers, and taxpayers as a whole;

(3) the factors the Secretary would evaluate and monitor during the certification process, including the ability of the Secretary to obtain the required information regarding the amount of projected and incurred losses resulting from an act which the Secretary would need in determining whether to certify the act as an act of terrorism;

(4) the appropriateness, efficiency, and effectiveness of the consultation process required under section 102(1)(A) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note) and any recommendations on changes to the consultation process; and

(5) the ability of the Secretary to provide guidance and updates to the public regarding any act that may reasonably be certified as an act of terrorism.

(d) REPORT.—Upon completion of the study required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit a report on the results of such study to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(e) RULEMAKING.—Section 102(1) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) TIMING OF CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 9 months after the report required under section 107 of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014 is submitted to the appropriate committees of Congress, the Secretary shall issue final rules governing the certification process, including establishing a timeline for which an act is eligible for certification by the Secretary on whether an act is an act of terrorism under this paragraph.''.

SEC. 108. GAO STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a study on the viability and effects of the Federal Government—

(1) assessing and collecting upfront premiums on insurers that participate in the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note) (hereafter in this section referred to as the ''Program''), which shall include a comparison of practices in international markets to assess and collect premiums either before or after terrorism losses are incurred; and

(2) creating a capital reserve fund under the Program and requiring insurers participating in the Program to dedicate capital specifically for terrorism losses before such losses are incurred, which shall include a comparison of practices in international markets to establish reserve funds.

(b) REQUIRED CONTENT.—The study required under subsection (a) shall examine, but shall not be limited to, the following issues:

(1) UPFRONT PREMIUMS.—With respect to upfront premiums described in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) how the Federal Government could determine the price of such upfront premiums on insurers that participate in the Program;

(B) how the Federal Government could collect and manage such upfront premiums;

(C) how the Federal Government could ensure that such upfront premiums are not spent for purposes other than claims through the Program;

(D) how the assessment and collection of such upfront premiums could affect take-up rates for terrorism risk coverage in different regions and industries and how it could impact small businesses and consumers in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas;

(E) the effect of collecting such upfront premiums on insurers both large and small;

(F) the effect of collecting such upfront premiums on the private market for terrorism risk reinsurance; and

(G) the size of any Federal Government subsidy insurers may receive through their participation in the Program, taking into account the Program's current post-event recoupment structure.

(2) CAPITAL RESERVE FUND.—With respect to the capital reserve fund described in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) how the creation of a capital reserve fund would affect the Federal Government's fiscal exposure under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program and the ability of the Program to meet its statutory purposes;

(B) how a capital reserve fund would impact insurers and reinsurers, including liquidity, insurance pricing, and capacity to provide terrorism risk coverage;

(C) the feasibility of segregating funds attributable to terrorism risk from funds attributable to other insurance lines;

(D) how a capital reserve fund would be viewed and treated under current Financial Accounting Standards Board accounting rules and the tax laws; and

(E) how a capital reserve fund would affect the States' ability to regulate insurers participating in the Program.

(3) INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES.—With respect to international markets referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a), how other countries, if any—

(A) have established terrorism insurance structures;

(B) charge premiums or otherwise collect funds to pay for the costs of terrorism insurance structures, including risk and administrative costs; and

(C) have established capital reserve funds to pay for the costs of terrorism insurance structures.

(c) REPORT.—Upon completion of the study required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit a report on the results of such study to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The study and report required under this section shall be made available to the public in electronic form and shall be published on the website of the Government Accountability Office.

SEC. 109. MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The first undesignated paragraph of section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 241) is amended by inserting after the second sentence the following: ''In selecting members of the Board, the President shall appoint at least 1 member with demonstrated primary experience working in or supervising community banks having less than $10,000,000,000 in total assets.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and apply to appointments made on and after that effective date, excluding any nomination pending in the Senate on that date.

SEC. 110. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RISK-SHARING MECHANISMS.

(a) FINDING; RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) FINDING.—Congress finds that it is desirable to encourage the growth of nongovernmental, private market reinsurance capacity for protection against losses arising from acts of terrorism.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act, any amendment made by this Act, or the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note) shall prohibit insurers from developing risk-sharing mechanisms to voluntarily reinsure terrorism losses between and among themselves.

(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RISK-SHARING MECHANISMS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall establish and appoint an advisory committee to be known as the ''Advisory Committee on Risk-Sharing Mechanisms'' (referred to in this subsection as the ''Advisory Committee'').

(2) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall provide advice, recommendations, and encouragement with respect to the creation and development of the nongovernmental risk-sharing mechanisms described under subsection (a).

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Committee shall be composed of 9 members who are directors, officers, or other employees of insurers, reinsurers, or capital market participants that are participating or that desire to participate in the nongovernmental risk-sharing mechanisms described under subsection (a), and who are representative of the affected sectors of the insurance industry, including commercial property insurance, commercial casualty insurance, reinsurance, and alternative risk transfer industries.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of this section shall take effect on January 1, 2015.

SEC. 111. REPORTING OF TERRORISM INSURANCE DATA.

Section 104 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h) REPORTING OF TERRORISM INSURANCE DATA.—

''(1) AUTHORITY.—During the calendar year beginning on January 1, 2016, and in each calendar year thereafter, the Secretary shall require insurers participating in the Program to submit to the Secretary such information regarding insurance coverage for terrorism losses of such insurers as the Secretary considers appropriate to analyze the effectiveness of the Program, which shall include information regarding—

''(A) lines of insurance with exposure to such losses;

''(B) premiums earned on such coverage;

''(C) geographical location of exposures;

''(D) pricing of such coverage;

''(E) the take-up rate for such coverage;

''(F) the amount of private reinsurance for acts of terrorism purchased; and

''(G) such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.

''(2) REPORTS.—Not later than June 30, 2016, and every other June 30 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate that includes—

''(A) an analysis of the overall effectiveness of the Program;

''(B) an evaluation of any changes or trends in the data collected under paragraph (1);

''(C) an evaluation of whether any aspects of the Program have the effect of discouraging or impeding insurers from providing commercial property casualty insurance coverage or coverage for acts of terrorism;

''(D) an evaluation of the impact of the Program on workers' compensation insurers; and

''(E) in the case of the data reported in paragraph (1)(B), an updated estimate of the total amount earned since January 1, 2003.

''(3) PROTECTION OF DATA.—To the extent possible, the Secretary shall contract with an insurance statistical aggregator to collect the information described in paragraph (1), which shall keep any nonpublic information confidential and provide it to the Secretary in an aggregate form or in such other form or manner that does not permit identification of the insurer submitting such information.

''(4) ADVANCE COORDINATION.—Before collecting any data or information under paragraph (1) from an insurer, or affiliate of an insurer, the Secretary shall coordinate with the appropriate State insurance regulatory authorities and any relevant government agency or publicly available sources to determine if the information to be collected is available from, and may be obtained in a timely manner by, individually or collectively, such entities. If the Secretary determines that such data or information is available, and may be obtained in a timely matter, from such entities, the Secretary shall obtain the data or information from such entities. If the Secretary determines that such data or information is not so available, the Secretary may collect such data or information from an insurer and affiliates.

''(5) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

''(A) RETENTION OF PRIVILEGE.—The submission of any non-publicly available data and information to the Secretary and the sharing of any non-publicly available data with or by the Secretary among other Federal agencies, the State insurance regulatory authorities, or any other entities under this subsection shall not constitute a waiver of, or otherwise affect, any privilege arising under Federal or State law (including the rules of any Federal or State court) to which the data or information is otherwise subject.

''(B) CONTINUED APPLICATION OF PRIOR CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENTS.—Any requirement under Federal or State law to the extent otherwise applicable, or any requirement pursuant to a written agreement in effect between the original source of any nonpublicly available data or information and the source of such data or information to the Secretary, regarding the privacy or confidentiality of any data or information in the possession of the source to the Secretary, shall continue to apply to such data or information after the data or information has been provided pursuant to this subsection.

''(C) INFORMATION-SHARING AGREEMENT.—Any data or information obtained by the Secretary under this subsection may be made available to State insurance regulatory authorities, individually or collectively through an information-sharing agreement that—

''(i) shall comply with applicable Federal law; and

''(ii) shall not constitute a waiver of, or otherwise affect, any privilege under Federal or State law (including any privilege referred to in subparagraph (A) and the rules of any Federal or State court) to which the data or information is otherwise subject.

''(D) AGENCY DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—Section 552 of title 5, United States Code, including any exceptions thereunder, shall apply to any data or information submitted under this subsection to the Secretary by an insurer or affiliate of an insurer.''.

SEC. 112. ANNUAL STUDY OF SMALL INSURER MARKET COMPETITIVENESS.

Section 108 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h) STUDY OF SMALL INSURER MARKET COMPETITIVENESS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than June 30, 2017, and every other June 30 thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct a study of small insurers (as such term is defined by regulation by the Secretary) participating in the Program, and identify any competitive challenges small insurers face in the terrorism risk insurance marketplace, including—

''(A) changes to the market share, premium volume, and policyholder surplus of small insurers relative to large insurers;

''(B) how the property and casualty insurance market for terrorism risk differs between small and large insurers, and whether such a difference exists within other perils;

''(C) the impact of the Program's mandatory availability requirement under section 103(c) on small insurers;

''(D) the effect of increasing the trigger amount for the Program under section 103(e)(1)(B) on small insurers;

''(E) the availability and cost of private reinsurance for small insurers; and

''(F) the impact that State workers compensation laws have on small insurers and workers compensation carriers in the terrorism risk insurance marketplace.

''(2) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress setting forth the findings and conclusions of each study required under paragraph (1).''.

TITLE II—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS REFORM

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2014''.

SEC. 202. REESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title III of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. 6751 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

"Subtitle C—National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers

"SEC. 321. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers (referred to in this subtitle as the 'Association').

''(b) STATUS.—The Association shall—

''(1) be a nonprofit corporation;

''(2) not be an agent or instrumentality of the Federal Government;

''(3) be an independent organization that may not be merged with or into any other private or public entity; and

''(4) except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, be subject to, and have all the powers conferred upon, a nonprofit corporation by the District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act (D.C. Code, sec. 29–301.01 et seq.) or any successor thereto.

"SEC. 322. PURPOSE.

''The purpose of the Association shall be to provide a mechanism through which licensing, continuing education, and other nonresident insurance producer qualification requirements and conditions may be adopted and applied on a multi-state basis without affecting the laws, rules, and regulations, and preserving the rights of a State, pertaining to—

''(1) licensing, continuing education, and other qualification requirements of insurance producers that are not members of the Association;

''(2) resident or nonresident insurance producer appointment requirements;

''(3) supervising and disciplining resident and nonresident insurance producers;

''(4) establishing licensing fees for resident and nonresident insurance producers so that there is no loss of insurance producer licensing revenue to the State; and

''(5) prescribing and enforcing laws and regulations regulating the conduct of resident and nonresident insurance producers.

"SEC. 323. MEMBERSHIP.

''(a) ELIGIBILITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any insurance producer licensed in its home State shall, subject to paragraphs (2) and (4), be eligible to become a member of the Association.

''(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE.—Subject to paragraph (3), an insurance producer is not eligible to become a member of the Association if a State insurance regulator has suspended or revoked the insurance license of the insurance producer in that State.

''(3) RESUMPTION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Paragraph (2) shall cease to apply to any insurance producer if—

''(A) the State insurance regulator reissues or renews the license of the insurance producer in the State in which the license was suspended or revoked, or otherwise terminates or vacates the suspension or revocation; or

''(B) the suspension or revocation expires or is subsequently overturned by a court of competent jurisdiction.

''(4) CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK REQUIRED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An insurance producer who is an individual shall not be eligible to become a member of the Association unless the insurance producer has undergone a criminal history record check that complies with regulations prescribed by the Attorney General of the United States under subparagraph (K).

''(B) CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK REQUESTED BY HOME STATE.—An insurance producer who is licensed in a State and who has undergone a criminal history record check during the 2-year period preceding the date of submission of an application to become a member of the Association, in compliance with a requirement to undergo such criminal history record check as a condition for such licensure in the State, shall be deemed to have undergone a criminal history record check for purposes of subparagraph (A).

''(C) CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK REQUESTED BY ASSOCIATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Association shall, upon request by an insurance producer licensed in a State, submit fingerprints or other identification information obtained from the insurance producer, and a request for a criminal history record check of the insurance producer, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

''(ii) PROCEDURES.—The board of directors of the Association (referred to in this subtitle as the 'Board') shall prescribe procedures for obtaining and utilizing fingerprints or other identification information and criminal history record information, including the establishment of reasonable fees to defray the expenses of the Association in connection with the performance of a criminal history record check and appropriate safeguards for maintaining confidentiality and security of the information. Any fees charged pursuant to this clause shall be separate and distinct from those charged by the Attorney General pursuant to subparagraph (I).

''(D) FORM OF REQUEST.—A submission under subparagraph (C)(i) shall include such fingerprints or other identification information as is required by the Attorney General concerning the person about whom the criminal history record check is requested, and a statement signed by the person authorizing the Attorney General to provide the information to the Association and for the Association to receive the information.

''(E) PROVISION OF INFORMATION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Upon receiving a submission under subparagraph (C)(i) from the Association, the Attorney General shall search all criminal history records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, including records of the Criminal Justice Information Services Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that the Attorney General determines appropriate for criminal history records corresponding to the fingerprints or other identification information provided under subparagraph (D) and provide all criminal history record information included in the request to the Association.

''(F) LIMITATION ON PERMISSIBLE USES OF INFORMATION.—Any information provided to the Association under subparagraph (E) may only—

''(i) be used for purposes of determining compliance with membership criteria established by the Association;

''(ii) be disclosed to State insurance regulators, or Federal or State law enforcement agencies, in conformance with applicable law; or

''(iii) be disclosed, upon request, to the insurance producer to whom the criminal history record information relates.

''(G) PENALTY FOR IMPROPER USE OR DISCLOSURE.—Whoever knowingly uses any information provided under subparagraph (E) for a purpose not authorized in subparagraph (F), or discloses any such information to anyone not authorized to receive it, shall be fined not more than $50,000 per violation as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction.

''(H) RELIANCE ON INFORMATION.—Neither the Association nor any of its Board members, officers, or employees shall be liable in any action for using information provided under subparagraph (E) as permitted under subparagraph (F) in good faith and in reasonable reliance on its accuracy.

''(I) FEES.—The Attorney General may charge a reasonable fee for conducting the search and providing the information under subparagraph (E), and any such fee shall be collected and remitted by the Association to the Attorney General.

''(J) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as—

''(i) requiring a State insurance regulator to perform criminal history record checks under this section; or

''(ii) limiting any other authority that allows access to criminal history records.

''(K) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General shall prescribe regulations to carry out this paragraph, which shall include—

''(i) appropriate protections for ensuring the confidentiality of information provided under subparagraph (E); and

''(ii) procedures providing a reasonable opportunity for an insurance producer to contest the accuracy of information regarding

the insurance producer provided under subparagraph (E).

''(L) INELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Association may, under reasonably consistently applied standards, deny membership to an insurance producer on the basis of criminal history record information provided under subparagraph (E), or where the insurance producer has been subject to disciplinary action, as described in paragraph (2).

''(ii) RIGHTS OF APPLICANTS DENIED MEMBERSHIP.—The Association shall notify any insurance producer who is denied membership on the basis of criminal history record information provided under subparagraph (E) of the right of the insurance producer to—

''(I) obtain a copy of all criminal history record information provided to the Association under subparagraph (E) with respect to the insurance producer; and

''(II) challenge the denial of membership based on the accuracy and completeness of the information.

''(M) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'criminal history record check' means a national background check of criminal history records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

''(b) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA.—The Association may establish membership criteria that bear a reasonable relationship to the purposes for which the Association was established.

''(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF CLASSES AND CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP.—The Association may establish separate classes of membership, with separate criteria, if the Association reasonably determines that performance of different duties requires different levels of education, training, experience, or other qualifications.

''(2) BUSINESS ENTITIES.—The Association shall establish a class of membership and membership criteria for business entities. A business entity that applies for membership shall be required to designate an individual Association member responsible for the compliance of the business entity with Association standards and the insurance laws, standards, and regulations of any State in which the business entity seeks to do business on the basis of Association membership.

''(3) CATEGORIES.—

''(A) SEPARATE CATEGORIES FOR INSURANCE PRODUCERS PERMITTED.—The Association may establish separate categories of membership for insurance producers and for other persons or entities within each class, based on the types of licensing categories that exist under State laws.

''(B) SEPARATE TREATMENT FOR DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS PROHIBITED.—No special categories of membership, and no distinct membership criteria, shall be established for members that are depository institutions or for employees, agents, or affiliates of depository institutions.

''(d) MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Association may establish criteria for membership which shall include standards for personal qualifications, education, training, and experience. The Association shall not establish criteria that unfairly limit the ability of a small insurance producer to become a member of the Association, including imposing discriminatory membership fees.

''(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—In establishing criteria under paragraph (1), the Association shall not adopt any qualification less protective to the public than that contained in the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (referred to in this subtitle as the 'NAIC') Producer Licensing Model Act in effect as of the date of enactment of the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2014, and shall consider the highest levels of insurance producer qualifications established under the licensing laws of the States.

''(3) ASSISTANCE FROM STATES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Association may request a State to provide assistance in investigating and evaluating the eligibility of a prospective member for membership in the Association.

''(B) AUTHORIZATION OF INFORMATION SHARING.—A submission under subsection (a)(4)(C)(i) made by an insurance producer licensed in a State shall include a statement signed by the person about whom the assistance is requested authorizing—

''(i) the State to share information with the Association; and

''(ii) the Association to receive the information.

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not be construed as requiring or authorizing any State to adopt new or additional requirements concerning the licensing or evaluation of insurance producers.

''(4) DENIAL OF MEMBERSHIP.—The Association may, based on reasonably consistently applied standards, deny membership to any State-licensed insurance producer for failure to meet the membership criteria established by the Association.

''(e) EFFECT OF MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) AUTHORITY OF ASSOCIATION MEMBERS.—Membership in the Association shall—

''(A) authorize an insurance producer to sell, solicit, or negotiate insurance in any State for which the member pays the licensing fee set by the State for any line or lines of insurance specified in the home State license of the insurance producer, and exercise all such incidental powers as shall be necessary to carry out such activities, including claims adjustments and settlement to the extent permissible under the laws of the State, risk management, employee benefits advice, retirement planning, and any other insurance-related consulting activities;

''(B) be the equivalent of a nonresident insurance producer license for purposes of authorizing the insurance producer to engage in the activities described in subparagraph (A) in any State where the member pays the licensing fee; and

''(C) be the equivalent of a nonresident insurance producer license for the purpose of subjecting an insurance producer to all laws, regulations, provisions or other action of any State concerning revocation, suspension, or other enforcement action related to the ability of a member to engage in any activity within the scope of authority granted under this subsection and to all State laws, regulations, provisions, and actions preserved under paragraph (5).

''(2) VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1994.—Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to alter, modify, or supercede any requirement established by section 1033 of title 18, United States Code.

''(3) AGENT FOR REMITTING FEES.—The Association shall act as an agent for any member for purposes of remitting licensing fees to any State pursuant to paragraph (1).

''(4) NOTIFICATION OF ACTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Association shall notify the States (including State insurance regulators) and the NAIC when an insurance producer has satisfied the membership criteria of this section. The States (including State insurance regulators) shall have 10 business days after the date of the notification in order to provide the Association with evidence that the insurance producer does not satisfy the criteria for membership in the Association.

''(B) ONGOING DISCLOSURES REQUIRED.—On an ongoing basis, the Association shall disclose to the States (including State insurance regulators) and the NAIC a list of the States in which each member is authorized to operate. The Association shall immediately notify the States (including State insurance regulators) and the NAIC when a member is newly authorized to operate in one or more States, or is no longer authorized to operate in one or more States on the basis of Association membership.

''(5) PRESERVATION OF CONSUMER PROTECTION AND MARKET CONDUCT REGULATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—No provision of this section shall be construed as altering or affecting the applicability or continuing effectiveness of any law, regulation, provision, or other action of any State, including those described in subparagraph (B), to the extent that the State law, regulation, provision, or other action is not inconsistent with the provisions of this subtitle related to market entry for nonresident insurance producers, and then only to the extent of the inconsistency.

''(B) PRESERVED REGULATIONS.—The laws, regulations, provisions, or other actions of any State referred to in subparagraph (A) include laws, regulations, provisions, or other actions that—

''(i) regulate market conduct, insurance producer conduct, or unfair trade practices;

''(ii) establish consumer protections; or

''(iii) require insurance producers to be appointed by a licensed or authorized insurer.

''(f) BIENNIAL RENEWAL.—Membership in the Association shall be renewed on a biennial basis.

''(g) CONTINUING EDUCATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Association shall establish, as a condition of membership, continuing education requirements which shall be comparable to the continuing education requirements under the licensing laws of a majority of the States.

''(2) STATE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.—A member may not be required to satisfy continuing education requirements imposed under the laws, regulations, provisions, or actions of any State other than the home State of the member.

''(3) RECIPROCITY.—The Association shall not require a member to satisfy continuing education requirements that are equivalent to any continuing education requirements of the home State of the member that have been satisfied by the member during the applicable licensing period.

''(4) LIMITATION ON THE ASSOCIATION.—The Association shall not directly or indirectly offer any continuing education courses for insurance producers.

''(h) PROBATION, SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION.—

''(1) DISCIPLINARY ACTION.—The Association may place an insurance producer that is a member of the Association on probation or suspend or revoke the membership of the insurance producer in the Association, or assess monetary fines or penalties, as the Association determines to be appropriate, if—

''(A) the insurance producer fails to meet the applicable membership criteria or other standards established by the Association;

''(B) the insurance producer has been subject to disciplinary action pursuant to a final adjudicatory proceeding under the jurisdiction of a State insurance regulator;

''(C) an insurance license held by the insurance producer has been suspended or revoked by a State insurance regulator; or

''(D) the insurance producer has been convicted of a crime that would have resulted in the denial of membership pursuant to subsection (a)(4)(L)(i) at the time of application, and the Association has received a copy of the final disposition from a court of competent jurisdiction.

''(2) VIOLATIONS OF ASSOCIATION STANDARDS.—The Association shall have the power

to investigate alleged violations of Association standards.

''(3) REPORTING.—The Association shall immediately notify the States (including State insurance regulators) and the NAIC when the membership of an insurance producer has been placed on probation or has been suspended, revoked, or otherwise terminated, or when the Association has assessed monetary fines or penalties.

''(i) CONSUMER COMPLAINTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Association shall—

''(A) refer any complaint against a member of the Association from a consumer relating to alleged misconduct or violations of State insurance laws to the State insurance regulator where the consumer resides and, when appropriate, to any additional State insurance regulator, as determined by standards adopted by the Association; and

''(B) make any related records and information available to each State insurance regulator to whom the complaint is forwarded.

''(2) TELEPHONE AND OTHER ACCESS.—The Association shall maintain a toll-free number for purposes of this subsection and, as practicable, other alternative means of communication with consumers, such as an Internet webpage.

''(3) FINAL DISPOSITION OF INVESTIGATION.—State insurance regulators shall provide the Association with information regarding the final disposition of a complaint referred pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), but nothing shall be construed to compel a State to release confidential investigation reports or other information protected by State law to the Association.

''(j) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Association may—

''(1) share documents, materials, or other information, including confidential and privileged documents, with a State, Federal, or international governmental entity or with the NAIC or other appropriate entity referred to paragraphs (3) and (4), provided that the recipient has the authority and agrees to maintain the confidentiality or privileged status of the document, material, or other information;

''(2) limit the sharing of information as required under this subtitle with the NAIC or any other non-governmental entity, in circumstances under which the Association determines that the sharing of such information is unnecessary to further the purposes of this subtitle;

''(3) establish a central clearinghouse, or utilize the NAIC or another appropriate entity, as determined by the Association, as a central clearinghouse, for use by the Association and the States (including State insurance regulators), through which members of the Association may disclose their intent to operate in 1 or more States and pay the licensing fees to the appropriate States; and

''(4) establish a database, or utilize the NAIC or another appropriate entity, as determined by the Association, as a database, for use by the Association and the States (including State insurance regulators) for the collection of regulatory information concerning the activities of insurance producers.

''(k) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of this section shall take effect on the later of—

''(1) the expiration of the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2014; and

''(2) the date of incorporation of the Association.

''SEC. 324. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a board of directors of the Association, which shall have authority to govern and supervise all activities of the Association.

''(b) POWERS.—The Board shall have such of the powers and authority of the Association as may be specified in the bylaws of the Association.

''(c) COMPOSITION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall consist of 13 members who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, in accordance with the procedures established under Senate Resolution 116 of the 112th ongress, of whom—

''(A) 8 shall be State insurance commissioners appointed in the manner provided in paragraph (2), 1 of whom shall be designated by the President to serve as the chairperson of the Board until the Board elects one such State insurance commissioner Board member to serve as the chairperson of the Board;

''(B) 3 shall have demonstrated expertise and experience with property and casualty insurance producer licensing; and

''(C) 2 shall have demonstrated expertise and experience with life or health insurance producer licensing.

''(2) STATE INSURANCE REGULATOR REPRESENTATIVES.—

''(A) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Before making any appointments pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), the President shall request a list of recommended candidates from the States through the NAIC, which shall not be binding on the President. If the NAIC fails to submit a list of recommendations not later than 15 business days after the date of the request, the President may make the requisite appointments without considering the views of the NAIC.

''(B) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Not more than 4 Board members appointed under paragraph (1)(A) shall belong to the same political party.

''(C) FORMER STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If, after offering each currently serving State insurance commissioner an appointment to the Board, fewer than 8 State insurance commissioners have accepted appointment to the Board, the President may appoint the remaining State insurance commissioner Board members, as required under paragraph (1)(A), of the appropriate political party as required under subparagraph (B), from among individuals who are former State insurance commissioners.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—A former State insurance commissioner appointed as described in clause (i) may not be employed by or have any present direct or indirect financial interest in any insurer, insurance producer, or other entity in the insurance industry, other than direct or indirect ownership of, or beneficial interest in, an insurance policy or annuity contract written or sold by an insurer.

''(D) SERVICE THROUGH TERM.—If a Board member appointed under paragraph (1)(A) ceases to be a State insurance commissioner during the term of the Board member, the Board member shall cease to be a Board member.

''(3) PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES.—In making any appointment pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1), the President may seek recommendations for candidates from groups representing the category of individuals described, which shall not be binding on the President.

''(4) STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'State insurance commissioner' means a person who serves in the position in State government, or on the board, commission, or other body that is the primary insurance regulatory authority for the State.

''(d) TERMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), the term of service for each Board member shall be 2 years.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(A) 1-YEAR TERMS.—The term of service shall be 1 year, as designated by the President at the time of the nomination of the subject Board members for—

''(i) 4 of the State insurance commissioner Board members initially appointed under paragraph (1)(A), of whom not more than 2 shall belong to the same political party;

''(ii) 1 of the Board members initially appointed under paragraph (1)(B); and

''(iii) 1 of the Board members initially appointed under paragraph (1)(C).

''(B) EXPIRATION OF TERM.—A Board member may continue to serve after the expiration of the term to which the Board member was appointed for the earlier of 2 years or until a successor is appointed.

''(C) MID-TERM APPOINTMENTS.—A Board member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the predecessor of the Board member was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term.

''(3) SUCCESSIVE TERMS.—Board members may be reappointed to successive terms.

''(e) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The appointment of initial Board members shall be made no later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2014.

''(f) MEETINGS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet—

''(A) at the call of the chairperson;

''(B) as requested in writing to the chairperson by not fewer than 5 Board members; or

''(C) as otherwise provided by the bylaws of the Association.

''(2) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A majority of all Board members shall constitute a quorum.

''(3) VOTING.—Decisions of the Board shall require the approval of a majority of all Board members present at a meeting, a quorum being present.

''(4) INITIAL MEETING.—The Board shall hold its first meeting not later than 45 days after the date on which all initial Board members have been appointed.

''(g) RESTRICTION ON CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—Board members appointed pursuant to subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (c)(1) shall not have access to confidential information received by the Association in connection with complaints, investigations, or disciplinary proceedings involving insurance producers.

''(h) ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—The Board shall issue and enforce an ethical conduct code to address permissible and prohibited activities of Board members and Association officers, employees, agents, or consultants. The code shall, at a minimum, include provisions that prohibit any Board member or Association officer, employee, agent or consultant from—

''(1) engaging in unethical conduct in the course of performing Association duties;

''(2) participating in the making or influencing the making of any Association decision, the outcome of which the Board member, officer, employee, agent, or consultant knows or had reason to know would have a reasonably foreseeable material financial effect, distinguishable from its effect on the public generally, on the person or a member of the immediate family of the person;

''(3) accepting any gift from any person or entity other than the Association that is given because of the position held by the person in the Association;

''(4) making political contributions to any person or entity on behalf of the Association; and

''(5) lobbying or paying a person to lobby on behalf of the Association.

''(i) COMPENSATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), no Board member may receive any compensation from the Association or any other person or entity on account of Board membership.

''(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES AND PER DIEM.—Board members may be reimbursed only by the Association for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates consistent with rates authorized for employees of Federal agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from home or regular places of business in performance of services for the Association.

''SEC. 325. BYLAWS, STANDARDS, AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.

''(a) ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS AND STANDARDS.—

''(1) PROCEDURES.—The Association shall adopt procedures for the adoption of bylaws and standards that are similar to procedures under subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Administrative Procedure Act').

''(2) COPY REQUIRED TO BE FILED.—The Board shall submit to the President, through the Department of the Treasury, and the States (including State insurance regulators), and shall publish on the website of the Association, all proposed bylaws and standards of the Association, or any proposed amendment to the bylaws or standards of the Association, accompanied by a concise general statement of the basis and purpose of such proposal.

''(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Any proposed bylaw or standard of the Association, and any proposed amendment to the bylaws or standards of the Association, shall take effect, after notice under paragraph (2) and opportunity for public comment, on such date as the Association may designate, unless suspended under section 329(c).

''(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to subject the Board or the Association to the requirements of subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Administrative Procedure Act').

''(b) DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE ASSOCIATION.—

''(1) SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES.—In any proceeding to determine whether membership shall be denied, suspended, revoked, or not renewed, or to determine whether a member of the Association should be placed on probation (referred to in this section as a 'disciplinary action') or whether to assess fines or monetary penalties, the Association shall bring specific charges, notify the member of the charges, give the member an opportunity to defend against the charges, and keep a record.

''(2) SUPPORTING STATEMENT.—A determination to take disciplinary action shall be supported by a statement setting forth—

''(A) any act or practice in which the member has been found to have been engaged;

''(B) the specific provision of this subtitle or standard of the Association that any such act or practice is deemed to violate; and

''(C) the sanction imposed and the reason for the sanction.

''(3) INELIGIBILITY OF PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES.—Board members appointed pursuant to section 324(c)(3) may not—

''(A) participate in any disciplinary action or be counted toward establishing a quorum during a disciplinary action; and

''(B) have access to confidential information concerning any disciplinary action.

''SEC. 326. POWERS.

''In addition to all the powers conferred upon a nonprofit corporation by the District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act, the Association shall have the power to—

''(1) establish and collect such membership fees as the Association finds necessary to impose to cover the costs of its operations;

''(2) adopt, amend, and repeal bylaws, procedures, or standards governing the conduct of Association business and performance of its duties;

''(3) establish procedures for providing notice and opportunity for comment pursuant to section 325(a);

''(4) enter into and perform such agreements as necessary to carry out the duties of the Association;

''(5) hire employees, professionals, or specialists, and elect or appoint officers, and to fix their compensation, define their duties and give them appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of this subtitle, and determine their qualification;

''(6) establish personnel policies of the Association and programs relating to, among other things, conflicts of interest, rates of compensation, where applicable, and qualifications of personnel;

''(7) borrow money; and

''(8) secure funding for such amounts as the Association determines to be necessary and appropriate to organize and begin operations of the Association, which shall be treated as loans to be repaid by the Association with interest at market rate.

''SEC. 327. REPORT BY THE ASSOCIATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the close of each fiscal year, the Association shall submit to the President, through the Department of the Treasury, and the States (including State insurance regulators), and shall publish on the website of the Association, a written report regarding the conduct of its business, and the exercise of the other rights and powers granted by this subtitle, during such fiscal year.

''(b) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) with respect to any fiscal year shall include audited financial statements setting forth the financial position of the Association at the end of such fiscal year and the results of its operations (including the source and application of its funds) for such fiscal year.

''SEC. 328. LIABILITY OF THE ASSOCIATION AND THE BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS, AND EMPLOYEES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Association shall not be deemed to be an insurer or insurance producer within the meaning of any State law, rule, regulation, or order regulating or taxing insurers, insurance producers, or other entities engaged in the business of insurance, including provisions imposing premium taxes, regulating insurer solvency or financial condition, establishing guaranty funds and levying assessments, or requiring claims settlement practices.

''(b) LIABILITY OF BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS, AND EMPLOYEES.—No Board member, officer, or employee of the Association shall be personally liable to any person for any action taken or omitted in good faith in any matter within the scope of their responsibilities in connection with the Association.

''SEC. 329. PRESIDENTIAL OVERSIGHT.

''(a) REMOVAL OF BOARD.—If the President determines that the Association is acting in a manner contrary to the interests of the public or the purposes of this subtitle or has failed to perform its duties under this subtitle, the President may remove the entire existing Board for the remainder of the term to which the Board members were appointed and appoint, in accordance with section 324 and with the advice and consent of the Senate, in accordance with the procedures established under Senate Resolution 116 of the 112th ongress, new Board members to fill the vacancies on the Board for the remainder of the terms.

''(b) REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBER.—The President may remove a Board member only for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office.

''(c) SUSPENSION OF BYLAWS AND STANDARDS AND PROHIBITION OF ACTIONS.—Following notice to the Board, the President, or a person designated by the President for such purpose, may suspend the effectiveness of any bylaw or standard, or prohibit any action, of the Association that the President or the designee determines is contrary to the purposes of this subtitle.

''SEC. 330. RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAW.

''(a) PREEMPTION OF STATE LAWS.—State laws, regulations, provisions, or other actions purporting to regulate insurance producers shall be preempted to the extent provided in subsection (b).

''(b) PROHIBITED ACTIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—No State shall—

''(A) impede the activities of, take any action against, or apply any provision of law or regulation arbitrarily or discriminatorily to, any insurance producer because that insurance producer or any affiliate plans to become, has applied to become, or is a member of the Association;

''(B) impose any requirement upon a member of the Association that it pay fees different from those required to be paid to that State were it not a member of the Association; or

''(C) impose any continuing education requirements on any nonresident insurance producer that is a member of the Association.

''(2) STATES OTHER THAN A HOME STATE.—No State, other than the home State of a member of the Association, shall—

''(A) impose any licensing, personal or corporate qualifications, education, training, experience, residency, continuing education, or bonding requirement upon a member of the Association that is different from the criteria for membership in the Association or renewal of such membership;

''(B) impose any requirement upon a member of the Association that it be licensed, registered, or otherwise qualified to do business or remain in good standing in the State, including any requirement that the insurance producer register as a foreign company with the secretary of state or equivalent State official;

''(C) require that a member of the Association submit to a criminal history record check as a condition of doing business in the State; or

''(D) impose any licensing, registration, or appointment requirements upon a member of the Association, or require a member of the Association to be authorized to operate as an insurance producer, in order to sell, solicit, or negotiate insurance for commercial property and casualty risks to an insured with risks located in more than one State, if the member is licensed or otherwise authorized to operate in the State where the insured maintains its principal place of business and the contract of insurance insures risks located in that State.

''(3) PRESERVATION OF STATE DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit a State from investigating and taking appropriate disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of authority of an insurance producer to do business in a State, in accordance with State law and that is not inconsistent with the provisions of this section, against a member of the Association as a result of a complaint or for any alleged activity, regardless of whether the activity occurred before or after the insurance producer commenced doing business in the State pursuant to Association membership.

"SEC. 331. COORDINATION WITH FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

''The Association shall coordinate with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority in order to ease any administrative burdens that fall on members of the Association that are subject to regulation by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, consistent with the requirements of this subtitle and the Federal securities laws.

"SEC. 332. RIGHT OF ACTION.

''(a) RIGHT OF ACTION.—Any person aggrieved by a decision or action of the Association may, after reasonably exhausting available avenues for resolution within the Association, commence a civil action in an appropriate United States district court, and obtain all appropriate relief.

''(b) ASSOCIATION INTERPRETATIONS.—In any action under subsection (a), the court shall give appropriate weight to the interpretation of the Association of its bylaws and standards and this subtitle.

"SEC. 333. FEDERAL FUNDING PROHIBITED.

''The Association may not receive, accept, or borrow any amounts from the Federal Government to pay for, or reimburse, the Association for, the costs of establishing or operating the Association.

"SEC. 334. DEFINITIONS.

''For purposes of this subtitle, the following definitions shall apply:

''(1) BUSINESS ENTITY.—The term 'business entity' means a corporation, association, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or other legal entity.

''(2) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term 'depository institution' has the meaning as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).

''(3) HOME STATE.—The term 'home State' means the State in which the insurance producer maintains its principal place of residence or business and is licensed to act as an insurance producer.

''(4) INSURANCE.—The term 'insurance' means any product, other than title insurance or bail bonds, defined or regulated as insurance by the appropriate State insurance regulatory authority.

''(5) INSURANCE PRODUCER.—The term 'insurance producer' means any insurance agent or broker, excess or surplus lines broker or agent, insurance consultant, limited insurance representative, and any other individual or entity that sells, solicits, or negotiates policies of insurance or offers advice, counsel, opinions or services related to insurance.

''(6) INSURER.—The term 'insurer' has the meaning as in section 313(e)(2)(B) of title 31, United States Code.

''(7) PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS.—The term 'principal place of business' means the State in which an insurance producer maintains the headquarters of the insurance producer and, in the case of a business entity, where high-level officers of the entity direct, control, and coordinate the business activities of the business entity.

''(8) PRINCIPAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE.—The term 'principal place of residence' means the State in which an insurance producer resides for the greatest number of days during a calendar year.

''(9) STATE.—The term 'State' includes any State, the District of Columbia, any territory of the United States, and Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

''(10) STATE LAW.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'State law' includes all laws, decisions, rules, regulations, or other State action having the effect of law, of any State.

''(B) LAWS APPLICABLE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—A law of the United States applicable only to or within the District of Columbia shall be treated as a State law rather than a law of the United States.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act is amended by striking the items relating to subtitle C of title III and inserting the following new items:

''Subtitle C—National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers

''Sec. 321. National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers.
''Sec. 322. Purpose.
''Sec. 323. Membership.
''Sec. 324. Board of directors.
''Sec. 325. Bylaws, standards, and disciplinary actions.
''Sec. 326. Powers.
''Sec. 327. Report by the Association.
''Sec. 328. Liability of the Association and the Board members, officers, and employees of the Association.
''Sec. 329. Presidential oversight.
''Sec. 330. Relationship to State law.
''Sec. 331. Coordination with financial industry regulatory authority.
''Sec. 332. Right of action.
''Sec. 333. Federal funding prohibited.
''Sec. 334. Definitions.''.

TITLE III—BUSINESS RISK MITIGATION AND PRICE STABILIZATION

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act of 2014''.

SEC. 302. MARGIN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT AMENDMENT.—Section 4s(e) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 6s(e)), as added by section 731 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) APPLICABILITY WITH RESPECT TO COUNTERPARTIES.—The requirements of paragraphs (2)(A)(ii) and (2)(B)(ii), including the initial and variation margin requirements imposed by rules adopted pursuant to paragraphs (2)(A)(ii) and (2)(B)(ii), shall not apply to a swap in which a counterparty qualifies for an exception under section 2(h)(7)(A), or an exemption issued under section 4(c)(1) from the requirements of section 2(h)(1)(A) for cooperative entities as defined in such exemption, or satisfies the criteria in section 2(h)(7)(D).''.

(b) SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT AMENDMENT.—Section 15F(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o–10(e)), as added by section 764(a) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) APPLICABILITY WITH RESPECT TO COUNTERPARTIES.—The requirements of paragraphs (2)(A)(ii) and (2)(B)(ii) shall not apply to a security-based swap in which a counterparty qualifies for an exception under section 3C(g)(1) or satisfies the criteria in section 3C(g)(4).''.

SEC. 303. IMPLEMENTATION.

The amendments made by this title to the Commodity Exchange Act shall be implemented—

(1) without regard to—

(A) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code; and

(B) the notice and comment provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) through the promulgation of an interim final rule, pursuant to which public comment will be sought before a final rule is issued; and

(3) such that paragraph (1) shall apply solely to changes to rules and regulations, or proposed rules and regulations, that are limited to and directly a consequence of such amendments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING), and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on S. 2244, 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 such time as I may consume.

We have an incredible opportunity before us in the House today, and that is to move significant bipartisan legislation that can accomplish a number of purposes and that will bring greater stability and certainty to the construction markets, to our insurance companies in dealing with the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act. We can also bring greater certainty and stability to our small factories, to our farmers, and to our ranchers—those who are still suffering in this economy. We can bring them certainty and stability by taking care of an unintended consequence of the Dodd-Frank Act, something called the ''end user exception'' in the derivative title, which may just be, as interpreted, one of the most damaging regulations that many in this body, perhaps, have not heard of.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this is legislation that has been worked on in a bipartisan manner, sometimes a little contentiously, but we have ended up in a place where, I believe, both Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate should be able to come together.

I think it is important to remember, Mr. Speaker, that, particularly as we go into the holiday season—as we go into Christmas—how many working men and women are still lying awake at night, wondering how they are going to be able to fund Christmas for their children at this time. Although we have seen some modest improvements in this economy, there are still over 9 million of our fellow countrymen who are unemployed. Of the number of underemployed—those who wish to have full-time work but who cannot find it—it is almost twice the number, at 18 million. We have 46 million of our fellow countrymen still on food stamps and 45 million at the poverty rate.

One of the most important things we can do here, Mr. Speaker, is to be able to make a positive contribution for financial stability on our household

economies, to give greater economic opportunity, particularly at this time, and that is one of the aspects of S. 2244.

We have had a debate about the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act in this body. I was authorized on behalf of the House to negotiate this particular part of this bill, along with Senator SCHUMER, the gentleman from New York, on the Senate side. Over the course of several weeks and several meetings, we have negotiated language on this. Certainly, it doesn't give everything the House wants, and it doesn't give everything the Senate wants. Such is the nature of negotiations in a free society with divided government. For those who care passionately about the reauthorization, this is a long-term reauthorization bill, which most Members have asked for. It is a 6-year reauthorization.

For those who care about taxpayer protections, as I do, there were improvements for taxpayer protection. The trigger level has been doubled before TRIA kicks in, meaning there is greater coverage by the insurance companies, a little less for the taxpayers. As for an artificial ceiling on what the industry will contribute, that artificial ceiling now ceases to be in S. 2244. For the first time, taxpayers will actually get some modest rate of return should they be called upon under TRIA to backstop. These are important improvements, and I think conservative and liberal and Republican and Democrat, hopefully, will see something worthy here.

I will point out it is disconcerting—it is disturbing—that those who have backed so many other provisions in this bill now want to say ''no'' to being able to have a long-term TRIA reauthorization passed. This bill before us includes this end user exemption, which is so important. This isn't for Wall Street. This is for Main Street. It is for a cattle producer in Kansas, named Tracy Brunner, who said:

> This mistaken language in Dodd-Frank may very well force me out of the market, subjecting me to even greater risk. My operation is family run. We are not responsible for the failures that led to the passage of Dodd-Frank.

Yet his family-owned farm in Kansas—1,500 miles away from Wall Street—suffers.

Even the ranking member has acknowledged that there have been some unintended consequences to Dodd-Frank. Recently, she was one of 412 Members of this House to vote in favor of the end user exception, which she, herself, called a ''clarification''—not an amendment, not a change, but a clarification.

Mr. Speaker, even Mr. Dodd and Mr. Frank of Dodd-Frank, over 4 years ago in colloquy on the House floor and on the Senate floor, said that these provisions were never meant to harm Main Street America; never meant to apply to end users; never meant to apply to the farmers, the ranchers, and the small factory workers.

We have an opportunity to do something very positive. Now, all of a sudden, some across the aisle have said: We can't do this. We believe this is unrelated to TRIA.

Why did the United States Senate, Mr. Speaker, put in a provision that makes a radical change in the requirements to serve on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve? What did that have to do with TRIA? The Senate put that in. NARAB, the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers—the Senate put that in. Two-thirds of this bill is about NARAB. The Senate put it in.

Mr. Speaker, I am not debating the underlying policy issues, but it is, at best, a little bit disconcerting, if not disingenuous, to say, my Lord, the House shouldn't put in an unrelated provision when the Senate just did it twice.

Then we heard the Senate will not open up Dodd-Frank. What is the Collins amendment? The Collins amendment was sent over by the Senate, not as part of this legislation. They opened up Dodd-Frank. Then again, to quote the ranking member, this is a ''clarification.''

We have an opportunity to pass a bipartisan bill not only to bring some stability and certainty to our insurance markets and to our builders, but to farmers and ranchers and small businesses and hurting families at this holiday season. Without any further delay, we should enact S. 2244, as amended.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today to shine a light on what has happened in the development of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act. I rise today to talk about the fact that the chairman of our committee, of the Financial Services Committee, did not want, at one point, to reauthorize terrorism risk insurance at all, so he strung out the possibility of negotiations for months.

He had decided that he was not going to reauthorize terrorism insurance, and he will tell you that he offered to negotiate with me. The only thing that I ever remember about a conversation that we had was that my chairman said: I will only negotiate this once—starting out in bad faith.

Time went on, and at some point in time, somebody convinced him that to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program was an honorable thing to do, that it was an American thing to do, that it was an important thing to do. This program had been passed and signed on by the President of the United States after 9/11.

The insurance companies, which insure risk, basically said they cannot model terrorism acts. After 9/11, it was decided that we would mandate that they insure but that we would provide a backstop, that we would provide a backstop to ensure that we could rebuild our communities, that we could rebuild these huge venues—these important places in our lives—in the case of a terrorism attack.

When Mr. HENSARLING finally decided that he would negotiate, he ended up in negotiations with Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. SCHUMER and the Democrats basically conceded and gave in on a lot of things. We supported, originally, the Senate bill. We thought the Senate bill was a fine bill that reauthorized terrorism risk for 7 years; and, of course, it had in it the backstop after $100 million was spent by the industry, and it basically did everything that we wanted it to have done just as it had started out to do.

Mr. HENSARLING came along, and he decided that he wanted to reduce the time of the reauthorization. I don't know what he started out with, but we ended up with 6 years instead of 7 years. We gave in.

I remember that he wanted bifurcation in the bill. He wanted to distinguish between what kind of terrorist attack, how much it was worth, and whether some of it was worse than others. He talked about bifurcating in ways that you would distinguish between radiological, biological, chemical, and others. We negotiated and negotiated, and, finally, we got that out of Mr. HENSARLING's mind about bifurcation.

□ 1530

Then the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) said that we needed to reduce our backstop. And instead of backstopping after $100 million, first he talked about $500 million, secondly he talked about $250 million, and finally we got him down to $200 million. And it is over a 5-year period of time. So we said, okay. We negotiated in good faith. We will go along with the changes. We are willing to concede that you have some different thoughts, and that is okay. Let's come together in a bipartisan way and support the reauthorization of terrorism risk insurance.

I was informed later on that my chairman came back to the table with any number of things that had nothing to do with terrorism risk insurance but had more to do with Dodd-Frank because, unfortunately, my chairman and too many Members on the opposite side of the aisle are intent on dismantling Dodd-Frank in any and every way that they possibly can.

And finally, in those negotiations—the way it has been explained to me—they agreed that they would allow him to add just one aspect of the Dodd-Frank bill that had passed this House, to talk about how agriculture and some other industries could lock in some prices so that they could look forward to what a price would be on those commodities, et cetera, that they would have to purchase.

This had nothing to do with terrorism insurance. So I am not saying to the Members that you shouldn't vote for this bill. What I am pointing out is that this is just another attempt

for the chairman to indicate in every way that he possibly can and take advantage of any opportunity that presents itself to get a little something in about Dodd-Frank.

What I worry about is not so much what he has put into TRIA; I worry about what is going into the omnibus bill. I worry about the fact that, in addition to this, there is an attempt—if it has not already been done—to place into the omnibus bill a repeal of part of Dodd-Frank that would prevent the biggest banks in America from taking advantage of our consumers by using their hard-earned money to do risky derivatives trading, which should be pushed out into their subsidiaries and not have the FDIC in any way protect them in doing this.

So what I say is this. We should know and we should understand exactly how the process works. We should know and understand what is being done and why it is being done. If, in fact, there is so much care and concern about TRIA reauthorization, we should have a clean bill with nothing else in it. If we want to debate Dodd-Frank—what we don't like about it, what we like about it—let's do it straight up. Let's not slip it in at the eleventh hour at a time when our backs are up against the wall, at a time when we are closing down this session. And that is what I am opposed to.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 20 seconds to thank the ranking member for her fascinating, elongated narrative that proves just how reasonable House Republicans were in this negotiation.

I have to correct her yet again, though, and say that I have never said publicly or privately that we should allow the Federal backstop of terrorism to lapse. She is entitled to her own opinions. She is not entitled to her own facts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HENSARLING. I yield myself an additional 10 seconds.

And previously she has said that she has been in favor of this provision. She has been in favor of the end user exemption and has said the bill would clarify the intent of the Wall Street Reform Act. I urge the committee to adopt the bill.

So she was for it before she was against it. But whether it be Biggert-Waters, whether it be Export-Import, whether it be end user, she has changed her mind frequently.

I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY), the chief deputy majority whip.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I first want to commend Chairman HENSARLING for bringing this bipartisan agreement and construct to the House floor. It extends a very important Federal backstop against the risk of terror on the American people, small businesses, and substantial businesses as well. As I have said in the past, it is very important that we reauthorize the TRIA program, and the chairman incorporated diverse opinions, including those from across the aisle.

I also want to commend our colleagues from New York, Congressman GRIMM and Congressman KING, for the important work that they did to bring this about today.

As amended, the bill will ensure that terrorism risk protection is available for the next 6 years, while lessening the taxpayer burden.

Since September 11, the TRIA program has provided an important Federal backstop for businesses that must insure against the devastation of a future attack.

Congressman HENSARLING has worked with our friends across the aisle to make commonsense changes to this program while ensuring that both businesses and taxpayers are not exposed to the risk of future terrorism attacks.

In addition, as amended, this bill will make some very important technical changes to the Dodd-Frank Act by protecting manufacturers, ranchers, and small businesses that need to hedge against business risk.

While this legislation will become law—and I expect a substantial number of my Democratic colleagues to cross the aisle and vote with almost all of the House Republicans and the Democrat Senate to pass this, and a Democrat President to sign this—I urge my other colleagues on the other side of the aisle to come on over. It is a good reform, a necessary reform, and it is going to be a fantastic strong vote that we are going to have in the House of Representatives to do the right thing, both for the taxpayer, the American people, and small businesses, while at the same time protecting against the devastation of a future attack.

I thank the chairman and I also thank subcommittee chair, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, for their work on this very important program. It has been a long process, but it shows that the Financial Services Committee can get the deal done.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to correct the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) who is inviting us to come on over.

We have been inviting them, from day one, to come up with a terrorism risk insurance bill reauthorization. So we have been inviting them to come on over. We have had Members on the opposite side of the aisle who have been pleading with them to come over. We have always had 100 percent support on the Democratic side for the reauthorization of terrorism risk insurance, and the Republicans have basically held us up and only negotiated at the last minute. Don't invite us to come over. They can come on over with us.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I thank the ranking member for her leadership and for yielding and for her hard work on this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2244, which is critically important to the economy and national security of the city I am privileged to represent, New York, and to our Nation at large.

After the terrible attacks on 9/11, insurers realized that they could not accurately model for terrorism risk—it was simply too unpredictable, and the market for terrorism insurance completely dried up. No one could get insured. Businesses stopped. The only place we could get insured was Lloyd's of London, and we lost thousands of jobs and our economy came to a standstill.

In response, Congress came together, united and determined, and, in a bipartisan way, passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, or TRIA, which provides a government backstop for terrorism insurance.

The goal of TRIA was to make terrorism insurance affordable and available, and that is exactly what it has done. This has come at no cost whatsoever to the American taxpayer.

This bill represents a true bipartisan compromise, and I commend the gentlemen from Texas, Chairmen HENSARLING and NEUGEBAUER, for working with my colleagues, Senator SCHUMER and Ranking Member WATERS, to reach a deal on TRIA.

Initially, the House TRIA bill raised the trigger for the government backstop by a whopping 500 percent, from $100 million to $500 million. This would have forced many small- and medium-sized insurers out of the market entirely and would have actually decreased the amount of terrorism insurance available in our country.

Fortunately, this compromise bill only raises the trigger for the government backstop from $100 million to $200 million. This modest increase will ensure that small- and medium-sized insurers are not forced out of the market, while also protecting taxpayers. I fully and completely support this compromise.

Importantly, however, the compromise does not include the so-called ''bifurcation'' proposal, which would have treated nuclear, biological, chemical, and radiological attacks differently from the so-called ''conventional'' terrorism attacks. This made no sense whatsoever, and this compromise sensibly drops the proposal entirely.

Finally, I am pleased that this bill reauthorizes TRIA for a full 6 years. This will provide much-needed certainty to businesses across our country as they expand and create jobs.

This compromise will ensure that terrorism insurance remains widely affordable and available. This has always been the underlying purpose of TRIA,

and I believe that this bill accomplishes that goal.

I would like to commend the gentlemen from Texas, Chairman HENSARLING and Chairman NEUGEBAUER, for recognizing that a long-term reauthorization of TRIA is incredibly important for our economy. I thank my good friend from New York, PETER KING. He has been a tireless advocate for TRIA, and without his hard work on this bill, we wouldn't be voting on this compromise today. And I thank the gentlewoman from California, Ranking Member WATERS, for working with me on this bill.

I would like to particularly thank my colleague from New York, Senator SCHUMER, for his excellent work in negotiating this compromise.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill because it is the right thing to do for America.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from New York, the ranking member of the Capital Markets Subcommittee, for her support.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER), the chairman of the Financial Services Housing and Insurance Subcommittee, the champion and author of the House TRIA bill, and the author of the amendment here. I thank him for his work.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of discussion about this bill, and people were talking about reforms. And you know what? I think what the American people need to understand is why these reforms are important to them. The reason they are important to them is, quite honestly, right now, the taxpayers in this country are underwriting part of the risk for terrorism attacks in this country for the property owners.

What this bill does is it begins to bring certainty for the industry, for the insurers, and also certainty for the people who are building the new buildings and apartment houses and shopping centers and other types of public facilities. It gives them the certainty of what the policy is going to be over the next few years. But I think the important part is that the taxpayers are an additional cushion that is being put between them and any potential loss.

One of the things that has been mentioned, we raised the trigger from $100 million to $200 million. That is an important part of that. I think the other issue that we have tried to do with this in order to create this certainty was, we didn't change the overall structure of the TRIA program. We have tried to keep it within the confines of how it has been operating over the last few years, that way, creating the least amount of certainty that we could.

I think the part that isn't mentioned a lot of times is the fact that we did leave in place a deductible, and basically the industry has to take the first loss up to about 20 percent of their annualized premium for the previous year. Today, on an industry-wide basis, that is about $40 billion. So if you have got a $200 million trigger, you have got a $40 billion cushion between the taxpayers and a potential loss.

The other thing that we did in this bill is we said when we get to the point where after the deductible the taxpayers start sharing that loss, then the taxpayers' portion moves from 85 percent to 80 percent. So that is another cushion.

I think one of the things that we want to let the folks know also is that an additional protection that was built into this bill was the amount of money that the taxpayers could recover if, in fact, they had to put additional money into the TRIA program. So now we have increased that amount substantially.

□ 1545

I am feeling good that we are moving in the right direction, but ultimately, what we need to do is get the taxpayers out of the insurance business. When you look across the board where the taxpayers are having to underwrite insurance-type losses, whether it be flood insurance or mortgage insurance, quite honestly, the government doesn't do well at pricing those.

There are some good things in this bill besides the TRIA reform in that we have that NARAB II. What is that? Well, that is a good small business bill. A lot of people have independent insurance agents in their districts or in their communities or in their States that may want to write business in other States.

To do that today, they have to go pass another license, take another license in that other State. Under NARAB II, they would be able to take their existing license if they meet the requirements in other States and follow those laws. They would able to underwrite that.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, the third piece of this legislation that is important is that we are going to help farmers, ranchers, and small businesses be able to cover the risks that they need without taking a lot of their operating capital, putting that operating capital into a plant, into equipment so they can hire and create more jobs in America. These are all issues that have had bipartisan support in the past.

Mr. Speaker, I now urge my colleagues: let's do something good for the American people, and let's pass S. 2244, as amended.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you very much, Madam Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure, as those who are watching this on C–SPAN across the Nation, we can comfortably say that what we have in motion on the floor of the House of Representatives is something that Alexander Hamilton leaned over and said to Thomas Jefferson: ''My friend, what we have here is an old-fashioned, good old compromise.''

Compromise, a word that has been out of our lexicon for so long that the American people are looking for us to put it back in. Well, that is what we have on this floor. It is a compromise.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member because of her tenacity and her leadership because in his vision on the other side, the distinguished Chairman HENSARLING, who is a very good friend, in his own way sought for a $500 million trigger.

We on our side felt that we wanted to hold to the $100 trigger which is when the actual Federal assistance would go into action, and we knew that that was further. I commend the ranking member and I certainly commend Mr. HENSARLING for agreeing and recognizing that we would come to the 200 level.

I also want to thank Mr. HENSARLING for including in this NARAB, that is such an important measure, and many people may not realize this, but we have worked on NARAB for 10 years in the Financial Services Committee. It has been a major part of my whole legislative history in this body every year working on it.

I want to thank you, Chairman HENSARLING, for listening to us, talking, and agreeing to make this a part of this bill that we have before us. Thank you very much for doing that.

The other part, I want to thank both, and I certainly want to thank our ranking member for her wisdom in compromising on the end user. Now, we all know of the differences with Dodd-Frank. I tried to have a clear view on this, and it was very important that we make this technical change, so that we don't let our ranchers, our farmers, and our manufacturers—none of which had anything to do with the Wall Street debacle and none of which are financial institutions—that we will exempt them from the cumbersome and the overbearing need to put margins out when they are doing swaps and derivatives.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is an excellent bill, it is a good bill, and it is one that we urge to move forward.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds just to say I heard so many kind words from my friend from Georgia that maybe I need to go back and reexamine the bill; but, indeed, compromise is not a vice, as long as you are advancing your principles, and both sides can advance their principles in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), a valued member of the Financial Services Committee, a tireless advocate—and occasionally tiring advocate—for TRIA reauthorization.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his mostly kind words.

Very seriously Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman. At the outset, let me thank Chairman HENSARLING; Chairman NEUGEBAUER; Ranking Member WATERS; my good friend, Mrs. MALONEY from New York; and also Senator SCHUMER.

As the gentleman from Georgia said, this has been a long and winding road, but we have arrived at a compromise which I believe is worthy of the support of all Members of this body, certainly those of us who strongly support TRIA.

I have been a supporter of TRIA going back now 12, 13 years because after 9/11, we realized it was absolutely essential that TRIA be enacted for not just New York to be rebuilt, but also so that construction be allowed to go forward anywhere around the country where there could be a risk of a terrorist attack which is why Major League Baseball, the NFL, NASCAR, and virtually every large university in the country supports TRIA.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a compromise, and it is a compromise where all of us can find some fault with it, but the bottom line is the essence of TRIA has been sustained, and as we go forward, it is essential, I believe—strongly believe—that it be extended.

Let's make it clear there has not been 1 cent of Federal money expended on TRIA, but during the 13 years it has been in effect, we have had billions of dollars in construction, jobs, and revenues coming into the Federal Government. There is also not one Federal employee involved in administering TRIA.

Mr. Speaker, we are where we are, and 6 years to have that certitude is absolutely essential. I respect those on the other side who may have objections to added provisions in the bill. I would just say: let us keep our eyes on the prize. For those of us who realize how important TRIA is, we are never going to get all we want. I happen to fully support the provision for end users, but even if I didn't, I would still support this bill because it is so essential.

Mr. Speaker, let me just also say in closing that in addition to those I have mentioned, let me also acknowledge Congressman GRIMM for the outstanding work that he has done on this from the day he first came to this body.

In closing, I urge all Members, both parties and both Houses, to support this bill. It is a solid piece of legislation, and all of us can be proud for voting for it.

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

Mr. Chairman and Members, a special appreciation to Mr. KING who has worked very, very hard on both sides of the aisle to try and make sure that we did not abandon our citizens in this country and leave them at risk in case of a terrorist attack.

As I said before, Mr. Speaker, my chairman held us up for a long time and would not negotiate. He finally came around, but this is typical. He mentioned the flood insurance bill. We never could get him to negotiate on that, and so we had to bypass him to make sure that we didn't put our homeowners at risk. As he mentioned the Ex-Im bill, he has only supported extension of that for a short period of time.

When it comes to helping our citizens and the least of them, it seems as if my chairmen have problems with providing for the average citizen on Main Street, but no problems when we talk about how we can enhance the ability of the biggest banks in America and others to get richer and richer. I thought it would be worthwhile to shed some light on those comments that he made about Ex-Im and about flood and now about TRIA.

We are glad, we are very happy that he finally saw the light, even if he had to insert a little something in it, and he came around, and he is now on the side of the people. This is about patriotism. This is about American citizens. This is about protecting our cities and our neighborhoods at a time when this country has to be sure that it is focused on the safety and security of our citizens.

It is no time to dither around with whether or not we will rebuild neighborhoods in these important venues in case of a terrorist attack; so, yes, we have a compromise.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of the Democratic side of the aisle on this. As I said, Democrats were fully supportive of the reauthorization of the terrorism risk insurance program from day one. We have never ever wavered. None of us have ever tried in any way to reduce the program, to change the trigger, et cetera, but we did compromise as we said.

Now, let me speak to the end user part of this. Yes, I worked with Mr. DAVID SCOTT and others because I have always said that on Dodd-Frank, that we have a responsibility to implement what is in law, but I always said I would support technical changes and I would support ways that we work together to straighten out things that were not clear in Dodd-Frank. I have never said that I would not be at the table to deal with these kinds of technical changes, and I was.

When I got up today, I didn't speak about being against the bill. I spoke about what has happened that led us to this point, why we are at the eleventh hour, and the way that the negotiations went on.

Again, TRIA is important, and it should be reauthorized. I wish it had been a clean bill. It is not, and I hope that we are not going to have to have attempts to undermine Dodd-Frank in every bill that comes along where my chairman sees an opportunity to try and slide something in at the eleventh hour.

I hope that when we talk about negotiations and trying to get together to compromise, to work on things that are in the best interests of this country, that nobody will play games with us, no one will lead us to the point where our backs are up against the wall at the eleventh hour, but we will openly debate these issues, we will listen to the pros and cons on these issues and that we hopefully will come together in the best interests of all of the citizens.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. I yield myself 10 seconds for, Mr. Speaker, those who may be listening could be confused, as are those in the Chamber. I am very curious whether the ranking member is opposed or supporting this bill as amended. I yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, as I said to you when I first got up, I said to you I wanted to shine light on the bill.

Mr. HENSARLING. Does the gentlewoman oppose or support?

Ms. WATERS. And I have done that.

Mr. HENSARLING. It is obvious the gentlelady refuses to answer the question.

Ms. WATERS. Before I finish my remarks on this bill, I will tell you what my position is.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), the chairman of the Agriculture Committee and a distinguished member of the House Financial Services Committee as well.

Mr. LUCAS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2244, a bill to extend the expiration date of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act. Specifically, I support H.R. 634, the Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act that is included as a part of this larger effort.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 634 provides critical regulatory relief to end users, the market participants, businesses, and job creators that use derivatives to manage the risks they face in their daily operations. For example, farmers who need to hedge against the volatility of crop prices and manufacturers who need to hedge against the rising input costs of fuel use derivatives as a part of their business plans.

During the consideration of the Dodd-Frank Act, Congress clearly intended to exempt end users from some of the most costly new regulations, such as margin requirements. Margin requirements needlessly divert working capital away from job-creating production and investment; however, the CFTC has narrowly interpreted the law which has negatively impacted end users and their bottom line.

Mr. Speaker, including the Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act in today's bill permanently

fixes this issue for end users. It ensures that those businesses which have been exempted from clearing requirements of their trades are also exempted from margining their trades, just as Congress always intended.

The language in H.R. 634 has passed through the Committee on Agriculture by a voice vote and then through the House four other times. As a standalone bill, it passed with the support of 411 Members. Other times, as part of a larger package, it continued to receive overwhelming bipartisan support. The House of Representatives has spoken clearly on this issue: end users should not be required to post margin on their transactions.

I thank the chairman for including the Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilizations Act in today's bill. It is time to give our farms and our businesses the relief they need from this costly and damaging rule. I urge a vote for TRIA.

□ 1600

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ).

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Today I call on my colleagues to pass reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, a public-private partnership that is vital to continued economic development across the country.

Following the tragic events of 9/11, terrorism became uninsurable. Many insurers left the market, and rates skyrocketed. As a result, thousands of small businesses were impacted, causing job losses and hindering the recovery effort. To address the growing market gap, Congress passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, creating a Federal backstop and enticing insurers back.

I can say without a doubt, our efforts were successful. I have witnessed firsthand how this program has helped New York City recover and prosper over the past 12 years. TRIA has provided thousands of small businesses with the certainty needed to manage long-term costs, grow reliably, and create new jobs. In fact, the program has tripled the number of small businesses that have terrorism protection since 2002. Today, over 60 percent of firms now have coverage.

TRIA also ensures rates remain affordable. Under the program, terrorism coverage averages just 3 to 5 percent of a small business' annual insurance premium.

Is today's bill perfect? No, but it will restore certainty to the marketplace and prevent a rate spike that could force two-thirds of small businesses to stop carrying coverage.

Mr. Speaker, the Government Accountability Office has stated that terrorism remains an uninsurable risk. In light of such findings, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program continues to be a vital component of our economic growth and national security. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared a yield a small amount of time to any Democrat Member on the floor who intends to vote ''no'' on S. 2244, as amended, because I have not heard one say that yet.

Mr. Speaker, I have no takers.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), who is the incoming chairman of our Housing and Insurance Subcommittee.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman HENSARLING and Chairman NEUGEBAUER for their tireless work on this important issue, and I tell my colleagues that while TRIA is an important program, it is also in need of reform. This bill that we are considering today does just that in a responsible way, and I urge support of it.

Let there be no mistake: this bill reforms the TRIA program. It takes important steps to protect taxpayer dollars and ensure that industry has more skin in the game. Also, I remind my colleagues that without TRIA, it is entirely possible that taxpayers would be on the hook for the entire bill in the wake of a terrorist attack. This legislation includes a strong recoupment mechanism and a higher threshold for Federal assistance, building a program that has a long-term reauthorization with greater protections for taxpayers.

The legislation we are considering today, however, does more than reauthorize TRIA. It also contains important language to ensure derivative end users, including farmers, ranchers, utilities, airlines, and small businesses, can lock in prices, remove volatility from the marketplace, and keep consumer prices stable.

Without this fix, those farmers, ranchers, and Main Street businesses will have to post margin against trades they enter into for the sole purpose of managing their commercial risk.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage and support of this bill.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the ranking member for her hard work and focus and dedication for getting this done. I know that any time you have things added to a bill so it is not a clean bill, it makes it difficult. But I thank her and the chairman for working together to make this happen because this is a major bill, significantly important.

As we learned, I think, from the impact of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, this was substantial. When you look at the losses, it was about $32.5 billion, or $42.9 billion in 2013 dollars. It was the largest insurance loss in global history at that time. And prior to 9/11, insurance companies generally covered all of the costs of terrorist attacks. After 9/11, terrorism risk insurance quickly became either unavailable or very, very expensive and unaffordable. Furthermore, premiums for workers' compensation insurance increased significantly, and real estate and commercial ventures were stalled because of an inability to attain the requisite insurance coverage.

Now, 9/11 happened in New York, and so, yes, you see New York and New York City Members here supporting the bill. But this is not a bill just about New York. It is about all of America because they did not attack for New York; they attacked New York because it was part of America. We don't know, and we pray that we don't have another attack ever on our homeland again, but it could be someplace else. It doesn't have to be New York. This is when we should rally around as Americans, as patriots, to ensure that we continue our economy flowing and moving. That is why, even though there are things added and certain things that people don't like, we are trying to figure out how we get this right because it is too important to America to allow TRIA to expire.

Furthermore, when you examine TRIA, it costs taxpayers virtually nothing, yet it continues to provide tangible benefits to our overall economy. TRIA allows for terrorism insurance market stability, affordability, and availability so that those in business, et cetera, can know, predict, and be confident that we will continue to move on. TRIA is a critical part of the U.S. economy's security infrastructure and would ensure a swift recovery in the event of a significant terrorist attack.

Now, in New York, I am proud we have the Freedom Towers up because it also sends a message, is a symbol to those who don't like us that you can't keep us down, that we will get back up on our feet, stronger and better than ever, and that is what makes this country the great country that we are going to rally around and work with one another.

So this TRIA bill is significantly important, and I ask my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on TRIA.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), the incoming chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, first I want to commend the chairman of the Financial Services Committee for his tenacity and hard work to make sure the American taxpayer is protected, on the hook just a little bit less for the next terrorism attack that could happen in our country, and the private sector is on a little bit more.

I am encouraged by this bipartisan bill because it ensures that my constituents in central, northern, and western Wisconsin can purchase affordable terrorism risk insurance. This 6-year reauthorization is a backstop for all Americans. This is not just a bill for New York, as my friends have mentioned, or Chicago or L.A., but it helps

small town America. If you have a small mall in your community or for Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin, they can purchase terrorism risk insurance. The reauthorization of this program is incredibly important.

I want to note one other important part, and that is the requirement that we have a community banker as part of the Federal Reserve, making sure that as the Fed goes in to a larger role with rules and regulations, they have a perspective and a view that takes into account small community banks all around America that right now are being crushed by overburdensome rules and regulations.

I commend the chairman on the bill.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS), a valued member of our committee.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman for yielding me this time. I appreciate his work on this very important bill, as well as the work of the subcommittee chairman, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, for this 6-year reauthorization of the terrorism risk insurance bill.

This bill protects taxpayers by reforming the program to reduce potential taxpayer costs associated with the terrorism risk reinsurance program. It builds capacity in the private insurance market, and it ensures access to terrorism insurance for communities like mine in Columbus, Ohio, and southern Ohio, as well as all around America.

The bill provides meaningful reforms by reducing the government's share of losses over time, by increasing the triggering amount over time, and ensuring that the Federal recoupment is increased over time. It also provides important transparency on data collection that will in the future let us know how much money insurance companies are billing for terrorism coverage and what the potential exposure is for terrorism losses. Those are all good things. The other thing that is good is it will build capacity in the private marketplace. When we increase the trigger, we build capacity in the private marketplace.

But the most important thing is the certainty this bill creates. A multiyear reauthorization ensures that businesses across Ohio and across the entire country get access to terrorism insurance for multiple years. It creates certainty. It is good for jobs, and it is good for commercial development and construction. I think this bill is a very important reform and a great move forward.

I again want to applaud the chairman for all of his work on it, and I applaud the bipartisan support this bill is getting today. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 7½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from California has 6½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, in that case, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN), a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the TRIA amendment to the Senate bill S. 2244 and overall reauthorization, and I really would like to commend Chairman HENSARLING and his staff for their hard work throughout this process.

TRIA's reauthorization is not a Wall Street or big business issue; I believe it is a conservative issue. Illinois and American jobs and prosperity are at stake. If TRIA is not authorized, Illinois' small insurers may be subject to costly rating downgrades or have to exit certain insurance markets altogether, leaving customers in the lurch. In the event of an attack, potential targets like Soldier Field or Chicago skyscrapers would be left without protection for massive economic losses.

TRIA protects the taxpayers because it sets the terms of how our country will cover losses before, instead of after, a terrorist attack.

The Rand Institute has estimated that it protects our taxpayers by as much as $7 billion. TRIA also ensures the continued viability of long-term construction projects. One estimate found that for the first 14 months after the 9/11 attack, $15.5 billion of real estate projects in 17 States were stalled or canceled because of continuing scarcity of terrorism insurance. So this backstop either costs very little if it is never used, or it saves taxpayers money if it is.

Each program deserves continuous oversight and periodic review, and TRIA is no different. I commend Chairman HENSARLING for his commitment to examine the program. I believe that this reauthorization contains conservative reforms that protect the taxpayers from excessive loss and still ensures a functioning terrorism insurance market that doesn't punish businesses—such as Illinois' small insurers—for offering this much-needed terrorism insurance. The end user provision passed by the Financial Services Committee with unanimous support sailed through the House with 411 votes. Congress should come together to support reasonable, bipartisan reforms that provide much-needed relief for Main Street America.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER), a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization, known as TRIA.

I would like to commend Chairman HENSARLING and Congressman NEUGEBAUER.

TRIA does not curtail terrorism, but this legislation does protect taxpayers, promotes stable markets, and enhances economic certainty in the face of terrorism.

Another important provision included in this legislation is the bipartisan legislation known as the Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act, which the House has passed by 411–12. This is a basic but very important clarification to the highly regulatory Dodd-Frank Act. This reform will ensure that end users, such as manufacturers, ranchers, and small companies, are not subject to the burdensome margin and capital surcharge requirements imposed by the Dodd-Frank Act.

□ 1615

Even the creators of Dodd-Frank have argued in favor of exempting these end users from margin requirements.

Without this essential clarification, small Main Street businesses will have to post additional margins against trades that they enter into for the sole purpose of managing commercial risk.

These transactions do not pose a systemic risk to our financial systems, and they did not cause the 2008 financial crisis. A failure to address this issue will cause serious harm to the Main Street economy.

Instead of investing and expanding their business to create jobs, small business owners are being forced to direct resources to comply with more burdensome and unnecessary regulations coming out of Washington.

This is not a controversial issue. This is a bipartisan provision that 181 Democrats in Congress have already voted for in support. We must not play politics with something as important as TRIA, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIMM), who for months has played a leading role in bringing both the TRIA title and the end user exemption title to S. 2244.

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation.

But before I begin, I would like to say a very special thank you to Chairman JEB HENSARLING for his outstanding leadership on this bill, as well as Chairman NEUGEBAUER and Ranking Member WATERS.

I am proud to have worked so long and so hard in what I would say was truly a bipartisan manner, so let me also thank and acknowledge my senior Senator from New York, CHUCK SCHUMER, for his tireless efforts and for making TRIA reauthorization one of his top priorities.

I also want to thank my good friend and colleague from New York, PETER KING, for being such a champion on this issue.

As someone who witnessed the tragedy of 9/11 firsthand, and as a Member

whose district saw the greatest loss of life during the September 11 attacks, I know all too well the destruction and the suffering that is caused by terrorism. However, as a proud New Yorker, I have also seen the tremendous recovery, a recovery that has taken place since that fateful day. But in order to ensure that such a recovery would be possible in the face of, God forbid, a future attack on our country, as well as to ensure the further economic development across the United States, we must ensure the continuation of TRIA and the vitally important insurance coverage that it provides to projects and facilities that create so many American jobs, like the pending Hudson Yards project in Manhattan, or the Barclay's Center in Brooklyn, as well as our hospitals and universities, such as the Staten Island University Hospital and the College of Staten Island.

I would also like to add my strong support for the inclusion of my legislation, the Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act, which passed, I believe, this House with 411 votes right here in this Chamber and does anything but undermine Dodd-Frank. In fact, what it does, it will actually ensure that commercial end users of derivatives contracts will not be subject to costly and unnecessary margin requirements that needlessly tie up capital and impede job creation.

With that, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this critical, commonsense legislation.

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

Mr. Chairman and Members, I am pleased that I had an opportunity to be on the floor today managing this legislation on behalf of my caucus. I am pleased that I was able to shine some light and create some transparency on what has transpired over a long period of time. I am sorry that it had to take this long. I am sorry that my chairman at first refused to support reauthorization. He finally came around and that is good. The negotiations took place and there was a compromise. That compromise is not everything certainly that we would have wanted, but at least it is a compromise that will allow terrorism risk insurance program reauthorization. That is extremely important for all of the reasons that you have heard on the floor here today.

I want to say to my friends on the opposite side of the aisle—some of whom I talked with when it was unclear what the chairman was going to do—I am so pleased that we have been able to relieve your anxiety about what was going to happen. I know that many of you early on were in support of the reauthorization of the terrorism risk insurance program just as it had been framed in the Senate.

So now we are at the point where we have flushed out the fact that this terrorism risk insurance program reauthorization is needed, that businesses and our citizens deserve it, and they should have it. We have also flushed out that adding to this legislation a Dodd-Frank concern was not necessary. It is this kind of interference with the process that oftentimes causes confusion. We would hope that this kind of legislating would not continue.

Let's take up these issues in a way that they are clear, that they can be debated, that we can hear from both sides of the aisle, we can hear the pros and cons, without having to drag it out until the last moment when we feel that you have the opposition up against a wall and they have no choice but to accept whatever you have done because you have a legitimate issue that is before us, even when that issue is attached to something that has nothing to do with that main issue.

Having said that, I am going to move on because we still have work to do as we move toward trying to make sure that we do not shut down this government, that we have the omnibus bill to fund the government and to keep it operating. I am going to move on to deal with the fact that just as this was inserted, the end user provision was inserted in this bill.

In the omnibus bill, we have an even more difficult situation to try and resolve. As a matter of fact, we know that our citizens are at great risk because there is an attempt to repeal an important part of the Dodd-Frank legislation. There is an attempt to make sure that somehow the biggest banks in America have an opportunity to use the taxpayers' dollars to do risky trading and put the taxpayers at risk one more time of having to bail out these institutions that have used the taxpayers' money that was protected by FDIC, have used their money to do this risky trading.

We simply ask in Dodd-Frank for some of these trades, for some of these derivatives trading ideas, not to be placed in such a fashion that they would cause us to have to say to our consumers and our taxpayers, once again, we are going to have to bail out some big bank because they have failed. We need to protect our consumers, we need to protect our taxpayers. All they have to do is push out, push out these derivatives into their subsidies where they don't have the taxpayers' protection.

So I am going to be working on that. I am going to stand here today and say to my chairman, I am going to ask for an ''aye'' vote on the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, and I am going to vote for it. Will you work with me to pay attention to the omnibus bill and help me to negotiate tonight to get out of that bill the risky trading that is now being put back in the bill, the same bill that came through our committee, that was written by Citicorp, that would allow this to happen? Will you work with me to try and prevent this from happening and prevent another bailout of the biggest banks in America with taxpayers' dollars? I am going to support TRIA. Will the gentleman support me getting rid of that in the omnibus bill?

Mr. HENSARLING. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. WATERS. I yield to the gentleman from Texas for the answer.

Mr. HENSARLING. I would point out to the gentlewoman, as I think she knows, it was the Democrat Senate who I believe is putting this in the bill, so perhaps she could negotiate that with Senator SCHUMER.

Ms. WATERS. The gentleman knows that he was involved in the negotiation for placing that in the omnibus bill. I have raised a question with you, even though you are saying you had nothing to do with——

Mr. HENSARLING. Will the gentlewoman yield on that one point?

Ms. WATERS. Reclaiming my time, I simply asked the gentleman if he would join me in helping, whether he was part of the negotiations or not, as the chair of the Financial Services Committee, where this is one of the biggest issues that we have been confronted with. I know that you care enough about the consumers that you would not want them to have to bail out another AIG, another big bank. I know that you don't want that. I am simply saying that I am going to support the reauthorization of terrorism risk insurance. Will the gentleman support helping to get rid of that risky derivative trading opportunity that has been placed into the omnibus bill by your side of the aisle?

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

I am glad that the ranking member has had yet another change of heart from her opposition to S. 2244, as amended, that she articulated last evening. It is fascinating to me that as she characterizes other Members of Congress as unpredictable, I guess it is somewhat predictable now that she will change her opinion. I am glad she did.

Rarely have I seen in my congressional career a Member of the House come to the floor quite so vociferous and quite so grumpy about a bill that they have previously supported and now ultimately choose to support. Regrettably, frequently when the ranking member comes to the floor, we enter into a fact-free zone.

I have not been involved in any of the negotiations on the omnibus. If I were involved, we would have far more Dodd-Frank relief in there, since it is a bill that was aimed at Wall Street, hits Main Street, and working men and women across our country are collateral damage. Our economy has slowed down, families can't find work, they have no financial security because of what Dodd-Frank is doing—the sheer weight, volume, complexity load of the regulatory burden. As unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats try to run this economy, they have run it into the ground.

Be that as it may, I look forward to working with the ranking member so that we can get more Dodd-Frank relief to Americans and get this country back to work.

Finally, I once again wish to thank and offer my gratitude to the gentleman from Texas, Chairman NEUGEBAUER, whose leadership in bringing this bill to the floor was indispensable. He has been a rock throughout these proceedings. Every Member who supports the end user exemption, who supports the TRIA compromise, owes an incredible debt of gratitude to Chairman NEUGEBAUER of Lubbock, Texas. I am proud to serve with him on the House Financial Services Committee.

I urge an ''aye'' vote for all Members of Congress on S. 2244, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see the inclusion of H.R. 634, the Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stability Act, as Title III of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act. This language, which was also included in H.R. 4413, the Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act, provides an important protection to end-users from costly margining requirements that will divert need capital away from job creation.

I support of this title, I would like to request that the pertinent portions of the Committee on Agriculture report to accompany H.R. 4413 be included in the appropriate place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TITLE 3—END-USER RELIEF

SUBTITLE A—END-USER EXEMPTION FROM MARGIN REQUIREMENTS

Section 311—End-user margin requirements

Section 311 amends Section 4s(e) of the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA) as added by Section 731 of the Dodd-Frank Act to provide an explicit exemption from margin requirements for swap transactions involving end-users that qualify for the clearing exception under 2(h)(7)(A).

''End-users'' are thousands of companies across the United States who utilize derivatives to hedge risks associated with their day-to-day operations, such as fluctuations in the prices of raw materials. Because these businesses do not pose systemic risk, Congress intended that the Dodd-Frank Act provide certain exemptions for end-users to ensure they were not unduly burdened by new margin and capital requirements associated with their derivatives trades that would hamper their ability to expand and create jobs.

Indeed, Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act includes an exemption for non-financial end-users from centrally clearing their derivatives trades. This exemption permits end-users to continue trading directly with a counterparty, (also known as trading ''bilaterally,'' or over-the-counter (OTC)) which means their swaps are negotiated privately between two parties and they are not executed and cleared using an exchange or clearinghouse. Generally, it is common for non-financial end-users, such as manufacturers, to avoid posting cash margin for their OTC derivative trades. End-users generally will not post margin because they are able to negotiate such terms with their counterparties due to the strength of their own balance sheet or by posting non-cash collateral, such as physical property. End-users typically seek to preserve their cash and liquid assets for reinvestment in their businesses. In recognition of this common practice, the Dodd-Frank Act included an exemption from margin requirements for end-users for OTC trades.

Section 731 of the Dodd-Frank Act (and Section 764 with respect to security-based swaps) requires margin requirements be applied to swap dealers and major swap participants for swaps that are not centrally cleared. For swap dealers and major swap participants that are banks, the prudential banking regulators (such as the Federal Reserve or Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) are required to set the margin requirements. For swap dealers and major swap participants that are not banks, the CFTC is required to set the margin requirements. Both the CFTC and the banking regulators have issued their own rule proposals establishing margin requirements pursuant to Section 731.

Following the enactment of the Dodd-Frank Act in July of 2010, uncertainty arose regarding whether this provision permitted the regulators to impose margin requirements on swap dealers when they trade with end-users, which could then result in either a direct or indirect margin requirement on end-users. Subsequently, Senators Blanche Lincoln and Chris Dodd sent a letter to then-Chairmen Barney Frank and Collin Peterson on June 30, 2010, to set forth and clarify congressional intent, stating:

The legislation does not authorize the regulators to impose margin on end-users, those exempt entities that use swaps to hedge or mitigate commercial risk. If regulators raise the costs of end-user transactions, they may create more risk. It is imperative that the regulators do not unnecessarily divert working capital from our economy into margin accounts, in a way that would discourage hedging by end-users or impair economic growth.

In addition, statements in the legislative history of section 731 (and Section 764) suggests that Congress did not intend, in enacting this section, to impose margin requirements on nonfinancial end-users engaged in hedging activities, even in cases where they entered into swaps with swap entities.

In the CFTC's proposed rule on margin, it does not require margin for un-cleared swaps when non-bank swap dealers transact with non-financial end-users. However, the prudential banking regulators proposed rules would require margin be posted by non-financial end-users above certain established thresholds when they trade with swap dealers that are banks. Many of end-users' transactions occur with swap dealers that are banks, so the banking regulators' proposed rule is most relevant, and therefore of most concern, to end-users.

By the prudential banking regulators' own terms, their proposal to require margin stems directly from what they view to be a legal obligation under Title VII. The plain language of section 731 provides that the Agencies adopt rules for covered swap entities imposing margin requirements on all non-cleared swaps. Despite clear congressional intent, those sections do not, by their terms, exclude a swap with a counterparty that is a commercial end-user. By providing an explicit exemption under Title VII through enactment of this provision, the prudential regulators will no longer have a perceived legal obligation, and the congressional intent they acknowledge in their proposed rule will be implemented.

The Committee notes that in September of 2013, the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) and the Bank of International Settlements published their final recommendations for margin requirements for uncleared derivatives. Representatives from a number of U.S. regulators, including the CFTC and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve participated in the development of those margin requirements, which are intended to set baseline international standards for margin requirements. It is the intent of the Committee that any margin requirements promulgated under the authority provided in Section 4s of the Commodity Exchange Act should be generally consistent with the international margin standards established by IOSCO.

On March 14, 2013, at a hearing entitled ''Examining Legislative Improvements to Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act,'' the following testimony was provided to the Committee with respect to provisions included in Section 311:

In approving the Dodd-Frank Act, Congress made clear that end-users were not to be subject to margin requirements. Nonetheless, regulations proposed by the Prudential Banking Regulators could require end-users to post margin. This stems directly from what they view to be a legal obligation under Title VII. While the regulations proposed by the CFTC are preferable, they do not provide end-users with the certainty that legislation offers. According to a Coalition for Derivatives End-Users survey, a 3% initial margin requirement could reduce capital spending by as much as $5.1 to $6.7 billion among S&P 500 companies alone and cost 100,000 to 130,000 jobs. To shed some light on Honeywell's potential exposure to margin requirements, we had approximately $2 billion of hedging contracts outstanding at year-end that would be defined as a swap under Dodd-Frank. Applying 3% initial margin and 10% variation margin implies a potential margin requirement of $260 million. Cash deposited in a margin account cannot be productively deployed in our businesses and therefore detracts from Honeywell's financial performance and ability to promote economic growth and protect American jobs.—Mr. James E. Colby, Assistant Treasurer, Honeywell International Inc.

On May 21, 2013, at a hearing entitled ''The Future of the CFTC: Market Perspectives,'' Mr. Stephen O'Connor, Chairman, ISDA, provided the following testimony with respect to provisions included in Section 311:

Perhaps most importantly, we do not believe that initial margin will contribute to the shared goal of reducing systemic risk and increasing systemic resilience. When robust variation margin practices are employed, the additional step of imposing initial margin imposes an extremely high cost on both market participants and on systemic resilience with very little countervailing benefit. The Lehman and AIG situations highlight the importance of variation margin. AIG did not follow sound variation margin practices, which resulted in dangerous levels of credit risk building up, ultimately leading to its bailout. Lehman, on the other hand, posted daily variation margin, and while its failure caused shocks in many markets, the variation margin prevented outsized losses in the OTC derivatives markets. While industry and regulators agree on a robust variation margin regime including all appropriate products and counterparties, the further step of moving to mandatory IM [initial margin] does not stand up to any rigorous cost-benefit analysis.

Based on the extensive background that accompanies the statutory change provided explicitly in Section 311, the Committee intends that initial and variation margin requirements cannot be imposed on uncleared swaps entered into by cooperative entities if they similarly qualify for the CFTC's cooperative exemption with respect to cleared swaps. Cooperative entities did not cause the financial crisis and should not be required to

incur substantial new costs associated with posting initial and variation margin to counterparties. In the end, these costs will be borne by their members in the form of higher prices and more limited access to credit, especially in underserved markets, such as in rural America. Therefore the Committee's clear intent when drafting Section 311 was to prohibit the CFTC and prudential regulators, including the Farm Credit Administration, from imposing margin requirements on cooperative entities.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 775, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the third reading of the bill.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the passage of the bill will be followed by 5-minute votes on suspending the rules and concurring in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4861; suspending the rules and concurring in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719; and suspending the rules and concurring in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 417, nays 7, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 557]

YEAS—417

Adams
Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—7

Amash
Broun (GA)
Jones
Massie
McClintock
Sensenbrenner
Stockman

NOT VOTING—10

Campbell
Capuano
Duckworth
Granger
Hall
Johnson (GA)
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Smith (WA)

□ 1656

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4681) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 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, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 325, nays 100, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 558]

YEAS—325

Adams
Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Cicilline
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Duffy
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Esty
Farenthold
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen

Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—100

Amash
Bass
Bentivolio
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Cohen
Conyers
Cummings
DeFazio
DelBene
DesJarlais
Doggett
Doyle
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Eshoo
Farr
Garamendi
Garcia
Garrett
Gibson
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Grayson
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Holt
Honda
Huelskamp
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Kildee
Kingston
Labrador
Lee (CA)
Lewis
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lummis
Massie
Matsui
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
Meadows
Mica
Moore
Mulvaney
Nadler
Nugent
O'Rourke
Pallone
Perry
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Posey
Rangel
Ribble
Roe (TN)
Rohrabacher
Salmon
Sanford
Schakowsky
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Speier
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Tierney
Tipton
Velázquez
Waters
Weber (TX)
Welch
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoho

NOT VOTING—9

Campbell
Capuano
Duckworth
Hall
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Schrader
Smith (WA)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1704

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

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

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 558 on H.R. 4681, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "yes" when I should have voted "no."

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACQUISITION REFORM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 425, nays 0, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 559]

YEAS—425

Adams
Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz

Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—9

Campbell
Capuano
Duckworth
Hall
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Negrete McLeod
Smith (WA)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1712

Ms. KAPTUR changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AVIATION SECURITY STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1204) to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 5, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 560]

YEAS—416

Adams
Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—5

Amash
Kaptur
Labrador
Massie
Yoho

NOT VOTING—13

Campbell
Capuano
Duckworth
Ellison
Gingrey (GA)
Hall
Huizenga (MI)
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Scott (VA)
Smith (WA)
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1719

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to attending the funeral of the Honorable Charles Hutton ''Bull'' Rigdon, Jr., Fort Walton Beach City Council, I missed the following rollcall votes: Nos. 554 through 560 on December 10, 2014. If present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 554—H. Res. 775, On Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of S. 2244, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014; and for other purposes, ''aye;'' rollcall vote No. 555—S. 1000, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014, ''aye;'' rollcall No. 556—On Approving the Journal, ''nay;'' rollcall vote No. 557—On Passage of S. 2244—To extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes, ''aye;'' rollcall vote No. 558—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 4681—Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015, ''aye;'' rollcall vote No. 559—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2719—To

require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, and for other purposes, "aye;" rollcall vote No. 560—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1204—To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, and for other purposes, "aye."

NEWBORN SCREENING SAVES LIVES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1281) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 12. INFORMED CONSENT FOR NEWBORN SCREENING RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Research on newborn dried blood spots shall be considered research carried out on human subjects meeting the definition of section 46.102(f)(2) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, for purposes of Federally funded research conducted pursuant to the Public Health Service Act until such time as updates to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (the Common Rule) are promulgated pursuant to subsection (c). For purposes of this subsection, sections 46.116(c) and 46.116(d) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, shall not apply.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall apply only to newborn dried blood spots used for purposes of Federally funded research that were collected not earlier than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall promulgate proposed regulations related to the updating of the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (the Common Rule), particularly with respect to informed consent. Not later than 2 years after such date of enactment, the Secretary shall promulgate final regulations based on such proposed regulations.

Mrs. ELLMERS (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the Senate amendment be dispensed with.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL INFORMATION SECURITY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 2521) to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to provide for reform to Federal information security, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2521

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 ''Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. FISMA REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking subchapters II and III and inserting the following:

''SUBCHAPTER II—INFORMATION SECURITY

''§ 3551. Purposes

''The purposes of this subchapter are to—

''(1) provide a comprehensive framework for ensuring the effectiveness of information security controls over information resources that support Federal operations and assets;

''(2) recognize the highly networked nature of the current Federal computing environment and provide effective governmentwide management and oversight of the related information security risks, including coordination of information security efforts throughout the civilian, national security, and law enforcement communities;

''(3) provide for development and maintenance of minimum controls required to protect Federal information and information systems;

''(4) provide a mechanism for improved oversight of Federal agency information security programs, including through automated security tools to continuously diagnose and improve security;

''(5) acknowledge that commercially developed information security products offer advanced, dynamic, robust, and effective information security solutions, reflecting market solutions for the protection of critical information infrastructures important to the national defense and economic security of the nation that are designed, built, and operated by the private sector; and

''(6) recognize that the selection of specific technical hardware and software information security solutions should be left to individual agencies from among commercially developed products.

''§ 3552. Definitions

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subsection (b), the definitions under section 3502 shall apply to this subchapter.

''(b) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subchapter:

''(1) The term 'binding operational directive' means a compulsory direction to an agency that—

''(A) is for purposes of safeguarding Federal information and information systems from a known or reasonably suspected information security threat, vulnerability, or risk;

''(B) shall be in accordance with policies, principles, standards, and guidelines issued by the Director; and

''(C) may be revised or repealed by the Director if the direction issued on behalf of the Director is not in accordance with policies and principles developed by the Director.

''(2) The term 'incident' means an occurrence that—

''(A) actually or imminently jeopardizes, without lawful authority, the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of information or an information system; or

''(B) constitutes a violation or imminent threat of violation of law, security policies, security procedures, or acceptable use policies.

''(3) The term 'information security' means protecting information and information systems from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction in order to provide—

''(A) integrity, which means guarding against improper information modification or destruction, and includes ensuring information nonrepudiation and authenticity;

''(B) confidentiality, which means preserving authorized restrictions on access and disclosure, including means for protecting personal privacy and proprietary information; and

''(C) availability, which means ensuring timely and reliable access to and use of information.

''(4) The term 'information technology' has the meaning given that term in section 11101 of title 40.

''(5) The term 'intelligence community' has the meaning given that term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

''(6)(A) The term 'national security system' means any information system (including any telecommunications system) used or operated by an agency or by a contractor of an agency, or other organization on behalf of an agency—

''(i) the function, operation, or use of which—

''(I) involves intelligence activities;

''(II) involves cryptologic activities related to national security;

''(III) involves command and control of military forces;

''(IV) involves equipment that is an integral part of a weapon or weapons system; or

''(V) subject to subparagraph (B), is critical to the direct fulfillment of military or intelligence missions; or

''(ii) is protected at all times by procedures established for information that have been specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order or an Act of Congress to be kept classified in the interest of national defense or foreign policy.

''(B) Subparagraph (A)(i)(V) does not include a system that is to be used for routine administrative and business applications (including payroll, finance, logistics, and personnel management applications).

''(7) The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

''§ 3553. Authority and functions of the Director and the Secretary

''(a) DIRECTOR.—The Director shall oversee agency information security policies and practices, including—

''(1) developing and overseeing the implementation of policies, principles, standards, and guidelines on information security, including through ensuring timely agency adoption of and compliance with standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40;

''(2) requiring agencies, consistent with the standards promulgated under such section 11331 and the requirements of this subchapter, to identify and provide information security protections commensurate with the risk and magnitude of the harm resulting from the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of—

''(A) information collected or maintained by or on behalf of an agency; or

''(B) information systems used or operated by an agency or by a contractor of an agency or other organization on behalf of an agency;

''(3) ensuring that the Secretary carries out the authorities and functions under subsection (b);

''(4) coordinating the development of standards and guidelines under section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3) with agencies and offices operating or exercising control of national security systems (including the National Security Agency) to assure, to the maximum extent feasible, that such standards and guidelines are complementary with standards and guidelines developed for national security systems;

''(5) overseeing agency compliance with the requirements of this subchapter, including through any authorized action under section 11303 of title 40, to enforce accountability for compliance with such requirements; and

''(6) coordinating information security policies and procedures with related information resources management policies and procedures.

''(b) SECRETARY.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall administer the implementation of agency information security policies and practices for information systems, except for national security systems and information systems described in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (e), including—

''(1) assisting the Director in carrying out the authorities and functions under paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (5), and (6) of subsection (a);

''(2) developing and overseeing the implementation of binding operational directives to agencies to implement the policies, principles, standards, and guidelines developed by the Director under subsection (a)(1) and the requirements of this subchapter, which may be revised or repealed by the Director if the operational directives issued on behalf of the Director are not in accordance with policies, principles, standards, and guidelines developed by the Director, including—

''(A) requirements for reporting security incidents to the Federal information security incident center established under section 3556;

''(B) requirements for the contents of the annual reports required to be submitted under section 3554(c)(1);

''(C) requirements for the mitigation of exigent risks to information systems; and

''(D) other operational requirements as the Director or Secretary, in consultation with the Director, may determine necessary;

''(3) monitoring agency implementation of information security policies and practices;

''(4) convening meetings with senior agency officials to help ensure effective implementation of information security policies and practices;

''(5) coordinating Government-wide efforts on information security policies and practices, including consultation with the Chief Information Officers Council established under section 3603 and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

''(6) providing operational and technical assistance to agencies in implementing policies, principles, standards, and guidelines on information security, including implementation of standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40, including by—

''(A) operating the Federal information security incident center established under section 3556;

''(B) upon request by an agency, deploying technology to assist the agency to continuously diagnose and mitigate against cyber threats and vulnerabilities, with or without reimbursement;

''(C) compiling and analyzing data on agency information security; and

''(D) developing and conducting targeted operational evaluations, including threat and vulnerability assessments, on the information systems; and

''(7) other actions as the Director or the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, may determine necessary to carry out this subsection.

''(c) REPORT.—Not later than March 1 of each year, the Director, in consultation with the Secretary, shall submit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of information security policies and practices during the preceding year, including—

''(1) a summary of the incidents described in the annual reports required to be submitted under section 3554(c)(1), including a summary of the information required under section 3554(c)(1)(A)(iii);

''(2) a description of the threshold for reporting major information security incidents;

''(3) a summary of the results of evaluations required to be performed under section 3555;

''(4) an assessment of agency compliance with standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40; and

''(5) an assessment of agency compliance with data breach notification policies and procedures issued by the Director.

''(d) NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS.—Except for the authorities and functions described in subsection (a)(5) and subsection (c), the authorities and functions of the Director and the Secretary under this section shall not apply to national security systems.

''(e) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY SYSTEMS.—(1) The authorities of the Director described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) shall be delegated to the Secretary of Defense in the case of systems described in paragraph (2) and to the Director of National Intelligence in the case of systems described in paragraph (3).

''(2) The systems described in this paragraph are systems that are operated by the Department of Defense, a contractor of the Department of Defense, or another entity on behalf of the Department of Defense that processes any information the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of which would have a debilitating impact on the mission of the Department of Defense.

''(3) The systems described in this paragraph are systems that are operated by an element of the intelligence community, a contractor of an element of the intelligence community, or another entity on behalf of an element of the intelligence community that processes any information the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of which would have a debilitating impact on the mission of an element of the intelligence community.

''(f) CONSIDERATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the responsibilities under subsection (b), the Secretary shall consider any applicable standards or guidelines developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and issued by the Secretary of Commerce under section 11331 of title 40.

''(2) DIRECTIVES.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) consult with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology regarding any binding operational directive that implements standards and guidelines developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

''(B) ensure that binding operational directives issued under subsection (b)(2) do not conflict with the standards and guidelines issued under section 11331 of title 40.

''(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed as authorizing the Secretary to direct the Secretary of Commerce in the development and promulgation of standards and guidelines under section 11331 of title 40.

''(g) EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY.—To ensure fiscal and policy consistency, the Secretary shall exercise the authority under this section subject to direction by the President, in coordination with the Director.

''§ 3554. Federal agency responsibilities

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency shall—

''(1) be responsible for—

''(A) providing information security protections commensurate with the risk and magnitude of the harm resulting from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of—

''(i) information collected or maintained by or on behalf of the agency; and

''(ii) information systems used or operated by an agency or by a contractor of an agency or other organization on behalf of an agency;

''(B) complying with the requirements of this subchapter and related policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines, including—

''(i) information security standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40;

''(ii) operational directives developed by the Secretary under section 3553(b);

''(iii) policies and procedures issued by the Director; and

''(iv) information security standards and guidelines for national security systems issued in accordance with law and as directed by the President; and

''(C) ensuring that information security management processes are integrated with agency strategic, operational, and budgetary planning processes;

''(2) ensure that senior agency officials provide information security for the information and information systems that support the operations and assets under their control, including through—

''(A) assessing the risk and magnitude of the harm that could result from the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of such information or information systems;

''(B) determining the levels of information security appropriate to protect such information and information systems in accordance with standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40, for information security classifications and related requirements;

''(C) implementing policies and procedures to cost-effectively reduce risks to an acceptable level; and

''(D) periodically testing and evaluating information security controls and techniques to ensure that they are effectively implemented;

''(3) delegate to the agency Chief Information Officer established under section 3506 (or comparable official in an agency not covered by such section) the authority to ensure compliance with the requirements imposed on the agency under this subchapter, including—

''(A) designating a senior agency information security officer who shall—

''(i) carry out the Chief Information Officer's responsibilities under this section;

''(ii) possess professional qualifications, including training and experience, required to administer the functions described under this section;

''(iii) have information security duties as that official's primary duty; and

''(iv) head an office with the mission and resources to assist in ensuring agency compliance with this section;

''(B) developing and maintaining an agencywide information security program as required by subsection (b);

''(C) developing and maintaining information security policies, procedures, and control techniques to address all applicable requirements, including those issued under section 3553 of this title and section 11331 of title 40;

''(D) training and overseeing personnel with significant responsibilities for information security with respect to such responsibilities; and

''(E) assisting senior agency officials concerning their responsibilities under paragraph (2);

''(4) ensure that the agency has trained personnel sufficient to assist the agency in complying with the requirements of this subchapter and related policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines;

''(5) ensure that the agency Chief Information Officer, in coordination with other senior agency officials, reports annually to the agency head on the effectiveness of the agency information security program, including progress of remedial actions;

''(6) ensure that senior agency officials, including chief information officers of component agencies or equivalent officials, carry out responsibilities under this subchapter as directed by the official delegated authority under paragraph (3); and

''(7) ensure that all personnel are held accountable for complying with the agencywide information security program implemented under subsection (b).

''(b) AGENCY PROGRAM.—Each agency shall develop, document, and implement an agency-wide information security program to provide information security for the information and information systems that support the operations and assets of the agency, including those provided or managed by another agency, contractor, or other source, that includes—

''(1) periodic assessments of the risk and magnitude of the harm that could result from the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of information and information systems that support the operations and assets of the agency, which may include using automated tools consistent with standards and guidelines promulgated under section 11331 of title 40;

''(2) policies and procedures that—

''(A) are based on the risk assessments required by paragraph (1);

''(B) cost-effectively reduce information security risks to an acceptable level;

''(C) ensure that information security is addressed throughout the life cycle of each agency information system; and

''(D) ensure compliance with—

''(i) the requirements of this subchapter;

''(ii) policies and procedures as may be prescribed by the Director, and information security standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40;

''(iii) minimally acceptable system configuration requirements, as determined by the agency; and

''(iv) any other applicable requirements, including standards and guidelines for national security systems issued in accordance with law and as directed by the President;

''(3) subordinate plans for providing adequate information security for networks, facilities, and systems or groups of information systems, as appropriate;

''(4) security awareness training to inform personnel, including contractors and other users of information systems that support the operations and assets of the agency, of—

''(A) information security risks associated with their activities; and

''(B) their responsibilities in complying with agency policies and procedures designed to reduce these risks;

''(5) periodic testing and evaluation of the effectiveness of information security policies, procedures, and practices, to be performed with a frequency depending on risk, but no less than annually, of which such testing—

''(A) shall include testing of management, operational, and technical controls of every information system identified in the inventory required under section 3505(c);

''(B) may include testing relied on in an evaluation under section 3555; and

''(C) shall include using automated tools, consistent with standards and guidelines promulgated under section 11331 of title 40;

''(6) a process for planning, implementing, evaluating, and documenting remedial action to address any deficiencies in the information security policies, procedures, and practices of the agency;

''(7) procedures for detecting, reporting, and responding to security incidents, which—

''(A) shall be consistent with the standards and guidelines described in section 3556(b);

''(B) may include using automated tools; and

''(C) shall include—

''(i) mitigating risks associated with such incidents before substantial damage is done;

''(ii) notifying and consulting with the Federal information security incident center established in section 3556; and

''(iii) notifying and consulting with, as appropriate—

''(I) law enforcement agencies and relevant Offices of Inspector General and Offices of General Counsel;

''(II) an office designated by the President for any incident involving a national security system;

''(III) for a major incident, the committees of Congress described in subsection (c)(1)—

''(aa) not later than 7 days after the date on which there is a reasonable basis to conclude that the major incident has occurred; and

''(bb) after the initial notification under item (aa), within a reasonable period of time after additional information relating to the incident is discovered, including the summary required under subsection (c)(1)(A)(i); and

''(IV) any other agency or office, in accordance with law or as directed by the President; and

''(8) plans and procedures to ensure continuity of operations for information systems that support the operations and assets of the agency.

''(c) AGENCY REPORTING.—

''(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each agency shall submit to the Director, the Secretary, the Committee on Government Reform, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the appropriate authorization and appropriations committees of Congress, and the Comptroller General a report on the adequacy and effectiveness of information security policies, procedures, and practices, including—

''(i) a description of each major information security incident or related sets of incidents, including summaries of—

''(I) the threats and threat actors, vulnerabilities, and impacts relating to the incident;

''(II) the risk assessments conducted under section 3554(a)(2)(A) of the affected information systems before the date on which the incident occurred;

''(III) the status of compliance of the affected information systems with applicable security requirements at the time of the incident; and

''(IV) the detection, response, and remediation actions;

''(ii) the total number of information security incidents, including a description of incidents resulting in significant compromise of information security, system impact levels, types of incident, and locations of affected systems;

''(iii) a description of each major information security incident that involved a breach of personally identifiable information, as defined by the Director, including—

''(I) the number of individuals whose information was affected by the major information security incident; and

''(II) a description of the information that was breached or exposed; and

''(iv) any other information as the Director or the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, may require.

''(B) UNCLASSIFIED REPORT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall be in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

''(ii) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The head of an agency shall ensure that, to the greatest extent practicable, information is included in the unclassified version of the reports submitted by the agency under subparagraph (A).

''(2) OTHER PLANS AND REPORTS.—Each agency shall address the adequacy and effectiveness of information security policies, procedures, and practices in management plans and reports.

''(d) PERFORMANCE PLAN.—(1) In addition to the requirements of subsection (c), each agency, in consultation with the Director, shall include as part of the performance plan required under section 1115 of title 31 a description of—

''(A) the time periods; and

''(B) the resources, including budget, staffing, and training,

that are necessary to implement the program required under subsection (b).

''(2) The description under paragraph (1) shall be based on the risk assessments required under subsection (b)(1).

''(e) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—Each agency shall provide the public with timely notice and opportunities for comment on proposed information security policies and procedures to the extent that such policies and procedures affect communication with the public.

''§ 3555. Annual independent evaluation

''(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Each year each agency shall have performed an independent evaluation of the information security program and practices of that agency to determine the effectiveness of such program and practices.

''(2) Each evaluation under this section shall include—

''(A) testing of the effectiveness of information security policies, procedures, and practices of a representative subset of the agency's information systems;

''(B) an assessment of the effectiveness of the information security policies, procedures, and practices of the agency; and

''(C) separate presentations, as appropriate, regarding information security relating to national security systems.

''(b) INDEPENDENT AUDITOR.—Subject to subsection (c)—

''(1) for each agency with an Inspector General appointed under the Inspector General Act of 1978, the annual evaluation required

by this section shall be performed by the Inspector General or by an independent external auditor, as determined by the Inspector General of the agency; and

''(2) for each agency to which paragraph (1) does not apply, the head of the agency shall engage an independent external auditor to perform the evaluation.

''(c) NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS.—For each agency operating or exercising control of a national security system, that portion of the evaluation required by this section directly relating to a national security system shall be performed—

''(1) only by an entity designated by the agency head; and

''(2) in such a manner as to ensure appropriate protection for information associated with any information security vulnerability in such system commensurate with the risk and in accordance with all applicable laws.

''(d) EXISTING EVALUATIONS.—The evaluation required by this section may be based in whole or in part on an audit, evaluation, or report relating to programs or practices of the applicable agency.

''(e) AGENCY REPORTING.—(1) Each year, not later than such date established by the Director, the head of each agency shall submit to the Director the results of the evaluation required under this section.

''(2) To the extent an evaluation required under this section directly relates to a national security system, the evaluation results submitted to the Director shall contain only a summary and assessment of that portion of the evaluation directly relating to a national security system.

''(f) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Agencies and evaluators shall take appropriate steps to ensure the protection of information which, if disclosed, may adversely affect information security. Such protections shall be commensurate with the risk and comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

''(g) OMB REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—(1) The Director shall summarize the results of the evaluations conducted under this section in the report to Congress required under section 3553(c).

''(2) The Director's report to Congress under this subsection shall summarize information regarding information security relating to national security systems in such a manner as to ensure appropriate protection for information associated with any information security vulnerability in such system commensurate with the risk and in accordance with all applicable laws.

''(3) Evaluations and any other descriptions of information systems under the authority and control of the Director of National Intelligence or of National Foreign Intelligence Programs systems under the authority and control of the Secretary of Defense shall be made available to Congress only through the appropriate oversight committees of Congress, in accordance with applicable laws.

''(h) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The Comptroller General shall periodically evaluate and report to Congress on—

''(1) the adequacy and effectiveness of agency information security policies and practices; and

''(2) implementation of the requirements of this subchapter.

''(i) ASSESSMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Comptroller General may provide technical assistance to an Inspector General or the head of an agency, as applicable, to assist the Inspector General or head of an agency in carrying out the duties under this section, including by testing information security controls and procedures.

''(j) GUIDANCE.—The Director, in consultation with the Secretary, the Chief Information Officers Council established under section 3603, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and other interested parties as appropriate, shall ensure the development of guidance for evaluating the effectiveness of an information security program and practices.

''§ 3556. Federal information security incident center

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure the operation of a central Federal information security incident center to—

''(1) provide timely technical assistance to operators of agency information systems regarding security incidents, including guidance on detecting and handling information security incidents;

''(2) compile and analyze information about incidents that threaten information security;

''(3) inform operators of agency information systems about current and potential information security threats, and vulnerabilities;

''(4) provide, as appropriate, intelligence and other information about cyber threats, vulnerabilities, and incidents to agencies to assist in risk assessments conducted under section 3554(b); and

''(5) consult with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, agencies or offices operating or exercising control of national security systems (including the National Security Agency), and such other agencies or offices in accordance with law and as directed by the President regarding information security incidents and related matters.

''(b) NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS.—Each agency operating or exercising control of a national security system shall share information about information security incidents, threats, and vulnerabilities with the Federal information security incident center to the extent consistent with standards and guidelines for national security systems, issued in accordance with law and as directed by the President.

''§ 3557. National security systems

''The head of each agency operating or exercising control of a national security system shall be responsible for ensuring that the agency—

''(1) provides information security protections commensurate with the risk and magnitude of the harm resulting from the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of the information contained in such system;

''(2) implements information security policies and practices as required by standards and guidelines for national security systems, issued in accordance with law and as directed by the President; and

''(3) complies with the requirements of this subchapter.

''§ 3558. Effect on existing law

''Nothing in this subchapter, section 11331 of title 40, or section 20 of the National Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3) may be construed as affecting the authority of the President, the Office of Management and Budget or the Director thereof, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or the head of any agency, with respect to the authorized use or disclosure of information, including with regard to the protection of personal privacy under section 552a of title 5, the disclosure of information under section 552 of title 5, the management and disposition of records under chapters 29, 31, or 33 of title 44, the management of information resources under subchapter I of chapter 35 of this title, or the disclosure of information to the Congress or the Comptroller General of the United States.''.

(b) MAJOR INCIDENT.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

(1) develop guidance on what constitutes a major incident for purposes of section 3554(b) of title 44, United States Code, as added by subsection (a); and

(2) provide to Congress periodic briefings on the status of the developing of the guidance until the date on which the guidance is issued.

(c) CONTINUOUS DIAGNOSTICS.—During the 2 year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, with the assistance of the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall include in each report submitted under section 3553(c) of title 44, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), an assessment of the adoption by agencies of continuous diagnostics technologies, including through the Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation program, and other advanced security tools to provide information security, including challenges to the adoption of such technologies or security tools.

(d) BREACHES.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall ensure that data breach notification policies and guidelines are updated periodically and require—

(A) except as provided in paragraph (4), notice by the affected agency to each committee of Congress described in section 3554(c)(1) of title 44, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, which shall—

(i) be provided expeditiously and not later than 30 days after the date on which the agency discovered the unauthorized acquisition or access; and

(ii) include—

(I) information about the breach, including a summary of any information that the agency knows on the date on which notification is provided about how the breach occurred;

(II) an estimate of the number of individuals affected by the breach, based on information that the agency knows on the date on which notification is provided, including an assessment of the risk of harm to affected individuals;

(III) a description of any circumstances necessitating a delay in providing notice to affected individuals; and

(IV) an estimate of whether and when the agency will provide notice to affected individuals; and

(B) notice by the affected agency to affected individuals, pursuant to data breach notification policies and guidelines, which shall be provided as expeditiously as practicable and without unreasonable delay after the agency discovers the unauthorized acquisition or access.

(2) NATIONAL SECURITY; LAW ENFORCEMENT; REMEDIATION.—The Attorney General, the head of an element of the intelligence community (as such term is defined under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)), or the Secretary of Homeland Security may delay the notice to affected individuals under paragraph (1)(B) if the notice would disrupt a law enforcement investigation, endanger national security, or hamper security remediation actions.

(3) REPORTS.—

(A) DIRECTOR OF OMB.—During the first 2 years beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall, on an annual basis—

(i) assess agency implementation of data breach notification policies and guidelines in aggregate; and

(ii) include the assessment described in clause (i) in the report required under section 3553(c) of title 44, United States Code.

(B) SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—During the first 2 years beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall include an assessment of the status of agency implementation of data breach notification policies and guidelines in the requirements under section 3553(b)(2)(B) of title 44, United States Code.

(4) EXCEPTION.—Any element of the intelligence community (as such term is defined under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)) that is required to provide notice under paragraph (1)(A) shall only provide such notice to appropriate committees of Congress.

(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to alter any authority of a Federal agency or department.

(e) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code is amended by striking the matter relating to subchapters II and III and inserting the following:

''SUBCHAPTER II—INFORMATION SECURITY

''3551. Purposes.
''3552. Definitions.
''3553. Authority and functions of the Director and the Secretary.
''3554. Federal agency responsibilities.
''3555. Annual independent evaluation.
''3556. Federal information security incident center.
''3557. National security systems.
''3558. Effect on existing law.''.

(2) CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT.—Section 8(d)(1) of the Cybersecurity Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7406) is amended by striking ''section 3534'' and inserting ''section 3554''.

(3) HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 223 (6 U.S.C. 143)

(i) in the section heading, by inserting ''**FEDERAL AND**'' before ''**NON-FEDERAL**'';

(ii) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, in cooperation with the Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection'' and inserting ''the Under Secretary appointed under section 103(a)(1)(H)'';

(iii) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) fulfill the responsibilities of the Secretary to protect Federal information systems under subchapter II of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code.'';

(B) in section 1001(c)(1)(A) (6 U.S.C. 511(c)(1)(A)), by striking ''section 3532(3)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)(5)''; and

(C) in the table of contents in section 1(b), by striking the item relating to section 223 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 223. Enhancement of Federal and non-Federal cybersecurity.''.

(4) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY ACT.—Section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking ''section 3532(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)(5)''; and

(B) in subsection (e)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking ''section 3532(1)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)(2)''; and

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking ''section 3532(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)(5)''.

(5) TITLE 10.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 2222(j)(5), by striking ''section 3542(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)(5)'';

(B) in section 2223(c)(3), by striking ''section 3542(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)(5)''; and

(C) in section 2315, by striking ''section 3542(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)(5)''.

(f) OTHER PROVISIONS.—

(1) CIRCULAR A–130.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall amend or revise Office of Management and Budget Circular A–130 to eliminate inefficient or wasteful reporting. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide quarterly briefings to Congress on the status of the amendment or revision required under this paragraph.

(2) ISPAB.—Section 21(b) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–4(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', the Secretary of Homeland Security,'' after ''the Institute''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''the Secretary of Homeland Security,'' after ''the Secretary of Commerce,''.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL H.R. 3979

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 123

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That, in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 3979, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following correction: In section 1207(e)(2), strike ''categories I, II, III, VII, and X'' and insert ''categories I, II, III, VII, X, XI, and XIII''.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 5771

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 124

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill, H.R. 5771, the Clerk of the House shall amend subsection (a) of section 1 of Division B (relating to Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014) to read as follows:

''(a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the 'Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014' or the 'Stephen Beck, Jr., ABLE Act of 2014'.''.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S CHARITIES ACT

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5806) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent certain expiring provisions related to charitable contributions.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5806

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 ''Supporting America's Charities Act''.

SEC. 2. SPECIAL RULE FOR QUALIFIED CONSERVATION CONTRIBUTIONS MODIFIED AND MADE PERMANENT.

(a) MADE PERMANENT.—

(1) INDIVIDUALS.—Section 170(b)(1)(E) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking clause (vi).

(2) CORPORATIONS.—Section 170(b)(2)(B) of such Code is amended by striking clause (iii).

(b) CONTRIBUTIONS OF CAPITAL GAIN REAL PROPERTY MADE FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES BY NATIVE CORPORATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 170(b)(2) of such Code is amended by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D), and by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

''(C) QUALIFIED CONSERVATION CONTRIBUTIONS BY CERTAIN NATIVE CORPORATIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Any qualified conservation contribution (as defined in subsection (h)(1)) which—

''(I) is made by a Native Corporation, and

''(II) is a contribution of property which was land conveyed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act,

shall be allowed to the extent that the aggregate amount of such contributions does not exceed the excess of the taxpayer's taxable income over the amount of charitable contributions allowable under subparagraph (A).

''(ii) CARRYOVER.—If the aggregate amount of contributions described in clause (i) exceeds the limitation of clause (i), such excess shall be treated (in a manner consistent with the rules of subsection (d)(2)) as a charitable contribution to which clause (i) applies in each of the 15 succeeding years in order of time.

''(iii) NATIVE CORPORATION.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'Native Corporation' has the meaning given such term by section 3(m) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 170(b)(2)(A) of such Code is amended by striking ''subparagraph (B) applies'' and inserting ''subparagraph (B) or (C) applies''.

(3) VALID EXISTING RIGHTS PRESERVED.—Nothing in this subsection (or any amendment made by this subsection) shall be construed to modify the existing property rights validly conveyed to Native Corporations

(within the meaning of section 3(m) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) under such Act.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to contributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF CHARITABLE DEDUCTION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD INVENTORY.

(a) PERMANENT EXTENSION.—Section 170(e)(3)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking clause (iv).

(b) INCREASE IN LIMITATION.—Section 170(e)(3)(C) of such Code, as amended by subsection (a), is amended by striking clause (ii), by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv), and by inserting after clause (i) the following new clauses:

''(ii) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount of such contributions for any taxable year which may be taken into account under this section shall not exceed—

''(I) in the case of any taxpayer other than a C corporation, 15 percent of the taxpayer's aggregate net income for such taxable year from all trades or businesses from which such contributions were made for such year, computed without regard to this section, and

''(II) in the case of a C corporation, 15 percent of taxable income (as defined in subsection (b)(2)(D)).

''(iii) RULES RELATED TO LIMITATION.—

''(I) CARRYOVER.—If such aggregate amount exceeds the limitation imposed under clause (ii), such excess shall be treated (in a manner consistent with the rules of subsection (d)) as a charitable contribution described in clause (i) in each of the 5 succeeding years in order of time.

''(II) COORDINATION WITH OVERALL CORPORATE LIMITATION.—In the case of any charitable contribution allowable under clause (ii)(II), subsection (b)(2)(A) shall not apply to such contribution, but the limitation imposed by such subsection shall be reduced (but not below zero) by the aggregate amount of such contributions. For purposes of subsection (b)(2)(B), such contributions shall be treated as allowable under subsection (b)(2)(A).''.

(c) DETERMINATION OF BASIS FOR CERTAIN TAXPAYERS.—Section 170(e)(3)(C) of such Code, as amended by subsections (a) and (b), is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(v) DETERMINATION OF BASIS FOR CERTAIN TAXPAYERS.—If a taxpayer—

''(I) does not account for inventories under section 471, and

''(II) is not required to capitalize indirect costs under section 263A,

the taxpayer may elect, solely for purposes of subparagraph (B), to treat the basis of any apparently wholesome food as being equal to 25 percent of the fair market value of such food.''.

(d) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—Section 170(e)(3)(C) of such Code, as amended by subsections (a), (b), and (c), is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(vi) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—In the case of any such contribution of apparently wholesome food which cannot or will not be sold solely by reason of internal standards of the taxpayer, lack of market, or similar circumstances, or by reason of being produced by the taxpayer exclusively for the purposes of transferring the food to an organization described in subparagraph (A), the fair market value of such contribution shall be determined—

''(I) without regard to such internal standards, such lack of market, such circumstances, or such exclusive purpose, and

''(II) by taking into account the price at which the same or substantially the same food items (as to both type and quality) are sold by the taxpayer at the time of the contribution (or, if not so sold at such time, in the recent past).''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the amendments made by this section shall apply to contributions made after December 31, 2013, in taxable years ending after such date.

(2) LIMITATION; APPLICABILITY TO C CORPORATIONS.—The amendments made by subsection (b) shall apply to contributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 4. RULE ALLOWING CERTAIN TAX-FREE DISTRIBUTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES MADE PERMANENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(d)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subparagraph (F).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to distributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 5. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) PAYGO SCORECARD.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARD.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves here today to once again address a group of tax provisions that need to be made permanent, this time for the sake of those who give to and ultimately benefit from charitable organizations.

Every day, selfless Americans nationwide decide to donate in support of an array of causes, be it finding a cure for cancer, helping underprivileged children succeed in school, or simply providing a meal and shelter that, for some, is hard to come by.

Countless Americans dedicate their lives to these causes and serving their friends and neighbors in need. The three charitable policies in this legislation can provide tremendous support for those good works. However, because these policies are only temporary, they are not nearly as effective as they can or should be. It is well past time that Congress takes the necessary action to support America's charities and those that benefit from their work and make these policies permanent.

What our charities do in America is beyond the power of government to give.

Now, we were close to reaching a bipartisan deal with the Senate that would have made them permanent, but the President decided to play politics and issue a veto threat. Just 2 days before Thanksgiving, the President announced that he considers a policy that encourages donations to food banks to be a giveaway to big corporations. I would like to see the President travel to see the West Midland Family Center food pantry in my district and tell them that they are a corporate giveaway.

The Supporting America's Charities Act, H.R. 5806, fixes what the administration and some Senators decided not to. This legislation will ultimately increase charitable giving by making these policies permanent and enabling charities to better serve those in need.

These bipartisan proposals previously passed the House in July of this year as part of the America Gives More Act and continue to experience unrivaled support from organizations nationwide. In fact, more than 1,000 charitable organizations—1,032, to be exact—have written every Member of Congress in support of the permanent tax incentives.

Take, for example, a joint letter authored in July by five of America's leading charitable organizations. In discussing their unanimous support for the America Gives More Act, they said:

''The charitable giving incentives being considered by the House have encouraged individuals and small businesses to actively support the development and sustainability of our society. They have spurred contributions, for example, to build health centers, develop counseling programs for at-risk youth, provide nutrition assistance to hungry children, conserve land, and offer art therapy for people with developmental disabilities.''

□ 1730

Mr. Speaker, I don't think I am alone when I say this: policies that prompt donations to health centers, youth counseling programs, and therapy for people with disabilities are not giveaways to corporate America.

Mr. Speaker, just today, I was at Walter Reed Hospital visiting the brain trauma center there that was built for our wounded warriors. It was made possible through private donations and then made as a gift to the United States Government for those men and women who have served so valiantly in our military. That is the kind of giving we need to encourage. That is the kind of giving this legislation would encourage.

As I said last week, the end of the year is fast approaching, and a new tax-filing season is just around the corner. Now is not the time for those who selflessly donate to wonder what tax

surprises are waiting for them, no more than it is the time for charitable organizations to grow uncertain about their futures.

There is no goodwill like that of an American, and as Representatives of this great Nation, we should do everything in our power to encourage individuals to give more and help charitable organizations expand their reach nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, as the giving spirit of the holiday season is around us, I urge my friends on both sides of the aisle and both Houses of Congress to look at the policies—not the politics—look at the policies here and support those who give and support those who are in need by voting ''yes'' on H.R. 5806.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me make clear at the outset that this isn't a debate about the excellent work of charities or foundations or their vital role in our society. This House has already taken action to provide for the three provisions included in this bill for this year's tax returns as part of the broad extender bill that passed last week.

When the chairman talks about no surprises, we have already passed through the House and what will become law is an extender bill that makes it clear for this tax season that these provisions are in effect. There is no doubt about that. Everyone who voted in favor of the package has already ensured that taxpayers can benefit from these provisions this year.

Look, this isn't about politics. Frankly, as the lead sponsor originally of one of these bills, I find objectionable any reference to politics. I sponsored that bill regarding food contributions because of my belief that many people wanted to contribute to help supply nutrition.

When the President issued his Statement of Administration Policy, there was no politics at all, zero. He had made that clear in July. I think it is incredible—let me leave it at that—that anyone would say that politics has anything to do with this issue. As I said, these provisions are already going to be available for taxpayers in this tax season.

What this is about, Mr. Speaker, is fiscal responsibility and fiscal priorities. What this bill does is take three provisions out of the many in the extender bill—three—leaving aside whether it is R&D, leaving aside whether it is the education provision, leaving aside whether it is the child tax credit that would expire in terms of its improvements in a couple of years, what this does is to take just these three, important as they are, and say that we are going to make those permanent without paying one dime for them, not one dime, adding $11 billion to the debt.

I must say—and we have had some back and forth on this—whatever one thought of Chairman CAMP's comprehensive bill—and we had some questions about it, but never questioning the fact that it took some hard work and I think some courage to put these provisions into the context of comprehensive tax reform, and so it is counterintuitive in a way to just pick these three up and to make them permanent unpaid for.

Let me just read the Statement of Administration Policy if I might. I just hope it sets to rest any claim that this is about politics because as an original sponsor of one of these bills, I can just emphasize what propelled me to propose it to all the food pantries I went to and to all of the church groups I went to who were providing food, to the businesspeople I talked with who were essentially donating food, to their credit, that they couldn't sell and to doing so in a way that it was timely and so that the foods were very easily edible and readily so.

With that spirit—and I hope talking about the spirit of the season—this administration policy, I hope with that spirit it will be received. I quote from it:

> The administration supports measures that enhance nonprofits, philanthropic organizations, and faith-based and other community organizations in their many roles, including as a safety net for those most in need, an economic engine for job creation, a tool for environmental conservation that encourages land protections for current and future generations, and an incubator of innovation to foster solutions to some of the Nation's toughest challenges. The President's Budget includes a number of proposals that would enhance and simplify charitable giving incentives for many individuals.
>
> However, the administration strongly opposes passage of H.R. 5806, which would permanently extend three current provisions that offer enhanced tax breaks for certain donations. As the administration stated when strongly opposing similar legislation this past July, if this same, unprecedented approach of making certain traditional tax extenders permanent without offsets were followed for the other traditional tax extenders, it would add $500 billion or more to deficits over the next 10 years, wiping out most of the deficit reduction achieved through the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. Earlier this year, House Republicans themselves passed a budget resolution that required offsetting any tax extenders that were made permanent with other revenue measures.
>
> As with other similar proposals, Republicans are imposing a double standard by adding to the deficit to continue tax breaks, while insisting on offsetting the proposed extension of emergency unemployment benefits and the discretionary funding increases for defense and nondefense priorities such as research and development in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. House Republicans are also making clear their priorities by rushing to make these tax cuts permanent without offsets even as the House Republican budget resolution calls for raising taxes on 26 million working families and students by letting important improvements to the EITC, the earned income tax credit, the child tax credit, and education tax credits expire.
>
> The administration wants to work with the Congress to make progress on measures that strengthen America's charitable sector.

I want to repeat that.

> The administration wants to work with the Congress to make progress on measures that strengthen America's charitable sector. However, H.R. 5806 represents the wrong approach.
>
> If the President were presented with H.R. 5806, his senior advisers would recommend that he veto the bill.

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

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

I would say, Mr. Speaker, I have listened very carefully to what the gentleman from Michigan said. I have listened to the statement that he read. I have actually read the statement of the administration's position myself. I see nothing in that that gives any Member a reason to vote ''no.''

Let me just say Feeding America estimates that H.R. 5806, this bill we are debating tonight, would create 100 million new meals a year. Frankly, I would say to my friend from Michigan: if you are hungry, you can't wait. Let's do this now.

Mr. Speaker, I would say in response to reading a statement of administration position that the President has repeatedly said, ''Send me bipartisan measures that we can work on together,'' there is no more bipartisan issue than helping America's charities help the needy, help those who are hungry, and help those without housing.

In Michigan, our home State, we have a pilot program with a cereal manufacturer that is capturing excess breakfast products. Over 20,000 pounds of food per week are donated. If the tax law was changed, H.R. 5806, seven times that amount would be donated by the company, by the private sector, filling a need that the government is not meeting. A lot of hungry kids don't always get meals outside of school, so they take this cereal home in their backpacks for weekends.

There is no reason to wait. Let's do this now. Look, we passed a 1-year measure on all these other things. That only gives us 2 weeks. For a lot of these charitable provisions, they need a longer window. They need more certainty to put these programs in place and to put the distribution systems in place to get the food and the resources to people in need.

I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GERLACH), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership in bringing this legislation to the floor.

I had some prepared remarks that I want to give relative to the conservation easement part of this legislation because it is a hugely important issue to the people in southeastern Pennsylvania and many, many other States as well because through conservation easement transactions, tens of thousands of acres are preserved throughout the course of a year in a metropolitan region like Philadelphia and other

places around the country that preserves the habitat, the watersheds, preserves the natural resources of that area, allows farmers to keep farming, allows people to hold on to the great open space that creates the vistas and the quality of life that people want to have in their communities.

I had my prepared remarks ready to go to talk about why that is important once again to try to pass legislation to allow for at least some period of time to allow for those transactions to go forward because of the tax deductibility that would be present in the Tax Code.

But in listening to our colleague from Michigan a few minutes ago, to somehow throw out the proposal that since we passed this already a few weeks ago in a 1-year extension—that 1 year being 2014, the year we are already in, also the year that is going to expire in 21 days—to say somehow at this point in time of this legislative session, that is okay, that is how we will take care of conservation easements in the future, we will pass the 1-year extension as we did in the House, send it to the Senate, it will go ultimately to the President, look at the great job we did for conservation easements here in the United States, we gave them 21 more days' worth of decisionmaking time to determine whether or not they want to move forward with a transaction that will conserve open space and farmland around our country, that is pitiful in all due respect to all of our colleagues here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, we have legislation that has hundreds of cosponsors, Republican and Democrat here in the House. We have that same kind of bipartisan support in the Senate.

We have charities all around the United States calling in to Congress asking that this legislation be passed. Regardless of whether they are a group involved in conservation easements or in other charitable pursuits like food banks or the IRA issue, they want us to do something that we finally can agree to do and get it done by the end of the year.

□ 1745

I don't think that is too much to ask for Congress to do. Here we have the bill right in front of us that, on a wide bipartisan basis, is supported in the House and the Senate. We can pass it to make it a permanent part of the Tax Code so these groups can plan in the future and these individuals can plan in the future for how they want to help their charities in their communities. It is right before us, and yet we still have opposition to basically coming together to do what we all want to do to begin with. We need to really look ourselves in the mirror here over the next 24 hours and really think about why we are here in Congress.

I would hope, regardless of your party affiliation, you have a wonderful opportunity to help the charities in your community by passing this legislation to make a permanent change in the Tax Code, and that is something we can all reflect on in the 113th Congress as one time, one place, one bill we could come together on and help our communities and help our charities. So I ask all of our colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), another member of our committee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding.

Let me be clear, I yield to no one in terms of my support for programs and activities to help those who are in need. I ardently support Federal tax policies that support charities.

I have hundreds of charities and foundations in my congressional district, and even more throughout the State of Illinois. They all provide tremendous support to individuals in great need. But I don't believe that this bill is necessary at this moment in order to provide those services.

I am disappointed and cannot support this irresponsible bill that adds to the deficit. The Republican leadership talks a great deal about fiscal prudence and even requires in their budget resolution that any tax extender made permanent be offset with other revenue measures.

Republican leadership easily could have paid for this bill by closing a tax loophole or two. Republican leadership easily could have brought up this bill under a rule that allowed an offset to be added. Instead, they have chosen to add to the deficit in a political ploy.

So I say again, Mr. Speaker, and I pledge to my constituents and to the charitable organizations to work in a bipartisan way to advance charitable benefits. However, I cannot support this irresponsible bill. The President has issued a veto threat, and I support the President.

Mr. CAMP. I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman for yielding, and I would like to thank him for his leadership on this issue and so many others during his esteemed career here in the people's House. He will be greatly missed as he retires at the end of this Congress.

I rise today in support of H.R. 5806, the Supporting America's Charities Act. This bill reflects the good work that has been done in the Ways and Means Committee during the 113th Congress. It makes permanent important provisions that would continue to allow taxpayers to make contributions from their IRAs to charities, contributions to food inventory, and contributions of conservation easements on a tax-preferred basis.

In the case of these three important provisions, greater permanency will assist taxpayers with their tax planning while helping to advance their charitable goals. Charitable deductions are designed to encourage charitable giving by lowering the cost to privately support charitable organizations. It also recognizes the amounts of income voluntarily given to charity should be treated differently from most other income spent or otherwise used for personal benefit.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill, and I hope that the Senate does the same.

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

The way we have acted here, taxpayers will be able to use the IRA rollover for this tax season. That is for sure. People who want to make donations, however they do it, relating to nutrition and food will be able to do that for this tax year.

So the issue is not whether we care much about those provisions. As I said, as someone who has worked so hard in terms of nutrition policy, food donations, who has been to so many pantries, who has been to Forgotten Harvest, worked with them, and Gleaners in southeast Michigan, I know how important it is that these contributions continue. They will under the action of this Congress.

That is not the question. The question is whether this institution will take three provisions out of the extenders bill that we passed and make them permanent, unpaid for—unpaid for—permanent and unpaid for, increasing the deficit by $11 billion without giving the same consideration to every other single provision in the extender bill, whether it is education or research and development and so many other provisions that also have some urgency to them.

No, I don't think anybody should worry here about voting ''no'' and having challenge by anybody to their dedication to tax policies that give people incentive to give to charities, to foundations, or to nutrition programs, or their dedication in terms of conservation.

What the majority has decided to do is to take, as I said, out of the extender bill three provisions, knowing that the President would veto them, I guess trying to score points against the President instead of scoring points for those whose programs are in question here.

So that is what this is all about. I want to close by just urging everyone who votes ''no'' here, you can say with total honesty that you have voted for legislation that makes sure for this tax season, like for all other extenders, that people will be able in this case to give contributions, to deduct them, to roll over their IRAs, whatever. It will be up to the citizen to make that decision. We are providing that opportunity for citizens.

Anyone who tries to undermine the deep dedication of anyone on this side or the President of the United States to the importance of charity I think is

doing a real disservice to the Nation and to themselves—and to themselves. I urge a ''no'' vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I would just say briefly, actions speak louder than words. While technically, yes, we are going to make sure that for the last couple of weeks, as my colleague from Pennsylvania so eloquently stated, these tax policies will be in place, we need more than that. I mean, whether it is food inventory or conservation easements, these are long-term policies that we are asking people to get involved in.

Let's talk about southeast Michigan. The gentleman raised it. We know who is doing a lot of the work in Detroit—a lot of foundations are. They are setting up plans and processes to help rebuild that city. They need more than 2 weeks of policy. They need permanent policy. These are simple, bipartisan measures, whether it is food inventory, charitable IRAs, or conservation easements.

Look, we know that the watershed of New York City was protected by conservation easements. They couldn't do that in 2 weeks. The things that we can do with conservation will last decades into the future. They need the intergenerational long-term policy to put these kinds of plans in place.

Even as I mentioned earlier with regard to food inventories and charitable IRAs, those aren't decisions you make on a whim. Whether you are going to turn your IRA over to charity is a decision that you may be looking at the next 20 years of your retirement, do you have the ability to do that or not. It is not something you can do based on just a couple of weeks.

Look, we are the only nation in the world that lets these things expire. I mean, what the gentleman hasn't said is these items were expired for all of 2014. We are going to put them in place for the final 2 weeks, and retroactively we are going to say you are going to be able to make a conservation easement contribution? Well, you can't, and you are not probably going to do it in the next 2 weeks because immediately when the clock hits 2015, you are not going to have the tax policy.

Look, I would ask people, don't just vote in lockstep. Really examine your conscience and whether at this time of year, with the great needs this Nation is facing and has faced really for the last decade, what can we do to make a difference now? Why do we need to wait?

As the gentleman has said, look, we have tried to make these things permanent. That hasn't worked. It hasn't worked in a comprehensive tax overhaul; it hasn't worked in trying to make a lot of these extensions permanent in an agreement between the House and Senate. But these are important, and these will make a difference where government doesn't go.

It is our foundations and our charities that actually innovate in this area and find out what works. As we know, government isn't the most innovative in this area. That is why these are important to do now.

I think especially in this season of giving we shouldn't just vote because our leaders tell us to or because we have gotten some letter from the administration. We should really look carefully at how we can make a difference, how we can make a difference by this vote that we are going to take and what that will mean for people's lives and the countless families who depend on selfless Americans to make it from day to day. I would urge a ''yes'' vote on this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5806.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1800

HOWARD COBLE COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 2444) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2444

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 ''Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is the following:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 102. Authorized levels of military strength and training.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

Sec. 201. Commissioned officers.
Sec. 202. Commandant; appointment.
Sec. 203. Prevention and response workforces.
Sec. 204. Centers of expertise.
Sec. 205. Penalties.
Sec. 206. Agreements.
Sec. 207. Tuition assistance program coverage of textbooks and other educational materials.
Sec. 208. Coast Guard housing.
Sec. 209. Lease authority.
Sec. 210. Notification of certain determinations.
Sec. 211. Annual Board of Visitors.
Sec. 212. Flag officers.
Sec. 213. Repeal of limitation on medals of honor.
Sec. 214. Coast Guard family support and child care.
Sec. 215. Mission need statement.
Sec. 216. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.
Sec. 217. Inventory of real property.
Sec. 218. Retired service members and dependents serving on advisory committees.
Sec. 219. Active duty for emergency augmentation of regular forces.
Sec. 220. Acquisition workforce expedited hiring authority.
Sec. 221. Coast Guard administrative savings.
Sec. 222. Technical corrections to title 14.
Sec. 223. Multiyear procurement authority for Offshore Patrol Cutters.
Sec. 224. Maintaining Medium Endurance Cutter mission capability.
Sec. 225. Aviation capability.
Sec. 226. Gaps in writings on Coast Guard history.
Sec. 227. Officer evaluation reports.
Sec. 228. Improved safety information for vessels.
Sec. 229. E–LORAN.
Sec. 230. Analysis of resource deficiencies with respect to maritime border security.
Sec. 231. Modernization of National Distress and Response System.
Sec. 232. Report reconciling maintenance and operational priorities on the Missouri River.
Sec. 233. Maritime Search and Rescue Assistance Policy assessment.

TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

Sec. 301. Repeal.
Sec. 302. Donation of historical property.
Sec. 303. Small shipyards.
Sec. 304. Drug testing reporting.
Sec. 305. Opportunities for sea service veterans.
Sec. 306. Clarification of high-risk waters.
Sec. 307. Technical corrections.
Sec. 308. Report.
Sec. 309. Fishing safety grant programs.
Sec. 310. Establishment of Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee.
Sec. 311. Travel and subsistence.
Sec. 312. Prompt intergovernmental notice of marine casualties.
Sec. 313. Area Contingency Plans.
Sec. 314. International ice patrol reform.
Sec. 315. Offshore supply vessel third-party inspection.
Sec. 316. Watches.
Sec. 317. Coast Guard response plan requirements.
Sec. 318. Regional Citizens' Advisory Council.
Sec. 319. Uninspected passenger vessels in the United States Virgin Islands.
Sec. 320. Treatment of abandoned seafarers.
Sec. 321. Website.
Sec. 322. Coast Guard regulations.

TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Sec. 401. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 402. Award of reparations.
Sec. 403. Terms of Commissioners.

TITLE V—ARCTIC MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

Sec. 501. Arctic maritime transportation.

Sec. 502. Arctic maritime domain awareness.
Sec. 503. IMO Polar Code negotiations.
Sec. 504. Forward operating facilities.
Sec. 505. Icebreakers.
Sec. 506. Icebreaking in polar regions.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 601. Distant water tuna fleet.
Sec. 602. Extension of moratorium.
Sec. 603. National maritime strategy.
Sec. 604. Waivers.
Sec. 605. Competition by United States flag vessels.
Sec. 606. Vessel requirements for notices of arrival and departure and automatic identification system.
Sec. 607. Conveyance of Coast Guard property in Rochester, New York.
Sec. 608. Conveyance of certain property in Gig Harbor, Washington.
Sec. 609. Vessel determination.
Sec. 610. Safe vessel operation in Thunder Bay.
Sec. 611. Parking facilities.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for necessary expenses of the Coast Guard as follows:

(1) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard, $6,981,036,000.

(2) For the acquisition, construction, rebuilding, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore and offshore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto, $1,546,448,000, to remain available until expended.

(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, including personnel and training costs, equipment, and services, $140,016,000.

(4) For environmental compliance and restoration of Coast Guard vessels, aircraft, and facilities (other than parts and equipment associated with operation and maintenance), $16,701,000, to remain available until expended.

(5) To the Commandant of the Coast Guard for research, development, test, and evaluation of technologies, materials, and human factors directly related to improving the performance of the Coast Guard's mission with respect to search and rescue, aids to navigation, marine safety, marine environmental protection, enforcement of laws and treaties, ice operations, oceanographic research, and defense readiness, $19,890,000.

(6) For alteration or removal of bridges over navigable waters of the United States constituting obstructions to navigation, and for personnel and administrative costs associated with the Alteration of Bridges Program, $16,000,000.

SEC. 102. AUTHORIZED LEVELS OF MILITARY STRENGTH AND TRAINING.

(a) ACTIVE DUTY STRENGTH.—The Coast Guard is authorized an end-of-year strength for active duty personnel of 43,000 for fiscal year 2015.

(b) MILITARY TRAINING STUDENT LOADS.—The Coast Guard is authorized average military training student loads for fiscal year 2015 as follows:

(1) For recruit and special training, 2,500 student years.

(2) For flight training, 165 student years.

(3) For professional training in military and civilian institutions, 350 student years.

(4) For officer acquisition, 1,200 student years.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

SEC. 201. COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Section 42(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''7,200'' and inserting ''6,900''.

SEC. 202. COMMANDANT; APPOINTMENT.

Section 44 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''The term of an appointment, and any reappointment, shall begin on June 1 of the appropriate year and end on May 31 of the appropriate year, except that, in the event of death, retirement, resignation, or reassignment, or when the needs of the Service demand, the Secretary may alter the date on which a term begins or ends if the alteration does not result in the term exceeding a period of 4 years.''.

SEC. 203. PREVENTION AND RESPONSE WORKFORCES.

Section 57 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2) by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) waterways operations manager shall have knowledge, skill, and practical experience with respect to marine transportation system management; or

''(5) port and facility safety and security specialist shall have knowledge, skill, and practical experience with respect to the safety, security, and environmental protection responsibilities associated with maritime ports and facilities.'';

(2) in subsection (c) by striking ''or marine safety engineer'' and inserting ''marine safety engineer, waterways operations manager, or port and facility safety and security specialist''; and

(3) in subsection (f)(2) by striking ''investigator or marine safety engineer.'' and inserting ''investigator, marine safety engineer, waterways operations manager, or port and facility safety and security specialist.''.

SEC. 204. CENTERS OF EXPERTISE.

Section 58(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) MISSIONS.—Any center established under subsection (a) shall—

''(1) promote, facilitate, and conduct—

''(A) education;

''(B) training; and

''(C) activities authorized under section 93(a)(4);

''(2) be a repository of information on operations, practices, and resources related to the mission for which the center was established; and

''(3) perform and support the mission for which the center was established.''.

SEC. 205. PENALTIES.

(a) AIDS TO NAVIGATION AND FALSE DISTRESS MESSAGES.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 83 by striking ''$100'' and inserting ''$1,500'';

(2) in section 84 by striking ''$500'' and inserting ''$1,500'';

(3) in section 85 by striking ''$100'' and inserting ''$1,500''; and

(4) in section 88(c)(2) by striking ''$5,000'' and inserting ''$10,000''.

(b) UNAUTHORIZED USE OF WORDS ''COAST GUARD''.—Section 639 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$1,000'' and inserting ''$10,000''.

SEC. 206. AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 93(a)(4) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking '', investigate'' and inserting ''and investigate''; and

(2) by striking '', and cooperate and coordinate such activities with other Government agencies and with private agencies''.

(b) AUTHORITY.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 102. Agreements

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out section 93(a)(4), the Commandant may—

''(1) enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, and other agreements with—

''(A) Federal entities;

''(B) other public or private entities in the United States, including academic entities; and

''(C) foreign governments with the concurrence of the Secretary of State; and

''(2) impose on and collect from an entity subject to an agreement or contract under paragraph (1) a fee to assist with expenses incurred in carrying out such section.

''(b) DEPOSIT AND USE OF FEES.—Fees collected under this section shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts. The fees may be used, to the extent provided in advance in an appropriation law, only to carry out activities under section 93(a)(4).''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''102. Agreements.''.

SEC. 207. TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COVERAGE OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS.

Section 93(a)(7) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''and the textbooks, manuals, and other materials required as part of such training or course of instruction'' after ''correspondence courses''.

SEC. 208. COAST GUARD HOUSING.

(a) COMMANDANT; GENERAL POWERS.—Section 93(a)(13) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the Treasury'' and inserting ''the fund established under section 687''.

(b) LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTY.—Section 672a(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the Treasury'' and inserting ''the fund established under section 687''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 687(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) Monies received under section 93(a)(13).

''(5) Amounts received under section 672a(b).''.

SEC. 209. LEASE AUTHORITY.

Section 93 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) LEASING OF TIDELANDS AND SUBMERGED LANDS.—

''(1) AUTHORITY.—The Commandant may lease under subsection (a)(13) submerged lands and tidelands under the control of the Coast Guard without regard to the limitation under that subsection with respect to lease duration.

''(2) LIMITATION.—The Commandant may lease submerged lands and tidelands under paragraph (1) only if—

''(A) lease payments are—

''(i) received exclusively in the form of cash;

''(ii) equal to the fair market value of the use of the leased submerged lands or tidelands for the period during which such lands are leased, as determined by the Commandant; and

''(iii) deposited in the fund established under section 687; and

''(B) the lease does not provide authority to or commit the Coast Guard to use or support any improvements to such submerged lands or tidelands, or obtain goods or services from the lessee.''.

SEC. 210. NOTIFICATION OF CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 103. Notification of certain determinations

''(a) IN GENERAL.—At least 90 days prior to making a final determination that a waterway, or a portion thereof, is navigable for

purposes of the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard, the Commandant shall provide notification regarding the proposed determination to—

''(1) the Governor of each State in which such waterway, or portion thereof, is located;

''(2) the public; and

''(3) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

''(b) CONTENT REQUIREMENT.—Each notification provided under subsection (a) to an entity specified in paragraph (3) of that subsection shall include—

''(1) an analysis of whether vessels operating on the waterway, or portion thereof, subject to the proposed determination are subject to inspection or similar regulation by State or local officials;

''(2) an analysis of whether operators of commercial vessels on such waterway, or portion thereof, are subject to licensing or similar regulation by State or local officials; and

''(3) an estimate of the annual costs that the Coast Guard may incur in conducting operations on such waterway, or portion thereof.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''103. Notification of certain determinations.''.

SEC. 211. ANNUAL BOARD OF VISITORS.

Section 194 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 194. Annual Board of Visitors

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A Board of Visitors to the Coast Guard Academy is established to review and make recommendations on the operation of the Academy.

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The membership of the Board shall consist of the following:

''(A) The chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, or the chairman's designee.

''(B) The chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, or the chairman's designee.

''(C) 3 Members of the Senate designated by the Vice President.

''(D) 4 Members of the House of Representatives designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

''(E) 6 individuals designated by the President.

''(2) LENGTH OF SERVICE.—

''(A) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—A Member of Congress designated under subparagraph (C) or (D) of paragraph (1) as a member of the Board shall be designated as a member in the First Session of a Congress and serve for the duration of that Congress.

''(B) INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT.—Each individual designated by the President under subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) shall serve as a member of the Board for 3 years, except that any such member whose term of office has expired shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

''(3) DEATH OR RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER.—If a member of the Board dies or resigns, a successor shall be designated for any unexpired portion of the term of the member by the official who designated the member.

''(c) ACADEMY VISITS.—

''(1) ANNUAL VISIT.—The Board shall visit the Academy annually to review the operation of the Academy.

''(2) ADDITIONAL VISITS.—With the approval of the Secretary, the Board or individual members of the Board may make other visits to the Academy in connection with the duties of the Board or to consult with the Superintendent of the Academy.

''(d) SCOPE OF REVIEW.—The Board shall review, with respect to the Academy—

''(1) the state of morale and discipline;

''(2) the curriculum;

''(3) instruction;

''(4) physical equipment;

''(5) fiscal affairs; and

''(6) other matters relating to the Academy that the Board determines appropriate.

''(e) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of an annual visit of the Board under subsection (c)(1), the Board shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the actions of the Board during such visit and the recommendations of the Board pertaining to the Academy.

''(f) ADVISORS.—If approved by the Secretary, the Board may consult with advisors in carrying out this section.

''(g) REIMBURSEMENT.—Each member of the Board and each adviser consulted by the Board under subsection (f) shall be reimbursed, to the extent permitted by law, by the Coast Guard for actual expenses incurred while engaged in duties as a member or adviser.''.

SEC. 212. FLAG OFFICERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 295 the following:

''§ 296. Flag officers

''During any period in which the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Navy, section 1216(d) of title 10 does not apply with respect to flag officers of the Coast Guard.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 295 the following:

''296. Flag officers.''.

SEC. 213. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON MEDALS OF HONOR.

Section 494 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''medal of honor,'' each place it appears.

SEC. 214. COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after chapter 13 the following:

''CHAPTER 14—COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE

''SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

''Sec.

''531. Work-life policies and programs.

''532. Surveys of Coast Guard families.

''SUBCHAPTER II—COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT

''542. Education and training opportunities for Coast Guard spouses.

''543. Youth sponsorship initiatives.

''SUBCHAPTER III—COAST GUARD CHILD CARE

''551. Definitions.

''553. Child development center standards and inspections.

''554. Child development center employees.

''555. Parent partnerships with child development centers.

''SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

''§ 531. Work-life policies and programs

''The Commandant is authorized—

''(1) to establish an office for the purpose of developing, promulgating, and coordinating policies, programs, and activities related to the families of Coast Guard members;

''(2) to implement and oversee policies, programs, and activities described in paragraph (1) as the Commandant considers necessary; and

''(3) to perform such other duties as the Commandant considers necessary.

''§ 532. Surveys of Coast Guard families

''(a) AUTHORITY.—The Commandant, in order to determine the effectiveness of Federal policies, programs, and activities related to the families of Coast Guard members, may survey—

''(1) any Coast Guard member;

''(2) any retired Coast Guard member;

''(3) the immediate family of any Coast Guard member or retired Coast Guard member; and

''(4) any survivor of a deceased Coast Guard member.

''(b) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Participation in any survey conducted under subsection (a) shall be voluntary.

''(c) FEDERAL RECORDKEEPING.—Each person surveyed under subsection (a) shall be considered an employee of the United States for purposes of section 3502(3)(A)(i) of title 44.

''SUBCHAPTER II—COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT

''§ 542. Education and training opportunities for Coast Guard spouses

''(a) TUITION ASSISTANCE.—The Commandant may provide, subject to the availability of appropriations, tuition assistance to an eligible spouse to facilitate the acquisition of—

''(1) education and training required for a degree or credential at an accredited college, university, or technical school in the United States that expands employment and portable career opportunities for the spouse; or

''(2) education prerequisites and a professional license or credential required, by a government or government-sanctioned licensing body, for an occupation that expands employment and portable career opportunities for the spouse.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

''(1) ELIGIBLE SPOUSE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'eligible spouse' means the spouse of a member of the Coast Guard who is serving on active duty and includes a spouse who receives transitional compensation under section 1059 of title 10.

''(B) EXCLUSION.—The term 'eligible spouse' does not include a person who—

''(i) is married to, but legally separated from, a member of the Coast Guard under a court order or statute of any State or territorial possession of the United States; or

''(ii) is eligible for tuition assistance as a member of the Armed Forces.

''(2) PORTABLE CAREER.—The term 'portable career' includes an occupation that requires education, training, or both that results in a credential that is recognized by an industry, profession, or specific type of business.

''§ 543. Youth sponsorship initiatives

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant is authorized to establish, within any Coast Guard unit, an initiative to help integrate into new surroundings the dependent children of members of the Coast Guard who received permanent change of station orders.

''(b) DESCRIPTION OF INITIATIVE.—An initiative established under subsection (a) shall—

''(1) provide for the involvement of a dependent child of a member of the Coast Guard in the dependent child's new Coast Guard community; and

''(2) primarily focus on preteen and teenaged children.

''(c) AUTHORITY.—In carrying out an initiative under subsection (a), the Commandant may—

''(1) provide to a dependent child of a member of the Coast Guard information on youth programs and activities available in the dependent child's new Coast Guard community; and

''(2) enter into agreements with nonprofit entities to provide youth programs and activities to such child.

''SUBCHAPTER III—COAST GUARD CHILD CARE

''§ 551. Definitions

''In this subchapter, the following definitions apply:

''(1) CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.—The term 'child abuse and neglect' has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note).

''(2) CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER EMPLOYEE.—The term 'child development center employee' means a civilian employee of the Coast Guard who is employed to work in a Coast Guard child development center without regard to whether the employee is paid from appropriated or nonappropriated funds.

''(3) COAST GUARD CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER.—The term 'Coast Guard child development center' means a facility on Coast Guard property or on property under the jurisdiction of the commander of a Coast Guard unit at which child care services are provided for members of the Coast Guard.

''(4) COMPETITIVE SERVICE POSITION.—The term 'competitive service position' means a position in the competitive service (as defined in section 2102 of title 5).

''(5) FAMILY HOME DAYCARE.—The term 'family home daycare' means home-based child care services provided for a member of the Coast Guard by an individual who—

''(A) is certified by the Commandant as qualified to provide home-based child care services; and

''(B) provides home-based child care services on a regular basis in exchange for monetary compensation.

''§ 553. Child development center standards and inspections

''(a) STANDARDS.—The Commandant shall require each Coast Guard child development center to meet standards that the Commandant considers appropriate to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the children and employees at the center.

''(b) INSPECTIONS.—The Commandant shall provide for regular and unannounced inspections of each Coast Guard child development center to ensure compliance with this section.

''(c) NATIONAL REPORTING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall maintain and publicize a means by which an individual can report, with respect to a Coast Guard child development center or a family home daycare—

''(A) any suspected violation of—

''(i) standards established under subsection (a); or

''(ii) any other applicable law or standard;

''(B) suspected child abuse or neglect; or

''(C) any other deficiency.

''(2) ANONYMOUS REPORTING.—The Commandant shall ensure that an individual making a report pursuant to paragraph (1) may do so anonymously if so desired by the individual.

''(3) PROCEDURES.—The Commandant shall establish procedures for investigating reports made pursuant to paragraph (1).

''§ 554. Child development center employees

''(a) TRAINING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall establish a training program for Coast Guard child development center employees and satisfactory completion of the training program shall be a condition of employment for each employee of a Coast Guard child development center.

''(2) TIMING FOR NEW HIRES.—The Commandant shall require each employee of a Coast Guard child development center to complete the training program established under paragraph (1) not later than 6 months after the date on which the employee is hired.

''(3) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The training program established under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, instruction with respect to—

''(A) early childhood development;

''(B) activities and disciplinary techniques appropriate to children of different ages;

''(C) child abuse and neglect prevention and detection; and

''(D) cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency medical procedures.

''(4) USE OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS.—The Commandant may use Department of Defense training programs, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, for purposes of this subsection.

''(b) TRAINING AND CURRICULUM SPECIALISTS.—

''(1) SPECIALIST REQUIRED.—The Commandant shall require that at least 1 employee at each Coast Guard child development center be a specialist in training and curriculum development with appropriate credentials and experience.

''(2) DUTIES.—The duties of the specialist described in paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) special teaching activities;

''(B) daily oversight and instruction of other child care employees;

''(C) daily assistance in the preparation of lesson plans;

''(D) assisting with child abuse and neglect prevention and detection; and

''(E) advising the director of the center on the performance of the other child care employees.

''(3) COMPETITIVE SERVICE.—Each specialist described in paragraph (1) shall be an employee in a competitive service position.

''§ 555. Parent partnerships with child development centers

''(a) PARENT BOARDS.—

''(1) FORMATION.—The Commandant shall require that there be formed at each Coast Guard child development center a board of parents, to be composed of parents of children attending the center.

''(2) FUNCTIONS.—Each board of parents formed under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) meet periodically with the staff of the center at which the board is formed and the commander of the unit served by the center, for the purpose of discussing problems and concerns; and

''(B) be responsible, together with the staff of the center, for coordinating any parent participation initiative established under subsection (b).

''(3) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) does not apply to a board of parents formed under paragraph (1).

''(b) PARENT PARTICIPATION INITIATIVE.—The Commandant is authorized to establish a parent participation initiative at each Coast Guard child development center to encourage and facilitate parent participation in educational and related activities at the center.''.

(b) TRANSFER OF PROVISIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) REIMBURSEMENT FOR ADOPTION EXPENSES.—Section 514 of title 14, United States Code, is redesignated as section 541 and transferred to appear before section 542 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(B) CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES.—Section 515 of title 14, United States Code—

(i) is redesignated as section 552 and transferred to appear after section 551 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section; and

(ii) is amended—

(I) in subsection (b)(2)(B) by inserting ''and whether a family is participating in an initiative established under section 555(b)'' after ''family income'';

(II) by striking subsections (c) and (e); and

(III) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(C) DEPENDENT SCHOOL CHILDREN.—Section 657 of title 14, United States Code—

(i) is redesignated as section 544 and transferred to appear after section 543 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section; and

(ii) is amended in subsection (a) by striking ''Except as otherwise'' and all that follows through ''the Secretary may'' and inserting ''The Secretary may''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) PART I.—The analysis for part I of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 13 the following:

''14. Coast Guard Family Support and Child Care ..... 531''.

(B) CHAPTER 13.—The analysis for chapter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(i) by striking the item relating to section 514; and

(ii) by striking the item relating to section 515.

(C) CHAPTER 14.—The analysis for chapter 14 of title 14, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section, is amended by inserting—

(i) before the item relating to section 542 the following:

''541. Reimbursement for adoption expenses.'';

(ii) after the item relating to section 551 the following:

''552. Child development services.''; and

(iii) after the item relating to section 543 the following:

''544. Dependent school children.''.

(D) CHAPTER 17.—The analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 657.

(c) COMMANDANT; GENERAL POWERS.—Section 93(a)(7) of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting '', and to eligible spouses as defined under section 542,'' after ''Coast Guard''.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that the amount of funds appropriated for a fiscal year for operating expenses related to Coast Guard child development services should not be less than the amount of the child development center fee receipts estimated to be collected by the Coast Guard during that fiscal year.

(2) CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER FEE RECEIPTS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''child development center fee receipts'' means fees paid by members of the Coast Guard for child care services provided at Coast Guard child development centers.

SEC. 215. MISSION NEED STATEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 569 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 569. Mission need statement

''(a) IN GENERAL.—On the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2016 under section 1105 of title 31, on the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2019

under such section, and every 4 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an integrated major acquisition mission need statement.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

''(1) INTEGRATED MAJOR ACQUISITION MISSION NEED STATEMENT.—The term 'integrated major acquisition mission need statement' means a document that—

''(A) identifies current and projected gaps in Coast Guard mission capabilities using mission hour targets;

''(B) explains how each major acquisition program addresses gaps identified under subparagraph (A) if funded at the levels provided for such program in the most recently submitted capital investment plan; and

''(C) describes the missions the Coast Guard will not be able to achieve, by fiscal year, for each gap identified under subparagraph (A).

''(2) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term 'major acquisition program' has the meaning given that term in section 569a(e).

''(3) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—The term 'capital investment plan' means the plan required under section 663(a)(1).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 569 and inserting the following:

''569. Mission need statement.''.

SEC. 216. TRANSMISSION OF ANNUAL COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 662 the following:

''§ 662a. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for a fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a Coast Guard authorization request with respect to such fiscal year.

''(b) COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'Coast Guard authorization request' means a proposal for legislation that, with respect to the Coast Guard for the relevant fiscal year—

''(1) recommends end strengths for personnel for that fiscal year, as described in section 661;

''(2) recommends authorizations of appropriations for that fiscal year, including with respect to matters described in section 662; and

''(3) addresses any other matter that the Secretary determines is appropriate for inclusion in a Coast Guard authorization bill.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 662 the following:

''662a. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.''.

SEC. 217. INVENTORY OF REAL PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 679. Inventory of real property

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2015, the Commandant shall establish an inventory of all real property, including submerged lands, under the control of the Coast Guard, which shall include—

''(1) the size, the location, and any other appropriate description of each unit of such property;

''(2) an assessment of the physical condition of each unit of such property, excluding lands;

''(3) a determination of whether each unit of such property should be—

''(A) retained to fulfill a current or projected Coast Guard mission requirement; or

''(B) subject to divestiture; and

''(4) other information the Commandant considers appropriate.

''(b) INVENTORY MAINTENANCE.—The Commandant shall—

''(1) maintain the inventory required under subsection (a) on an ongoing basis; and

''(2) update information on each unit of real property included in such inventory not later than 30 days after any change relating to the control of such property.

''(c) RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than March 30, 2016, and every 5 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes—

''(1) a list of all real property under the control of the Coast Guard and the location of such property by property type;

''(2) recommendations for divestiture with respect to any units of such property; and

''(3) recommendations for consolidating any units of such property, including—

''(A) an estimate of the costs or savings associated with each recommended consolidation; and

''(B) a discussion of the impact that such consolidation would have on Coast Guard mission effectiveness.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''679. Inventory of real property.''.

SEC. 218. RETIRED SERVICE MEMBERS AND DEPENDENTS SERVING ON ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 680. Retired service members and dependents serving on advisory committees

''A committee that—

''(1) advises or assists the Coast Guard with respect to a function that affects a member of the Coast Guard or a dependent of such a member; and

''(2) includes in its membership a retired Coast Guard member or a dependent of such a retired member;

shall not be considered an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) solely because of such membership.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 679 the following:

''680. Retired service members and dependents serving on advisory committees.''.

SEC. 219. ACTIVE DUTY FOR EMERGENCY AUGMENTATION OF REGULAR FORCES.

Section 712(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''not more than 60 days in any 4-month period and''.

SEC. 220. ACQUISITION WORKFORCE EXPEDITED HIRING AUTHORITY.

Section 404(b) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–281; 124 Stat. 2951) is amended by striking ''2015'' and inserting ''2017''.

SEC. 221. COAST GUARD ADMINISTRATIVE SAVINGS.

(a) ELIMINATION OF OUTDATED AND DUPLICATIVE REPORTS.—

(1) MARINE INDUSTRY TRAINING.—Section 59 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant'' and inserting ''The Commandant''; and

(B) by striking subsection (b).

(2) OPERATIONS AND EXPENDITURES.—Section 651 of title 14, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 17 of such title, are repealed.

(3) DRUG INTERDICTION.—Section 103 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 (14 U.S.C. 89 note), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents in section 2 of that Act, are repealed.

(4) NATIONAL DEFENSE.—Section 426 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (14 U.S.C. 2 note), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents in section 1(b) of that Act, are repealed.

(5) LIVING MARINE RESOURCES.—Section 4(b) of the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act of 2010 (16 U.S.C. 1828 note) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''No report shall be required under this subsection, including that no report shall be required under section 224 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 or section 804 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006, for fiscal years beginning after fiscal year 2014.''.

(b) CONSOLIDATION AND REFORM OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) MARINE SAFETY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 2116(d)(2)(B) of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(B) on the program's mission performance in achieving numerical measurable goals established under subsection (b), including—

''(i) the number of civilian and military Coast Guard personnel assigned to marine safety positions; and

''(ii) an identification of marine safety positions that are understaffed to meet the workload required to accomplish each activity included in the strategy and plans under subsection (a); and''.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 57 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(i) by striking subsection (e); and

(ii) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (e), (f), and (g) respectively.

(2) MINOR CONSTRUCTION.—Section 656(d)(2) of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(2) REPORT.—Not later than the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget under section 1105 of title 31 each year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing each project carried out under paragraph (1), in the most recently concluded fiscal year, for which the amount expended under such paragraph for such project was more than $1,000,000. If no such project was carried out during a fiscal year, no report under this paragraph shall be required with respect to that fiscal year.''.

SEC. 222. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 14.

Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in section 93(b)(1) by striking ''Notwithstanding subsection (a)(14)'' and inserting ''Notwithstanding subsection (a)(13)''; and

(2) in section 197(b) by striking ''of Homeland Security''.

SEC. 223. MULTIYEAR PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR OFFSHORE PATROL CUTTERS.

In fiscal year 2015 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may enter into, in accordance with section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, multiyear contracts for the procurement of Offshore Patrol Cutters and associated equipment.

SEC. 224. MAINTAINING MEDIUM ENDURANCE CUTTER MISSION CAPABILITY.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) a schedule and plan for decommissioning, not later than September 30, 2029, each of the 210-foot, Reliance-Class Cutters operated by the Coast Guard on the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) a schedule and plan for enhancing the maintenance or extending the service life of each of the 270-foot, Famous-Class Cutters operated by the Coast Guard on the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) to maintain the capability of the Coast Guard to carry out sea-going missions with respect to such Cutters at the level of capability existing on September 30, 2013; and

(B) for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the final Offshore Patrol Cutter is scheduled to be commissioned under paragraph (4);

(3) an identification of the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters capable of sea state 5 operations that, if 8 National Security Cutters are commissioned, are necessary to return the sea state 5 operating capability of the Coast Guard to the level of capability that existed prior to the decommissioning of the first High Endurance Cutter in fiscal year 2011;

(4) a schedule and plan for commissioning the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters identified under paragraph (3); and

(5) a schedule and plan for commissioning, not later than September 30, 2034, a number of Offshore Patrol Cutters not capable of sea state 5 operations that is equal to—

(A) 25; less

(B) the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters identified under paragraph (3).

SEC. 225. AVIATION CAPABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may—

(1) request and accept through a direct military-to-military transfer under section 2571 of title 10, United States Code, such H–60 helicopters as may be necessary to establish a year-round operational capability in the Coast Guard's Ninth District; and

(2) use funds provided under section 101 of this Act to convert such helicopters to Coast Guard MH–60T configuration.

(b) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Coast Guard may not—

(A) close a Coast Guard air facility that was in operation on November 30, 2014; or

(B) retire, transfer, relocate, or deploy an aviation asset from an air facility described in subparagraph (A) for the purpose of closing such facility.

(2) SUNSET.—This subsection is repealed effective January 1, 2016.

SEC. 226. GAPS IN WRITINGS ON COAST GUARD HISTORY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on any gaps that exist in writings on the history of the Coast Guard. The report shall address, at a minimum, operations, broad topics, and biographies with respect to the Coast Guard.

SEC. 227. OFFICER EVALUATION REPORTS.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a written assessment of the Coast Guard's officer evaluation reporting system.

(b) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assessment required under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, an analysis of—

(1) the extent to which the Coast Guard's officer evaluation reports differ in length, form, and content from the officer fitness reports used by the Navy and other branches of the Armed Forces;

(2) the extent to which differences determined pursuant to paragraph (1) are the result of inherent differences between—

(A) the Coast Guard and the Navy; and

(B) the Coast Guard and other branches of the Armed Forces;

(3) the feasibility of more closely aligning and conforming the Coast Guard's officer evaluation reports with the officer fitness reports of the Navy and other branches of the Armed Forces; and

(4) the costs and benefits of the alignment and conformity described in paragraph (3), including with respect to—

(A) Coast Guard administrative efficiency;

(B) fairness and equity for Coast Guard officers; and

(C) carrying out the Coast Guard's statutory mission of defense readiness, including when operating as a service in the Navy.

SEC. 228. IMPROVED SAFETY INFORMATION FOR VESSELS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process that allows an operator of a marine exchange or other non-Federal vessel traffic information service to use the automatic identification system to transmit weather, ice, and other important navigation safety information to vessels.

SEC. 229. E–LORAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may not carry out activities related to the dismantling or disposal of infrastructure that supported the former LORAN system until the later of—

(1) the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) the date on which the Secretary provides to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate notice of a determination by the Secretary that such infrastructure is not required to provide a positioning, navigation, and timing system to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to activities necessary for the safety of human life.

(c) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, and other agreements with Federal entities and other public or private entities, including academic entities, to develop a positioning, navigation, and timing system, including an enhanced LORAN system, to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.

SEC. 230. ANALYSIS OF RESOURCE DEFICIENCIES WITH RESPECT TO MARITIME BORDER SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report describing any Coast Guard resource deficiencies related to—

(1) securing maritime borders with respect to the Great Lakes and the coastal areas of the Southeastern and Southwestern United States, including with respect to Florida, California, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands;

(2) patrolling and monitoring maritime approaches to the areas described in paragraph (1); and

(3) patrolling and monitoring relevant portions of the Western Hemisphere Drug Transit Zone.

(b) SCOPE.—In preparing the report under subsection (a), the Commandant shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) the Coast Guard's statutory missions with respect to migrant interdiction, drug interdiction, defense readiness, living marine resources, and ports, waterways, and coastal security;

(2) whether Coast Guard missions are being executed to meet national performance targets set under the National Drug Control Strategy;

(3) the number and types of cutters and other vessels required to effectively execute Coast Guard missions;

(4) the number and types of aircraft, including unmanned aircraft, required to effectively execute Coast Guard missions;

(5) the number of assets that require upgraded sensor and communications systems to effectively execute Coast Guard missions;

(6) the Deployable Specialized Forces required to effectively execute Coast Guard missions; and

(7) whether additional shoreside facilities are required to accommodate Coast Guard personnel and assets in support of Coast Guard missions.

SEC. 231. MODERNIZATION OF NATIONAL DISTRESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEM.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the implementation of the Rescue 21 project in Alaska and in Coast Guard sectors Upper Mississippi River, Lower Mississippi River, and Ohio River Valley.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) describe what improvements are being made to the distress response system in the areas specified in subsection (a), including information on which areas will receive digital selective calling and direction finding capability;

(2) describe the impediments to installing digital selective calling and direction finding capability in areas where such technology will not be installed;

(3) identify locations in the areas specified in subsection (a) where communication gaps will continue to present a risk to mariners after completion of the Rescue 21 project;

(4) include a list of all reported marine accidents, casualties, and fatalities occurring

in the locations identified under paragraph (3) since 1990; and

(5) provide an estimate of the costs associated with installing the technology necessary to close communication gaps in the locations identified under paragraph (3).

SEC. 232. REPORT RECONCILING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES ON THE MISSOURI RIVER.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that outlines a course of action to reconcile general maintenance priorities for cutters with operational priorities on the Missouri River.

SEC. 233. MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSISTANCE POLICY ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall assess the Maritime Search and Rescue Assistance Policy as it relates to State and local responders.

(b) SCOPE.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) the extent to which Coast Guard search and rescue coordinators have entered into domestic search and rescue agreements with State and local responders under the National Search and Rescue Plan;

(2) whether the domestic search and rescue agreements include the Maritime Search and Rescue Assistance Policy; and

(3) the extent to which Coast Guard sectors coordinate with 911 emergency centers, including ensuring the dissemination of appropriate maritime distress check-sheets.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit a report on the assessment under subsection (a) to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

SEC. 301. REPEAL.

Chapter 555 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by repealing section 55501;

(2) by redesignating section 55502 as section 55501; and

(3) in the analysis by striking the items relating to sections 55501 and 55502 and inserting the following:

''55501. United States Committee on the Marine Transportation System.''.

SEC. 302. DONATION OF HISTORICAL PROPERTY.

Section 51103 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) DONATION FOR HISTORICAL PURPOSES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may convey the right, title, and interest of the United States Government in any property administered by the Maritime Administration, except real estate or vessels, if—

''(A) the Secretary determines that such property is not needed by the Maritime Administration; and

''(B) the recipient—

''(i) is a nonprofit organization, a State, or a political subdivision of a State;

''(ii) agrees to hold the Government harmless for any claims arising from exposure to hazardous materials, including asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls, or lead paint, after conveyance of the property;

''(iii) provides a description and explanation of the intended use of the property to the Secretary for approval;

''(iv) has provided to the Secretary proof, as determined by the Secretary, of resources sufficient to accomplish the intended use provided under clause (iii) and to maintain the property;

''(v) agrees that when the recipient no longer requires the property, the recipient shall—

''(I) return the property to the Secretary, at the recipient's expense and in the same condition as received except for ordinary wear and tear; or

''(II) subject to the approval of the Secretary, retain, sell, or otherwise dispose of the property in a manner consistent with applicable law; and

''(vi) agrees to any additional terms the Secretary considers appropriate.

''(2) REVERSION.—The Secretary shall include in any conveyance under this subsection terms under which all right, title, and interest conveyed by the Secretary shall revert to the Government if the Secretary determines the property has been used other than as approved by the Secretary under paragraph (1)(B)(iii).''.

SEC. 303. SMALL SHIPYARDS.

Section 54101(i) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2009 through 2013'' and inserting ''2015 through 2017''.

SEC. 304. DRUG TESTING REPORTING.

Section 7706 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''an applicant for employment by a Federal agency,'' after ''Federal agency,''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by—

(A) inserting ''or an applicant for employment by a Federal agency'' after ''an employee''; and

(B) striking ''the employee.'' and inserting ''the employee or the applicant.''.

SEC. 305. OPPORTUNITIES FOR SEA SERVICE VETERANS.

(a) ENDORSEMENTS FOR VETERANS.—Section 7101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) The Secretary may issue a license under this section in a class under subsection (c) to an applicant that—

''(1) has at least 3 months of qualifying service on vessels of the uniformed services (as that term is defined in section 101(a) of title 10) of appropriate tonnage or horsepower within the 7-year period immediately preceding the date of application; and

''(2) satisfies all other requirements for such a license.''.

(b) SEA SERVICE LETTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 427 the following:

''§ 428. Sea service letters

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide a sea service letter to a member or former member of the Coast Guard who—

''(1) accumulated sea service on a vessel of the armed forces (as such term is defined in section 101(a) of title 10); and

''(2) requests such letter.

''(b) DEADLINE.—Not later than 30 days after receiving a request for a sea service letter from a member or former member of the Coast Guard under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide such letter to such member or former member if such member or former member satisfies the requirement under subsection (a)(1).''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 427 the following:

''428. Sea service letters.''.

(c) CREDITING OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES SERVICE, TRAINING, AND QUALIFICATIONS.—

(1) MAXIMIZING CREDITABILITY.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, in implementing United States merchant mariner license, certification, and document laws and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, shall maximize the extent to which United States Armed Forces service, training, and qualifications are creditable toward meeting the requirements of such laws and such Convention.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the steps taken to implement this subsection.

(d) MERCHANT MARINE POST-SERVICE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall take steps to promote better awareness, on an ongoing basis, among Coast Guard personnel regarding post-service use of Coast Guard training, education, and practical experience in satisfaction of requirements for merchant mariner credentials under section 11.213 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 306. CLARIFICATION OF HIGH-RISK WATERS.

Section 55305(e) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''provide armed personnel aboard'' and inserting ''reimburse, subject to the availability of appropriations, the owners or operators of''; and

(B) by inserting ''for the cost of providing armed personnel aboard such vessels'' before ''if''; and

(2) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

''(2) In this subsection, the term 'high-risk waters' means waters so designated by the Commandant of the Coast Guard in the maritime security directive issued by the Commandant and in effect on the date on which an applicable voyage begins, if the Secretary of Transportation—

''(A) determines that an act of piracy occurred in the 12-month period preceding the date the voyage begins; or

''(B) in such period, issued an advisory warning that an act of piracy is possible in such waters.''.

SEC. 307. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) TITLE 46.—Section 2116(b)(1)(D) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 93(c)'' and inserting ''section 93(c) of title 14''.

(b) COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2006.—Section 304(a) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–241; 33 U.S.C. 1503 note) is amended by inserting ''and from'' before ''the United States''.

(c) DEEPWATER PORT ACT OF 1974.—Section 4(i) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1503(i)) is amended by inserting ''or that will supply'' after ''be supplied with''.

SEC. 308. REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the number of jobs, including vessel construction and vessel operating jobs, that would be created in the United States maritime industry each year in 2015 through 2025 if liquified natural gas exported from the United States were required to be carried—

(1) before December 31, 2018, on vessels documented under the laws of the United States; and

(2) on and after such date, on vessels documented under the laws of the United States and constructed in the United States.

SEC. 309. FISHING SAFETY GRANT PROGRAMS.

(a) FISHING SAFETY TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4502(i)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2010 through 2014'' and inserting ''2015 through 2017''.

(b) FISHING SAFETY RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4502(j)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2010 through 2014'' and inserting ''2015 through 2017''.

SEC. 310. ESTABLISHMENT OF MERCHANT MARINE PERSONNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 81 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 8108. Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as 'the Committee'). The Committee—

''(1) shall act solely in an advisory capacity to the Secretary through the Commandant of the Coast Guard on matters relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards, and other matters as assigned by the Commandant;

''(2) shall review and comment on proposed Coast Guard regulations and policies relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards;

''(3) may be given special assignments by the Secretary and may conduct studies, inquiries, workshops, and fact finding in consultation with individuals and groups in the private sector and with State or local governments;

''(4) shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations reflecting its independent judgment to the Secretary;

''(5) shall meet not less than twice each year; and

''(6) may make available to Congress recommendations that the Committee makes to the Secretary.

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall consist of not more than 19 members who are appointed by and serve terms of a duration determined by the Secretary. Before filling a position on the Committee, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register soliciting nominations for membership on the Committee.

''(2) REQUIRED MEMBERS.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary shall appoint as members of the Committee—

''(A) 9 United States citizens with active licenses or certificates issued under chapter 71 or merchant mariner documents issued under chapter 73, including—

''(i) 3 deck officers who represent the viewpoint of merchant marine deck officers, of whom—

''(I) 2 shall be licensed for oceans any gross tons;

''(II) 1 shall be licensed for inland river route with a limited or unlimited tonnage;

''(III) 2 shall have a master's license or a master of towing vessels license;

''(IV) 1 shall have significant tanker experience; and

''(V) to the extent practicable—

''(aa) 1 shall represent the viewpoint of labor; and

''(bb) another shall represent a management perspective;

''(ii) 3 engineering officers who represent the viewpoint of merchant marine engineering officers, of whom—

''(I) 2 shall be licensed as chief engineer any horsepower;

''(II) 1 shall be licensed as either a limited chief engineer or a designated duty engineer; and

''(III) to the extent practicable—

''(aa) 1 shall represent a labor viewpoint; and

''(bb) another shall represent a management perspective;

''(iii) 2 unlicensed seamen, of whom—

''(I) 1 shall represent the viewpoint of able-bodied seamen; and

''(II) another shall represent the viewpoint of qualified members of the engine department; and

''(iv) 1 pilot who represents the viewpoint of merchant marine pilots;

''(B) 6 marine educators, including—

''(i) 3 marine educators who represent the viewpoint of maritime academies, including—

''(I) 2 who represent the viewpoint of State maritime academies and are jointly recommended by such State maritime academies; and

''(II) 1 who represents either the viewpoint of the State maritime academies or the United States Merchant Marine Academy; and

''(ii) 3 marine educators who represent the viewpoint of other maritime training institutions, 1 of whom shall represent the viewpoint of the small vessel industry;

''(C) 2 individuals who represent the viewpoint of shipping companies employed in ship operation management; and

''(D) 2 members who are appointed from the general public.

''(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Transportation in making an appointment under paragraph (2)(B)(i)(II).

''(c) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Secretary shall designate one member of the Committee as the Chairman and one member of the Committee as the Vice Chairman. The Vice Chairman shall act as Chairman in the absence or incapacity of the Chairman, or in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Chairman.

''(d) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Committee may establish and disestablish subcommittees and working groups for any purpose consistent with this section, subject to conditions imposed by the Committee. Members of the Committee and additional persons drawn from the general public may be assigned to such subcommittees and working groups. Only Committee members may chair subcommittee or working groups.

''(e) TERMINATION.—The Committee shall terminate on September 30, 2020.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''8108. Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee.''.

SEC. 311. TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE.

(a) TITLE 46, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 2110 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

''(b)(1) In addition to the collection of fees and charges established under subsection (a), in providing a service or thing of value under this subtitle the Secretary may accept in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence.

''(2) The value of in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence accepted under this paragraph may not exceed applicable per diem rates set forth in regulations prescribed under section 464 of title 37.''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''subsections (a) and (b),'' and inserting ''subsection (a),''.

(b) TITLE 14, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 664 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by redesignating subsections (e) though (g) as subsections (f) through (h), respectively, and by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e)(1) In addition to the collection of fees and charges established under this section, in the provision of a service or thing of value by the Coast Guard the Secretary may accept in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence.

''(2) The value of in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence accepted under this paragraph may not exceed applicable per diem rates set forth in regulations prescribed under section 464 of title 37.''.

(c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating may not accept in-kind transportation, travel, or subsistence under section 664(e) of title 14, United States Code, or section 2110(d)(4) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by this section, until the Commandant of the Coast Guard—

(1) amends the Standards of Ethical Conduct for members and employees of the Coast Guard to include regulations governing the acceptance of in-kind reimbursements; and

(2) notifies the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives of the amendments made under paragraph (1).

SEC. 312. PROMPT INTERGOVERNMENTAL NOTICE OF MARINE CASUALTIES.

Section 6101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) NOTICE TO STATE AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—Not later than 24 hours after receiving a notice of a major marine casualty under this section, the Secretary shall notify each State or federally recognized Indian tribe that is, or may reasonably be expected to be, affected by such marine casualty.'';

(2) in subsection (h)—

(A) by striking ''(1)''; and

(B) by redesignating subsection (h)(2) as subsection (i) of section 6101, and in such subsection—

(i) by striking ''paragraph,'' and inserting ''section,''; and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as paragraphs (1) through (4); and

(3) by redesignating the last subsection as subsection (j).

SEC. 313. AREA CONTINGENCY PLANS.

Section 311(j)(4) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''qualified personnel of Federal, State, and local agencies.'' and inserting ''qualified—

''(i) personnel of Federal, State, and local agencies; and

''(ii) members of federally recognized Indian tribes, where applicable.'';

(2) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

(A) by striking ''and local'' and inserting '', local, and tribal''; and

(B) by striking ''wildlife;'' and inserting ''wildlife, including advance planning with respect to the closing and reopening of fishing areas following a discharge;'';

(3) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking ''and local'' and inserting '', local, and tribal''; and

(4) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) in clause (iv), by striking ''and Federal, State, and local agencies'' and inserting '',

Federal, State, and local agencies, and tribal governments'';

(B) by redesignating clauses (vii) and (viii) as clauses (viii) and (ix), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after clause (vi) the following:

''(vii) include a framework for advance planning and decisionmaking with respect to the closing and reopening of fishing areas following a discharge, including protocols and standards for the closing and reopening of fishing areas;''.

SEC. 314. INTERNATIONAL ICE PATROL REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 803 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 80301, by adding at the end the following:

''(c) PAYMENTS.—Payments received pursuant to subsection (b)(1) shall be credited to the appropriation for operating expenses of the Coast Guard.'';

(2) in section 80302—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking ''An ice patrol vessel'' and inserting ''The ice patrol'';

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''An ice patrol vessel'' and inserting ''The ice patrol''; and

(C) in the first sentence of subsection (d), by striking ''vessels'' and inserting ''aircraft''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''§ 80304. Limitation on ice patrol data

''Notwithstanding sections 80301 and 80302, data collected by an ice patrol conducted by the Coast Guard under this chapter may not be disseminated to a vessel unless such vessel is—

''(1) documented under the laws of the United States; or

''(2) documented under the laws of a foreign country that made the payment or contribution required under section 80301(b) for the year preceding the year in which the data is collected.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''80304. Limitation on ice patrol data.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on January 1, 2017.

SEC. 315. OFFSHORE SUPPLY VESSEL THIRD-PARTY INSPECTION.

Section 3316 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g), and by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f)(1) Upon request of an owner or operator of an offshore supply vessel, the Secretary shall delegate the authorities set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) with respect to such vessel to a classification society to which a delegation is authorized under that paragraph. A delegation by the Secretary under this subsection shall be used for any vessel inspection and examination function carried out by the Secretary, including the issuance of certificates of inspection and all other related documents.

''(2) If the Secretary determines that a certificate of inspection or related document issued under authority delegated under paragraph (1) of this subsection with respect to a vessel has reduced the operational safety of that vessel, the Secretary may terminate the certificate or document, respectively.

''(3) Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, and for each year of the subsequent 2-year period, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing—

''(A) the number of vessels for which a delegation was made under paragraph (1);

''(B) any savings in personnel and operational costs incurred by the Coast Guard that resulted from the delegations; and

''(C) based on measurable marine casualty and other data, any impacts of the delegations on the operational safety of vessels for which the delegations were made, and on the crew on those vessels.''.

SEC. 316. WATCHES.

Section 8104 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by striking ''coal passers, firemen, oilers, and water tenders'' and inserting ''and oilers''; and

(2) in subsection (g)(1), by striking ''(except the coal passers, firemen, oilers, and water tenders)''.

SEC. 317. COAST GUARD RESPONSE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) VESSEL RESPONSE PLAN CONTENTS.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall require that each vessel response plan prepared for a mobile offshore drilling unit includes information from the facility response plan prepared for the mobile offshore drilling unit regarding the planned response to a worst case discharge, and to a threat of such a discharge.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNIT.—The term ''mobile offshore drilling unit'' has the meaning given that term in section 1001 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701).

(2) RESPONSE PLAN.—The term ''response plan'' means a response plan prepared under section 311(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)).

(3) WORST CASE DISCHARGE.—The term ''worst case discharge'' has the meaning given that term under section 311(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(a)).

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Coast Guard to review or approve a facility response plan for a mobile offshore drilling unit.

SEC. 318. REGIONAL CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Section 5002(k)(3) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2732(k)(3)) is amended by striking ''not more than $1,000,000'' and inserting ''not less than $1,400,000''.

SEC. 319. UNINSPECTED PASSENGER VESSELS IN THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4105 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b)(1) In applying this title with respect to an uninspected vessel of less than 24 meters overall in length that carries passengers to or from a port in the United States Virgin Islands, the Secretary shall substitute '12 passengers' for '6 passengers' each place it appears in section 2101(42) if the Secretary determines that the vessel complies with, as applicable to the vessel—

''(A) the Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Commercial Motor Vessels (commonly referred to as the 'Yellow Code'), as published by the U.K. Maritime and Coastguard Agency and in effect on January 1, 2014; or

''(B) the Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Commercial Sailing Vessels (commonly referred to as the 'Blue Code'), as published by such agency and in effect on such date.

''(2) If the Secretary establishes standards to carry out this subsection—

''(A) such standards shall be identical to those established in the Codes of Practice referred to in paragraph (1); and

''(B) on any dates before the date on which such standards are in effect, the Codes of Practice referred to in paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to the vessels referred to in paragraph (1).''.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 4105(c) of title 46, United States Code, as redesignated by subsection (a)(1) of this section, is amended by striking ''Within twenty-four months of the date of enactment of this subsection, the'' and inserting ''The''.

SEC. 320. TREATMENT OF ABANDONED SEAFARERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 111 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 11113. Treatment of abandoned seafarers

''(a) ABANDONED SEAFARERS FUND.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury a separate account to be known as the Abandoned Seafarers Fund.

''(2) AUTHORIZED USES.—Amounts in the Fund may be appropriated to the Secretary for use—

''(A) to pay necessary support of a seafarer—

''(i) who—

''(I) was paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)), or for whom the Secretary has requested parole under such section; and

''(II) is involved in an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter that is related to the administration or enforcement of law by the Coast Guard; or

''(ii) who—

''(I) is physically present in the United States;

''(II) the Secretary determines was abandoned in the United States; and

''(III) has not applied for asylum under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.); and

''(B) to reimburse a vessel owner or operator for the costs of necessary support of a seafarer who has been paroled into the United States to facilitate an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter that is related to the administration or enforcement of law by the Coast Guard, if—

''(i) the vessel owner or operator is not convicted of a criminal offense related to such matter; or

''(ii) the Secretary determines that reimbursement is appropriate.

''(3) CREDITING OF AMOUNTS TO FUND.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), there shall be credited to the Fund the following:

''(i) Penalties deposited in the Fund under section 9 of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1908).

''(ii) Amounts reimbursed or recovered under subsection (c).

''(B) LIMITATION.—Amounts may be credited to the Fund under subparagraph (A) only if the unobligated balance of the Fund is less than $5,000,000.

''(4) REPORT REQUIRED.—On the date on which the President submits each budget for a fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that describes—

''(A) the amounts credited to the Fund under paragraph (2) for the preceding fiscal year; and

''(B) amounts in the Fund that were expended for the preceding fiscal year.

''(b) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

''(1) to create a private right of action or any other right, benefit, or entitlement to necessary support for any person; or

''(2) to compel the Secretary to pay or reimburse the cost of necessary support.

''(c) REIMBURSEMENT; RECOVERY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A vessel owner or operator shall reimburse the Fund an amount equal to the total amount paid from the Fund for necessary support of a seafarer, if—

''(A) the vessel owner or operator—

''(i) during the course of an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter under this Act that the Coast Guard referred to a United States attorney or the Attorney General, fails to provide necessary support of a seafarer who was paroled into the United States to facilitate the investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication; and

''(ii) subsequently is—

''(I) convicted of a criminal offense related to such matter; or

''(II) required to reimburse the Fund pursuant to a court order or negotiated settlement related to such matter; or

''(B) the vessel owner or operator abandons a seafarer in the United States, as determined by the Secretary based on substantial evidence.

''(2) ENFORCEMENT.—If a vessel owner or operator fails to reimburse the Fund under paragraph (1) within 60 days after receiving a written, itemized description of reimbursable expenses and a demand for payment, the Secretary may—

''(A) proceed in rem against the vessel on which the seafarer served in the Federal district court for the district in which the vessel is found; and

''(B) withhold or revoke the clearance required under section 60105 for the vessel and any other vessel operated by the same operator (as that term is defined in section 2(9)(a) of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1901(9)(a)) as the vessel on which the seafarer served.

''(3) OBTAINING CLEARANCE.—A vessel may obtain clearance from the Secretary after it is withheld or revoked under paragraph (2)(B) if the vessel owner or operator—

''(A) reimburses the Fund the amount required under paragraph (1); or

''(B) provides a bond, or other evidence of financial responsibility, sufficient to meet the amount required to be reimbursed under paragraph (1).

''(4) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall notify the vessel at least 72 hours before taking any action under paragraph (2)(B).

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ABANDONS; ABANDONED.—Each of the terms 'abandons' and 'abandoned' means—

''(A) a vessel owner's or operator's unilateral severance of ties with a seafarer; or

''(B) a vessel owner's or operator's failure to provide necessary support of a seafarer.

''(2) FUND.—The term 'Fund' means the Abandoned Seafarers Fund established under this section.

''(3) NECESSARY SUPPORT.—The term 'necessary support' means normal wages and expenses the Secretary considers reasonable for lodging, subsistence, clothing, medical care (including hospitalization), repatriation, and any other support the Secretary considers to be appropriate.

''(4) SEAFARER.—The term 'seafarer' means an alien crew member who is employed or engaged in any capacity on board a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

''(5) VESSEL SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES.—The term 'vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States' has the meaning given that term in section 70502(c), except that it does not include a vessel that is—

''(A) owned, or operated under a bareboat charter, by the United States, a State or political subdivision thereof, or a foreign nation; and

''(B) not engaged in commerce.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''11113. Treatment of abandoned seafarers.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 9 of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1908) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) Any penalty collected under subsection (a) or (b) that is not paid under that subsection to the person giving information leading to the conviction or assessment of such penalties shall be deposited in the Abandoned Seafarers Fund established under section 11113 of title 46, United States Code.''.

SEC. 321. WEBSITE.

(a) REPORTS TO SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION; INCIDENTS AND DETAILS.—Section 3507(g)(3)(A) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (ii) by striking ''the incident to an Internet based portal maintained by the Secretary'' and inserting ''each incident specified in clause (i) to the Internet website maintained by the Secretary of Transportation under paragraph (4)(A)''; and

(2) in clause (iii) by striking ''based portal maintained by the Secretary'' and inserting ''website maintained by the Secretary of Transportation under paragraph (4)(A)''.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF INCIDENT DATA ON INTERNET.—Section 3507(g)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) WEBSITE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall maintain a statistical compilation of all incidents on board a cruise vessel specified in paragraph (3)(A)(i) on an Internet website that provides a numerical accounting of the missing persons and alleged crimes reported under that paragraph without regard to the investigative status of the incident.

''(ii) UPDATES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The compilation under clause (i) shall—

''(I) be updated not less frequently than quarterly;

''(II) be able to be sorted by cruise line;

''(III) identify each cruise line by name;

''(IV) identify each crime or alleged crime committed or allegedly committed by a passenger or crewmember;

''(V) identify the number of individuals alleged overboard; and

''(VI) include the approximate number of passengers and crew carried by each cruise line during each quarterly reporting period.

''(iii) USER-FRIENDLY FORMAT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall ensure that the compilation, data, and any other information provided on the Internet website maintained under this subparagraph are in a user-friendly format. The Secretary shall, to the greatest extent practicable, use existing commercial off the shelf technology to transfer and establish the website, and shall not independently develop software, or acquire new hardware in operating the site.''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B) by striking ''Secretary'' and inserting ''Secretary of Transportation''.

SEC. 322. COAST GUARD REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives an analysis of the Coast Guard's proposed promulgation of safety and environmental management system requirements for vessels engaged in Outer Continental Shelf activities. The analysis shall include—

(1) a discussion of any new operational, management, design and construction, financial, and other mandates that would be imposed on vessel owners and operators;

(2) an estimate of all associated direct and indirect operational, management, personnel, training, vessel design and construction, record keeping, and other costs;

(3) an identification and justification of any of such proposed requirements that exceed those in international conventions applicable to the design, construction, operation, and management of vessels engaging in United States Outer Continental Shelf activities; and

(4) an identification of exemptions to the proposed requirements, that are based upon vessel classification, tonnage, offshore activity or function, alternative certifications, or any other appropriate criteria.

(b) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not issue proposed regulations relating to safety and environmental management system requirements for vessels on the United States Outer Continental Shelf for which noticed was published on September 10, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 55230) earlier than 6 months after the submittal of the analysis required by subsection (a).

TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Maritime Commission $24,700,000 for fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 402. AWARD OF REPARATIONS.

Section 41305 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking '', plus reasonable attorney fees''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) ATTORNEY FEES.—In any action brought under section 41301, the prevailing party may be awarded reasonable attorney fees.''.

SEC. 403. TERMS OF COMMISSIONERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) TERMS.—The term of each Commissioner is 5 years. When the term of a Commissioner ends, the Commissioner may continue to serve until a successor is appointed and qualified, but for a period not to exceed one year. Except as provided in paragraph (3), no individual may serve more than 2 terms.''; and

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (5), and inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) VACANCIES.—A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy is appointed only for the unexpired term of the individual being succeeded. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy may serve 2 terms in addition to the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of that individual was appointed.

''(4) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—

''(A) LIMITATION ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH REGULATED ENTITIES.—A Commissioner may not have a pecuniary interest in, hold an official relation to, or own stocks or bonds of any entity the Commission regulates under chapter 401 of this title.

''(B) LIMITATION ON OTHER ACTIVITIES.—A Commissioner may not engage in another business, vocation, or employment.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(1) does not apply with respect to a Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission appointed and confirmed by the Senate before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE V—ARCTIC MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 501. ARCTIC MARITIME TRANSPORTATION.

(a) ARCTIC MARITIME TRANSPORTATION.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 89 the following:

"§ 90. Arctic maritime transportation

''(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to ensure safe and secure maritime shipping in the Arctic including the availability of aids to navigation, vessel escorts, spill response capability, and maritime search and rescue in the Arctic.

''(b) INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION AGREEMENTS.—To carry out the purpose of this section, the Secretary is encouraged to enter into negotiations through the International Maritime Organization to conclude and execute agreements to promote coordinated action among the United States, Russia, Canada, Iceland, Norway, and Denmark and other seafaring and Arctic nations to ensure, in the Arctic—

''(1) placement and maintenance of aids to navigation;

''(2) appropriate marine safety, tug, and salvage capabilities;

''(3) oil spill prevention and response capability;

''(4) maritime domain awareness, including long-range vessel tracking; and

''(5) search and rescue.

''(c) COORDINATION BY COMMITTEE ON THE MARITIME TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.—The Committee on the Maritime Transportation System established under section 55501 of title 46, United States Code, shall coordinate the establishment of domestic transportation policies in the Arctic necessary to carry out the purpose of this section.

''(d) AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS.—The Secretary may, subject to the availability of appropriations, enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, or other agreements with, or make grants to, individuals and governments to carry out the purpose of this section or any agreements established under subsection (b).

''(e) ICEBREAKING.—The Secretary shall promote safe maritime navigation by means of icebreaking where necessary, feasible, and effective to carry out the purposes of this section.

''(f) ARCTIC DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'Arctic'? has the meaning given such term in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 89 the following:

''90. Arctic maritime transportation''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 307 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–281; 14 U.S.C. 92 note) is repealed.

SEC. 502. ARCTIC MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 154. Arctic maritime domain awareness

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall improve maritime domain awareness in the Arctic—

''(1) by promoting interagency cooperation and coordination;

''(2) by employing joint, interagency, and international capabilities; and

''(3) by facilitating the sharing of information, intelligence, and data related to the Arctic maritime domain between the Coast Guard and departments and agencies listed in subsection (b).

''(b) COORDINATION.—The Commandant shall seek to coordinate the collection, sharing, and use of information, intelligence, and data related to the Arctic maritime domain between the Coast Guard and the following:

''(1) The Department of Homeland Security.

''(2) The Department of Defense.

''(3) The Department of Transportation.

''(4) The Department of State.

''(5) The Department of the Interior.

''(6) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

''(7) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

''(8) The Environmental Protection Agency.

''(9) The National Science Foundation.

''(10) The Arctic Research Commission.

''(11) Any Federal agency or commission or State the Commandant determines is appropriate.

''(c) COOPERATION.—The Commandant and the head of a department or agency listed in subsection (b) may by agreement, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, share personnel, services, equipment, and facilities to carry out the requirements of this section.

''(d) 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than January 1, 2016 and every 5 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a 5-year strategic plan to guide interagency and international intergovernmental cooperation and coordination for the purpose of improving maritime domain awareness in the Arctic

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the term 'Arctic' has the meaning given that term in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 153 the following:

''154. Arctic maritime domain awareness.''.

SEC. 503. IMO POLAR CODE NEGOTIATIONS.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and thereafter with the submission of the budget proposal submitted for each of fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018 under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a report on—

(1) the status of the negotiations at the International Maritime Organization regarding the establishment of a draft international code of safety for ships operating in polar waters, popularly known as the Polar Code, and any amendments proposed by such a code to be made to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships;

(2) the coming into effect of such a code and such amendments for nations that are parties to those conventions;

(3) impacts, for coastal communities located in the Arctic (as that term is defined in the section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111)) of such a code or such amendments, on—

(A) the costs of delivering fuel and freight; and

(B) the safety of maritime transportation; and

(4) actions the Secretary must take to implement the requirements of such a code and such amendments.

SEC. 504. FORWARD OPERATING FACILITIES.

The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may construct facilities in the Arctic (as that term is defined in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111). The facilities shall—

(1) support aircraft maintenance, including exhaust ventilation, heat, an engine wash system, fuel, ground support services, and electrical power;

(2) provide shelter for both current helicopter assets and those projected to be located at Air Station Kodiak, Alaska, for at least 20 years; and

(3) include accommodations for personnel.

SEC. 505. ICEBREAKERS.

(a) COAST GUARD POLAR ICEBREAKERS.—Section 222 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 126 Stat. 1560) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading by striking ''; BRIDGING STRATEGY''; and

(B) by striking ''Commandant of the Coast Guard'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea.'';

(2) by adding at the end of subsection (d) the following:

''(3) RESULT OF NO DETERMINATION.—If in the analysis submitted under this section the Secretary does not make a determination under subsection (a)(5) regarding whether it is cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, then—

''(A) the Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea; or

''(B) the Secretary may make such determination, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, and take actions in accordance with this subsection as though such determination was made in the analysis previously submitted.'';

(3) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) STRATEGIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the analysis required under subsection (a) is submitted, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

''(A) unless the Secretary makes a determination under this section that it is cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, a bridging strategy for maintaining the Coast Guard's polar icebreaking services until at least September 30, 2024;

''(B) a strategy to meet the Coast Guard's Arctic ice operations needs through September 30, 2050; and

''(C) a strategy to meet the Coast Guard's Antarctic ice operations needs through September 30, 2050

''(2) REQUIREMENT.—The strategies required under paragraph (1) shall include a business case analysis comparing the leasing and purchasing of icebreakers to maintain the needs and services described in that paragraph.''.

(b) CUTTER ''POLAR SEA''.—Upon the submission of a service life extension plan in accordance with section 222(d)(1)(C) of the

Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 126 Stat. 1560), the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may use funds authorized under section 101 of this Act to conduct a service life extension of 7 to 10 years for the Coast Guard Cutter *Polar Sea* (WAGB 11) in accordance with such plan.

(c) LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may not expend amounts appropriated for the Coast Guard for any of fiscal years 2015 through 2024, for—

(A) design activities related to a capability of a Polar-Class Icebreaker that is based solely on an operational requirement of another Federal department or agency, except for amounts appropriated for design activities for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016; or

(B) long-lead-time materials, production, or post-delivery activities related to such a capability.

(2) OTHER AMOUNTS.—Amounts made available to the Secretary under an agreement with another Federal department or agency and expended on a capability of a Polar-Class Icebreaker that is based solely on an operational requirement of that or another Federal department or agency shall not be treated as amounts expended by the Secretary for purposes of the limitation established under paragraph (1).

SEC. 506. ICEBREAKING IN POLAR REGIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 86 the following:

"§ 87. Icebreaking in polar regions

''The President shall facilitate planning for the design, procurement, maintenance, deployment, and operation of icebreakers as needed to support the statutory missions of the Coast Guard in the polar regions by allocating all funds to support icebreaking operations in such regions, except for recurring incremental costs associated with specific projects, to the Coast Guard.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 86 the following:

''87. Icebreaking in polar regions.''.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 601. DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.

Section 421 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (46 U.S.C. 8103 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (c) and (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (f) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

SEC. 602. EXTENSION OF MORATORIUM.

Section 2(a) of Public Law 110–299 (33 U.S.C. 1342 note) is amended by striking ''2014'' and inserting ''2017''.

SEC. 603. NATIONAL MARITIME STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a national maritime strategy.

(b) CONTENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify—

(A) Federal regulations and policies that reduce the competitiveness of United States flag vessels in international transportation markets; and

(B) the impact of reduced cargo flow due to reductions in the number of members of the United States Armed Forces stationed or deployed outside of the United States; and

(2) include recommendations to—

(A) make United States flag vessels more competitive in shipping routes between United States and foreign ports;

(B) increase the use of United States flag vessels to carry cargo imported to and exported from the United States;

(C) ensure compliance by Federal agencies with chapter 553 of title 46, United States Code;

(D) increase the use of third-party inspection and certification authorities to inspect and certify vessels;

(E) increase the use of short sea transportation routes, including routes designated under section 55601(c) of title 46, United States Code, to enhance intermodal freight movements; and

(F) enhance United States shipbuilding capability.

SEC. 604. WAIVERS.

(a) ''JOHN CRAIG''.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8902 of title 46, United States Code, shall not apply to the vessel *John Craig* (United States official number D1110613) when such vessel is operating on the portion of the Kentucky River, Kentucky, located at approximately mile point 158, in Pool Number 9, between Lock and Dam Number 9 and Lock and Dam Number 10.

(2) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) shall apply on and after the date on which the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating determines that a licensing requirement has been established under Kentucky State law that applies to an operator of the vessel *John Craig*.

(b) ''F/V WESTERN CHALLENGER''.—Notwithstanding section 12132 of title 46, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for the *F/V Western Challenger* (IMO number 5388108).

SEC. 605. COMPETITION BY UNITED STATES FLAG VESSELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct an assessment of authorities under subtitle II of title 46, United States Code, that have been delegated to the Coast Guard and that impact the ability of vessels documented under the laws of the United States to effectively compete in international transportation markets.

(b) REVIEW OF DIFFERENCES WITH IMO STANDARDS.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall include a review of differences between United States laws, policies, regulations, and guidance governing the inspection of vessels documented under the laws of the United States and standards set by the International Maritime Organization governing the inspection of vessels.

(c) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Commandant enters into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences under subsection (a), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the assessment required under such subsection.

SEC. 606. VESSEL REQUIREMENTS FOR NOTICES OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AND AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the status of the final rule that relates to the notice of proposed rulemaking titled ''Vessel Requirements for Notices of Arrival and Departure, and Automatic Identification System'' and published in the Federal Register on December 16, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 76295).

SEC. 607. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard is authorized to convey, at fair market value, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, consisting of approximately 0.2 acres, that is under the administrative control of the Coast Guard and located at 527 River Street in Rochester, New York.

(b) RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.—The City of Rochester, New York, shall have the right of first refusal with respect to the purchase, at fair market value, of the real property described in subsection (a).

(c) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the property described in subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Commandant.

(d) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The fair market value of the property described in subsection (a) shall—

(1) be determined by appraisal; and

(2) be subject to the approval of the Commandant.

(e) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The responsibility for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental documentation costs, associated with a conveyance under subsection (a) shall be determined by the Commandant and the purchaser.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Commandant may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with a conveyance under subsection (a) as the Commandant considers appropriate and reasonable to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—Any proceeds from a conveyance under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the fund established under section 687 of title 14, United States Code.

SEC. 608. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY IN GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) CITY.—The term ''City'' means the city of Gig Harbor, Washington.

(2) PROPERTY.—The term ''Property'' means the parcel of real property, together with any improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 0.86 acres of fast lands commonly identified as tract 65 of lot 1 of section 8, township 21 north, range 2 east, Willamette Meridian, on the north side of the entrance of Gig Harbor, narrows of Puget Sound, Washington.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) CONVEYANCE.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO CONVEY.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating relinquishes the reservation of the Property for lighthouse purposes, at the request of the City and subject to the requirements of this section, the Secretary shall convey to the City all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Property, notwithstanding the land use planning requirements of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713).

(2) TERMS OF CONVEYANCE.—A conveyance made under paragraph (1) shall be made—

(A) subject to valid existing rights;

(B) at the fair market value as described in subsection (c); and

(C) subject to any other condition that the Secretary may consider appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(3) COSTS.—The City shall pay any transaction or administrative costs associated with a conveyance under paragraph (1), including the costs of the appraisal, title searches, maps, and boundary and cadastral surveys.

(4) CONVEYANCE IS NOT A MAJOR FEDERAL ACTION.—A conveyance under paragraph (1) shall not be considered a major Federal action for purposes of section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)).

(c) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—

(1) DETERMINATION.—The fair market value of the Property shall be—

(A) determined by an appraisal conducted by an independent appraiser selected by the Secretary; and

(B) approved by the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (3).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—An appraisal conducted under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be conducted in accordance with nationally recognized appraisal standards, including—

(i) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(ii) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; and

(B) shall reflect the equitable considerations described in paragraph (3).

(3) EQUITABLE CONSIDERATIONS.—In approving the fair market value of the Property under this subsection, the Secretary shall take into consideration matters of equity and fairness, including the City's past and current lease of the Property, any maintenance or improvements by the City to the Property, and such other factors as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) REVOCATION; REVERSION.—Effective on and after the date on which a conveyance of the Property is made under subsection (b)(1)—

(1) Executive Order 3528, dated August 9, 1921, is revoked; and

(2) the use of the tide and shore lands belonging to the State of Washington and adjoining and bordering the Property, that were granted to the Government of the United States pursuant to the Act of the Legislature, State of Washington, approved March 13, 1909, the same being chapter 110 of the Session Laws of 1909, shall revert to the State of Washington.

SEC. 609. VESSEL DETERMINATION.

The vessel assigned United States official number 1205366 is deemed a new vessel effective on the date of delivery of the vessel after January 1, 2012, from a privately owned United States shipyard, if no encumbrances are on record with the Coast Guard at the time of the issuance of the new certificate of documentation for the vessel.

SEC. 610. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THUNDER BAY.

The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not prohibit a vessel operating within the existing boundaries and any future expanded boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve from taking up or discharging ballast water to allow for safe and efficient vessel operation if the uptake or discharge meets all Federal and State ballast water management requirements that would apply if the area were not a marine sanctuary.

SEC. 611. PARKING FACILITIES.

(a) ALLOCATION AND ASSIGNMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the Administrator of General Services, in coordination with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, shall allocate and assign the spaces in parking facilities at the Department of Homeland Security St. Elizabeths Campus to allow any member or employee of the Coast Guard, who is assigned to the Campus, to use such spaces.

(2) TIMING.—In carrying out paragraph (1), and in addition to the parking spaces allocated and assigned to Coast Guard members and employees in fiscal year 2014, the Administrator shall allocate and assign not less than—

(A) 300 parking spaces not later than September 30, 2015;

(B) 700 parking spaces not later than September 30, 2016; and

(C) 1,042 parking spaces not later than September 30, 2017.

(b) TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter in which spaces are allocated and assigned under subsection (a)(2), the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on—

(1) the impact of assigning and allocating parking spaces under subsection (a) on the congestion of roads connecting the St. Elizabeths Campus to the portions of Suitland Parkway and I–295 located in the Anacostia section of the District of Columbia; and

(2) progress made toward completion of essential transportation improvements identified in the Transportation Management Program for the St. Elizabeths Campus.

(c) REALLOCATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Administrator may revise the allocation and assignment of spaces to members and employees of the Coast Guard made under subsection (a) as necessary to accommodate employees of the Department of Homeland Security, other than the Coast Guard, when such employees are assigned to the St. Elizabeths Campus.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DHS OIG MANDATES REVISION ACT OF 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2651) to repeal certain mandates of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2651

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 ''DHS OIG Mandates Revision Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT AN ANNUAL EVALUATION OF THE CARGO INSPECTION TARGETING SYSTEM.—

(1) REPEAL.—Subsections (g) and (h) of section 809 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–293; 46 U.S.C. 70101 note) are repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 809 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–293; 118 Stat. 1085), as amended by paragraph (1), is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''and (j)'' and inserting ''and (h)''; and

(B) by redesignating subsections (i), (j), and (k) as subsections (g), (h), and (i), respectively.

(b) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF COAST GUARD PERFORMANCE.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 888(f) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468(f)) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 888 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468), as amended by paragraph (1), is amended by redesignating subsections (g), (h), and (i) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively.

(c) ANNUAL REVIEW OF GRANTS TO STATES AND HIGH-RISK URBAN AREAS.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 2022(a)(3) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 612(a)(3)) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2022(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 612(a)), as amended by paragraph (1), is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (3), (4), (5), and (6), respectively;

(B) in paragraph (4), as redesignated—

(i) by striking ''paragraphs (2) and (3)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)''; and

(ii) by striking ''paragraph (4)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3)''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on January 1, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 2651.

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

There was no objection.

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

S. 2651, the DHS OIG Mandates Revision Act of 2014, repeals three reports the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General is required to conduct and submit annually to Congress. The reports include evaluations of the cargo inspection targeting system for international intermodal cargo containers, Coast Guard mission performance, and certain Department of Homeland Security grants.

Without a mandate, the Department's Office of Inspector General can continue to conduct these audits periodically, but at its own discretion. CBO estimates repeal of these mandates will save nearly $2 million to the taxpayers annually.

I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, December 10, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: I write to you regarding the jurisdictional interest of the

Committee on Homeland Security in S. 2651, the ''DHS OIG Mandates Revision Act of 2014''. The measure passed the Senate by unanimous consent on September 17, 2014 and was additionally referred to the Committee on Homeland Security.

In the interest of permitting the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to proceed expeditiously to the House floor, I will forgo further consideration of S. 2651. However, I do so with the following reservation. By eliminating mandates of Inspector General investigations, Congress lessens its voice in oversight of the Department of Homeland Security. Under this lawless Administration, Congress should have more of a voice, not less, in what the Office of Inspector General investigates.

In addition, I will forgo consideration with the mutual understanding that the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security is in no way diminished. I further request that you urge the Speaker to name Members of this Committee to any conference committee that is named to consider such provisions.

Finally, I request you include this letter and your response into the Congressional Record during consideration of S. 2651 on the House floor. Thank your for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, December 10, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: Thank you for your letter regarding the Committee on Homeland Security's jurisdictional interest in S. 2651, the DHS OIG Mandates Revision Act of 2014.

I appreciate your willingness to forego consideration of S. 2651, and wee that by forgoing action on this legislation, the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security is in no way diminished. Additionally, I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

Finally, I will include our letters in the Congressional Record during House floor consideration of the bill. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

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

I rise in support of this legislation. As summarized by my colleague from California, it alleviates the Office of Inspector General of the United States Department of Homeland Security from having to perform three annual audits.

Repealing these audits will help to slightly reduce the burden of congressionally mandated reports. All this information is available to us in other forms and it is good to get rid of these reports, which are sometimes not really sent anyway.

By the way, Mr. HUNTER, congratulations on the recently passed Coast Guard legislation.

Furthermore, eliminating the mandate will allow the IG to reallocate resources to something really useful, like finding out what went wrong, wherever it might be. This way, the legislation may improve the oversight of programs and the activities of the Department of Homeland Security, which would be extremely useful to Congress.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2651.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES COTTON FUTURES ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5810) to amend the United States Cotton Futures Act to exclude certain cotton futures contracts from coverage under such Act.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5810

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXCLUDING CERTAIN COTTON FUTURES CONTRACTS FROM COVERAGE UNDER UNITED STATES COTTON FUTURES ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c)(1) of the United States Cotton Futures Act (7 U.S.C. 15B(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''except that any cotton futures contract'' and inserting the following: ''except that—

''(A) any cotton futures contract''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) any cotton futures contract that permits tender of cotton grown outside of the United States is excluded from the coverage of this paragraph and section to the extent that the cotton grown outside of the United States is tendered for delivery under the cotton futures contract.''.

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to cotton futures contracts entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 5810.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND), my colleague.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5810.

This bill would meet the cotton industry's growing need for a rural contract for cotton on the United States market.

H.R. 5810 offers a simple technical fix that is needed due to the outdated 1916 Cotton Futures Act in terms of recognizing the global cotton trade.

Recent discussions with USDA revealed that the 1916 Cotton Futures Act requires all cotton tendered on a cotton futures contract that is listed for trading on a U.S. exchange to be classified by the USDA. This is unrealistic, both logistically and financially, for non-U.S. cotton stored in warehouses outside the U.S.

The industry's desire to trade and hedge a more modern contract requires a legislative tweak to the 1916 Cotton Futures Act to allow for any non-U.S. cotton tendered toward this U.S. contract to be inspected and classed by non-USDA personnel.

Our proposal would not change the regulation of the contract, nor the current USDA classing requirement that U.S. cotton must be classified by the USDA personnel.

Additionally, this bill also would not impact fees being generated by the USDA in the classing of U.S. cotton, tendered toward the existing cotton futures.

Here is the bottom line. For the industry to be able to hedge the 2015 cotton crop, they will need a tweak to this futures act that they may petition the CFTC for the new world contract to be listed. If H.R. 5810 is not passed, a new contract would likely be listed at other exchanges in Europe or Singapore.

With such unanimous support for this contract and solution, we hope this effort will be considered technical in nature and adopted quickly.

I urge my colleagues to support the measure.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As my colleague from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) has just eloquently stated, there is a great need for this, everybody is in agreement on it. The Cotton Number 2 contract is needed as a hedging tool for our cotton industry globally. It is needed so that we can have both delivery points inside as well as outside the United States because our global markets are now more global.

As my colleague, Mr. WESTMORELAND, mentioned, we have not touched this law since 1916. That is nearly 100 years. You can imagine so much has changed. It is very, very much more global, and we do not need to put our cotton participants in trade, in marketing, in commodities at a disadvantage, as was indicated, to other markets.

This is urgent. If we do not move within the next 3 weeks, so that we can

have this on the books as law in time for our cotton participants in the United States to be able to function for their year 2015—in the cotton business you start early, you start in January and February, so it is very urgent. The legislation benefits everybody. All participants are in agreement.

The bottom line is that this legislation is about modernization. Our markets, as I said before, have become much more global. It is a technical correction. It will help our cotton farmers, our cotton producers, and those who have to hedge in the marketplace around the world, and it does not—does not—put our cotton industry in the United States at a disadvantage globally.

I certainly urge that we all accept this amendment and move forward with a very, very important part of American industry, the cotton industry.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As my colleague said, Mr. Speaker, every year, cotton farmers prepare their fields. Off the field they must prepare as well, hedging risk and protecting themselves from possible disaster with cotton futures contracts on U.S. commodity exchanges.

The Cotton Number 2 contract, which is a U.S.-regulated contract, is the benchmark contract for the entire United States cotton industry. However, recently, a wide range of cotton industry participants have recommended the development of a world cotton contract with delivery points inside and outside of the United States. This is in recognition of the global nature of today's cotton industry.

The 1916 Cotton Futures Act requires that all cotton futures contracts that are listed on the U.S. exchange must be classed by the USDA, regardless of where the cotton is being stored. This structure is outdated and does not recognize the global cotton trade that exists today.

H.R. 5810 would simply allow for cotton futures contracts to be offered on a U.S. exchange that is based off of the world market price. This bill would neither change the regulation of the current futures contracts nor the current USDA classing, which requires U.S. cotton be classed again by USDA personnel.

With these technical changes in H.R. 5810, a new cotton futures contract will be available in U.S. commodity markets.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5810. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5810.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5816) to extend the authorization for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5816

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION AND TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 is amended—

(1) in section 207(a) (22 U.S.C. 6435(a)), by striking ''2014'' and inserting ''2015''; and

(2) in section 209 (22 U.S.C. 6436), by striking ''September 30, 2014'' and inserting ''September 30, 2015''.

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect as if enacted on December 10, 2014.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DENOUNCING USE OF CIVILIANS AS HUMAN SHIELDS BY HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 107) denouncing the use of civilians as human shields by Hamas and other terrorist organizations in violation of international humanitarian law, with Senate amendments thereto, and concur in the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the use of human shields is unconscionable and morally unacceptable;

Whereas since June 15, 2014, there have been over 2,000 rockets fired by Hamas and other terrorist organizations from Gaza into Israel;

Whereas Hamas uses civilian populations as human shields by placing their missile batteries in densely populated areas and near schools, hospitals, and mosques;

Whereas Israel dropped leaflets, made announcements, placed phone calls, and sent text messages to the Palestinian people in Gaza warning them in advance that an attack was imminent, and went to extraordinary lengths to target only terrorist actors and to minimize collateral damage;

Whereas Hamas urged the residents of Gaza to ignore the Israeli warnings and to remain in their houses and encouraged Palestinians to gather on the roofs of their homes to act as human shields;

Whereas on July 23, 2014, the 46-Member UN Human Rights Council passed a resolution to form a commission of inquiry over Israel's operations in Gaza that completely fails to condemn Hamas for its indiscriminate rocket attacks and its unconscionable use of human shields, with the United States being the lone dissenting vote;

Whereas public reports have cited the role of Iran and Syria in providing material support and training to Hamas and other terrorist groups carrying out rocket and mortar attacks from Gaza;

Whereas throughout the summer of 2006 conflict between the State of Israel and the terrorist organization Hezbollah, Hezbollah forces utilized innocent civilians as human shields;

Whereas al Qaeda, Al-Shabaab, Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and other foreign terrorist organizations typically use innocent civilians as human shields;

Whereas the United States and Israel have cooperated on missile defense projects, including Iron Dome, David's Sling, and the Arrow Anti-Missile System, projects designed to thwart a diverse range of threats, including short-range missiles and rockets fired by non-state actors, such as Hamas;

Whereas the United States provided $460,000,000 in fiscal year 2014 for Iron Dome research, development, and production;

Whereas during the most recent rocket attacks from Gaza, Iron Dome successfully intercepted dozens of rockets that were launched against Israeli population centers; and

Whereas 5,000,000 Israelis are currently living under the threat of rocket attacks from Gaza: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That Congress—

(1) strongly condemns the use of innocent civilians as human shields;

(2) calls on the international community to recognize and condemn Hamas' use of human shields;

(3) places responsibility for the rocket attacks against Israel on Hamas and other terrorist organizations, such as Palestine Islamic Jihad;

(4) supports the sovereign right of the Government of Israel to defend its territory and its citizens from Hamas' rocket attacks, kidnapping attempts, and the use of tunnels and other means to carry out attacks against Israel;

(5) expresses condolences to the families of the innocent victims on both sides of the conflict;

(6) supports Palestinian civilians who reject Hamas and all forms of terrorism and violence, desiring to live in peace with their Israeli neighbors;

(7) supports efforts to demilitarize the Gaza Strip, removing Hamas's means to target Israel, including its use of tunnels, rockets, and other means; and

(8) condemns the United Nations Human Rights Council's biased resolution establishing a commission of inquiry into Israel's Gaza operations.

Amend the title so as to read: ''A concurrent resolution denouncing the use of civilians as human shields by Hamas and other terrorist organizations.''.

Mr. ROYCE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendments.

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

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1815

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

NAVAL VESSEL TRANSFER ACT OF 2013

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1683) to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1683

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.

In this Act, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

TITLE I—TRANSFER OF EXCESS UNITED STATES NAVAL VESSELS

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2013''.

SEC. 102. TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO CERTAIN FOREIGN RECIPIENTS.

(a) TRANSFERS BY GRANT TO MEXICO.—The President is authorized to transfer to the Government of Mexico the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates USS CURTS (FFG–38) and USS MCCLUSKY (FFG–41) on a grant basis under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j).

(b) TRANSFER BY SALE TO THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES.—The President is authorized to transfer the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates USS TAYLOR (FFG–50), USS GARY (FFG–51), USS CARR (FFG–52), and USS ELROD (FFG–55) to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (which is the Taiwan instrumentality designated pursuant to section 10(a) of the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3309(a))) on a sale basis under section 21 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2761).

(c) ALTERNATIVE TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding the authority provided in subsections (a) and (b) and to transfer specific vessels to specific countries, the President is authorized to transfer any vessel named in this title to any country named in this section, subject to the same conditions that would apply for such country under this section, such that the total number of vessels transferred to such country does not exceed the total number of vessels authorized for transfer to such country by this section.

(d) GRANTS NOT COUNTED IN ANNUAL TOTAL OF TRANSFERRED EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES.—The value of a vessel transferred to another country on a grant basis pursuant to authority provided by subsection (a) shall not be counted against the aggregate value of excess defense articles transferred in any fiscal year under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j).

(e) COSTS OF TRANSFERS.—Any expense incurred by the United States in connection with a transfer authorized by this section shall be charged to the recipient notwithstanding section 516(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(e)).

(f) REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT IN UNITED STATES SHIPYARDS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the President shall require, as a condition of the transfer of a vessel under this section, that the recipient to which the vessel is transferred have such repair or refurbishment of the vessel as is needed, before the vessel joins the naval forces of that recipient, performed at a shipyard located in the United States.

(g) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to transfer a vessel under this section shall expire at the end of the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. ENHANCED CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF ARMS SALES, INCLUDING TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

Section 36 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF SHIPMENT OF ARMS.—At least 30 days prior to a shipment of defense articles subject to the requirements of subsection (b) at the joint request of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate or the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the President shall provide notification of such pending shipment, in unclassified form, with a classified annex as necessary, to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.''.

SEC. 202. INCREASE IN ANNUAL LIMITATION ON TRANSFER OF EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES.

Section 516(g)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(g)(1)) is amended by striking ''$425,000,000'' and inserting ''$500,000,000''.

SEC. 203. INTEGRATED AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE PROGRAMS AT TRAINING LOCATIONS IN SOUTHWEST ASIA.

Section 544(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2347c(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) The President shall report to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 656(e)) annually on the activities undertaken in the programs authorized under this subsection.''.

SEC. 204. LICENSING OF CERTAIN COMMERCE-CONTROLLED ITEMS.

Section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(k) LICENSING OF CERTAIN COMMERCE-CONTROLLED ITEMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A license or other approval from the Department of State granted in accordance with this section may also authorize the export of items subject to the Export Administration Regulations if such items are to be used in or with defense articles controlled on the United States Munitions List.

''(2) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The following requirements shall apply with respect to a license or other approval to authorize the export of items subject to the Export Administration Regulations under paragraph (1):

''(A) Separate approval from the Department of Commerce shall not be required for such items if such items are approved for export under a Department of State license or other approval.

''(B) Such items subject to the Export Administration Regulations that are exported pursuant to a Department of State license or other approval would remain under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce with respect to any subsequent transactions.

''(C) The inclusion of the term 'subject to the EAR' or any similar term on a Department of State license or approval shall not affect the jurisdiction with respect to such items.

''(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'Export Administration Regulations' means—

''(A) the Export Administration Regulations as maintained and amended under the authority of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

''(B) any successor regulations.''.

SEC. 205. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO REMOVAL OF MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FROM UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR REMOVAL OF MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FROM UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.—Section 38(f) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the President shall take such actions as may be necessary to require that, at the time of export or reexport of any major defense equipment listed on the 600 series of the Commerce Control List contained in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of subtitle B of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, the major defense equipment will not be subsequently modified so as to transform such major defense equipment into a defense article.

''(B) The President may authorize the transformation of any major defense equipment described in subparagraph (A) into a defense article if the President—

''(i) determines that such transformation is appropriate and in the national interests of the United States; and

''(ii) provides notice of such transformation to the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate consistent with the notification requirements of section 36(b)(5)(A) of this Act.

''(C) In this paragraph, the term 'defense article' means an item designated by the President pursuant to subsection (a)(1).''.

(b) NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT REMOVED FROM UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.—Section 38(f) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(f)), as amended by this section, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) The President shall ensure that any major defense equipment that is listed on the 600 series of the Commerce Control List contained in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of subtitle B of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, shall continue to be subject to the notification and reporting requirements of the following provisions of law:

''(A) Section 516(f) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(f)).

''(B) Section 655 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2415).

''(C) Section 3(d)(3)(A) of this Act.

''(D) Section 25 of this Act.

''(E) Section 36(b), (c), and (d) of this Act.''.

SEC. 206. AMENDMENT TO DEFINITION OF "SECURITY ASSISTANCE" UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.

Section 502B(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2)(C) to read as follows:

''(C) any license in effect with respect to the export to or for the armed forces, police, intelligence, or other internal security forces of a foreign country of—

''(i) defense articles or defense services under section 38 of the Armed Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778); or

''(ii) items listed under the 600 series of the Commerce Control List contained in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of subtitle B of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations;''.

SEC. 207. AMENDMENTS TO DEFINITIONS OF "DEFENSE ARTICLE" AND "DEFENSE SERVICE" UNDER THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.

Section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3), by striking ''includes'' and inserting ''means, with respect to a sale or transfer by the United States under the authority of this Act or any other foreign assistance or sales program of the United States''; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking ''includes'' and inserting ''means, with respect to a sale or transfer by the United States under the authority of this Act or any other foreign assistance or sales program of the United States,''.

SEC. 208. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in sections 3(a), 3(d)(1), 3(d)(3)(A), 3(e), 5(c), 6, 21(g), 36(a), 36(b)(1), 36(b)(5)(C), 36(c)(1), 36(f), 38(f)(1), 40(f)(1), 40(g)(2)(B), 101(b), and 102(a)(2), by striking ''the Speaker of the House of Representatives and'' each place it appears and inserting ''the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and'';

(2) in section 21(i)(1) by inserting after ''the Speaker of the House of Representatives'' the following '', the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services of the House of Representatives,'';

(3) in sections 25(e), 38(f)(2), 38(j)(3), and 38(j)(4)(B), by striking ''International Relations'' each place it appears and inserting ''Foreign Affairs'';

(4) in sections 27(f) and 62(a), by inserting after ''the Speaker of the House of Representatives,'' each place it appears the following: ''the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives,''; and

(5) in section 73(e)(2), by striking ''the Committee on National Security and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives'' and inserting ''the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives''.

(b) OTHER TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.—The Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

(A) in section 38—

(i) in subsection (b)(1), by redesignating the second subparagraph (B) (as added by section 1255(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (Public Law 100–204; 101 Stat. 1431)) as subparagraph (C);

(ii) in subsection (g)(1)(A)—

(I) in clause (xi), by striking ''; or'' and inserting '', or''; and

(II) in clause (xii)—

(aa) by striking ''section'' and inserting ''sections''; and

(bb) by striking ''(18 U.S.C. 175b)'' and inserting ''(18 U.S.C. 175c)''; and

(iii) in subsection (j)(2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''in'' after ''to''; and

(B) in section 47(2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''sec. 21(a),,'' and inserting ''section 21(a),''.

(2) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—Section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking ''Wherever applicable, a description'' and inserting ''Wherever applicable, such report shall include a description''; and

(B) in subsection (d)(2)(B), by striking ''credits'' and inserting ''credits)''.

SEC. 209. APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 1979.

(a) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Section 12(c) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2411(c)) has been in effect from August 20, 2001, and continues in effect on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and notwithstanding section 20 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2419). Section 12(c)(1) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 is a statute covered by section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code.

(b) TERMINATION DATE.—Subsection (a) terminates at the end of the 4-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I will include in the RECORD a letter signed by myself and Mr. ENGEL to the Secretary of State.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, December 10, 2014.

Hon. JOHN F. KERRY,
Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: Today the House of Representatives will pass and send to the President S. 1683, a bill that bolsters allies Taiwan and Mexico with the transfer of U.S. Navy frigates and makes other changes to the law to enhance our security assistance to foreign partners.

As you may know, section 201 of this legislation would amend section 36 of the Arms Export Control Act to require the President to notify Congress 30 days before shipments of certain defense articles if jointly requested to do so by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs or the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. It is our understanding that the Department may be concerned that this new congressional notification requirement could pose an undue burden on the administration of United States arms transfers.

However, given the comprehensive exchange of information between the Department and the Committee during the congressional review process on U.S. arms sales, we would expect to invoke section 201 only in rare circumstances. For example, a similar authority in section 36(b)(1), providing for a request by the same committees of additional and highly detailed information from the President on a pending Foreign Military Sale, has been used only once in the last seven years.

Likewise, we expect that the current protocols governing the notification of arms sales, a process by which sensitive national security and foreign policy questions are addressed informally before a notification is formally submitted for congressional review, will remain the preeminent means by which the Committee conducts oversight over United States arms transfer policy.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on these important matters in the 114th Congress.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.
ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Ranking Member.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, S. 1683. It would allow the United States to transfer certain decommissioned naval vessels to Taiwan and Mexico. It also makes some technical amendments to U.S. export control laws.

Let me say that I appreciate the broad bipartisan support that the contents of this measure already received because this April, the House passed the underlying bill, H.R. 3470, of which I am the author, the companion legislation to this bill. Mr. ELIOT ENGEL and I were the cosponsors.

I am pleased that this important legislation supporting the defense of our Taiwanese allies has now been passed by the other body. With passage by the House, it will make its way to the President's desk.

On April 10, 1979, the Taiwan Relations Act was established to govern America's relationship with the Republic of China-Taiwan. For 35 years, the act has helped maintain peace and security across the Taiwan Strait and across the Asia-Pacific region.

During this time, Taiwan has undergone a monumental transformation. It has gone from grinding poverty and political repression to the vibrant multiparty democracy that it is today. Taiwan's economy has evolved. It is now our 10th top trading partner.

As chairman, I led two bipartisan delegations to Taipei, Kaohsiung, and Tainan to examine Taiwan's economy and defense capabilities. Today's legislation is the product of the committee's bipartisan effort to prioritize the U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

This legislation authorizes the President to send four *Perry* class guided missile frigates to Taiwan. These are ships that are greatly needed to augment Taiwan's defense capability. I

have seen firsthand the World War II-era submarines—I was on one of them—and the 50-year-old fighter jets that form the core of Taiwan's military.

Congress has made it clear to the administration that it wants more defense sales and more transfers like this to Taiwan, including transfers to support the modernization of its combat aircraft and its submarine fleet. These four guided missile cruisers would bolster Taiwan's defense to ensure that peace in the Taiwan Strait continues to benefit not just Taiwan, but the entire region.

In addition to supporting Taiwan, this legislation also authorizes the transfer of excess decommissioned naval vessels to Mexico. Mr. VARGAS and I recently returned from Mexico City, and transfers such as these help to support the priorities of the U.S. Navy while strengthening the capability of allies and our close partners to meet our shared maritime security objectives.

Finally, the bill includes a provision requested by the Department of Commerce to ensure that our export control regime will continue to protect sensitive information related to export licensing. In particular, it clarifies that the business confidentiality protections of the lapsed Export Administration Act remain in effect under another provision of the law and will continue to protect information related to export licensing.

This provision will both protect U.S. national security and the competitiveness of American exporters while providing time for Congress and the executive branch to modernize the statutory basis for our export control regime.

While I am disappointed that this measure does not include a provision from the House bill that would have expedited U.S. arms sales to close allies, the committee will continue to promote improvements to the foreign military sales process in the next Congress.

Finally, the bill will also clarify that certain business confidentiality protections of the Export Administration Act will continue to protect the information related to export licensing.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1683, the Naval Vessel Transfer Act. This bill includes many of the provisions in H.R. 3470, which the House passed on April 7 and sent to the other body.

I would like to thank Chairman ROYCE for the bipartisan manner in which the original House bill was drafted, considered by the committee, and passed by the House. With today's action on S. 1683, we finish our work on this important legislation.

In the Taiwan Relations Act, the United States made a commitment to support Taiwan's defensive capability. To that end, this bill authorizes the President to transfer up to four surplus U.S. naval vessels to Taiwan. In light of China's increasingly aggressive actions in the Pacific region, it is more important than ever to bolster Taiwan's security.

This bill also authorizes a transfer of two surplus naval vessels to Mexico, a critical defense partner of the United States. These vessels will strengthen Mexico's ability to function effectively with the U.S. Navy in joint operations.

Finally, the bill strengthens congressional review of the licensing and shipment of U.S. defense exports. These provisions are necessary in light of the significant regulatory changes now being implemented by the Departments of State, Commerce, and Defense.

The President's Export Control Reform initiative will modernize our system of regulating trade and defense and dual-use items, and appropriate congressional review must continue to be an integral part of the system.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for S. 1683 so we can send this legislation to the President for signature into law.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing examining the promises that were made under the Taiwan Relations Act. That was signed 35 years ago, and there are few pieces of legislation related to foreign policy that have been as consequential as Congress stepping in with this act 35 years ago.

It is the steadfast support of the United States Congress that has helped Taiwan become what it is today: a thriving, modern society that strongly respects human rights, the rule of law, and free markets. Passage of this act is a step towards keeping the promises that we made to Taiwan 35 years ago in that Taiwan Relations Act, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VARGAS. In closing, Mr. Speaker, as was said, this bill authorizes a transfer of naval vessels to Taiwan and Mexico, two good friends and partners of the United States. It also makes changes to regulating armed transfers and strengthens congressional oversight of the system.

I would once again like to thank Chairman ROYCE for working with us in a bipartisan manner on this important legislation. I would also like to say that as a freshman Member who may not be serving again on the committee that it was a real honor to serve under the chairman. He in fact acts very bipartisan.

He is a real leader in this country, and I am very proud that he is a Californian. It has been an honor, sir, to serve with you.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I would say likewise to Mr. VARGAS for his service on the committee.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1683.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INSURANCE CAPITAL STANDARDS CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Financial Services be discharged from further consideration of the bill (S. 2270) to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2270

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 ''Insurance Capital Standards Clarification Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF LEVERAGE AND RISK-BASED CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS.

Section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5371) is amended—

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

''(4) BUSINESS OF INSURANCE.—The term 'business of insurance' has the same meaning as in section 1002(3).

''(5) PERSON REGULATED BY A STATE INSURANCE REGULATOR.—The term 'person regulated by a State insurance regulator' has the same meaning as in section 1002(22).

''(6) REGULATED FOREIGN SUBSIDIARY AND REGULATED FOREIGN AFFILIATE.—The terms 'regulated foreign subsidiary' and 'regulated foreign affiliate' mean a person engaged in the business of insurance in a foreign country that is regulated by a foreign insurance regulatory authority that is a member of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors or other comparable foreign insurance regulatory authority as determined by the Board of Governors following consultation with the State insurance regulators, including the lead State insurance commissioner (or similar State official) of the insurance holding company system as determined by the procedures within the Financial Analysis Handbook adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, where the person, or its principal United States insurance affiliate, has its principal place of business or is domiciled, but only to the extent that—

''(A) such person acts in its capacity as a regulated insurance entity; and

''(B) the Board of Governors does not determine that the capital requirements in a specific foreign jurisdiction are inadequate.

''(7) CAPACITY AS A REGULATED INSURANCE ENTITY.—The term 'capacity as a regulated insurance entity'—

''(A) includes any action or activity undertaken by a person regulated by a State insurance regulator or a regulated foreign subsidiary or regulated foreign affiliate of such person, as those actions relate to the provision of insurance, or other activities necessary to engage in the business of insurance; and

''(B) does not include any action or activity, including any financial activity, that is not regulated by a State insurance regulator or a foreign agency or authority and subject to State insurance capital requirements or, in the case of a regulated foreign subsidiary or regulated foreign affiliate, capital requirements imposed by a foreign insurance regulatory authority.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) CLARIFICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In establishing the minimum leverage capital requirements and minimum risk-based capital requirements on a consolidated basis for a depository institution holding company or a nonbank financial company supervised by the Board of Governors as required under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b), the appropriate Federal banking agencies shall not be required to include, for any purpose of this section (including in any determination of consolidation), a person regulated by a State insurance regulator or a regulated foreign subsidiary or a regulated foreign affiliate of such person engaged in the business of insurance, to the extent that such person acts in its capacity as a regulated insurance entity.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION ON BOARD'S AUTHORITY.—This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit, modify, limit, or otherwise supersede any other provision of Federal law that provides the Board of Governors authority to issue regulations and orders relating to capital requirements for depository institution holding companies or nonbank financial companies supervised by the Board of Governors.

''(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION ON ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A depository institution holding company or nonbank financial company supervised by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve that is also a person regulated by a State insurance regulator that is engaged in the business of insurance that files financial statements with a State insurance regulator or the National Association of Insurance Commissioners utilizing only Statutory Accounting Principles in accordance with State law, shall not be required by the Board under the authority of this section or the authority of the Home Owners' Loan Act to prepare such financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

''(B) PRESERVATION OF AUTHORITY.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall limit the authority of the Board under any other applicable provision of law to conduct any regulatory or supervisory activity of a depository institution holding company or non-bank financial company supervised by the Board of Governors, including the collection or reporting of any information on an entity or group-wide basis. Nothing in this paragraph shall excuse the Board from its obligations to comply with section 161(a) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5361(a)) and section 10(b)(2) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(b)(2)), as appropriate.''.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VENEZUELA DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ACT OF 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2142) to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela, to strengthen civil society in Venezuela, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2142

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 ''Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Central Bank of Venezuela and the National Statistical Institute of Venezuela stated that the annual inflation rate in Venezuela in 2013 was 56.30, the highest level of inflation in the Western Hemisphere and the third highest level of inflation in the world behind South Sudan and Syria.

(2) The Central Bank of Venezuela and the Government of Venezuela have imposed a series of currency controls that has exacerbated economic problems and, according to the World Economic Forum, has become the most problematic factor for doing business in Venezuela.

(3) The Central Bank of Venezuela declared that the scarcity index of Venezuela reached 29.4 percent in March 2014, which signifies that fewer than one in 4 basic goods is unavailable at any given time. The Central Bank has not released any information on the scarcity index since that time.

(4) Since 1999, violent crime in Venezuela has risen sharply and the Venezuelan Violence Observatory, an independent nongovernmental organization, found the national per capita murder rate to be 79 per 100,000 people in 2013.

(5) The international nongovernmental organization Human Rights Watch recently stated, ''Under the leadership of President Chàvez and now President Maduro, the accumulation of power in the executive branch and the erosion of human rights guarantees have enabled the government to intimidate, censor, and prosecute its critics.''.

(6) The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013 of the Department of State maintained that in Venezuela ''the government did not respect judicial independence or permit judges to act according to the law without fear of retaliation'' and ''the government used the judiciary to intimidate and selectively prosecute political, union, business, and civil society leaders who were critical of government policies or actions''.

(7) The Government of Venezuela has detained foreign journalists and threatened and expelled international media outlets operating in Venezuela, and the international nongovernmental organization Freedom House declared that Venezuela's ''media climate is permeated by intimidation, sometimes including physical attacks, and strong antimedia rhetoric by the government is common''.

(8) Since February 4, 2014, the Government of Venezuela has responded to antigovernment protests with violence and killings perpetrated by its public security forces.

(9) In May 2014, Human Rights Watch found that the unlawful use of force perpetrated against antigovernment protesters was ''part of a systematic practice by the Venezuelan security forces''.

(10) As of September 1, 2014, 41 people had been killed, approximately 3,000 had been arrested unjustly, and more than 150 remained in prison and faced criminal charges as a result of antigovernment demonstrations throughout Venezuela.

(11) Opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez was arrested on February 18, 2014, in relation to the protests and was unjustly charged with criminal incitement, conspiracy, arson, and property damage. Since his arrest, Lopez has been held in solitary confinement and has been denied 58 out of 60 of his proposed witnesses at his ongoing trial.

(12) As of September 1, 2014, not a single member of the public security forces of the Government of Venezuela had been held accountable for acts of violence perpetrated against antigovernment protesters.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ANTIGOVERNMENT PROTESTS IN VENEZUELA AND THE NEED TO PREVENT FURTHER VIOLENCE IN VENEZUELA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States aspires to a mutually beneficial relationship with Venezuela based on respect for human rights and the rule of law and a functional and productive relationship on issues of public security, including counternarcotics and counterterrorism;

(2) the United States supports the people of Venezuela in their efforts to realize their full economic potential and to advance representative democracy, human rights, and the rule of law within their country;

(3) the chronic mismanagement by the Government of Venezuela of its economy has produced conditions of economic hardship and scarcity of basic goods and foodstuffs for the people of Venezuela;

(4) the failure of the Government of Venezuela to guarantee minimal standards of public security for its citizens has led the country to become one of the most violent and corrupt in the world;

(5) the Government of Venezuela continues to take steps to remove checks and balances on the executive, politicize the judiciary, undermine the independence of the legislature through use of executive decree powers, persecute and prosecute its political opponents, curtail freedom of the press, and limit the free expression of its citizens;

(6) Venezuelans, responding to ongoing economic hardship, high levels of crime and violence, and the lack of basic political rights and individual freedoms, have turned out in demonstrations in Caracas and throughout the country to protest the failure of the Government of Venezuela to protect the political and economic well-being of its citizens; and

(7) the repeated use of violence perpetrated by the National Guard and security personnel of Venezuela, as well as persons acting on behalf of the Government of Venezuela, against antigovernment protesters that began on February 4, 2014, is intolerable and the use of unprovoked violence by protesters is also a matter of serious concern.

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD VENEZUELA.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to support the people of Venezuela in their aspiration to live under conditions of peace and representative democracy as defined by the Inter-American Democratic Charter of the Organization of American States;

(2) to work in concert with the other member states within the Organization of American States, as well as the countries of the European Union, to ensure the peaceful resolution of the current situation in Venezuela

and the immediate cessation of violence against antigovernment protestors;

(3) to hold accountable government and security officials in Venezuela responsible for or complicit in the use of force in relation to antigovernment protests and similar future acts of violence; and

(4) to continue to support the development of democratic political processes and independent civil society in Venezuela.

SEC. 5. SANCTIONS ON PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE IN VENEZUELA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person, including any current or former official of the Government of Venezuela or any person acting on behalf of that Government, that the President determines—

(1) has perpetrated, or is responsible for ordering or otherwise directing, significant acts of violence or serious human rights abuses in Venezuela against persons associated with the antigovernment protests in Venezuela that began on February 4, 2014;

(2) has ordered or otherwise directed the arrest or prosecution of a person in Venezuela primarily because of the person's legitimate exercise of freedom of expression or assembly; or

(3) has knowingly materially assisted, sponsored, or provided significant financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the commission of acts described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—The exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES AND REVOCATION OF VISA OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—In the case of an alien determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a), denial of a visa to, and exclusion from the United States of, the alien, and revocation in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), of any visa or other documentation of the alien.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of paragraph (1)(A) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out paragraph (1)(A) shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—The requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under paragraph (1)(A) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(4) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to a person if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national interest of the United States; and

(2) on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a notice of and justification for the waiver.

(d) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this section.

(e) TERMINATION.—The requirement to impose sanctions under this section shall terminate on December 31, 2016.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms ''admitted'' and ''alien'' have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term ''financial institution'' has the meaning given that term in section 5312 of title 31, United States Code.

(3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''foreign person'' means a person that is not a United States person.

(4) GOOD.—The term ''good'' has the meaning given that term in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2415) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)).

(5) KNOWINGLY.—The term ''knowingly'', with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(6) MATERIALLY ASSISTED.—The term ''materially assisted'' means the provision of assistance that is significant and of a kind directly relevant to acts described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a).

(7) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

SEC. 6. REPORT ON BROADCASTING, INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION, AND CIRCUMVENTION TECHNOLOGY DISTRIBUTION IN VENEZUELA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (in this section referred to as the ''Board'') shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) a thorough evaluation of the governmental, political, and technological obstacles faced by the people of Venezuela in their efforts to obtain accurate, objective, and comprehensive news and information about domestic and international affairs;

(2) an assessment of current efforts relating to broadcasting, information distribution, and circumvention technology distribution in Venezuela, by the United States Government and otherwise; and

(3) a strategy for expanding such efforts in Venezuela, including recommendations for additional measures to expand upon current efforts.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the current level of Federal funding dedicated to broadcasting, information distribution, and circumvention technology distribution in Venezuela by the Board before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) an assessment of the extent to which the current level and type of news and related programming and content provided by the Voice of America and other sources is addressing the informational needs of the people of Venezuela; and

(3) recommendations for increasing broadcasting, information distribution, and circumvention technology distribution in Venezuela.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that today, International Human Rights Day, we consider and debate the bill before us: the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act. The House unanimously passed a similar measure that I authored and introduced earlier this year, and I urge passage of this measure before us presented by Senators MENENDEZ and RUBIO.

The people of Venezuela, Mr. Speaker, have been crying out for help. They have been begging the United States and all responsible nations to help protect them against the tyranny and brutality under the Maduro regime, the puppets of the oppressive Castro regime in Cuba. I should point out that today, International Human Rights Day, the Castro thugs rounded up and imprisoned 52 human rights activists.

Today, Congress speaks in a unified and bipartisan voice. The human rights situation in Venezuela has actually gotten worse under Maduro since the death of that other Castro sycophant, Hugo Chavez. In fact, since February 12, 2014, also known as National Youth Day in Venezuela, the freedom-seeking people of Venezuela have risen up to challenge the abuses and undemocratic actions being committed by Nicolas Maduro and his lackeys, demanding their most basic and fundamental rights.

Naturally, oppressors have but one option which they never fail to resort to; and Maduro, as we knew he would, responded with a violent crackdown against those who had the courage to challenge his authoritarian rule.

Ever since the peaceful demonstrations against the regime began on National Youth Day, 42 people have been

killed, there have been nearly 60 reported cases of torture, and 72 students remain jailed to this day.

Pro-democracy leaders have raised their voices against the abuses of the regime, and they have been persecuted with politically-motivated charges, and those arrested face indescribable cruelty in prison.

□ 1830

Leopoldo Lopez, one of the faces of the democratic opposition, continues to be imprisoned in a military facility. Leopoldo is continuously denied visitors, and his legal proceedings, such as they are, are plagued with irregularities.

Daniel Ceballos, the mayor of the city of San Cristobal, was impeached and arrested by the Maduro thugs earlier this year. Daniel's only crime was to defend his constituents from the repressive abuses of the National Guard deployed to violently quash them.

But these cases, sadly, Mr. Speaker, are not isolated. Earlier this year, Maria Corina Machado, a courageous woman and vocal opposition leader, came to Washington, D.C., came to the United States to speak in front of the Organization of American States on the tragic situation in her homeland of Venezuela. The OAS, the Organization of American States, is a body that is supposed to uphold and protect the democratic charter and human rights in the Americas.

Maria Corina was blocked by Castro sympathizers, Maduro sympathizers, and their cronies, and she was prevented from even addressing this body. And when she returned home, what happened to Maria Corina Machado? She was illegally stripped of her position in the Venezuelan National Assembly because she dared to speak out against the regime and in favor of human rights.

But the problems of Venezuela go beyond these democratic abuses. Nicolas Maduro's inability to contain a spiraling hyperinflationary economy, marked by shortages of consumer goods, along with a skyrocketing crime rate creates a difficult, almost unbearable situation for Venezuelans to endure.

The legislation before us targets Venezuelan officials responsible for the perpetration of human rights abuses against the citizens of Venezuela. And how do we do that? We deny them visas. We block their property. We freeze their assets here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the distress signal sent to us by the people of Venezuela did not just start in February. For years, the Venezuelan people have been calling out for help, asking us for our assistance, for us to do something, anything that will help stop the terrible human rights abuses of the authoritarian thug Chavez, and now his Mini-Me, Maduro.

Sadly, our administration has been deafeningly silent, embarrassingly silent. It has turned a blind eye to the harsh and brutal reality in Venezuela, has been afraid to speak out and take action against Chavez, and, until now, has been far too afraid to challenge Maduro.

But the United States Congress will act, Mr. Speaker. Let's send a strong signal tonight—not only to the administration, but to the people of Venezuela—that the United States Congress hears, sees, and feels their suffering, and we will not allow their anguish to go unobstructed.

The United States cannot ignore its responsibilities, and we must answer the calls for freedom, for democracy around the globe. We must be the voice for those who are being silenced by their oppressive regimes, and we must stand for the values that we believe in—not just here at home, but everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, by passing this bill and sending it to the President's desk, we will do just that.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, December 10, 2014.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for agreeing to forgo a referral request and committee consideration of S. 2142, the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the Floor.

I agree that your forgoing action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place this letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on the Judiciary as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, December 10, 2014.

Hon. JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENSARLING: Thank you for agreeing to forgo a referral request and committee consideration of S. 2142, the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the Floor.

I agree that your forgoing action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place this letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on Financial Services as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2142, the Venezuelan Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014, and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN—thank you for your leadership on this—and also Senator MENENDEZ for his leadership on this legislation. I also want to thank, once again, Chairman ROYCE, who has approached this issue in a bipartisan way, as he always does.

Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN's bill passed the House unanimously in May, and I am pleased that we are now ready to send this bill to the President's desk.

The world has watched closely over the last year as Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro has stifled the democratic aspirations of the Venezuelan people. Peaceful protesters seeking basic rights and dignity have been met with violence. Forty-two people were tragically killed and 800 were injured on both sides of the conflict. We mourn all of their losses. At the same time, the Maduro government has arrested political opponents and stood in the way of a free press.

Nearly 10 minutes after his arrest, opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez remains in jail on trumped-up charges. The U.N. Committee Against Torture, seven former Latin American Presidents, and the leaders around the world have called for Leopoldo's release.

Last week, Venezuelan opposition leader and former National Assembly Deputy Maria Corina Machado was charged for conspiring to assassinate President Maduro, another desperate move by a desperate government. Maduro's government even considers the U.S. Ambassador to Colombia in on this bizarre conspiracy. It would be humorous if it wasn't so sad and dangerous.

The legislation that we are considering today makes it clear that Congress will not turn a blind eye to the human rights violations in Venezuela. By stripping human rights violators of their visas, we are saying that those responsible for abuses in Venezuela are not welcome in the United States. By freezing their assets, we are making it clear that those who violate human rights in Venezuela won't have access to financial institutions in the United States.

Venezuela's leaders will say this bill is going to hurt the average Venezuelan citizen. That is nonsense. These sanctions won't touch the oil sector or other vital parts of the Venezuelan economy. They only affect those complicit in the recent crackdowns.

Finally, I will note that this bill gives President Obama needed flexibility to respond to events on the ground in Venezuela. Each and every sanction in this bill can be waived by the President at any time.

Let's stand with the people of Venezuela and support the immediate passage of S. 2142.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to thank and congratulate the vibrant Venezuelan American community in our area in south Florida and, indeed, throughout our great Nation for never forgetting the suffering of their native lands. They have many family members in Venezuela, and they care deeply about what happens in their homeland.

Now they have adopted America as their homeland and they are proud Americans, but they are also very proud of their traditions. It is because of their desire to go back to a Venezuela one day—that will be free, that will be democratic, that will respect the human rights—that we are here today fighting on their behalf. So thanks to our constituents for making this day a reality.

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to thank my colleague and the gentlewoman from south Florida, who has really been a passionate advocate and whom I have stood in solidarity with on this and so many other issues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014. I do so as the proud representative of Westonzuela, my hometown, and one in which we have an incredibly rich and vibrant community of Venezuelans and Venezuelan Americans. As the representative of one of the largest communities of Venezuelans and Venezuelan Americans in the United States, I am here to strongly speak out against the continued, unconscionable abuses of the Maduro government against innocent citizens.

Earlier this year, facing a repressive government and crushing economic conditions, thousands of Venezuelans peacefully protested to demand their basic human rights and dignity. In response, President Maduro and his security forces brutally suppressed their own citizens in the streets and used the judiciary to squash voices championing freedom of expression and democracy. Although President Maduro has tried to further silence these voices by limiting media coverage of the ongoing oppression and repression and terrible economic conditions of his country, we can still hear the demands for justice and for dignity.

This bill would impose sanctions on those individuals in Maduro's regime who have ordered the arrest or prosecution of anyone exercising their right to peacefully assemble or protest, or those who supported those actions. Through our action here today, we signify the determination of the American people to stand for freedom and democracy, and this bill reinforces the sentiments and actions of the U.S. Congress and the Obama administration.

Along with my colleagues, I stand in solidarity with those brave Venezuelans continuing to advocate for their rights, including opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, who outrageously remains in prison. I look forward to this measure's passage and to President Obama's signature, and working with the Obama administration and our allies to hold these perpetrators of the injustice accountable for their crimes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

In closing, I would like to emphasize, once again, that today's legislation is consistent with our treatment of human rights violators throughout the world.

Will this legislation all of a sudden turn President Maduro and his government into great respecters of human rights? None of us are naive enough to believe this, but what it will do is it will send a message to human rights violators in Venezuela and throughout the world that your visas and your assets in U.S. financial institutions are in peril if you abuse individuals' human rights.

I once again urge my colleagues to support the immediate passage of S. 2142.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to thank our entire south Florida congressional delegation. All of us worked together in a bipartisan way to get this bill to this moment.

I would especially like to thank Senator BOB MENENDEZ, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, along with our own Florida Senator whom we are so proud of, MARCO RUBIO, for their hard work on this bill and, really, for their work on the broader issues of the lack of democracy in our hemisphere, the disrespect for human rights, the lack of the rule of law.

Sadly, in our Western Hemisphere, instead of seeing advances of human rights and advances of democracy, we have seen a sad erosion in these years. We thank all of the Members for always using these esteemed floors to talk about our basic values that we share with our hemispheric neighbors, and that is respect for human rights, respect for democracy, respect for the rule of law, and always to continue to do everything we can to make sure that all of our oppressed brothers and sisters will live in freedom, the freedom that we enjoy so much.

I thank very much our chairman of our Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ROYCE, for his help and his leadership in this fight.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2142.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5656) to authorize the Feed the Future Initiative to reduce global poverty and hunger in developing countries on a sustainable basis, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5656

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 ''Global Food Security Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY OBJECTIVES; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY OBJECTIVES.—It is in the national security interest of the United States to promote global food security and nutrition, consistent with national food security investment plans, which is reinforced through programs, activities, and initiatives that—

(1) accelerate inclusive, agricultural-led economic growth that reduces global poverty, hunger, and malnutrition, particularly among women and children;

(2) increase the productivity, incomes, and livelihoods of small-scale producers, especially women, by working across agricultural value chains and expanding producer access to local and international markets;

(3) build resilience to food shocks among vulnerable populations and households while reducing reliance upon emergency food assistance;

(4) create an enabling environment for agricultural growth and investment, including through the promotion of secure and transparent property rights;

(5) improve the nutritional status of women and children, with a focus on reducing child stunting, including through the promotion of highly nutritious foods, diet diversification, and nutritional behaviors that improve maternal and child health;

(6) align with and leverage broader United States investments in trade, economic growth, science and technology, maternal and child health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene; and

(7) ensure the effective use of United States taxpayer dollars to further these objectives.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the President, in providing assistance to implement the Global Food Security Strategy, should—

(1) coordinate, through a whole-of-government approach, the efforts of relevant Federal departments and agencies to implement the Global Food Security Strategy;

(2) utilize, to the extent possible, open and streamlined solicitations to allow for the participation of a wide range of implementing partners via the most appropriate contracting mechanism; and

(3) continue to strengthen existing partnerships between developing country institutions of agricultural sciences with universities in the United States, with a focus on building the capacities of developing nation universities in agriculture.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGRICULTURE.—The term ''agriculture'' means crops, livestock, fisheries, and forestries.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(3) FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LABS.—The term ''Feed the Future Innovation Labs'' means research partnerships led by United States universities that advance solutions to reduce global hunger, poverty, and malnutrition.

(4) GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.—The term ''Global Food Security Strategy'' means the strategy developed and implemented pursuant to section 4(a).

(5) FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY.—The term ''food and nutrition security'' means access to, and availability, utilization, and stability of, sufficient food to meet caloric and nutritional needs for an active and healthy life.

(6) MALNUTRITION.—The term ''malnutrition'' means poor nutritional status caused by nutritional deficiency or excess.

(7) RESILIENCE.—The term ''resilience'' means the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses to food security in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.

(8) RELEVANT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—The term ''relevant Federal departments and agencies'' means the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Peace Corps, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, the United States African Development Foundation, the United States Geological Survey, and any other department or agency specified by the President for purposes of this section.

(9) SMALL-SCALE PRODUCER.—The term ''small-scale producer'' means farmers, pastoralists, foresters, and fishers that have a low-asset base and limited resources, including land, capital, skills and labor, and, in the case of farmers, typically farm on fewer than 5 hectares of land.

SEC. 4. COMPREHENSIVE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY.—The President shall coordinate the development and implementation of a United States whole-of-government strategy to accomplish the policy objectives set forth in section 2(a), which shall—

(1) support and be aligned with country-owned agriculture, nutrition, and food security policy and investment plans developed with input from relevant governmental and nongovernmental sectors within partner countries and regional bodies, including representatives of the private sector, agricultural producers, including women and small-scale producers, international and local civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, research institutions, and farmers as reasonable and appropriate;

(2) support inclusive agricultural value chain development, with small-scale producers, especially women, gaining greater access to the inputs, skills, networking, bargaining power, financing, and market linkages needed to sustain their long-term economic prosperity;

(3) seek to improve the nutritional status of women and children, particularly during the critical first 1,000-day window until a child reaches 2 years of age, with a focus on reducing child stunting;

(4) seek to ensure the long-term success of programs by building the capacity of local organizations and institutions;

(5) integrate resilience strategies into food security programs, such that chronically vulnerable populations are better able to build safety nets, secure livelihoods, access markets, and access opportunities from longer-term economic growth;

(6) develop community and producer resiliency to natural disasters, emergencies, and natural occurrences that adversely impact agricultural yield;

(7) harness science, technology, and innovation, including the research conducted at Feed the Future Innovation Labs, or any successor entities, throughout the United States;

(8) support integrating agricultural development activities among food insecure populations living in proximity to designated national parks or wildlife areas to support wildlife conservation efforts;

(9) leverage resources and expertise through partnerships with the private sector, farm organizations, cooperatives, civil society, faith-based organizations, research entities, and academic institutions;

(10) support collaboration, as appropriate, between United States universities and public and private institutions in developing countries to promote agricultural development and innovation;

(11) set clear and transparent selection criteria for target countries, regions, and intended beneficiaries of assistance to implement the Global Food Security Strategy;

(12) set specific and measurable goals, targets, and time frames, and a plan of action consistent with the policy objectives described in section 2(a);

(13) seek to ensure that target countries respect and promote the lawful land tenure rights of local communities, particularly those of women and small-scale producers; and

(14) include criteria and methodology for graduating countries from assistance to implement the Global Food Security Strategy once the countries have achieved certain benchmarks.

(b) COORDINATION.—The President shall coordinate, through a whole-of-government approach, the efforts of relevant Federal departments and agencies in the implementation of the Global Food Security Strategy by—

(1) establishing monitoring and evaluation systems, coherence, and coordination across relevant Federal departments and agencies; and

(2) establishing platforms for regular consultation and collaboration with key stakeholders, including—

(A) multilateral institutions;

(B) private voluntary organizations;

(C) cooperatives;

(D) the private sector;

(E) local nongovernmental and civil society organizations;

(F) faith-based organizations;

(G) congressional committees; and

(H) other stakeholders, as appropriate.

SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to provide assistance to implement the Global Food Security Strategy pursuant to the authorities of section 103, section 103A, title XII of chapter 2 of part I, and chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151a, 2151a–1, 2220a et seq., and 2346 et seq.) notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(b) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—The President should seek to ensure that assistance to implement the Global Food Security Strategy is provided under established parameters for a rigorous accountability system to monitor and evaluate progress and impact of the strategy, including by reporting to the appropriate congressional committees and the public on an annual basis.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the President $1,000,600,000 for fiscal year 2015 to carry out this section.

SEC. 6. REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the status of the implementation of the Global Food Security Strategy.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) contain a summary of the Global Food Security Strategy as an appendix;

(2) identify any substantial changes made in the Global Food Security Strategy during the preceding calendar year;

(3) identify the indicators that will be used to measure results, set benchmarks for progress over time, and establish mechanisms for reporting results in an open and transparent manner;

(4) describe the progress made in implementing the Global Food Security Strategy;

(5) assess the progress and results of implementing international food and nutrition security programming;

(6) contain a transparent, open, and detailed accounting of spending by relevant Federal departments and agencies to implement the Global Food Security Strategy, including by listing all recipients of funding or partner organizations and, to the extent possible, describing their activities;

(7) identify any United States legal or regulatory impediments that could obstruct the effective implementation of the programming referred to in paragraph (5);

(8) contain a clear gender analysis of programming that includes established disaggregated gender indicators to better analyze outcomes for food productivity, income growth, equity in access to inputs, jobs and markets, and nutrition;

(9) describe the strategies and benchmarks for graduating target countries and monitoring any graduated target countries;

(10) assess efforts to coordinate United States international food security and nutrition programs, activities, and initiatives with—

(A) other bilateral donors;

(B) international and multilateral organizations;

(C) international financial institutions;

(D) host country governments;

(E) international and local private voluntary, nongovernmental, faith-based organizations, and civil society organizations; and

(F) other stakeholders;

(11) assess United States Government-facilitated private investment in related sectors and the impact of private sector investment in target countries;

(12) include consultation with relevant United States Government agencies in the preparation of the report; and

(13) incorporate a plan for regularly reviewing and updating strategies, partnerships, and programs and sharing lessons learned with a wide range of stakeholders.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The information referred to in subsection (b) shall be made publicly accessible in a timely manner on a consolidated website.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Global Food Security Act, H.R. 5656, is a bipartisan bill with 21 cosponsors, including BETTY MCCOLLUM, our lead Democrat, who has worked very hard on this issue.

I would also like to thank House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ED ROYCE, Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, Ranking Member BASS. I would like to thank JEFF FORTENBERRY, who has played a key role, as well as ERIK PAULSEN and, again, other Members who have joined across the aisle to work on this legislation and to work on the language.

I also want to thank the staff that worked tirelessly on this. In particular, Jenn Holcomb, Kelly Stone from Congresswoman MCCOLLUM's office; Joan Condon, Katy Crosby, and Janice Kaguyutan from the full committee; and from my own staff, Pierro Tozzi. Thank you so much for your work in helping to make this bill a reality and bringing it to the floor.

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Mr. Speaker, this is important legislation which will help provide a long-term solution to global hunger by authorizing and strengthening the existing national food security program coordinated by USAID, commonly known as Feed the Future. This program strengthens nutrition, especially for children during the critical first 1,000-day window—from conception to the child's second birthday. It also teaches small-scale farmers—in particular, women—the requisite techniques and best practices to increase agricultural yield, thereby helping nations achieve food security, which is something that is, first and foremost, humane but also in the national security interests of the United States.

As USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah has pointed out—who, I want to point out, parenthetically, has done a tremendous job as the Administrator of USAID—this program encourages self-sufficiency and operates in targeted countries where the host governments have committed to investing in local agricultural development and to undertaking reforms that allow the private sector to flourish. Its hallmarks are the building of local capacity and sustainability, as well as resiliency in linking local entrepreneurs to the global economy, while boosting transparency and accountability.

The end result of this can be seen in lives saved and in lives enriched. In the past year, the Feed the Future program has helped 7 million farmers across the globe to increase harvests, resulting in improved nutrition for some 12.5 million children. To give one example, in Ethiopia, stunting rates were driven down by some 9 percent in just 3 years, resulting in, roughly, 160,000 fewer children suffering from malnutrition.

Yet, today, even though progress has been made, malnutrition is the underlying cause of death for at least 3.1 million children per year around the world and is responsible for 45 percent of all deaths among children under 5. More than 800,000 babies—one in four newborns—die each year because they are born too soon or they are too small as a result of poor maternal nutrition.

Mr. Speaker, one of the first laws that I wrote over 30 years ago was the Child Survival Fund—a $50 million program that included vaccinating kids to protect against preventable diseases like polio, pertussis, and diphtheria, as well as oral rehydration for kids at risk of death from repeated bouts of diarrheal disease. What we discovered then was that, for mere pennies on the dollar, we could intervene before problems arose, not only saving lives but also saving money in the long term. This Global Food Security Act has the potential to be equally transformative in the lives of so many.

Malnutrition, in addition to death, leads to the stunted growth of children. Stunted children become adults who suffer from diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease—conditions that not only result in poor health but that also impede earning capacity and result in lower incomes. Of particular concern, women affected by stunting give birth to children who are also likely to be afflicted by this preventable condition, perpetuating the cycle of malnutrition and of poverty.

Adequate nutrition for pregnant women, lactating moms, and all women and adolescent girls of childbearing age needs to be prioritized in food policies for the sake of children, women, and, by extension, nations. By ensuring comprehensive prenatal, maternal, and robust support, including nutrition—again, through that first 1,000 days of life—government health workers, civil society, and others will not only prevent many deaths, but children will be stronger, healthier, happier; their immune systems will be boosted; and as they matriculate to adulthood, they will be more prosperous. If women of childbearing age are well-nourished, they are healthier and are able to provide nourishment for their children.

I remember being in so many refugee camps. At a Darfur refugee camp, on one of many trips to Africa, I remember the women there were so concerned that they would be able to breastfeed their children, but they were so malnourished that that was next to impossible. After several weeks, they were able to do so.

I should also add, when these children—healthy children—get this kind of help, it also ensures greater not only physical but cognitive development. Healthy children thrive and are empowered to become healthy adults. Again, they can make, because of that, meaningful contributions to their families and society.

Finally, I note that the program authorized by H.R. 5656 is not only penny-wise, but it is also pound-wise. It is economical in the long run, and it should lead to a reduction in the amount of money we spend on emergency food aid. A comprehensive food security strategy outlined in the bill, as well as in the policy, also helps us to do more with less by leveraging our aid with that of other countries, the private sector, NGOs, and especially faith-based organizations, whose great work on the ground in so many different countries impacts so many lives.

By statutorily authorizing this program, which has its roots in the Bush administration and was formalized by President Obama and, thus, is an example of bipartisan success on both the executive and legislative levels, we are also increasing oversight by requiring the administration to report to Congress.

H.R. 5656 demonstrates, again, strong bipartisan support that does exist for assistance, and it is a strategy that truly gives people the tools to let themselves out of poverty and to live healthier and better lives.

I implore you, my colleagues, to vote in favor of it, and, hopefully, this legislation can become law by the end of this session.

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

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

I rise in strong support of H.R. 5656, the Global Food Security Act of 2014.

I would like to begin by thanking Congressman CHRIS SMITH and Congresswoman BETTY MCCOLLUM for authoring this important legislation, which authorizes USAID's Feed the Future Initiative. I would also like to thank Chairman ROYCE for working with us in a bipartisan manner to take

this bill up in committee and bring it to the floor.

Around the world, 800 million people suffer from chronic hunger. Malnutrition causes the deaths of 3.1 million children under the age of 5 every year. This is a global crisis. President Obama has made global food security a top priority, and USAID Administrator Raj Shah has done tremendous work in carrying out that policy.

The Feed the Future Initiative focuses on reducing global poverty and hunger in developing countries through agricultural development. This program is only a few years old, but it has already made a real difference in fighting hunger, poverty, and malnutrition.

In 2013, Feed the Future helped nearly 7 million farmers and food producers use new technologies. This initiative has secured more than $10 billion in private sector commitments to African agriculture, the majority of which has been made by African businesses. It has helped bring 3.5 million hectares of land under improved cultivation and management practices. Last year, the initiative reached more than 12.5 million children with nutritional assistance.

The success of this initiative stems, in part, from the collaboration and partnership of more than 10 U.S. Government agencies, the private sector, NGOs, and American universities. By working together, they have helped to advance real solutions to global hunger, poverty, and malnutrition.

Most importantly, Feed the Future has generated strong buy-in from partner governments in 19 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa. Each host country is required to put forward a country investment plan and contribute a portion of its own GDP to agricultural development. This model ensures that Feed the Future programs are sustainable and can eventually be transferred fully to the host country.

Despite the gains we have made, there is still a lot of work that has to be done. We need continued American leadership in global food security. We need proven programs like Feed the Future to continue its highly effective work in alleviating global hunger and poverty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY), a member of the Appropriations Committee and also one of the sponsors of the legislation before us.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank my friend and colleague, Chairman CHRIS SMITH, for his steadfast leadership on this issue, this important bill, as well as on so many other concerns that affect vulnerable persons around the world.

Again, Congressman SMITH, you rightly pointed out that Dr. Rajiv Shah, the Agency Director for the United States Agency for International Development, has been steadfast in his leadership on this as well and deserves a tremendous amount of credit.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this important bipartisan initiative to save the lives of hurting people around the world. The United States has a decades-long history on food security, and this act—the Global Food Security Act, also known as Feed the Future—really does three things: it saves lives; it creates sustainable development throughout the world; and it strengthens our own national security by stopping the underlying problems that lead to international instability.

Americans are the most generous people in the world. This bill continues our tradition of generosity in a smart, whole-of-government approach that combines the goodwill of the private sector as well as charities for a 21st century approach to development aid. Feed the Future is one of the most cost-effective and results-oriented international development initiatives that we have championed to date. It is the right thing to do.

Many of some estimated 800 million people throughout the world who suffer from chronic hunger rely on agriculture to make a living. Back in 2007 and 2008, we launched this response to the global food crisis by helping to bring self-sufficiency to struggling agricultural communities worldwide. By working together with partner countries that are invested in taking responsibility for their own success, what started out as a modest program has developed into a serious global commitment to end hunger and improve nutrition standards, especially for vulnerable women and their children.

In 2013 alone, market-based agricultural productivity initiatives funded by Congress reached more than 12.5 million children with good nutrition and has helped some 7 million farmers leverage new agricultural technologies on nearly 10 million acres of land. Importantly as well, Feed the Future has leveraged more than $10 billion in private sector investment—the majority from African businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this very thoughtful measure, which has earned broad-based support from the U.S. agricultural sector, universities nationwide, faith-based nongovernmental organizations, as well as private enterprise. We will never regret the good we can do in helping feed the hungry, and the return on this investment will surely compound to the benefit of future generations in, perhaps, ways we can never measure.

To everyone who has been involved here and to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I want to thank you all for working in such a bipartisan spirit to get this important bill done.

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota, Representative BETTY MCCOLLUM, the coauthor of this bill.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Thank you, Mr. VARGAS.

Mr. Speaker, the Global Food Security Act is an important bill, and I want to thank my colleagues—Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, Representative BASS, and Representative FORTENBERRY for his kind remarks—for their hard work to get this bipartisan legislation to the floor today. My very biggest ''thank you'' goes to my great partner in this, Representative CHRIS SMITH.

Thank you, Mr. SMITH.

Mr. Speaker, in the world's poorest countries, more than 800 million people are chronically hungry and malnourished. They are struggling and are in desperate poverty, forced to watch as their children suffer and too often die from malnutrition. Children who do survive will remain hungry, and they are so chronically malnourished they are physically and mentally stunted. This malnutrition—this lack of food—hurts not only the individual but the development of an entire country.

With this in mind, former Republican Senator Dick Lugar and I introduced bipartisan-bicameral legislation to call for a comprehensive U.S. food global security strategy in 2009.

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But while that bill did not become law, we did build a strong base of bipartisan support around food security, and in 2010, President Obama took up the call to invest in agricultural development and launched Feed the Future.

With the support of Congress, Feed the Future is working to accelerate agriculturally-led economic growth and reduce poverty. It is working with smallholder farmers in 19 countries to help them grow their way out of poverty, improve nutrition for women and children, and create income-generating opportunities.

I have seen the difference our investments in agriculture and nutrition are having in these developing nations. I have met the women farmers who are feeding their families, sending their children to school, and investing in their communities because of Feed the Future. And we need to continue to build on these successes.

The Global Food Security Act will continue to enhance global food security by assisting small-scale farmers, increasing yields, putting more food on families' tables, and then selling more food in the market.

Our bill is about partnering with hardworking farmers who are mostly women to make them more successful. It helps to provide them access to the knowledge, the tools, the markets, and the business opportunities because when a woman farmer succeeds, her children and family are healthier, and they are more likely to succeed.

H.R. 5656 is leveraging a unique partnership with NGOs, private sector businesses, educational institutions, and faith-based groups.

Three Minnesota-based businesses—Land O' Lakes, General Mills, and

Cargill—are already partnering with Feed the Future. In fact, General Mills CEO Ken Powell said: ''We are hungry to help the farmer in Malawi who, by selling her crop, will generate the money needed to support her family and pay for her children to go to school.''

So the bottom line is, we cannot sit by and do nothing as 800 million hungry people suffer and far too many die from malnutrition. As mothers and fathers are forced to watch their children go hungry, we can do something.

Human dignity, decency, and our own national security demands that we support and sustain this important investment in agricultural development and nutrition.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the Global Food Security Act.

Once again, I would like to thank CHRIS SMITH, Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, Representative BASS, and all of our staff—Piero, Kelly, Joan, Janice, and Jenn—for all of their work on this bill.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN), a member of the Committee on Ways and Means who is also one of the sponsors of this bill.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman SMITH for his hard work and bipartisan leadership, and for bringing a very, very important issue to the floor, and also for his longtime advocacy for lifting people up out of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard Members speak on the floor here today very bipartisanly in support of H.R. 5656, the Feed the Future Global Food Security Act. The Feed the Future Initiative embodies the very best of the United States' foreign aid. It is a new approach. It doesn't just provide handouts but, instead, provides a hand-up to some of the very poorest parts of the world.

Feed the Future is working to bring sustainable agricultural practices to targeted communities around the world to help lift people out of extreme poverty. In fact, in 2013, farmers working with the program applied these improved techniques to over 4 million hectares of land.

The program's work goes far beyond just increasing yields for farmers though, Mr. Speaker. It is introducing an entrepreneurial spirit into these communities, a business model, an empowerment model. It is increasing family incomes. It is expanding economic growth. And it is opening up new trade opportunities.

This work is also empowering communities to take control of their future by building sustainable local economies. As they become more reliant on themselves, they become less reliant on government assistance. This should always be the goal of our U.S. foreign aid programs.

This program is also leveraging support, as has been mentioned, from the private sector, the civil sector, and the research community. This targeted approach from all of these sides of the equation and the reliance on advanced data and research has allowed them now to achieve these cost-effective results. Those results are very impressive so far: 4.5 million farmers reached, over $98 million in private sector investment, $93 million in new local income, and 12.5 million children under the age of 5 receiving very important nutrition programs.

We need to continue to build upon the successes of the Feed the Future Initiative in our efforts to end global poverty. There is no doubt that programs like this are driving a new pathway in foreign aid and bringing along life-changing results.

I want to recognize the bipartisan work that is going on in Congress, along with the leadership also of Dr. Raj Shah at USAID, so that we can continue to help so many.

I ask all of my colleagues to support this very bipartisan legislation and the Feed the Future Initiative.

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts, Representative JIM MCGOVERN, the cochair of the Anti-Hunger Caucus, who is a real champion for food security not only here domestically but also internationally.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me the time and for his leadership on these important issues.

I also want to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey, CHRIS SMITH, and the gentlewoman from Minnesota, BETTY MCCOLLUM, for their leadership in bringing this important bill before the House.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to rise in support of H.R. 5656, the Feed the Future Global Food Security Act of 2014. I remember in 2008 when our former colleague from Missouri, Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson, and I sat down with researchers from the GAO to talk about how our global food security programs could be improved and made more effective. Their advice was simple: Create a comprehensive government-wide strategy.

I want my House colleagues to know that it was State Department and USAID officials under President George W. Bush who were the first to brainstorm about how to undertake such a comprehensive approach to global food security. And then in 2009, we were lucky enough to have Raj Shah, with his deep experience in agricultural development, evaluation, and analysis, take the helm at USAID. And most of all, we had Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State, who understood the importance of tackling agriculture and nutrition in a comprehensive fashion in order to increase food security, strengthen small farmers, empower women, and develop local and regional agricultural markets.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill helps codify and institutionalize one of our most important and effective global food security programs, Feed the Future, and its related nutrition and agricultural development programs. These programs have a proven track record of success. I want to thank all of the NGOs and private sector partners that have brought these programs to life on the ground.

I have been engaged on global hunger, child nutrition, and food security issues for the past 18 years. I have never been more hopeful that the U.S. is finally pursuing a strategy that works and can make a difference.

Increasing the ability of nations to feed their own people, care for the nutritional needs of their children, increase incomes for their farmers, and help them remain on their land is not just a worthy goal, it is an attainable one. And H.R. 5656 will ensure that the U.S. stays on that course. I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would say to my colleagues that global hunger, I believe, is essentially a political condition. We have the leadership capability, we have the resources, we have the ability to end global hunger. What we need is the political will.

I urge my colleagues, as they support this legislation, to reflect upon the success story of Feed the Future, and let's amplify it even more. This program works. It deserves our support.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, the Feed the Future Initiative has been successful in alleviating food insecurity over the last 4 years. This important bill authorizes this proven approach to food security. It is a moral, economic, and security imperative that we continue the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

I think we all need to be thankful for the heart that has gone in here from our colleagues. Certainly we want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey, CHRIS SMITH, and the gentlewoman from Minnesota, BETTY MCCOLLUM. Their hearts have been in this and fighting for this. They brought us all together. We appreciate that.

And with that, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

First of all, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) for his leadership. This truly is a bipartisan bill. I want to again say how grateful I am to the gentlewoman from Minnesota, BETTY MCCOLLUM, to be working with her and her staff. Our staffs are all trying to make sure we have a bill that will make a huge difference not only in putting our arms around the existing program but in strengthening it and taking it to the next level.

I do want to point out that this is about a whole of government strategy:

all in on the part of the U.S. Government so that everyone is working on all six cylinders to make sure that sustainable development occurs throughout the world in target countries and, as those targets increase, that it is totally inclusive of women.

When we worked on issues like microtargeting, we found—particularly in most parts of Africa—that women have really stepped up to the plate and have done yeoman's work. They are fully included in this effort.

Again, I want to thank all of my colleagues. I want to thank the leadership, the gentleman from California, KEVIN MCCARTHY, and Speaker BOEHNER, for making sure that this legislation got to the floor. Our hope is that the Senate may take it up. If not, we will be right back here next year. But I do hope that they will take it up because delay is denial. This is an important piece of legislation that will save lives.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5656, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, promote sustainable agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2614. An act to amend certain provisions of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.

IN MEMORY OF MARGARET COLF HEPOLA

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

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great admiration and a little bit of humility because I get to honor the life of a tremendous woman, a friend from southwest Washington who has made a lasting impact on our region. She passed away this week at the age of 97.

A lifelong resident of Clark County, Margaret Colf Hepola could recount the history of southwest Washington in a way that was more complete and exponentially more colorful than any history book. Her great grandparents moved to the Lewis River Valley before Washington had even claimed statehood, and more than 140 years later, Margaret's family still calls our region home.

There are people who live in a community, and then there are people who define what ''community'' means. Margaret was the latter. She made it one of her life ambitions to share the history of the community she loved and to preserve the memories of those who came before her. Through the Colf family's generous philanthropy, Margaret saved historical landmarks, supported museums, and founded the La Center Library.

Margaret's wit, her grit, and her compassion made her one of the most celebrated women in our entire region. Twice-widowed and a mother of five, Margaret did not let tragedy or the responsibilities of motherhood deter her from giving back to the community that she cared about so deeply. By the time she had reached the ninth decade of her life, Margaret Colf Hepola had become a household name in southwest Washington.

I will conclude today by honoring her legacy, one of a passionate historical preservationist who herself has earned a place in southwest Washington's history books.

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HONORING CONGRESSMAN HENRY WAXMAN AND CONGRESSMAN GEORGE MILLER ON THEIR RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order on honoring our retiring Members, Congressman HENRY WAXMAN and Congressman GEORGE MILLER.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am the chair of the California Democratic delegation, and we are losing from our membership two spectacular Members who have served with tremendous distinction for 40 years each.

Representative MILLER and Representative WAXMAN were the final two remaining Members of the House elected as part of the historic Watergate class of 1974. Both were instrumental in passing the Affordable Care Act of 2010, which is the culmination of a nearly century-long struggle to guarantee that every American has access to quality and affordable health care.

Representative WAXMAN was one of the most prolific lawmakers in American history. He has a long record of not only legislative, but oversight achievements. He was elected, as I said, in 1974 and reelected 17 times. He chaired the Energy and Commerce Subcommittees on Health and the Environment, the Energy and Commerce Committee from 2009 to 2011, and the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee from 2007 to 2009.

He left his mark all over this body, but the five areas that he will be remembered most about is health care, consumer protection, environmental protection, telecommunications policy, and just many good government laws.

Some of the most important bills that he either wrote or coauthored include: the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments—we can recall when we couldn't breathe in Los Angeles, and that is no longer the case because of Henry's leadership and work preventing smog, air pollution, acid rain, and the depletion of the ozone layer; the Medicaid and CHIP expansion gave coverage and access to health care for children and working families; and his nursing home reforms helped protect the most vulnerable people in America.

The Hatch-Waxman generic drug act gave rise to the generic drug industry, and the Orphan Drug Act gave hope to families across the country whose family members had diseases not lucrative prior to the act. From the Ryan White CARE Act to the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act to the cigarette and smokeless tobacco health warning laws, Henry has been recognized as a leader here.

His oversight efforts were simply marvelous. Looking at waste, fraud, and abuse, he identified over $1 trillion in wasteful and mismanaged Federal contracts, including billions of dollars in wasteful spending in Iraq and in response to Hurricane Katrina. His oversight of the tobacco industry and the Wall Street collapse are known throughout the country. He has over his 40 years here provided tremendous service to our country.

Our colleague, Representative GEORGE MILLER, has similarly left his mark not only on this body, but on this country and indeed on this world. Our friend, George, is an aggressive and unapologetic investigator on behalf of taxpayers into the health and safety of children and workers.

He took on asbestos executives, for-profit colleges, subsidized agribusiness, mining corporations, oil companies, and administration officials of both parties. Why? To stand up for the little guy who didn't have a voice.

He chaired three committees during the past 40 years, the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families from 1983 to 1992; the Committee on Natural Resources from 1992 to 1994;

and the Committee on Education and Labor from 2007 to 2010. He is a longtime cochair to the Democratic Steering Policy Committee. He is among the 50th, as is Henry, consecutive longest-serving Members of Congress in history out of more than 10,000 Members.

His list of accomplishments is too long to read, but they certainly include fair pay for women; investigating sweatshops not only here, but around the world; fighting for pension reform; standing up for occupational safety and occupational disease compensation; international labor standards; the minimum wage; antidiscrimination laws; and the defense of the right to organize and collectively bargain.

The notable legislation written or cowritten by GEORGE MILLER include: the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007; the student loan reforms of 2007 and 2010; the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002; the California Desert Protection Act of 1994; the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, now known as the Individuals With Disability Act; and the Pay-As-You-Go Act, PAYGO, passed in 1982 to reduce the deficit and instill greater discipline in the budget process and to ensure that military and nonmilitary spending were treated under the same rules.

He played a key role in shaping the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the response to the worst American recession since the Great Depression.

California is proud of our two colleagues, and many Californians and indeed some honorary Californians are here tonight who would like to say a few words to honor these two outstanding men.

First, I yield to the gentleman from California, Mr. ALAN LOWENTHAL, who represents a district in southern California for his tribute.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I thank the gentlewoman from San Jose for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am really humbled to have a chance just to say a few words about GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN. As a new Member, I have had the wonderful experience of spending my first 2 years as both Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. MILLER kind of conclude a great career.

A little bit first about GEORGE MILLER: as we pointed out, he is a progressive, he has fought for the environment, he has protected it, he has been a leader in the Natural Resources Committee, and he has fought to protect public lands such as in the 1994 California Desert Protection Act and created Death Valley National Park and Joshua Tree. He was the chief sponsor of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992, also to protect the fish and wildlife.

I came also to the legislature, to the Congress, after chairing education in California, and GEORGE MILLER was a champion and a leader here, and we all looked up to him. As was pointed out already, he did great work on helping to draft the No Child Left Behind Act, and he was a great supporter of school modernization and community colleges—finally, about George, passion, humor, respected by all, and a zest for political combat.

On the other hand, let's see what people say about my good friend HENRY WAXMAN. Like myself, Henry's grandparents were Jewish immigrants. We both served in the legislature. The Washington Post said that HENRY WAXMAN is to Congress what Ted Williams was to baseball: a natural.

Ralph Nader once said that HENRY WAXMAN is the only argument against term limits. Senator ALAN SIMPSON once said that HENRY WAXMAN is tougher than a boiled owl, and The Los Angeles Times describes Representative HENRY WAXMAN's tenacity as legendary.

We all know his work on the environment, I am just going to point that out, is legendary not only in terms of the Clean Air Act amendments, but he is also known for the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments; laws reducing childhood lead exposure; the Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act; reduction of greenhouse gases; and taking on, as we all know, the tobacco industry.

In keeping with his role as the defender of the environment, Mr. WAXMAN has served as the chair of the House Safe Climate Caucus. It was a distinct honor for this new Member to serve with him, HENRY WAXMAN, and a greater honor to be selected as the next chairperson of the Safe Climate Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I only hope that I and every Member of this body can live up to the amazing legacies of public service that GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN have left this Congress.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored now to yield to the gentlewoman from California, NANCY PELOSI, the Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the leader of our California Democratic delegation. ZOE LOFGREN, thank you for bringing us together this evening for a very bittersweet circumstance, that is to say how proud we are to honor the leadership of two great giants of the Congress, HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER. How sad we are that they are leaving us.

I come to the floor, Mr. Speaker, today, to join in celebrating two of the most accomplished Members of this great body, and when I say ''most accomplished,'' I am not just speaking in the context of the present Congress.

I am talking about two of the most accomplished Members of this great body of all time, a pair of Californians with 80 years between them, 80 years of service in the House, retiring with unparalleled record, certainly an unsurpassed record of legislative achievements to their names, Congressman HENRY WAXMAN and Congressman GEORGE MILLER.

I am proud to do that as a Californian and to thank our chairwoman, ZOE LOFGREN, again, for this opportunity.

As they depart for new endeavors at the end of this session, which is in about 48 hours, each of them leaves a legacy of leadership that is felt in the lives of everyday Americans, and that is so important.

In doing so, they are both pioneers. For four decades, HENRY WAXMAN's name has been synonymous with responsible action, extraordinary legislative skills, passionate public service, and bold leadership on behalf of the people of Los Angeles, whom he represents, and the American people. Time and again, Henry has been the first to appreciate the seriousness of the challenges before us and the first to bring forward solutions to resolve them.

Time does not allow, and other Members will mention so many accomplishments, but I just want to focus on from the start, this is where I saw up close and early, from the start in the early dark days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, HENRY WAXMAN fought to invest in AIDS research, support treatment, and care prevention and pass the landmark Ryan White CARE Act.

Long before the rest of our Nation awakened to the gathering storm of climate change, early on, Congressman WAXMAN worked to create bold new protections for the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the Earth we call home.

From the first days of his long career, he recognized the urgency of delivering quality, affordable health care to all, and together with some of our other colleagues, with his leadership as chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, we honored that commitment with the Affordable Care Act.

Also working on the Affordable Care Act from his committee, the Education and Labor Committee, Chairman GEORGE MILLER has left an indelible mark on the laws and the Members of this august body. George has been the model of a serious and substantive legislator, a champion of working people who has had his hand in some of the most innovative and important legislation of our time.

Members over and over—some already have and others will—talk about his legislative accomplishments. I just will name some. I mentioned the Affordable Care Act; Lilly Ledbetter, the first bill signed by President Obama to end discrimination in the workplace; the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the last bill that passed by a House Democratic majority; ending discrimination for women in the workplace, for men and women in the military.

One thing I want to mention, this PAYGO—because again this is something I saw firsthand. GEORGE MILLER put together the initiative for pay as you go, so that we were not increasing the deficit as we made investments for our future.

It was 1982; we were at a midterm convention of the Democrats in Philadelphia. GEORGE MILLER had the resolution to pass PAYGO. It was very fiscally sound and responsible. It passed. The resolution passed. It was so revolutionary that they never had a midterm convention again because it was really there not to make speeches but to make change.

In any event, they made that change, and it didn't become effective really until several more years later when President Clinton became President of the United States, and then we want on a pay-as-you-go basis, so whatever we were doing, we were not increasing the deficit.

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So he has been a deficit hawk, a very progressive, liberal deficit hawk in the lead on that subject.

So when he was doing the earned income tax cut; Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids; ENDA—really, we haven't passed it yet, but GEORGE has advanced it in the House any number of times—early childhood education to lifetime learning, I keep coming back to the children.

I have said that when people ask me what are the three most important issues facing the Congress, I always say the same thing: our children, our children, and our children. Their health, their education, the economic security of their families, the air they breathe, environment in which they live, a world at peace in which they can reach their fulfillment. No one in the Congress has done more for our children, our children, our children than GEORGE MILLER, GEORGE MILLER, GEORGE MILLER.

So his focus on the children, but having them live in a world at peace has taken him outside of our country. So forceful was he in his advocacy for children in other countries, for fairness and opportunity and social justice, that he became a subject of the Salvadoran death squads. They tried to search him down in the United States because he was such a fierce champion for fairness in their country as well.

So here we are—two great, very committed people. If you ask them what the secret of their success would be and how they achieved so much, they will be modest—well, sometimes. But what they will both tell you separately and the guidance they give the rest of us, just stick with it. Just keep on working. Just make sure that the other side, whoever that might be, knows you are not going to go away because you have a goal that is responsible, you have an urgency for the people, and you will make sure that you make the difference.

In many ways we all live in a nation shaped, defined, and strengthened by GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN. Their keen vision, abiding determination, courageous leadership have put them in the ranks of the greatest legislators in our history. When they leave this House, we can be certain that they will use their extraordinary knowledge and talent in new venues and in new ways to serve America's children and families.

As we acknowledge them and express our appreciation to them, we also have to acknowledge their spouses. Janet Waxman and Cynthia Miller have contributed 80 years of being spouses to Members of Congress. That is really almost like 80 years each. That is twice as long as serving, to be a congressional spouse with all the sacrifice that that involves.

Tonight we say a heartfelt ''thank you'' not only to GEORGE and HENRY and voice our gratitude to them, but to the Waxman and Miller families for sharing these great men with our great Nation.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to our colleague from California, Mr. MARK TAKANO.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady, the dean of our delegation in California. I come to the floor with tremendous pride and a heavy heart as we say good-bye to two of the greatest liberal legislators California has ever known—HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER.

I had the honor of receiving HENRY WAXMAN's endorsement for my very first congressional bid in 1992, but I had been an admirer of his long before that. I believe HENRY's career will be judged favorably by history.

Going back to his cofounding of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats with Congressman Howard Berman back in 1973, his passion for social justice has long been storied. I have to say, as a Member from the Inland Empire where we suffer from some of the worst air quality in the Nation, I am grateful for HENRY's commitment to clean air.

He has been a stalwart of progressive values, conducting powerful investigations on water pollution, AIDS, and tobacco, to name a few. Who else could have cajoled executives of tobacco companies to claim that nicotine was not addictive under oath? Only HENRY.

Let me turn to the other liberal titan, GEORGE MILLER. GEORGE's work on education and labor issues are unparalleled, from leading the effort that raised the minimum wage in 2007 to his commitment to protecting Pell grants and expanding college accessibility for all students.

His support of my bid to the Education and the Workforce Committee made one of this teacher's lifelong aspirations a reality. To honor GEORGE, I plan on renaming the committee Education and Labor when we retake the majority.

GEORGE's passion and presence on the House floor and in committee was powerful and will be missed.

The commitment that both these men had to the right issues, not always the easy or popular issues, makes them true public servants and examples for the rest of us to follow.

While there is no question that both HENRY and GEORGE have earned their retirement, the House is losing two of its fiercest liberal voices. I am humbled to have served one term alongside these gentlemen, but selfishly wish that I could work with them for many more years.

In departing, they are leaving big shoes for the rest of us to fill, but I can safely speak for all of us when I say to HENRY and to GEORGE: It has been an honor.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, my neighbor in the San Francisco Bay area.

Ms. SPEIER. I thank the California Democratic leader and want to say very simply that Members come and go on the Hill, but some you can't imagine leaving. Tonight I rise to honor two public servants whose departure will leave an extraordinary void for years to come. Like the giant redwoods of California, these men are giants of the Congress.

Representatives HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER have honorably served the State of California and this Chamber for a combined 80 years—we have heard that earlier—exactly 40 each. Both arrived in the shadow of Watergate, ushering in a new era of strong congressional oversight. They led some of the most significant legislative achievements in our history and set the gold standard for active oversight for all who follow.

Representative WAXMAN, the mustache of justice, never backed down. His book chronicling his congressional investigations, ''The Waxman Report,'' is the bible for conducting effective oversight and holding industry and government officials accountable.

His work combating the tobacco industry is one of the greatest public health achievements of the last century. But it is only one of many accomplishments, including the Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Affordable Care Act, and holding the Bush administration accountable throughout the Iraq war.

His truth serum inquiries caused plenty of CEOs to squirm and brought American consumers cleaner air, water, and quality of life. His stature in this Congress is iconic, and his oversight techniques are legendary. He will always be remembered as the grand inquisitor.

Representative MILLER was mentored by Phillip Burton, who famously said: People sent me to Congress to kick A and take names. Well, GEORGE MILLER took that to heart, making his presence felt on the House floor through passionate speeches and actions to match. He didn't mince words or volume.

GEORGE looks like a warm teddy bear, but much like a teddy bear, he is ferocious in protecting his children, all the children in this country. He worked to protect educational opportunity for low-income students and children with

disabilities from preschool to graduation. Even in his final days of service, he has worked to expand access to early childhood education through a new White House initiative.

He has also been an unwavering champion for working families and our environment. He fought pay discrimination with the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, has worked to keep college accessible for all, and conserved the California landscape through his tireless efforts to preserve San Francisco Bay.

As chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, Mr. MILLER helped pass the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992, which increased water allocations for San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, and he spent the last 20 years defending those precious gains which benefit the bay area's wildlife, endangered species, and commercially critical salmon runs.

When GEORGE MILLER arrived in D.C., he was intent on extending affordable health care to all, and thanks to his leadership on the Education and the Workforce Committee, nearly 11 million people are newly ensured under the Affordable Care Act. It is not often that Members achieve such lofty goals in Congress, but his masterful work has led to a law for the history books.

HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER have represented the great heights in this Chamber and what can be achieved. I hope that we can all learn from their example and emulate their legacies.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Santa Barbara, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS, our friend and colleague.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the dean of our California delegation for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, it is with such great pride—also mixed with a heavy heart at our pending loss—we gather here this evening to honor two of the giants of the House of Representatives, and they are friends, friends to me, friends to us all, GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN.

HENRY and GEORGE are two of America's greatest public servants, each serving their California constituents and serving the Nation for almost 40 years. But it is not just their longevity that makes them so notable. They have been incredibly effective.

They have used each of their days here in this institution to improve the lives of all Americans. They have taught us who served with them by their example to do the same. They have made their footprint, their imprint on this place indelible for all ages because they have focused on all Americans, and particularly the vulnerable.

Each of them has been especially skilled and adept at combining their keen knowledge of how to get things done here on the Hill with their ability to dive deep into policy and to see how average Americans, everyday Americans, are affected back home in their districts—all Americans. When you look at any major piece of domestic policy over the past 40 years that they have served here, their imprint is felt.

For example, HENRY WAXMAN was so intimately involved in our Nation's best efforts to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid coverage, to improve access to generic drugs so that all Americans can afford their medicine, to protect our air and water. These topics have been covered, have been mentioned, but they are major pieces of legislation. And he has led us in moving toward a clean tech energy economy.

HENRY WAXMAN literally wrote the laws that have improved the lives of so many, including the Ryan White CARE Act for HIV treatment and prevention, the landmark Clean Air Act amendments of 1990, the 2009 Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.

HENRY, working with you on the Energy and Commerce Committee has been one of the greatest joys that I have experienced here in Congress.

Similarly, GEORGE MILLER has been such a stalwart in protecting middle class families, the ones I worked with in the school district that I used to represent, similar to all the school districts across this country.

You have promoted education and opportunity for the least of these, for all of these.

He authored the last increase in the Federal minimum wage. He passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act so that we could address pay discrimination. Imagine what that means to every woman, every family in this country because of this legislation.

He has led efforts to reform our Nation's education system. As a school nurse, this hits home with me.

He has made college more affordable, to protect our environment and our coastal communities from increased oil drilling. That is an issue that you empowered me to focus on when I came here as a new Member of Congress.

It must be noted that thanks to each of these Members, to the work that you did on the Affordable Care Act, so incredibly important each of you were to this major landmark passage, families now can have the peace of mind knowing that they are not going to go bankrupt just because they get sick.

And while we are going to deeply miss you here in this place next year, as we gather to vote tomorrow, you look around this Chamber during that vote, you can see each of the people you have mentored during your time here, including me.

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So while you and your family are going to enjoy a very well-deserved retirement next year, the legacy that you are leaving in this Chamber will live on for a very long time.

On behalf of this Chamber, this Congress, Californians, in my district and throughout the State, and all Americans, I thank you, each of you, both of you.

Ms. LOFGREN. At this point, I yield to the gentlewoman from California, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, our colleague.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding this time to me.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we are here to thank and honor two of California's greatest congressional legislators and our dear friends, HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER.

This is an especially, as the Leader has said, bittersweet and poignant time because they are our dear friends. We are so proud of them, and we are going to miss them dearly.

The reason why HENRY and GEORGE are so significant here in this body are that they are the architects of the most significant legislation of the last 40 years. You think about anything we have done in this House, whether it is health care, environment, energy, consumer protection, communications, workforce protection, education opportunities, it goes on and on. The reason why they have been so successful and why they are so dearly respected and loved is that they are men of the House, they are men of the people. They love this institution and they honor this institution, and so this institution honors them. They are people, individuals, who understand this country and understand what makes it great, understand that it is the people that they are going to be helping.

HENRY has been a dear friend of mine for over 30 years and his absence will be keenly felt in the Halls of Congress and in the Energy and Commerce Committee, on which I serve. In his four decades here, HENRY has been a stolid advocate for his constituents in Los Angeles and for this whole Nation and the world too.

On the Energy and Commerce Committee, I have worked closely with HENRY to tackle a number of critical issues facing the country. The Affordable Care Act will forever stand out in my mind as one of the committee's greatest accomplishments, and HENRY has been a true leader in that passage.

We worked together to combat climate change, eliminate the harmful formaldehyde emissions, promote strong net neutrality rules, and expand access to Internet services for more Americans. He has been a true leader.

We are also saying good-bye to my really good friend, GEORGE MILLER. During my time in Congress, he has become a trusted friend and colleague. He led the fight on raising the minimum wage and fighting for a vibrant education system.

But what I remember the most and cherish the most about him is that he leaves such a great legacy on water law and policy in California, from his historic California water reform law that requires the balanced use of our State's scarce water resources to the many battles on the floor fending off ill-conceived attempts to drastically change the distribution of our precious water resources.

With the departure of HENRY and GEORGE, Congress is losing champions of the people whose knowledge and passion will not soon be replaced, but they leave many of us behind who understand how important it is. We say farewell to them, but we also wish them well, and certainly wish their families well.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Napa, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank our California delegation leader for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize two men that I have had the high honor and the great privilege to serve with for their last 16 years in Congress: GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN. And I have had the unenviable task to try and represent part of GEORGE's old district and, I will tell you, you have got to work about three times as hard just to try and catch up to where he has been.

When I was first elected to Congress, I learned quickly that none of us are able to accomplish anything without the help and the sacrifices of those who came before us. For many of us, myself included, none have helped or sacrificed more than GEORGE and HENRY. They fought the good fight, they have won some incredible battles, and America is a better place for it today.

GEORGE, I remember, I don't know about fondly, but I remember like it was yesterday, joining forces with you to reverse a water decision that a former administration had made that killed 80,000 spawning salmon in my district and economically devastated the area that I represented. Had it not been for you, those people would still be washed up on the rocks. But we came on this floor together and, with your guidance and you as my mentor, we were able to help those folks weather that very, very terrible time. I appreciate your help, and so do they.

It has been said that any of us who experience any success at all in Congress do so on the shoulder of giants. This institution has seen many giants, but none larger than HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER. They are great legislators. They have legislated successfully on everything from health care to education to tobacco to natural resources. They have fought the fights that have made American people live a better life.

We will always read in our history books about the great men and women who have worked in this magnificent institution. I, for one, am thankful that I had the opportunity to serve with two of them. They are living legends, and we should all recognize how fortunate we have been.

Their work and their accomplishments will endure long past their retirement, and our country will forever be a stronger and better place because of GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from over the mountains, Congressman SAM FARR.

Mr. FARR. Thank you very much for yielding and being chair of the California Democratic delegation, the largest single delegation in the United States Congress, with its champions of note, GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN.

This is a historical room and this is a historical moment, and that is why it is being recorded and being covered by C–SPAN. This room is historic in that the leaders of the world come to speak here to joint sessions of Congress. We are every day surrounded by the reliefs on the walls here of 23 of the greatest lawgivers in the history of the world, and we are reminded that one person can make a difference.

Tonight, we honor two people, each who have made one hell of a difference. I don't think that I have ever met—and my contacts with these two gentlemen goes way back with GEORGE MILLER when he was 9 years old. He was the pudgy little kid and I was the tall skinny kid. Now I am the pudgy little kid and he is the tall skinny kid.

But he had a dedication for the out-of-doors. We went camping, fishing, and skiing. Our fathers, who were both State senators, introduced us to politics at the State level, and both of us ended up as staff members in the California State legislature, where, in 1968, HENRY WAXMAN was elected. And GEORGE on the Senate side and myself on the analyst side, but mostly on the assembly side, I worked a lot with HENRY WAXMAN because I was doing constitutional revision work, and one of the few things that HENRY was interested in was constitutional revision. This is really about the history of the state of the Constitution, and he carried these really complicated constitutional amendments to clean up the Constitution. I just remembered the dedication. The style was always one of intellect, very legal, lawyer-like, quiet, but everybody respected him, and we got a lot done.

GEORGE, GEORGE is like his dad. He is the fiery one. In fact, this podium right here I saw broken by GEORGE hitting it. This is a new podium, ladies and gentlemen, thanks to GEORGE MILLER. Now it is adjustable and all kinds of things it didn't used to be in the old days.

Look, behind us is the American flag. There are 50 stars on it. Everybody knows those represent the 50 States. In my opinion, they are going to remind us of the 50 pieces of major legislation that each one of these Members carry. Now, a lot of these people that come through here are famous, and we have had Senator Kennedy and so on being in this House, and we think of the legislation they have created. Look, these gentlemen have done more for this Nation in major legislation than any people in either the Senate or the House.

In fact, little known, but GEORGE MILLER would have been the Speaker of the House when NANCY PELOSI wanted him to run, and he said: ''Nancy, this is your job, we are going to make history with you.''

These two gentlemen are some of the greatest people that have ever served in the United States Congress, and I hope the record will remember all of their incredible accomplishments because we are a better country and a better world for their service. We are going to greatly miss them.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from East Bay, Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, a new Member of our delegation.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to pay tribute to two legislators, two lions of the United States Congress whom I am honored to have had the privilege to serve with for 2 years.

HENRY, it is often said that there is nothing more important than one's health, and no one has done more to improve the health of Americans than the gentleman from California, HENRY WAXMAN. He provided better health care for the elderly and poor through improved Medicare and Medicaid programs, offered Federal help to those with HIV and AIDS, and vastly expanded the use of less expensive generic drugs, on and on and on.

HENRY also worked to advance public health by improving the environment in which we live. This included pushing for legislation to protect the quality of our air, water, and food.

Now, GEORGE, my neighbor, just to the north, I will never forget the first day I met GEORGE. It was in our caucus meeting. He came up to me and he said, ''How old are you?'' I told him I was 31 years old. He said he was about the same age, just a little bit younger, when he was elected. He gave me one piece of advice. He said, ''You are not elected in this town until you are reelected. You go home every single weekend and you represent your constituents.'' I saw GEORGE every single weekend flying home on that plane, and I never felt sorry for myself because I know that GEORGE went home for the past 40 years every single weekend.

He has also stood up and advocated for working families. I am fortunate that, besides what he has done for advocating to increase the minimum wage, he came out to my district and talked to our local brothers and sisters in labor about how he can teach me to work with them and listen to them and advocate for them. He stood up for children to make sure that poor kids across our district, across northern California, have access to education and a better chance to expand upon that freedom to dream.

But I think one of the greatest things about GEORGE is not just the legacy and the legislation that he is leaving, but also the Members that he has mentored. When you look at the bills GEORGE has passed into law, it inspires you to be a part of a place that can do good and can do better.

But, perhaps, my favorite memory of GEORGE is coming down onto the House floor as GEORGE has given an impassioned floor speech. GEORGE tends, as you know, to go just a little bit over time, but when he starts to go over time he starts to raise his voice and he starts to bang and bang and bang on that podium as he is standing up for working families and children in our country, and the poor Speaker tries to gavel him down. But never, never, never has anyone been able to gavel down GEORGE MILLER and what he has stood up for in this Congress.

Long live your memory, GEORGE, long live your legacy, and may you continue to inspire all of us to do better.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to our new colleague from North Bay, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN.

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Mr. HUFFMAN. I thank the gentlewoman.

I also rise to join my colleagues in honoring two of the alltime greats of the United States Congress, GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN.

As many of my colleagues have said, these two will go down in history as some of the most able policymakers, intellectual engines, and progressive champions in the history of the House of Representatives.

People around this country benefit every day from their work in this body from the clean air and clean water that we have because of their work; to human rights and workers' rights; to education to consumer safety; to public land protections; and safer, more affordable pharmaceuticals. The list goes on and on. Let's not forget the millions of people in this country today that have access for the first time to affordable, quality health care because of the very important and historic health care act that they helped bring into law.

This Special Order doesn't give us anywhere near enough time to do justice to these two legislative titans' accomplishments, so I will just mention two that have special meaning to me personally.

HENRY, your work to expand the scope of the Clean Air Act and strengthen its enforcement has been tireless, and over the decades, it has meant huge improvements to the public health care of the American people.

HENRY was one of the leading architects of the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 that targeted environmental hazards like acid rain, smog, and the thinning ozone layer, and through this work, he helped lay the groundwork for President Obama's important efforts to combat climate change by improving fuel efficiency and cleaning up our power plants.

HENRY has also led the Safe Climate Caucus, a bicameral effort that is attempting to create a climate policy in exile, if you will. Inevitably, the science of this issue will catch up to the minds of our colleagues across the aisle; as well, the duty to future generations will catch up to the hearts of our colleagues across the aisle.

In the meantime, HENRY, the work that you have done in this House has helped keep a positive track on climate change alive, and the work that we accomplish in the years ahead will absolutely be standing on your shoulders.

GEORGE MILLER is my neighbor to the east. Among many, many things, he worked for years to bring California water policy into the modern era, culminating in the Central Valley Project Improvement Act signed into law in 1992 by Republican President George H.W. Bush.

For the first time, under the CVPIA, the Federal Government was required to consider the impacts to California's fish and wildlife when managing the Central Valley Project, one of the world's largest water management systems, but also one that did enormous damage to fish and wildlife. It moved the pendulum too far in one direction, and it had to be reset, and that is what GEORGE MILLER did.

The CVPIA encouraged more efficient water use, established conservation requirements, and water metering. It started to reform the antiquated water contracts that gave away public water for 40 years at a time at below-market rates.

The law that GEORGE MILLER authored also helped pave the way for the restoration of the San Joaquin River which once supported one of the largest salmon runs on the Pacific Coast.

Although we will miss their daily leadership in our delegation and in Congress, I know that their body of work will continue to stand the test of time. The people of California have been very fortunate to have Congressman MILLER and Congressman WAXMAN representing them for the past 40 years, and it has been a privilege and honor for me to serve with them for the past 2 years.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to our distinguished colleague from Los Angeles, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Tonight is a bittersweet event for all of us of the California delegation. While we are here to celebrate the accomplishments of our colleagues HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER, we are also here to bid farewell to these outstanding statesmen who have made indelible contributions to the House of Representatives and to our Nation.

When I came to Congress in 1993, they had served 18 years as colleagues of my father, former Congressman Edward R. Roybal, who had great respect for these men. As a freshman Member, I remember being very much in awe of them and their accomplishments. HENRY was already considered the health guru, and GEORGE was well-established as a leader in education and labor policy, but their contributions to our country had just begun.

As a Member of the House for the last 22 years, I have seen firsthand the expertise, the passion, and the courage with which they fought for policies and laws to improve the quality of life for all Americans.

While their accomplishments are much too many to mention, HENRY will always be remembered for his championship of universal health coverage, his efforts to ensure the affordability and availability of prescription drugs, and his leadership in tobacco cessation policy.

GEORGE's legacy will be his stewardship of a fair minimum wage, worker protections through secret ballots, and his staunch advocacy for school modernization and student aid expansion.

My constituents and all Americans, including future generations, will benefit from the educational opportunities, labor protections, clean air and water, and expanded health access that were made possible by these two California statesmen with whom I have the privilege to serve. I will always cherish the opportunities I have to collaborate with them on issues like adult immunization, newborn screening, and education technology.

HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER will leave a void that is nearly impossible to fill and a heritage of critical policy imperatives that will define our efforts in health, education, labor, and environmental justice for many Congresses to come.

These men truly understand the meaning of the responsibility of serving in the House of Representatives. I wish them Godspeed, good health, and sincere thanks for their lifetime of service in doing the people's work in the people's House.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield to our colleague from New York, an honorary Californian and a fellow fan of these two great Members, Congressman PAUL TONKO of New York's 20th District.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you to the gentlewoman from California for yielding.

It is an honor this evening to join in the tribute to two very strong individuals who have represented their districts so very well, Representative WAXMAN and Representative MILLER.

One of the benefits and one of the opportunities that comes the way of Members of this House is to stand alongside men and women of greatness who lead not only their home district and State, but the Nation—and the world, for that matter. This evening, we recognize the contributions of HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER.

When I first arrived in the House some three terms ago, my first assignment was on the Education and Labor Committee. I thank you, Representative MILLER for being an outstanding chair who enabled me to join in your sound efforts in providing for the empowerment of children, the strengthening of workers, stamping out gender discrimination, and all sorts of work that addressed not only issues of your

home State of California and my district in New York, but the entire Nation—and the world, for that matter. It has been an empowering statement.

To HENRY WAXMAN, the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee when I joined earlier in this third term, it was an honor to join with you, HENRY, and to recognize the great work that you have done on climate change and energy issues, certainly on public health, from the warnings of tobacco to affordable prescription drugs and to move forward with the Affordable Care Act.

It has been an honor. It has been a great treasure to call you colleagues and friends. I want to thank you for your intellect, the institutional memory that you carry with you, and the passion that you poured forth for your State, your country, and the world.

Thank you so much for your service. We will deeply miss you.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to yield to our colleague from Maryland, Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. It is an honor to stand with the California delegation tonight in saluting two extraordinary Members of the United States Congress, GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN, two friends, two individuals who have been an inspiration to me and so many other Americans.

What is extraordinary about these two men is that they greeted every day of their 40 years here in the United States Congress as if it were their very first day, with the same determination, with the same drive, with the same passion to make our country a little better place than they found it.

Make no mistake, they came here on a mission to build a more just, a more inclusive Nation, where every American has a fair shot at the American Dream, and through that determination and that perseverance, they succeeded.

If you look around the country today, in almost every aspect of American life, these two gentlemen have left their mark, from health care to education to workers' rights to protecting our environment. They have changed the arc of American history.

One quality really stands out when I think about both these individuals: fearlessness and moral courage and a willingness to take on the most powerful special interests on behalf of the common good, no matter the personal risk, no matter the political cost.

They have been warriors for the public good, sometimes happy warriors, sometimes just tough warriors, but always standing up for what is best in America. It is the job of those of us who remain here to dedicate ourselves to carry on the work that these gentlemen carried out for the love of their country.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to another distinguished gentleman from Maryland, Congressman JOHN SARBANES.

Mr. SARBANES. Thank you for yielding.

It is a privilege to rise and acknowledge the incredible service of GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN. I had the honor of serving with both of them on each of their committees, the Education and the Workforce Committee in the case of GEORGE MILLER, and the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Oversight Committee with HENRY WAXMAN.

As public servants, they are unrivaled. At a time when unfortunately many Americans have become cynical and wonder whether their voice is heard here in Washington, these are two individuals that when you look back over their careers in public service, you cannot have a shred of cynicism because they got up every day determined to do the right thing to help people across this country.

In the case of HENRY WAXMAN, his fight on behalf of consumers is legendary. His work to guarantee access to affordable health care is before us every day. His desire to see that every citizen be able to live in a world where they have clean air and clean water, a world that is protected against the ravages of climate change, is his legacy. In fact, when it comes to climate change, I think we can say he is the conscience of the Congress.

In the case of GEORGE MILLER, he is somebody who was deeply committed to making sure that the next generation had decent educational opportunities and fought for that during his entire time here in this Congress; of course, he was always putting the priorities and the needs of working families first.

If legislating is a profession, then these two individuals reached the height of that profession. They knew the substance of the work. They fought hard for what they believed in, but they knew how to reach compromise when it was demanded.

As people, they are both decent, ethical, and caring, and most importantly, down to Earth, getting up every day saying, ''I have got a job to do,'' and going out to do it. We will miss them. We thank them for their service. As long as we have the privilege of serving here, we will cherish their legacy.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey, RUSH HOLT.

Mr. HOLT. As one who has also chosen to step aside at the end of this term, I want to recognize and thank two legislative giants, HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER. They came at the same time. Although they are very different people, each shows compassion, courage, determination, persistence, powerful mind skill, and even good humor in accomplishing all these things that we have heard about tonight.

I have seen their personal qualities up close. I have been with HENRY as he stands for fairness and justice in Israel. I have been with GEORGE MILLER as he inspects the vanishing glaciers that are the victims of our climate change.

They have worked, as you heard, on elementary and secondary education, worker protection, health care, communication, clean air, clean water, sustaining lands and climates. They will not tolerate those who violate workers' rights, family welfare, and individual opportunity, in America or elsewhere.

We have heard about Central America. I was with GEORGE MILLER in Chile this year when he received the highest medal that country gives, the O'Higgins Medal, for activities that he did as a freshman from this House when he went to Chile and courageously stood up in the face of Pinochet's terrorism to defend labor and individual rights.

We could go on far beyond the hour that is allotted here. Simply put, their record puts to rest any claim that government doesn't work, that government can't help people, that special interests always prevail. It makes us proud to be Members of this body. It makes us proud to be in the United States of America.

Thank you, GEORGE and HENRY.

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Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, just squeaking under the wire, and I am not going to do a GEORGE MILLER imitation, talking over the Speaker and pounding the lectern, nor am I going to try and repeat what has come before us in terms of talking about the legendary accomplishments of the two gentlemen. I just want to mention one.

When I first came here, I was privileged to be part of a small discussion group of faith and politics. It had HENRY and GEORGE, and it opened a face to me of people who cared about their colleagues, an extraordinary kindness that both had given to me and my family, and had given a face to this institution that is too often missing now. And I think that may be their greatest contribution.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, we are through with an hour. We could have filled many hours, but we say goodbye to these two colleagues. Eighty years of experience and expertise will leave this Chamber.

I looked—in 1974, the top of the charts was ''The Way We Were,'' that was the song, but also on that chart was a song called ''Rock On,'' and that is what we want our two colleagues to do.

We are in their debt. We are impressed. Our country and our world is a better place because of their wonderful service.

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank two of the finest legislators in California's history for their contributions to our nation and to this body over the past forty years.

HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER were both elected in the post-Watergate Democratic

wave election of 1974—one from Southern California, the other from Northern California. They have served together through many legislative battles that have shaped the modern history of our country, and they have each chaired committees during times of momentous change and achievement. It has been my privilege to call both of them my friends, and it will be my disappointment to see both of them leave this House when they retire at the close of the 113th Congress.

HENRY WAXMAN has spent his four decades in Congress as a tireless fighter for clean air and water, a stronger economy that creates opportunities for all Americans, and a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. He worked hard to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco and worked across the aisle to help lower the cost of drugs used to treat those with rare diseases. HENRY wrote major legislation on food safety to inform consumers about the nutritional value of what they eat and to keep chemical pesticides out of the fruits and vegetables we feed our children.

He and GEORGE MILLER both helped lead the effort to pass the Affordable Care Act and expand access to affordable health insurance to more Americans.

GEORGE has served as Chairman of both the Natural Resources Committee and the Education and Labor Committee—now called Education and Workforce. On the first, he oversaw the passage of legislation that created new national parks, like Joshua Tree and Death Valley, and he worked to protect wildlife across the country and around the world. On the Education and Workforce Committee, of which he is still the Ranking Member, GEORGE helped write legislation to reform and expand student loans, was instrumental in crafting the new G.I. Bill to send Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to college, and worked to pass the College Cost Reduction Act to make higher education more affordable for all Americans. He and I worked together in 2009 to enact statutory PAY-GO rules to ensure that Congress must pay for what it buys—rules GEORGE pioneered in the early 1980's when he wrote the first PAY-GO legislation.

Both GEORGE and HENRY will leave big shoes to fill in the next Congress, and I look forward to working with the Democratic Members their constituents chose to succeed them in order to carry forward the work they have been engaged in for forty years. I join with a grateful nation and a grateful House in thanking them both for their many years of distinguished service to Congress, to the people of California, and to the United States.

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the legacy of public service for two of our departing colleagues, Rep. GEORGE MILLER and Rep. HENRY WAXMAN.

I have had the pleasure of serving alongside Reps. MILLER and WAXMAN for over twenty years and it is with great respect and admiration that I say goodbye to them as colleagues, friends and brothers-in-arms.

Since 1975, HENRY and GEORGE have not only served the people of their districts but also our nation as champions of progressive democratic ideals and stewards for the tenets established by our founding fathers. Their legacy as effective legislators is virtually unmatched in the House of Representatives and serves as a reminder that constructive work can lead to positive results in this legislative body.

GEORGE and HENRY together claim responsibility for enacting some of the most important legislation that has come before Congress over the last century. HENRY's leadership on the Clean Air Act, the Ryan White CARE Act, the State Children's Health Insurance Program or the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act are only a few examples of his passion and dedication. GEORGE's leadership on the California Desert Protection Act, the Davis-Bacon Act, and the Fair Minimum Wage Act were a result of his endless tenacity and compassion.

I will always remember how instrumental each of them was in securing the enactment of the Affordable Care Act; what seven presidents could not accomplish over so many decades, President Obama principally accomplished because of the relentless efforts of each of them.

Whether we found ourselves in legislative foxholes or at the vanguard of new ideas and solutions, we were always in it together for the American people. Their efforts were always led by the desire to serve the best interests, ideals and policies for our nation.

Mr. Speaker, many are called to public service, but few leave legacies that endure the way that Rep. HENRY WAXMAN and Rep. GEORGE MILLER's legacies will endure. As they move on to the next stage of their lives, with their health intact and their heads held high, let us be thankful that we had these champions of American democracy and patriots for America's freedom for forty years.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, HENRY WAXMAN is one of the most prolific and successful legislators in modern congressional history.

After 46 years of serving his constituents in Los Angeles County—my fellow Californian, a champion for health care, for the environment, and consumers—is retiring at the end of the 113th Congress.

Since 2009 Congressman WAXMAN has served as Chairman and Ranking Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, a committee with broad jurisdictions that reach into the daily lives of millions of Americans. His legislative achievements are unparalleled—

The Infant Formula Act, to improve the quality and integrity of infant formula;

The Orphan Drug Act, which gave pharmaceutical companies incentives to develop treatments for rare diseases they had previously ignored;

The Hatch-Waxman Act to create the first ever pathway for generic drugs;

The Clean Air Act to address the problems of urban smog, hazardous air pollution, acid rain, and the depletion of the ozone;

The Ryan White Care Act, groundbreaking legislation to provide medical care for Americans living with HIV/AIDS;

The State Children's Health Insurance Program to ensure all children had access to health insurance;

The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act to restrict the marketing of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco to children and give the FDA jurisdiction to regulate these products; and

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, arguably the most important and far-reaching legislation passed by Congress in a century, creating a framework for universal health coverage for the American people.

Rep. WAXMAN has also authored laws that improved the quality of nursing homes and home health services and that set policy for childhood immunization programs, vaccine compensation, tobacco education programs, communicable disease research, community and migrant health centers, maternal and child health care, family planning centers, health maintenance organizations, and drug regulation.

Rep. WAXMAN is a strong advocate for women's health, supporting family planning programs and the right of women to freedom of choice with respect to safe and legal abortions.

From 1997–2009, Rep. WAXMAN served as either Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, conducting investigations into a wide range of important topics from the high cost of prescription drugs to waste, fraud and abuse in government contracting. He also formed a Special Investigations Division that prepared hundreds of investigative reports on local and national topics for Members of Congress.

Mr. WAXMAN's contributions to our country span 40 years in Congress and six years in the California State Assembly. He and his wife Janet have been married for 44 years, they have two children and five beautiful grandchildren, Ari, Maya, Noa, Eva, and Jacob. It's been a great honor to serve with HENRY WAXMAN and I wish him and Janet my full wishes for every blessing.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the great legislators of our time, Congressman HENRY WAXMAN.

I have had the honor of working with HENRY on the Energy and Commerce Committee for many years. In that time, we have worked together on children's health coverage, affordable prescription drugs, environmental protection, and universal health care coverage, the Affordable Care Act.

In Congress, HENRY has served as the Chairman and currently serves as the Ranking Democrat on Energy and Commerce and previously served as the Ranking Democrat for the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

HENRY and I both currently serve as co-chairs of the Democratic Israel Working Group where we have worked together in supporting our nation's partner in peace in the Middle East, Israel.

HENRY, along with fellow Californian, Rep. GEORGE MILLER, are the last two House Members of the "Watergate" Class of 1974 and have left an indelible mark on our chamber. Their leadership will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank HENRY for his years of public service on behalf of millions of Americans who have benefitted from his work from tobacco regulation and reproductive rights to air and water quality standards and ensuring that all Americans have access to health care coverage.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two giants of this House: GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN, who will be leaving this institution at the end of this Congress. They will be missed, but their legacies live on the myriad ways that they have made America better.

HENRY and GEORGE have made their marks on this nation through an unwavering commitment to their ideals, dogged hard work and a pragmatism that is too often lacking in this hyper-partisan era. One, or the other—or both,

have been instrumental in almost every major piece of domestic policy legislation in the last few decades and have improved the lives of countless Americans and millions overseas.

As long as GEORGE and HENRY have been in Congress, those who had long been ignored by Washington have been heard. Poor people, the sick, persecuted minorities around the world, and our nation's children have all been lifted up by the work of these two men.

During his 40 years in Congress, GEORGE chaired three committees—the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, the Natural Resources Committee, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce—and through them fought for high quality education not just for a select few students but for all. He has worked to strengthen environmental protections even in the face of aggressive opposition from entrenched interests, and for safe conditions and a living wage for workers in America and overseas.

GEORGE is blessed with boundless energy and has never been satisfied to rest on his laurels—staying engaged to ensure that the bills he has passed are implemented and improved upon. He wrote the legislation that successfully raised the minimum wage in 2007 and has written the bill to increase it again.

He worked across the aisle to write and pass No Child Left Behind and has not wavered from his efforts to improve and fund it.

Beyond his extensive legislative achievements, GEORGE has touched so many lives, including mine when I interned in his office as a college student. At the time, I never imagined I would one day serve alongside him, but it has been a great honor.

HENRY WAXMAN has similarly focused a wide array of causes, focusing on investigating companies whose products had harmed consumers, and questioning and holding accountable corporate executives on behalf of those who otherwise had no opportunity to seek justice.

As Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Committee, HENRY investigated waste, fraud and abuse in the tobacco, finance and energy industries to name only a few.

Conducting investigations and oversight was not enough for him, once he exposed wrongdoing, he would work, sometimes for decades, to translate his findings into legislation. As Chairman of the Energy and Commerce he helped write and oversaw the passage of the Affordable Care Act, the culmination of lifelong work on behalf of uninsured Americans.

HENRY's commitment to human rights, especially the persecution of religious minorities in the former Soviet Union and Iran has given hope to those without hope. His steadfast support of Israel has ensured that our two nations will remain allies and partners.

As dean of the Los Angeles delegation, HENRY has been both a leader on issues facing Angelenos, and a mentor. I consider myself privileged to have had the opportunity to work with him.

Our state and the nation have been lucky to have the decades of service that GEORGE and HENRY have given us. They will be missed from the halls of Congress, but their legacy will continue to shape this institution and nation for decades to come.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, for the past 22 years, I've had the privilege of working alongside one of the greatest statesmen this institution has ever known—Congressman GEORGE MILLER.

Throughout his 40-year career, Congressman MILLER's work has transformed the lives of children and families, hard working people and our environment. From our country's education system, to labor, to health policy and the preservation of our natural resources, Congressman MILLER has left lasting and profoundly important imprints on our society. From the first day he stepped into the halls of Congress and ever since, he's been a true reformer for the American people.

Congressman MILLER was instrumental in passing the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which curbs pay discrimination against women. In 1975, he championed the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, which for the first time provided children with special needs a free and appropriate public education.

Congressman MILLER paved the way to dramatically improve the quality of meals for children at schools with the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, and spearheaded transformative legislation to save students billions of dollars in student loan costs while serving as Chairman of the Education and Labor Committee. In 1982, he passed the landmark Pay-Go Act to reduce the deficit, instill greater discipline in the budget process, and ensure that military and non-military spending is considered equally.

Congressman MILLER chaired the House Natural Resources Committee and delivered the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, which established Death Valley National Park, Joshua Tree National Park and the Mojave Desert National Preserve. He also unlocked longstanding and fiercely defended taxpayer subsidized domination of California's scarce water resources by agribusiness, quite literally saving our fisheries and water quality.

His accomplishments are countless and far reaching, and his tenacious pursuit to serve his constituents and the American people resonates throughout each and every one of his victories, as well as his defeats.

Nearly every weekend for 40 years, Congressman MILLER has traveled home to his district in the East Bay of San Francisco from Washington, D.C. It's where he has drawn his strength, his inspiration, and his desire to keep fighting the good fight.

GEORGE, you are my brother, my confidant, and I will forever keep in my heart the time we spent working together in Congress. I wish you, Cynthia, your sons and grandchildren every blessing, and know that your tireless spirit will forever be a part of this sacred institution.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the legislative giants of our era. A man who I am proud to call my colleague and my friend, Congressman GEORGE MILLER.

GEORGE first came to Congress as part of the legendary "Watergate Class" of 1974. In the four decades that GEORGE has been a member of this chamber, he has played a key role in the passage of some of our nation's most import education, labor, and health statutes.

GEORGE has served as chairman of three committees: the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, the Committee on Natural Resources, and the Committee on Education and Labor. He continues his legacy of leadership to this day as co-chair of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.

GEORGE has been a tenacious fighter in support of workers' rights, students and teachers, workplace safety, the environment, and a livable wage for all working Americans.

As a card carrying member of the Communications Workers of America and someone who shares GEORGE's commitment for working Americans, Congressman MILLER has been a colleague I have continued to look to on issues important to the labor community.

Before I close, I would like to thank GEORGE for his decades of public service on behave of our nation's working families. Our chamber will be losing one of the true lions of our generation and I wish him and his family all the best.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN DOC HASTINGS ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of our Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, tonight we celebrate my friend and esteemed colleague, Chairman DOC HASTINGS, for his 20 years of dedicated service in the United States House of Representatives.

DOC has been a constant source of wisdom, of compassion, of patience, and of leadership for our Chamber, and I know that he will be sorely missed by all who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Every day he has represented the people of the Tri-Cities, Yakima, Moses Lake, and all of Central Washington with his tireless commitment.

When he first came to Congress in 1995 to represent Washington's Fourth Congressional District, he came with his sleeves rolled up ready to get things done. He didn't come to seek the spotlight. He came to Congress to help the people of Central Washington in every way he could, to make their lives better, and that is exactly what he has done.

In his years on Capitol Hill, DOC has been a humble leader and a masterful legislator. It was in 1974 when DOC entered politics. He was elected Franklin County Republican Party Chair and served Franklin County with his tremendous work ethic and attention to detail.

As a proud early supporter of Ronald Reagan, it wasn't long before DOC was chosen as a delegate for Ronald Reagan at the 1976 Republican National Convention.

He went on to serve as a faithful representative in the State legislature

from 1979 to 1987. He first ran for Congress in 1992 and came up a little short, but that didn't deter him. In 1994 he ran again, and he soon came to our Nation's Capitol after winning a race against then-incumbent and current Governor of Washington State, Jay Inslee.

That year, Republicans gained control of the House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years, and DOC embodied that spirit of hard work and determination. In all the years I have known him, I have marveled at his ability to get things done without seeking the limelight.

When I came to Congress, I quickly learned that when DOC spoke, people listened. It is because of him that BPA rate increases in the Pacific Northwest were limited. It is because of him that those back home didn't see their electric rates skyrocket.

And it is because of his relationships, both here and at home, that we have been able to build upon the foundation of our economy. It is because of him that we have been able to move forward on so many effective economic solutions for the Pacific Northwest.

DOC has been a steady hand and an instrumental leader in his chairmanship of the House Committee on Natural Resources, and on the House Committee on Ethics.

In his recent work as Natural Resources Chairman, DOC worked to reform the 24-year old Endangered Species Act in an effort to improve species recovery, reduce ESA-related litigation, and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently and wisely. He worked to make the law work for both species and for people.

His focus has always been on making laws more efficient and effective to help people, and this is no exception. Regardless of the issue, whether it is energy, healthy forests, protecting our dams, irrigation, agriculture, or manufacturing, DOC has championed countless policies that have driven our economy in the Pacific Northwest.

Serving as founder and chairman of the House Nuclear Cleanup Caucus, DOC has tirelessly educated his colleagues about cleaning up nuclear waste created by World War II and Cold War-era nuclear weapon production programs. The program includes waste at Hanford site, which is the world's largest and most complex environmental cleanup effort, and it is DOC who has worked to ensure that cleanups move forward safely and efficiently, and it is DOC that helped the Tri-Cities community prepare for the post-cleanup era.

It goes without saying that those in Washington State are better because of DOC's service. As cochair of the bipartisan Congressional Northwest Energy Caucus, DOC has worked to promote cooperation on issues that impact the continued availability of low-cost hydropower.

He gave us the opportunity to work together on policies like protecting the Northwest's important source of renewable hydropower, addressing the future of the Columbia River Treaty, protecting the Snake River Dams, and integrating wind energy into BPA's transmission systems.

Under DOC's guidance, we have had the opportunity to collaborate to promote a strong future for our regional power system.

As a master of all things rules, he knows the rules better than just about anyone. The Speaker could always turn to him when he needed a steady hand who understood the rules.

What I admire most about DOC is that he is kind and selfless. He is as kind and selfless as he is brilliant.

When our son, Cole, was born, and after he was diagnosed with Down syndrome, DOC was the one that welcomed us back and introduced Cole to the world on the House floor. He is an invaluable legislator, an unmatched mentor, and a man I am proud to call my friend.

DOC's family has always come first. His wife, Claire, has been his partner, by his side 20 years now in service, and I can say from experience it is not easy to have your family on one coast when you are on the other.

Claire and the entire Hastings family have always been a source of continued commitment and unconditional love, and I know DOC feels so blessed to have had that unwavering support.

I thank the Hastings family for sharing with America a tremendous and invaluable leader. His heart has always been with his children and grandchildren, and I know that he will be glad to be able to spend some more time with them.

DOC has filled the role of dean of the Washington delegation, and he is going to be missed. While this great leader will no longer walk the Halls of Congress every day, this institution is better and stronger for having had him here. DOC will be missed every day, but his legacy will live on in Congress and, of course, all across Eastern Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), chairman of our Appropriation Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I will not be lengthy, but I will be very serious.

There are very few people that I have served with in this body these 34 years for me who has more respect and more friends than DOC HASTINGS.

We are personal friends. We are professional friends. And when our wives are back home, we frequently have dinner together, and we talk a lot of politics, we talk about things going on at home, talk about things going on here in this body and the world.

There is nobody more knowledgeable of politics in America than DOC HASTINGS. He knows every congressional district. He knows the politics of that district, and that makes for some great, great conversation.

But I think the most important thing that I could say about DOC HASTINGS is his character, the character that he possesses. Someone once said that ''Character is doing the right thing when nobody is looking.''

I have seen, time and again, DOC faced with an opportunity, perhaps, that would have meant taking advantage of someone or not doing the right thing, and he always does the right thing. And so that character, that inner being that radiates out to the world, comes through that balding head and reaches out to the world.

Most people don't realize that DOC HASTINGS is one of the biggest NASCAR fans in America. He travels to watch the cars. And of course, most of those started out in the South and still principally are. But DOC loves the NASCAR world, so that makes him a southerner, which is another reason I admire the man.

Well, we are going to miss this man. He has served so well here in so many different important roles: chairman of the Ethics Committee that looks after the ethics of Members of Congress; of course, on the Rules Committee, the hardest working assignment I think anyone has, and his service there was superlative; and of course, the chair he now holds, that has turned out more bills, I dare say, than any other committee of the Congress. I mean, it seems like every day there is a string of Hastings bills that are being considered by the floor.

He is a strong worker, a hard worker. He is conscientious in his work. He is approachable and friendly and likes to take advice.

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So we are going to miss this man, and we hope that the folks back in the home State appreciate just how well loved DOC HASTINGS is here in the U.S. Congress.

So, DOC, we will miss you. We want you to come back from time to time, and I will even buy you dinner. God bless you.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Thank you.

I would like to yield to the gentleman from Washington, Mr. DENNY HECK.

Mr. HECK of Washington. I thank the gentlewoman from Washington State.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge, thank, and pay tribute to the service of Richard ''DOC'' Hastings on behalf of the people of this country and Washington State.

I have had the privilege to know DOC more than 35 years, and with perverse reference to Mr. ROGERS' earlier comments, I even knew him when he had hair. I had the great privilege to serve in the Washington State House of Representatives with him. We overlapped by 6 or 8 years in the seventies and eighties, and as somebody who wears a different colored jersey—his is red and mine is blue—and this is me engaging in understatements as we had materially different world views—with DOC, it

was never, ever, ever, ever personal. He always has a kind word and, frankly, a ready smile for people.

DOC is now finishing up 10 terms—20 years in this Chamber. I don't know that I have ever adequately thanked him for being the very first person to come to my office and extend his hand in friendship and offer to help me in any way he could 2 years ago—something he probably doesn't even remember, so natural an act it was for him but, frankly, so meaningful for me.

Lest I leave the wrong impression about all of these differences that DOC and I have—oh, and we do—I also want to assuredly assert that he can be every bit as good an ally as he can be an honorable adversary. The gentlewoman from Washington State has mentioned several of the ways in which Congressman HASTINGS has worked collaboratively with all of us, over a long period of time, on behalf of the interests of Washington State: cleaning up Hanford Reservation. I cannot help but note his signature on a letter advocating the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank—a very meaningful gesture on his part and of tremendous economic importance to our State—and even more generic issues.

As a former U.S. Army Reserve veteran himself, DOC is always front and center, standing proud and tall to do what he can on behalf of the men and women who have served in uniform in this State.

I also want to reiterate the gentlewoman from Washington State's acknowledgment of Congressman HASTINGS' skill over the presiding of this Chamber. Most people don't understand what an incredible skill that is to do it with such seeming ease, not just to have command of the rules and of the parliamentary procedures.

The very manner in which you comport yourself, Congressman HASTINGS, is truly a thing to be admired. You did it with grace.

Speaking of grace, more than a year ago, one of my dear, dear friends and mentors—someone who also wears my colored jersey—former Governor Booth Gardner, passed away. Congressman HASTINGS was one of the very first people to take the podium to acknowledge the kindness that Governor Gardner extended to Congressman HASTINGS' family, a gesture which he would be very familiar with because it comes so naturally to him as well.

It is a privilege to know you. It is a privilege to have served with you lo these short 2 years, but I am very proud to have done so. I am proud to have known you all of these years, and I am proud to call you friend, DOC. Most importantly, on behalf of all of the people of Washington State, including the people of the 10th Congressional District, we thank you for your fine, fine public service and for your dedication to all of these issues that you have worked on so ably and in such a dedicated fashion for so many years. Thank you, sir.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Thank you.

I would like to yield to the gentlewoman from Vancouver, Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER), our friend and colleague.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, it is fun to get to come down here and honor my friend and colleague, Chairman DOC HASTINGS from central Washington. It has been a privilege to get to be right adjacent to DOC.

CATHY, we have been on either side.

In being the younger member of the delegation, the newest member of the delegation, I think your time and your effort and your willingness to bring us along—to bring me along—is invaluable. It is impossible to overstate the influence that DOC has had on this body over the last 20 years. He has been a constant advocate, fighting for the people of his home and our State—and our region, really—and the rest of Washington.

You have been doing it since I was in high school, studying U.S. history.

Unlike a lot of politicians, DOC doesn't seek credit or run to the microphone or brag about his accomplishments. He truly lives by one of his favorite quotes: ''It is amazing what you can accomplish if you are not worried about who gets the credit.''

I joined the Washington delegation 4 years ago, and from the beginning, DOC has been incredibly generous to me with his time and his wisdom and even with his dinner invites. Like so many in this body, I truly value his friendship.

During my time here, I have had the privilege—I don't even want to say ''of working alongside''—of following along with some of the issues that are incredibly important to my district and of things that DOC has championed. Trust me. Whether it is joining him out at Hanford Nuclear Reservation or teaming up with him to try and advance our Nation's forest policies and best practices, it is plain to see how passionate DOC is about serving the people in central Washington and throughout Washington State.

In this day and age when we hear mostly about a polarized Congress and politicians that no one likes and about people who can't work together, it is important to remember and to focus on those Members who are the opposite—people like DOC—who are always looking to find the common ground, who are looking for solutions, and who are wanting to confront the biggest challenges facing our region. I hope and believe it is how DOC is going to be remembered—as a statesman who always did the right thing by the people at home.

DOC's retirement is certainly a loss for Washington, but I am happy that the pull of being home—the pull of family—has finally won out after having to balance that life on both coasts for so long. When I had my baby girl last year—it feels like 1,000 years ago—DOC was one of the first to ask how we were, how we were doing, what he could do, and to share in the joy of our miracle, and I am truly grateful.

I know, for me, when I am trying to work an issue and I need advice, I am going to miss being able to say, ''Well, what do you think?'' ''How would we do this?'' or ''What coalition would we build?'' ''What is the strategy?'' That is one of the biggest things I remembered. I shouldn't say ''remembered.'' He is still with us. One of the biggest things I think of when I think of DOC is that his approach is always: let's lay out the strategy to get to our solutions, and let's try this and talk to this person and do it this way and remember this.

It is that intimate knowledge of how this institution works that we are going to be at a loss for, not just here, but even in the Washington delegation. It is having that institutional knowledge and the relationships, because this place, like anything else, is funneled by relationships. His intimate understanding of that and the way he has worked so carefully with people to advance ideas, we are going to miss it. We are going to feel the loss.

We look forward to hearing from you and watching you enjoy your time at home with your kids and your grandkids. Tell us about how great it is from time to time. We are going to miss you.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Thank you.

In closing, I would say, DOC, on behalf of everyone in Washington State and on behalf of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives, we are grateful for your service, your leadership for our region, and your impact on our lives.

As we walk the Halls of Congress, we often think about those who have gone before us and have walked these halls, and we think about the fact that we stand on the shoulders of giants. You have been a giant in our lives, and you have been a giant for Washington State in Congress, and these are just small tokens of our appreciation for your service. Thank you, DOC. May God bless you, and may God bless your family.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chairman, thank you very much.

I actually came down to the floor this evening, Mr. Speaker, to give my farewell remarks as I am retiring as well as my good friend, DOC HASTINGS.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to just say what a great human being DOC HASTINGS is and what a pleasure it has been for me in my 12 years. Of course, DOC has been here much longer than I, but to rely on his experience and to draw from that and his wisdom and his judgment and his kindness and his great representation of the people of the great State of

Washington, it is a pleasure to say farewell to DOC.

I hope I will see you again very, very soon. Thank you, DOC.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Thank you very much.

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

AN HONOR TO SERVE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today for, perhaps, my last time speaking as a Member of this institution.

I rise this evening, first and foremost, to pay a debt of gratitude to Georgia's 11th Congressional District and to the people there, who have graciously allowed me the privilege of serving them for these past 12 years.

Growing up modestly in Augusta, Georgia, I would never have dreamed that, someday, I would be standing where I am today, and I would not have had this opportunity if it weren't for my wonderful constituents in northwest Georgia. I may be biased, Mr. Speaker, but I think the people in my district are the nicest and the most hospitable in this country.

So, to them, on behalf of myself, my family, and my staff, I extend my deepest thanks for allowing us to serve you in this House of Representatives.

To my wife, Billie; my three daughters, Gannon, Phyllis, and Laura-Neill; and my son, Billy, I am forever grateful that you all have stayed by my side and that you have supported me throughout my public service. I wouldn't be where I am today without your sacrifices. To my family, a huge, heartfelt thanks.

Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues, it has been the honor of a lifetime to serve with all of you. The respect I have for each and every one transcends ideology and party line. I have made some of the greatest memories of my life with you, and I hope to stay connected with all of you in the years to come.

Of course, in order to be successful in this body, one must have a great staff. Thank you to each and every one of the staffers who has shown such great devotion in serving the people and in helping me to serve them in the 11th District of Georgia.

Thank you all for joining in my fight to protect the freedoms of the Georgians we serve and for working tirelessly for me for a better America.

I entered into Congress during a time of great unrest, not even 2 years after the 9/11 attacks in New York City. Since then, I have been honored to have been a part of this body as it has faced some of the largest challenges of the new millennia: the global war on terror, the Great Recession, Medicare part D back in 2003, the stimulus response to the financial collapse, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, fighting for fiscal solvency during the fiscal cliff, and a litany of new challenges facing the health care industry due to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

It is my hope that as history examines my actions as a part of this body that the record will show that I always acted and voted the way I thought was in the best interests of the Georgians I served and, of course, this great Nation.

Now, I can't claim to be perfect. Far from it. Not every piece of legislation I championed passed, but no matter the outcome, I take comfort in knowing that the work that I have offered this body has spurred important debate that betters this institution as a whole and, in turn, our country.

□ 2045

It is that very spirit that led me to cofound the House GOP Doctors Caucus, a group of physicians and health care providers, medical professionals in Congress, people who had served in the medical professions prior to coming here, who utilize our collective first-hand medical expertise to develop patient-centered health reforms for all Americans.

Since the group's founding, we have tackled ObamaCare's threat to the doctor-patient relationship head-on and have played a key role in the fight for SGR reform. That fight continues.

Though it would be hard to let the Doctors Caucus go, to give up that leadership, to say good-bye to my colleagues, I extend my thanks to them, who joined with me as Members of that caucus. And I am confident that the group will continue its valuable work for many, many years to come.

I would also like to take a moment to thank my Democratic colleagues, people like my good friend from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), who is sitting here in the Chamber. And I would also like to thank Representative GENE GREEN from Texas and many others for putting party lines aside and joining with me to lead on a number of fights, not the least of which is the threat of antibiotic-resistant ''superbugs,'' a growing threat in hospitals all across the country. We worked so hard on that legislation, and we were so proud to see it pass—yes, in a bipartisan fashion—through the Energy and Commerce Committee under the leadership of Chairman UPTON; the vice chairman of the committee; the ranking member of the committee, HENRY WAXMAN; the chairman of the Health Subcommittee, JOE PITTS; and the ranking member of the Health Subcommittee and now ranking member of the overall committee, Mr. FRANK PALLONE. We worked together. And this is the way that exemplifies what public service should be all about, identifying a problem and then working together to solve it without regard to party lines.

But no matter how many problems we solve, there lay, of course, many hurdles ahead: immigration, continued reckless spending, these new, horrible threats in the Middle East, an ever-growing executive branch, and, of course, as I mentioned, health care.

As an OB/GYN physician, it truly worries me to be leaving Congress at a time when our health care industry has been tipped on its side—I think because of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. It is critical that this country find a more sustainable path to creating quality care and access to physicians. Government bureaucrats have no place between doctors and their patients.

But still, in light of these few frustrations, I have great confidence in this body. If history shows us anything, it is that despite the day-to-day angst of gridlock—and there is plenty of that to go around—this institution remains the greatest representative body the world has ever seen. The hurdles we face in this institution are always overcome, sometimes with more grace than others, and it will survive, as it always has. Our system of government is durable, it is resilient, and it is designed to withstand the test of time. It has been my greatest honor to have played even a small part in it.

But now it is time for my wife, Billie, and me to turn the page. We are looking forward to having the opportunity to check a few more boxes before we leave and then spend more time with all the grandchildren back home in Marietta.

So in short, Mr. Speaker, I guess you could say I am proud of the past, and I am excited for what the future may hold. But today, I am just happy to say that I am leaving. I feel confident that this body is better prepared for the future than it was when even I got here.

I want to thank, again, all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, and, of course, last but not least, the people of Georgia's 11th Congressional District for giving me this opportunity, this honor, and this privilege.

And I would be remiss, Mr. Speaker, if I closed without honoring our military heroes, the men and women and their families who have paid so much sacrifice for this great country.

I think over 40 have given their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan and have paid that last full measure.

I just want to say, I will never forget you, Patti and Jamie Saylor, and your great son, your hero Paul, who gave his life for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity and the time tonight, and I yield back the balance of my time.

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON VITAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment, pursuant to section

306(k) of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 242k), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following individual on the part of the House to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics for a term of 4 years:

Dr. Vickie M. Mays, Los Angeles, California.

DEPARTING MEMBERS

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the gentleman from Georgia, before he leaves the floor, that I wish him the best of luck, Doc. And I wish the other Doc, the gentleman from Washington who has already left the floor, the best of luck. The gentleman from New Jersey, RUSH HOLT, who is going to speak after me, is leaving as well.

And I must say some things about all three of you, if I may, because you fit into these particular characteristics. The three of you are gentlemen. The three of you are real patriots. The three of you are civil in every respect. The three of you have a good sense of the Congress. The three of you have a great respect for the institution. And you will be missed.

God bless you. Godspeed. And good luck to you and your families.

THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the state of our Nation's economy. I have been waiting for this opportunity, Mr. Speaker. This is the time to do it.

Six years ago, when President Obama raised his hand on the steps of the Capitol of the United States of America and was sworn in as President, we were losing over 800,000 jobs every month, and these were mostly middle-income and lower-income Americans who were out of work. In the final 6 months of President Bush's administration, we lost 3.5 million jobs. By the time the recession was over, 8.8 million Americans were out of work. The ending of that recession technically was in June of 2009, but we did not start to create new jobs until March of 2010, and many of those jobs came from the census that was going on that year.

Our country's gross domestic product, GDP, in the fourth quarter of 2008—the last months of President Bush's administration—decreased by 8.9 percent. That is an unbelievable number. And President Bush was not solely responsible; we all shared in our financial demise. We have been digging ourselves out of this deep, deep hole ever since, with almost no help from our friends on the other side.

And I am glad my friend from Georgia mentioned that legislation that we passed in 2003, plan D. Because right after we lost that debate and lost that vote, we became part and parcel of that legislation which had been democratically passed in this House, although we didn't like it. We cooperated. We didn't try to undercut. We did not try to minimize. But the record will show that Democrats stood up, shook off their loss, and became part of what American democracy is all about. We cooperated.

Now, what have we had from the other side of the aisle? We have had no cooperation. We have had very little goodwill. We have had, simply speaking, no poetry whatsoever. In fact, just the opposite. We have seen the seeds sown in division, in fear, in disharmony.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which passed in February of 2009, our first response to the crisis, received zero votes from our friends on the other side of the aisle. We know now that this bill saved or created 3.6 million jobs in this country, although it was far too small to dig us out of the hole. But we were on our way.

The Affordable Care Act will allow a new generation of entrepreneurs to create a business, provide incentives for small business to offer health insurance, and attract qualified employees, even cut health care costs growth to unheard of levels, freeing up cash so that businesses can invest more and hire more workers—again, zero votes from our friends on the other side.

And then when you lose, you undermine as much as is humanly possible.

Where was the other side of the aisle when the unemployment insurance for long-term unemployed expired, cutting off 3.6 million Americans, including 350,000 veterans, at the end of September of 2014? When we had lost over 550,000 government jobs, dragging down our economy, our entire economic recovery, instead of working to keep people on the job, my friends on the other side of the aisle were pushing more and more disastrous, job-killing budget cuts.

And, Mr. Speaker, let me say this: The record will bear me out. We now have the lowest number of Federal employees, the lowest amount of employees, since 1966. So when our friends on the other side talk about Big Government, they ought to know about it since they created it. We have had the lowest amount of Federal workers. And for the last 5 or 6 years, many of those workers—forget about us—have not even gotten a cost of living increase.

So you can understand very clearly why the American people are frustrated with the pace of our recovery. And in many ways, I share their frustration. It has taken far too long, and the fruits of the recovery have not been equally distributed.

During the recovery, incomes have been flat for the vast majority of Americans while the folks at the top of the income scale are doing better than ever. No one should try to undermine anybody making a living and a good living, but everybody should be part of making sure that there are shared fruits on the line and everybody gets a chance and an opportunity.

The stock market is up over 165 percent since the low it hit at the depths of the recession. While stocks have fully recovered and continue to set record highs, the job market has lagged behind, not recovering all the jobs lost in the recession until just 6 months ago, 5 years after the recession officially ended.

In my home State of New Jersey, total employment is still well below where we were at the start of the recession. There are over 130,000 fewer jobs in New Jersey than in December of 2007. Our unemployment rate is nearly a full point higher than the national average. Take heed what happens to your own State, never mind what happens in other States.

Wages have also been stagnant, stuck at around 2 percent for the last few years. If wage growth had been a more robust 4 percent—enough to factor in inflation and growth in productivity—the average worker would be making more than $3 more per hour today than they are. That is a fact. It is undeniable.

□ 2100

It is undeniable. This is because, for example, during the first 3 years since the end of the recession, the top 1 percent of Americans captured 95 percent of the entire country's income gains. This wage stagnation didn't just start with the recession.

Incomes for the middle class had been stagnant for the past 15 years, and if you adjust for inflation, middle class wages are lower than they were in 1989. That is a fact. There are many reasons for the middle class to feel like they are left out, like the recovery has left them behind. It is because the entire economy is leaving them behind.

This year, it seems like we may have finally begun to turn that corner, and our economic recovery is still and really accelerating. Last week, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the economy created 321,000 jobs.

That makes for 57 straight months of job growth, the longest streak of consecutive months of job creation on record for a total of over 10.9 million new jobs. For the last 10 of these months, we have created over 200,000 jobs per month. That is the first time we have had a streak of that with robust job creation since the 1990s.

The 321,000 jobs created in November brings the total number of jobs created just this year to 2.65 million jobs, so with 1 month to go, we have already created more jobs—get this—than any year since the 1990s. Now, those are some of the statistics about the job numbers you might read in USA Today.

Manufacturing is the linchpin of our economy, adding 28,000 good-paying jobs just last month for a total nearly of three-quarters of a million new jobs. Wages, as I mentioned, have been stagnant. You will see a nice monthly gain of 0.4 percent.

We have not had a month this year when wages have fallen, and for the first time since 2008, we have had 4 months where they have grown at least 0.3 percent. The average workweek increased to 34.6 hours, meaning more workers are finding full-time employment, instead of part-time jobs.

According to the Labor Department, we are seeing increasing churn in the job market with the highest number of employees being hired for jobs and voluntarily quitting their jobs since early 2008. This means more workers are confident enough in the job market strength to leave and look for a better opportunity.

The first week average of weekly jobless claims has been below 300,000 for the last several months, another welcome sign, and according to the Commerce Department, construction spending increased 1.1 percent in October, including a 1.8 percent increase in home building.

Total construction spending is up 3.3 percent from last year, part of the reason why unemployment amongst construction workers has fallen from 8.6 percent to 7.5 percent for the last year.

I say to the American people: we know it has been a long, tough road over the last couple of years and the last couple of decades; we know many of us have been frustrated that it has taken so long to get back on our feet, but today, the American worker is the strongest in the world.

We should feel good that not only are we on the right track, but we are moving faster. The only thing now that could hold us back is if we sabotage the economy by returning to some of the favorite old tactics, shut the place down, shutting down the government, or defaulting on our national debt. We are now only 1 day away from shutting down the government.

The last time, the tantrum over defending affordable care cost us $24 billion. I don't know who the austere party is. I don't know who the party is that is going to watch every dime that is being spent. Twenty-four billion dollars is not chump change, and that resulted in 120,000 fewer jobs being created. We are going to have to be a little bit more creative than just shutting down the government. Maybe they will only try to shut down parts of the government.

But this pales in comparison to the negative economic impact of brinkmanship over our country's debt ceiling. We all know just how devastating actually refusing to raise the debt ceiling could be.

Credit markets would freeze, interest rates would skyrocket, and the dollar would crash. Even the possibility of hitting the debt limit does serious damage for our economy. The first time we did this back in 2011, consumer confidence declined to levels not seen since the Lehman Brothers collapsed in 2008.

Business uncertainty is not what we need. That has led to a slowing of job growth, and our credit rating was downgraded for the first time in our history. All of these economic wounds were self-inflicted.

To his credit, the new majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, has stated he doesn't want another shutdown or default in our debt. However, as our Speaker, Mr. BOEHNER, has learned that sometimes the leader of the party will have a hard time keeping his troops in line. Every leader finds that out.

With our recovery finally picking up steam, the ideologues must cast aside their mentality of legislating by taking the economy hostage. This includes not only our debt ceiling and averting a government shutdown, but also the myriad of other deadlines Congress must deal with in the new year: the expiration of the highway funding, preventing a cut in Medicare payments to doctors, and expiring tax provisions.

Republicans and Democrats must come together really to tackle these issues in a way that accelerates our ongoing recovery. We simply cannot get caught up in the endless brinksmanship and bickering that has defined the past 4 years.

Failure to do so would be an insult to the middle class who are just starting to see the fruits of recovery in their pocketbooks. Unemployment is finally down to the lowest rate in years, and we saw a big jump in hourly earnings in this past week.

Combined with the continued drop in gas prices, not once did I ever see someone come to this floor and give the President credit for anything on the other side—not once—whether it was falling gas prices—and we know what happened when the prices went up a few years ago. Not once did we see anything about the 321 new created jobs. Not one person came to this floor.

He has done a few things right, my brothers and sisters, believe it or not, and if you do admit it, nothing is going to happen to you. Believe me, nothing will happen to you.

Combined with these gas prices going down, the positive impact of the President's immigration order, which will bring money into America's Treasury, we are on a track for a great year for the American worker. The best thing Congress could do to make sure that happens is simple: just get out of the way. I say that with all respect.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HOLT. I thank my colleague, Mr. PASCRELL from New Jersey, for underscoring the importance of what we do here in this House. Those are not just numbers on a page that he was quoting; those are people's lives and livelihoods, and we have work to do.

As I prepare to wind up my service here after 16 years, I seek the indulgence of my friend here and our colleagues to make a few observations for the benefit of my constituents to whom I owe much.

When people call my office, we answer the phone, ''Representative RUSH HOLT.'' Mr. Speaker, here in the House, for each of us, Representative is our title and our job description. It is an honor and a privilege for each of us to represent about three-quarters of a million people, to represent them here in the people's House, this House, that is the focal point of the U.S. Government laid out in article I, section 1, of the Constitution, right at the beginning.

Despite all the well-publicized frustrations of this place, this House is the greatest instrument for justice and human welfare in the world. We are a central part of the most successful experiment in human advancement in history. We must not forget that.

Speaking of not forgetting, we would all do well to develop a stronger sense of history, a sense among ourselves and our country. It is with a sense of history that we realize what progress we have made as a country.

In this time of frustration and cynicism, we should take note: the success of America economically, culturally, and socially has not been an accident, and it was not destined. Our success derives from our chosen system of governing ourselves. Without a sense of history, one cannot recognize progress, and humans need a sense of progress.

When I was first elected to Congress 16 years ago, some people asked me: ''Why would a scientist leave a good research institution to get into the muck of politics?'' The simple answer was that it was too important not to.

Sure, it was satisfying to win an election in a district where many said it couldn't be done, where no one of my party had been elected in almost anyone's memory, but it was clear to me that this was not a game of politics; it was a fight to defend the soul of America.

I came here an optimist about our country, our people, and their government, and I leave an optimist. I have had the help of many people, volunteers, staff and colleagues, smart, inspiring, tireless. I think of many.

I will mention several by name: my wife, Margaret Lancefield; my chief and deputy chief, Chris Gaston and Sarah Steward; and looking back, I think of those who have died during my time here.

As I speak here in glowing terms about our government, successes of this ingenious system of balancing competing interests, I would be obtuse not to recognize that many are discouraged about their government. Some politicians even foster distrust in government, taking people beyond the traditional healthy American skepticism to real destructive cynicism.

In every era, there have been naysayers: ''The government is broken, special interests rule, and all politicians are corrupt.'' I know that is not true.

I am reminded daily that through diligent and committed service to the people that a Representative can ensure that each person knows that she or he has a part in our democracy, a direct connection to his or her government, and that cooperative action, yes, government, benefits them.

We must continually show our constituents that we are committed to always improving the mechanisms of good democratic government: voting, legislation, and addressing grievances.

After eight terms, I look back with satisfaction at some things accomplished: preserving land and bits of history; improving educational opportunities; supporting education in science and foreign languages; expanding access to excellent health care, especially mental health care for our military veterans; protecting families' economic security in their nonwage-earning years; protecting postal workers when they are exposed to anthrax; enhancing the reliability, accessibility, and auditability of voting; strengthening civil protections of Muslim Americans and other minority groups; strengthening fairness in the workplace for LGBT workers; and increasing support for scientific research.

Through it all, our primary job, I would say, has been to beat back the cynicism about our ability as Americans to govern ourselves. Of course, we understand that passing laws and appropriating money is only part of a Representative's work.

I have taken opportunities to speak out about injustice, to extol people and programs that work well, to voice support for people who need a kind word and more, a little help. I present a vision for a government—not a government that vanishes, but a government that works for its citizens.

Of course, not all problems can be fixed by government, but it can be reassuring and uplifting to people to know that other people have their backs and can help; yes, that is government.

I continue to speak against intrusive surveillance by government that treats people as suspects first and citizens second. I have joined with others here to preserve our national legacies, our land and resources, a clean environment and to preserve memories of where we come from, and with my science background, I always try to present arguments based on evidence and open review.

On many issues and in many votes, I have found myself outvoted and in a minority, but it helps to recall the words of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg who has spoken about the satisfaction in crafting a strong dissenting opinion with the hope or expectation that it will become the prevailing majority opinion.

□ 2115

I am reminded of many shortcomings and work unfinished. Others may succeed in reviving the Office of Technology Assessment to provide Congress with badly needed assistance. Others remaining in Congress may move our country appreciably toward more sustainable practices. My colleagues here may yet reform the intelligence community. And acting with the recognition that peace is the best security, others may work to move our Nation away from militaristic responses to so many problems.

Again, this work over 16 years has been an honor and a great satisfaction. I thank my family and my staff. Especially, I thank the people of central New Jersey for this opportunity to serve.

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

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 83, INSULAR AREAS AND FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES ENERGY DEVELOPMENT; WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. COLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–655) on the resolution (H. Res. 776) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 83) to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CAPUANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for December 9 and the balance of the week on account of a family medical emergency.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 11, 2014, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8203. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Irish Potatoes Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon; Modification of Container Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0046; FV14-945-2 FIR] received December 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8204. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Process for Establishing Rates Charged for AMS Services [Document Number: AMS-LPS-13-0050] (RIN: 0581-AD36) received December 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8205. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza [Docket No.: APHIS-2006-0074] (RIN: 0579-AC36) received December 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8206. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Avocados Grown in South Florida and Imported Avocados; Clarification of the Avocado Grade Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0069; FV13-915-3 FR] received December 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8207. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report on the Regional Defense Combating Terrorism Fellowship Program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2249c; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8208. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General Charles H. Jacoby, Jr., United States Army, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8209. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Inspector General's semiannual report to Congress for the reporting period ending September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8210. A letter from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting Fiscal Year 2014 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8211. A letter from the Departmental Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Public Information, Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Regulations [Docket No.: 140127076-4811-02] (RIN: 0605-AA33) received December 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8212. A letter from the Administrator, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Corporation's annual financial audit and management report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, in accordance with OMB Circular A-136; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8213. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8214. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Supplemental Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Department of the Treasury received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8215. A letter from the Chairman and Members, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for the period April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); Public Law 95-452, section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8216. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Incorporation by Reference [Docket Number: OFR-2013-0001] (RIN: 3095-AB78) received December 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8217. A letter from the Acting Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Board's Report on Fiscal Year 2014 Competitive Sourcing Efforts; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8218. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the FY 2014 Performance and Accountability Report, prepared in accordance with the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 and the Government Performance and Results Act Modernization Act of 2010; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8219. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled ''Certification of Fiscal Year 2015 Total Local Source General Fund Revenue Estimate (Net of Dedicated Taxes) in Support of the District's Issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Series 2014C and 2014D)''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8220. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2014, including the Office of Inspector General's Auditor's Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8221. A letter from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the semiannual report to Congress on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); Public Law 95-452, section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8222. A letter from the Chief Operating Officer/Acting Executive Director, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); Public Law 95-452, section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8223. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries/Alaska Region, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule; closure — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD610) received December 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8224. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery; Notification of Butterfish Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 130903775-4276-02] (RIN: 0648-XD603) received December 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8225. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries/Alaska Region, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary inseason rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Thornyhead Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD626) received December 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8226. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries/Alaska Region, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary inseason, closure rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD623) received December 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8227. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries/Alaska Region, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD624) received December 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8228. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries/Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 140214138-4482-02] (RIN: 0648-XD584) received December 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8229. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries/West Coast Region, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's inseason rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments [Docket No.: 120814338-2711-02] (RIN: 0648-BE59) received December 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8230. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries/Alaska Region, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary 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.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XD589) received December 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8231. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Report of the Department's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, covering the first and second quarters of FY 2014, from October 1, 2013, to March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

8232. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 7(a) of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-45), a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2015-03 suspending the limitation on the obligation of the State Department Appropriations contained in Sections 3(b) and 7(b) of this Act for six months as well as the periodic report provided for under Section 6 of the Act, covering the period from June 5, 2014 to the present; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations.

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. COLE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 776. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 83) to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and for other purposes (Rept. 113–655). 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. CAMP:

H.R. 1. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for comprehensive tax reform; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. CAMP):

H.R. 5825. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent foreign diplomats from being eligible to receive health insurance premium tax credits and health insurance cost-sharing reductions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 5826. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the sewer overflow control grants program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Mr. JONES, and Mr. POE of Texas):

H.R. 5827. A bill to exclude ''Choose and Cut'' Christmas tree producers from the Christmas tree promotion, research, and information order; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 5828. A bill to provide for USA Retirement Funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 5829. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exception for certain public-private research arrangements from the business use test for purposes of determining private activity bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CLAY, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 5830. A bill to provide that in the case of a law enforcement officer who uses deadly force against a person, and thereby causes the death of that person, a hearing shall be conducted before a judge to determine whether there is probable cause for the State to bring criminal charges against the law enforcement officer relating to the death of the person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself and Mr. CLAY):

H.R. 5831. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a penalty for violent crimes by certain State or local law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. WALZ, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MARINO, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 5832. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the enhanced selective discharge authority currently available to the Secretary of a military department to permit a commissioned officer in the Armed Forces who was appointed from the enlisted ranks and has at least 20 years of service, at least four years of which has been commissioned service, to retire in the officer's commissioned rank; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CAMP (for himself and Mr. LEVIN):

H.R. 5833. A bill to require upon request a probable cause hearing in connection with property seizures relating to certain monetary instruments transactions; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 5834. A bill to include reasonable costs for high-speed Internet service in the utility allowances for families residing in public housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 5835. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act with respect to making progress toward the goal of eliminating tuberculosis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 5836. A bill to assist in the conservation of rare felids and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of rare felid and rare canid populations and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 5837. A bill to provide for the establishment of a global affairs strategy and assistance for people of African descent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 5838. A bill to require non-Federal prisons and detention facilities holding Federal prisoners under a contract with the Federal Government to make available to the public the same information pertaining to facility operations and to prisoners held in such facilities that Federal prisons and detention facilities are required to make available; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5839. A bill to amend title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Federal ''Grow Your Own Teacher'' program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, and Mrs. CAPPS):

H.R. 5840. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to eligible entities to train elementary and secondary school nurses on how to respond to a biological or chemical attack or an outbreak of pandemic influenza in a school building or on school grounds; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5841. A bill to establish a grant program to provide States with funds to detect fraud, waste, and abuse in the State Medicaid programs under title XIX of the Social Security Act and to recover improper payments resulting from such fraud, waste, and abuse; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5842. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to establish a competitive grant program for community colleges to train veterans for local jobs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER):

H.R. 5843. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to create protected credit reports for minors and protect the credit of minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 5844. A bill to ban hydraulic fracturing on land owned by the United States and leased to a third party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. BASS, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. JOYCE):

H.R. 5845. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, 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 Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 5846. A bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to protect religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more timely and flexible political responses to religious freedom violations worldwide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and 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. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5847. A bill to abolish civil asset forfeiture to the Federal Government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.J. Res. 130. A joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H. Con. Res. 122. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 83; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. MCKEON:

H. Con. Res. 123. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 3979; considered and agreed to. considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H. Con. Res. 124. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 5771; considered and agreed to. considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FARR, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. SPEIER):

H. Res. 777. A resolution recognizing the 66th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the celebration of ''Human Rights Day''; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. COOPER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee):

H. Res. 778. A resolution supporting the designation of a week as National Federal Nurse Recognition Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CAMP:
H.R. 1.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8, clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. ROYCE:
H.R. 5825.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.
By Mr. PASCRELL:
H.R. 5826.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. MCCAUL:
H.R. 5827.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Sec. 8: The Congress shall have Power To law and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises . . .
By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:
H.R. 5828.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution relating to the power of Congress to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.
Article 3, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution relating to the power of Congress to regulate commerce.
By Mr. LIPINSKI:
H.R. 5829.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 and the 16th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:
H.R. 5830.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.
By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:
H.R. 5831.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.
By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 5832.
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 14 of the United States Constitution which gives Congress the power ''to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.''
By Mr. CAMP:
H.R. 5833.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clauses 1 and 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. FOSTER:
H.R. 5834.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 5835.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 1 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.
By Mr. GRIJALVA:
H.R. 5836.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.
By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:
H.R. 5837.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H.R. 5838.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. ISRAEL:
H.R. 5839.
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. ISRAEL:
H.R. 5840.
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. ISRAEL:
H.R. 5841.
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. ISRAEL:
H.R. 5842.
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. LANGEVIN:
H.R. 5843.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grant Congress the authority to enact this bill.
By Mr. POCAN:
H.R. 5844.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
The Congress shall have Power. . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes.
By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:
H.R. 5845.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause I
By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:
H.R. 5846.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.
By Mr. STOCKMAN:
H.R. 5847.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America.
''No person shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.''
By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:
H.J. Res. 130.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 383: Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 763: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 851: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 880: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 1070: Mr. ENGEL and Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 1179: Mr. REED.
H.R. 1312: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 1428: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 1695: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1698: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1827: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 1953: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 2618: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 2638: Mr. STEWART and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2767: Mr. YODER.
H.R. 2852: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 3101: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3116: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 3543: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 3571: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 3717: Mr. ROONEY.
H.R. 4084: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 4161: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 4305: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 4612: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. YODER.
H.R. 4793: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 4828: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 4833: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 4860: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 4930: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 4965: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 5022: Mr. HUFFMAN and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 5101: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 5159: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.
H.R. 5190: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 5226: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 5242: Mr. PETERS of California.
H.R. 5280: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 5365: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 5382: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 5443: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 5444: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 5524: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 5533: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 5589: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 5644: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 5663: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 5750: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 5765: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 5782: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 5807: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 5813: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 5814: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. CONAWAY.
H. Con. Res. 91: Mr. ROYCE.
H. Res. 109: Mr. ISRAEL.
H. Res. 407: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. Res. 582: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. DEUTCH.
H. Res. 688: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SCHRADER, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H. Res. 711: Mr. GRAYSON.
H. Res. 735: Mr. SCHOCK.
H. Res. 755: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. Res. 772: Mr. LANCE and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 130, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2014 *No. 150*

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.

Almighty God, the Author and Finisher of our faith, teach us to rejoice in the privileges You have strewn on our path to be used to bless others.

Lord, strengthen our lawmakers to resist the temptations that would seek to lure them from Your purposes. Give them clear sight that they may know what to do. Give them courage to embark upon the fulfillment of Your will as You provide them with the skills needed to find a way through all our Nation's challenges. Empower them to persevere in doing what is right, enduring to the end. Help them to begin, to continue, and to end all things by trusting You.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

NOTICE

If the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 24, 2014, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, will be published on Wednesday, December 31, 2014, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT–59 or S–123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Tuesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Wednesday, December 31, 2014, and will be delivered on Monday, January 5, 2015.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the *Congressional Record* may contain subject matter, or relate to any event, that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators' statements should also be formatted according to the instructions at http://webster/secretary/cong__record.pdf, and submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at "Record@Sec.Senate.gov".

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman.*

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, December 10, 2014.

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

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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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 my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3979, which is the Defense authorization bill—a very important piece of legislation.

I would hope that Senators would understand the quicker we get this done, the sooner we can get to the omnibus and the tax extenders and the other things we have to do before we leave.

I would note that it seems very likely we will have some votes this weekend. Everyone should understand that. If we can work a way not to have them, we will not, but I want everybody on notice that if they are not here this weekend, they could miss votes.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY ERICKSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, when the Senate convened for the first time in April of 1789, there was a lot to do—and that is an understatement—not the least of which was to establish a system of rules to govern proceedings in the U.S. Senate. The first few weeks and months were going to be difficult, as they tried to sort out the structure and organization of this institution, but they had an idea. Two days after achieving its first quorum, the Senate selected a Secretary to oversee the day-to-day operations of what would become the world's greatest deliberative body.

The importance of this position can't be overstated. Senators and their staffs come and go, but the Secretary of the Senate provides much needed stability and support. To put things into perspective, in the entire history of this country—225 years—we have only had 32 Secretaries of the Senate. By contrast, there have been almost 2,000 Senators who have served since its inception. That number will grow, of course, come January.

For the last 8 years, Nancy Erickson has served superbly as Secretary of the Senate. But to be quite honest, that is what we expected her to do when she got this job.

I came to know Nancy when I was the assistant leader, and a friend and confidant of Senator Daschle. Every time I walked in that office, there she was, always so very, very nice. She was a pleasant person. She was always smiling. We had some big issues, but she was always pleasant to everybody.

Her first job here in the Senate was with Tom Daschle. She became his scheduler. But given her abilities, she quickly assumed more responsibility, eventually becoming deputy chief of staff. When Senator Daschle left the Senate, Nancy transitioned to the Sergeant-at-Arms office, where she worked as a liaison to Democratic Senators and their offices.

Nancy is a native of Brandon, SD. She majored in history and government at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. She moved to Washington, DC, in 1987. Her husband Tom is from Sioux Falls. JOHN THUNE used to purchase suits from Nancy's father-in-law.

Nancy's first job here in the Senate, as I have indicated, was for Senator Daschle. In her current office, Nancy has a collection of South Dakota maps hanging on the walls, one of the railroad tracks across South Dakota in 1886, one of Watertown, SD, and she has others. She even has a Rand McNally map of a long time ago that covers the entire State.

As I indicated, when Senator Daschle left the Senate, Nancy transitioned to the Sergeant-at-Arms office where she worked as liaison to Democratic Senators and their offices. When I became leader and it was time for selecting a new secretary, I didn't look very far. I urged her to consider the position. I am glad she did. I have not regretted that decision, not for a second. She has proven herself to be an excellent manager.

Nancy has 26 departments and about 250 employees directly under her supervision, not to mention the other 6,500 Senate employees who depend on her and her office. She has been faced with some difficult times during her tenure as Secretary of the Senate. There has been a lot of roiling—sequestration, a new health care rollout, and, of course, last year's shutdown. She has confronted each difficult obstacle with skill, composure, and that wonderful smile that she has.

Nancy's success as Secretary stems not only from her excellent abilities but also from her character. She is a genuinely good person and she is very thorough, very thoughtful—I have already said that; very kind—I have already said that; very understanding—I have already said that; and something I haven't said, she is very fair.

Whether she walks the halls here or on the Senate floor, she always has a smile every place she goes. I have said that many times. That is her legacy, and it is a good legacy. I have never—never might be an exaggeration, but extremely rarely—heard her criticize anyone.

Nancy's time as Secretary of the Senate is coming to an end and she will be greatly missed. She has attended to the Senate's every need, day and night. She has earned a break, and I hope she takes one. I hope she gets to spend some time with her husband Tom, her daughter Drew, and I can still see in my mind's eye that picture she has of little Patrick—that little tiny boy. She had that on her desk forever, and he kept getting bigger and bigger and became an athlete. We had many conversations—and I try not to boast about a lot of things, but I am always anxious to boast about my youngest son, who was a stellar athlete and played on three national championship teams at the University of Virginia—so I have watched Patrick become a college soccer player.

There will never be another Nancy Erickson here in the Senate. People like her don't come along very often. But she leaves a legacy, and it is one that will endure through the history of this great body.

So thank you, Nancy, for your service to the country.

TRIBUTE TO SHEILA DWYER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, when Secretary Erickson steps down, so does the Assistant Secretary of the Senate Sheila Dwyer. Sheila has a long history in the U.S. Senate, but Sheila's time started long ago—and I am not going to talk about how long ago, but she was a Senate page during the time, of course, when she was in high school. But after her semester as a page, she, like all these young pages who are here for a semester, returned home to Connecticut. She loves to boast about the great State of Connecticut, and I have listened to her do that for many years. But her heart has always been with the Senate from the time she was a page, and so she returned after her education.

Sheila got a degree from Suffolk University. She returned to the Senate in many different capacities, but we have had wonderful conversations about her time with Chuck Robb. She is a family friend of the Robbs—and I mean a family friend—very close to them. She later worked for Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

I talked to his widow within the past couple of weeks. What a unique man Senator Moynihan was. There is a new book out about him, and I have asked my staff to get a copy of it, which talks about this unusual man. I am anxious to read it because he was brilliant, but also he had a few—he was eccentric in some ways. And Sheila loves to tell privately—and I will not repeat here on the floor—some of the things he did that would appear to a lot of us to be a little bit eccentric. But that was part of his unique quality and she handled him so well—as well as anyone could.

She worked for another man with a huge personality: Senator Fritz Hollings. He would, even though he is over 90 years old, still be here in the Senate except his wife became ill. He is physically strong today, bright of mind, and I can hear this man's voice from where he stood. What a voice he had, a man who was the epitome of what a Senator

should look like. He was a handsome man. I repeat, he had this great voice, and he was very tall, stood very erect. I was always very envious of how he could stand so tall, and he has such a sense of humor that is quite remarkable. Sheila is his friend. She visits him in his home in South Carolina now, and she has helped me keep in touch with Fritz Hollings.

Then she worked for me. I was so fortunate. I was looking for someone to do my fundraising during a very difficult election I had before me. I knew who I wanted, but I didn't know that I could get her. Well, we worked things out. And it wasn't just because I offered her more money, it was because she wanted to work with me, and I am so happy that came to be.

For 14 years, she has been part of my team—and I mean part of my team. During that entire time, she has done an incredible job doing my Senate business as a candidate. Doing Senate business here as the Assistant Secretary, she has been the best.

So after having worked for the Senators I have mentioned, including me, when the time came to fill the role of Assistant Secretary of the Senate, she was a perfect candidate, and in this position she has not disappointed me once.

Everyone who has ever worked with Sheila knows she is a meticulous planner. If you want something done—an event—and done right—and I mean done right: help setting up the program, what the flowers are going to look like, what the food is going to be, what time it should start, what time it should end—and she is very, very precise on when it should start and when it should end—we learned that last night during a farewell for a number of Democratic Senators—she really spares no effort, leaves no detail unattended.

Her time here in the Secretary's office has been a smashing success. It is not easy to attend to the needs of 100 Senators—100 Senators—Democrats, Republicans, Independents, their families and staffs, but Sheila handles it with skill and with grace. That is why many call her the ''Mayor of Capitol Hill,'' and for good reason.

Whether she is escorting the President's daughter to the inauguration podium in her bright pink coat, or planning a ceremonial dinner in Statuary Hall, Sheila does the job exceptionally well.

Just one example, 2 years ago the Senate hosted the screening of Steven Spielberg's now legendary film, ''Lincoln.'' There were some real big-shots there. Spielberg, Daniel Day Lewis, the guy that wrote the script—they were all there. So there were, frankly, a lot of prima donnas there, including of course all the Senators. So it was an exceptionally difficult feat to pull off, coordinating attendance for 100 Senators who all wanted to go to see these famous people.

She was preparing a panel discussion for the cast and crew, all while following strict Capitol protocols as to who could go where and what we could do in the places we went. But she had a secret weapon, and that was she. She didn't know it, but that was the secret weapon. She took care of every possible problem and coordinated every single detail, even down to a makeshift concession stand in the lobby. It was a wonderful event, a marvelous event, because for the briefest moment it brought the Senate together in the spirit of unity that we haven't had in some time. It all happened because of her.

She is very devoted to her family, her mom Lois, about whom she has talked endlessly, and of course her deceased father. I was trying to help in comforting her as I could when she lost her mom Lois. I can't imagine how proud her parents would be—and are, from wherever they are, looking down on us—at the work that Sheila has done in her life. I know how proud I am of her now, as she prepares to move on to her next chapter of life, and I will do everything I can to help that chapter be a good one. I wish her the best.

I, along with the entire Senate, thank her for the steadfast diligent service she has rendered as Assistant Secretary for the last 8 years.

Sheila has a dog she loves, little Ava, and I hope she takes that little dog on a trip to have a good time. I am sure she will.

On a personal note, I wish to say publicly how much she has meant to me. She has been really a part of my family the last 15 years. As most everyone knows, my wife was involved in a really bad accident. Who was there? Sheila. Battling, as she did for 1½ years, ravaging breast cancer, who was there? I would come home after having been unable to do the things around the house. I would have a refrigerator full of food. Not junk—it was wonderful food. She did that not once, not twice, but many, many times. She is my friend—my forever friend.

She interacts with my children as if they were her siblings. She knows everything about them. So even though I will not see her at work every day, as I have for 14 or 15 years, she will always be part of my life.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO SAXBY CHAMBLISS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about my friend and colleague, Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS.

SAXBY, as we all know, is the ultimate southern gentleman. He is a man of his word. He is blessed with the charm and the drawl only a Georgian could possess, and he is far too modest. He shouldn't be. He has a lot to be proud of as he looks back at a storied career here in Congress.

We are talking about one of our Nation's top experts on intelligence and national security. We are talking about a standout champion for the men and women of our military. We are also talking about a Senator who became chair of the Agriculture Committee just 2 years into his first term. That is really quite an accomplishment. But once you get to know SAXBY, it isn't all that surprising.

Before he came to Congress, SAXBY was a smalltown ag lawyer. He still lives in a rural area—a peanut and cotton-farming region far removed from the bright lights of Atlanta. SAXBY has a feel for the issues that could only be acquired from actual on-the-ground experience. He understands the real-world impact of what we discuss here in Washington, and he cares.

On top of that, he has the disciplined work ethic of a minister's son—which makes sense, because he is one. SAXBY is usually the first guy to raise his hand when there is an assignment no one else wants. That is what we saw for him on the Gang of 6, a politically difficult and work-intensive committee if there ever was one.

But SAXBY came here to get things done—not to posture. He takes on projects with the kind of drive and courage we don't often see.

How courageous is SAXBY? Well, he accepted an invitation to go quail hunting with Vice President Cheney, and he lived to tell the tale. The senior Senator from South Carolina remembers the trip very well. He had to be persuaded by SAXBY to come. He still suspects that SAXBY's real motive was to give Cheney a second target.

It wasn't the only time SAXBY cheated death with the Vice President. Lindsey recalls a meeting in Baghdad with SAXBY, JOE BIDEN, and the Iraqi Prime Minister. Afterward, they boarded a plane and came under fire. Here is what SAXBY said: ''I guess the meeting didn't go that well.''

So SAXBY is a comedian. But he is also courageous. He is also persuasive. He is really good at getting his way. It is kind of what we would expect from a former door-to-door fruitcake salesman. After hawking loaves of spiced dough, there is not much SAXBY can't sell at this point.

We know he was persuasive enough to convince Julianne to marry him. SAXBY and Julianne met at the University of Georgia. She was Sigma Chi's pledge-class sweetheart—and she soon became SAXBY's sweetheart. The Chamblisses have been inseparable ever since.

Now, just in case SAXBY ever becomes his own category on Jeopardy, here is an interesting piece of trivia. The president of the same pledge class became SAXBY's Democrat challenger in 2008. The two fraternity brothers are still friendly. Here is how this gentleman remembered SAXBY from college. He said he ''looked old.''

Well, Julianne fell for him anyway, and it is a good thing she did. This former schoolteacher is better than anyone at keeping him centered, and she has even taught students who would go on to serve on SAXBY's staff. So it is really quite a partnership. SAXBY says that the most significant moment of his life is when he met Julianne.

That is really something when we consider how much he loves golf. Last year, SAXBY sank a hole in one squaring off against the leader of the free world—that is, the President of the United States. He has a signed flag to prove it.

But golf is more than just a hobby for SAXBY. It is a way to get things done. More than most people around here, he understands the value of relationships. He is good at whipping votes and picking up intel from both ends of the Capitol. He works across the aisle, and he is unafraid to stand up when something needs to be said.

That is the thing about SAXBY. He doesn't say a lot, but when he does, you know it is significant. You know there is a lot of careful thought behind it.

SAXBY is a serious legislator who approaches his role as vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee in that frame. SAXBY learns things on that committee that would keep anyone up at night. It is a grave responsibility. But SAXBY is perfectly suited to it. He has always stood proudly in defense of our Nation.

We are going to miss his sharp wit, his integrity, and his judgment.

I know SAXBY's staff is going to miss him, too. Some of them have been with him since his days in the House. Well, the Senate's loss is the Chambliss family's gain.

I know SAXBY is looking forward to spending more time with Julianne. I know he can't wait to trade the title of Senator for a new one—Big Daddy. It is what his grandkids call him. He can't wait to see more of them. They are the reason he works so hard here—to build a better future for them, for the next generation.

SAXBY will have plenty of stories to share when he leaves, such as when he hit that hole in one, when he threw out the first pitch for the Braves, and when he made the cover of Peanut Patriot Magazine.

So SAXBY has obviously had a long and interesting career. He deserves some time to focus on his family. We thank him for his dedication to this body and to the people he represents, and we send him every wish for a retirement filled with joy and happiness.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the message to accompany H.R. 3979, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3979, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Reid amendment No. 3984 (to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 3985 (to amendment No. 3984), of a perfecting nature.

Reid motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Reid amendment No. 3986, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 3987 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 3986), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 3988 (to amendment No. 3987), of a perfecting nature.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with Senator INHOFE, the ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, to bring to the floor H.R. 3979. This is the agreement between the Armed Services Committees of the Senate and House on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. The House of Representatives passed the bill last week by a vote of 300 to 119. If we succeed in the Senate, it will mark the 53rd year in a row that we have enacted this bill that is so essential to the defense of our Nation and to our men and women in uniform and their families.

I thank all the members of the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee, especially our subcommittee chairs for the hard work they have done to get us to the finish line on this bill. I thank Senator INHOFE for his close partnership. Before this Congress I had been fortunate to serve with a series of Republican chairmen and ranking members, including JOHN MCCAIN, John Warner, and Strom Thurmond. They understood and appreciated the traditions of our committee and the importance of the legislation we enact every year for our men and women in uniform. That is what this is all about. JIM INHOFE, our ranking Republican in this Congress, has upheld that tradition of bipartisanship and dedication to enacting this important legislation through particularly challenging circumstances.

Our bill includes hundreds of important provisions to authorize the activities of the Department of Defense and to provide for the well-being of our men and women in uniform and their families. The bill will enable the military services to continue paying special pay and bonuses needed for recruitment and retention of key personnel. It strengthens survivor benefits for disabled children of servicemembers and retirees. It includes provisions addressing the employment of military spouses, job placement for veterans, and military child custody disputes. It addresses military hazing, military suicide, post-traumatic stress disorder, and mental health problems in the military. It provides continuing impact to support military families and local school districts.

The bill includes 20 provisions to continue to build on the progress we are starting to make in addressing the scourge of sexual assault in the military. Key provisions will eliminate the so-called good soldier defense, give victims a voice in whether their case is prosecuted in military or civilian courts, give victims the right to challenge court-martial rulings that violate their rights at the court of criminal appeals, and would strengthen the psychotherapist-patient privilege. Last week we received the welcome news that the number of incidents of unwanted sexual contact in the military is down and that more incidents are being reported so victims can receive the care and assistance they need and perpetrators can be brought to justice. With the enactment of the legislation before us and the commitment of military leaders, we hope to build on these trends.

The bill provides continued funding and authorities for ongoing operations in Afghanistan and for our forces conducting operations against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria called ISIS.

As requested by the administration, it authorizes the Department of Defense to train and equip vetted members of the moderate Syrian opposition and to train and equip national and local forces who are actively fighting ISIS in Iraq. It establishes a counterterrorism partnership fund that provides the administration new flexibility in addressing emerging terrorist threats around the world. In addition, the bill extends the Afghanistan Special Immigrant Visa Program, providing for 4,000 new visas, and addresses a legal glitch that precluded members of the ruling parties in Kurdistan from receiving visas under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The authority provided in this bill to train and equip local forces in Iraq and Syria to take on ISIS is particularly important because our military leaders and intelligence experts have uniformly told us airstrikes alone will not be sufficient to defeat ISIS. American air power has changed the momentum on the ground somewhat and given moderates in the region an opportunity

to regroup, but ISIS cannot be defeated without an opposing force to take the fight to it on the ground. To do that, our Arab and Muslim partners must be in the lead because the fight with ISIS is primarily a struggle within Islam for the hearts and minds of Muslims. Training and equipping our moderate Muslim allies gives us a way to move beyond the use of air power to support them in this fight.

Our bill takes steps to respond to Russian aggression in Ukraine by authorizing $1 billion for a European Reassurance Initiative to enhance the U.S. military presence in Europe and build partner capacity to respond to security threats, of which no less than $75 million would be committed for activities and assistance to support Ukraine by requiring a review of U.S. and NATO force posture, readiness and contingency plans in Europe and by expressing support for both nonprovocative defense military assistance—both lethal and non lethal—to Ukraine.

The bill adds hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to improve the readiness of our Armed Forces across all branches—Active, Guard, and Reserve—to help blunt some—and I emphasize some—of the negative effects of sequestration. It includes provisions increasing funding for science and technology, providing women-owned small businesses the same sole-source contracting authority that is already available to other categories of small businesses, expanding the No Contracting With the Enemy Act to all government agencies and requiring governmentwide reform of information technology acquisition. Although we were unable to bring the Senate-reported bill to the floor for amendment, we established an informal clearing process pursuant to which we were able to clear 44 Senate amendments—roughly an equal number of Democratic and Republican amendments—and include them in the new bill which is before us.

I am pleased the bill also includes a half dozen provisions to address the growing cyber threat to critical information systems of the Department of Defense and the Nation. One provision which was added to the bill was the Levin-McCain amendment, which requires the President to identify nations that engage in economic or industrial espionage against the United States through cyber space and provides authority to impose trade sanctions on persons determined to be knowingly engaged in such espionage.

A second provision which arose out of a committee investigation of cyber threats to the Department of Defense requires the Secretary of Defense to establish procedures for identifying contractors that are operationally critical to mobilization, deployment or sustainment of contingency operations and to ensure that such contractors report any successful penetrations of their computer networks. Much more remains to be done, but these are important first steps as we begin to respond to the serious threat posed to U.S. interests by cyber attacks.

With regard to military compensation reform, we adopted a number of proposals to slow the growth of personnel costs in fiscal year 2015, as needed to enable the Department of Defense to begin to address readiness shortfalls in a fiscal environment constrained by sequestration-level budgets, while deferring further changes to be made in future years if sequestration is not adequately addressed.

In particular, the Department requested pay raises below the rate of inflation for 5 years. This bill provides a pay raise below the rate of inflation for fiscal year 2015, deferring decisions on future pay raises to later bills. The Department requested that we slow the growth of the basic allowance for housing by permitting adjustments below the rate of inflation for 3 years. This bill would slow the growth of the basic allowance for housing for fiscal year 2015, deferring decisions on future increases to later bills. The Department requested that we gradually increase copays for TRICARE pharmaceuticals over 10 years. This bill includes a proportionate increase in copays for fiscal year 2015, deferring decisions on future increases to later bills.

These are not steps any of us want to have to take; however, the Budget Control Act of 2011 cut $1 trillion from the planned Department of Defense budget over a 10-year period. Our senior military leaders told us they simply cannot meet sequestration budget levels without structural changes—canceling programs, retiring weapon systems, and reducing the growth in benefits—to reduce the size and cost of our military.

A year and a half ago when sequestration was first triggered, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff testified that sequestration ''will severely limit our ability to implement our defense strategy. It will put the nation at greater risk of coercion, and it will break faith with men and women in uniform.'' At a hearing this spring, he told us that ''delaying adjustments to military compensation will cause additional, disproportionate cuts to force structure, readiness, and modernization.''

The Department of Defense budget proposal also proposed to retire several weapon systems in an effort to meet sequestration-level budget ceilings. For example, the Department proposed to take half of the Navy's fleet of cruisers out of service and to retire the Army's entire fleet of scout and training helicopters. With regard to Navy cruisers, our bill allows the Navy to take two cruisers out of service this year, deferring a decision on additional ships until next year's budget. With regard to Army helicopters, the National Guard objected to the plan to consolidate Apache attack helicopters in the Active component so they can operate at the higher operational tempo needed to both fill their own mission and replace the Kiowa mission. The Guard maintains that the Army should be able to achieve needed savings and meet mission requirements without transferring Apaches from the Reserve components to the Active Army.

Our bill establishes an independent commission on the future of the Army to examine Army force structure and make recommendations as to the best way forward for Army helicopters. Because the Army needs the savings generated by the helicopter restructuring now, the bill would allow the transfer of 48 Apache helicopters—as called for in both the Army plan and the alternative National Guard plan—before the commission reports. Additional transfers would depend on the recommendations of the commission and subsequent Department or congressional action.

Sequestration is damaging enough to our military, but the damage will be far worse if we insist that the Department conduct business as usual without regard to the changed budget circumstances. The budget caps imposed by sequestration mean that every dollar we choose to spend on a program that we refuse to cancel or reduce has to come from another higher priority program. Our senior military leaders have told us that this will mean planes that can't fly, ships that can't sail, and soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who are not properly trained and equipped for the mission we expect them to accomplish. As the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told us in January, sending troops into harm's way without training, equipment, or the latest technology is a breach of trust with the troops and their families.

The painful measures included in this bill are just a downpayment on the changes that will be needed if sequestration is not repealed. Delaying these changes will only make the pain worse later on while damaging the readiness of our troops to carry out their missions when we call upon them.

I am disappointed that we were unable to make further progress in this bill toward the objective of closing the detention facility at Guantanamo, Cuba. The Senate committee-reported bill included a provision that would have allowed the Department of Defense to bring Gitmo detainees to the United States, subject to a series of legal protections, for detention and trial. The provision also included an amendment—this is the provision in the Senate committee-passed bill—which was offered by Senator GRAHAM that would require the President, before authorizing the transfer of any detainees to the United States, to present a plan to Congress and that Congress would be afforded an opportunity to disapprove the plan using expedited procedures. It would have been a joint resolution.

I continue to believe the Gitmo facility undermines our interests around the world and has made it more difficult to try to convict the terrorists

who are detained there, and I am disappointed that the House leadership refused to consider this provision even with the Graham amendment.

Finally, our bill includes a lands package that Senator INHOFE and I agreed to include based on the bipartisan, bicameral request of the committees of jurisdiction and the overwhelming support of our colleagues. The contents of the lands package were worked out by the House Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which will be managing that part of the bill on the Senate floor. We have been assured that all provisions have been cleared and that the package has been cleared by the chairmen and ranking minority members of the relevant committees.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a full list of the names of our majority and minority staff members, who have given so much of themselves and their families, be printed in the RECORD at this point.

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

Peter K. Levine, Staff Director, John A. Bonsell, Minority Staff Director, Daniel C. Adams, Minority Associate Counsel, Adam J. Barker, Professional Staff Member, Steven M. Barney, Minority Counsel, June M. Borawski, Printing and Documents Clerk, Leah C. Brewer, Nominations and Hearings Clerk, William S. Castle, Minority General Counsel, John D. Cewe, Professional Staff Member, Samantha L. Clark, Minority Associate Counsel, Jonathan D. Clark, Counsel, Allen M. Edwards, Professional Staff Member, Jonathan S. Epstein, Counsel, Richard W. Fieldhouse, Professional Staff Member, Lauren M. Gillis, Staff Assistant, Thomas W. Goffus, Professional Staff Member, Creighton Greene, Professional Staff Member, Ozge Guzelsu, Counsel, Daniel J. Harder, Staff Assistant, Alexandra M. Hathaway, Staff Assistant, Ambrose R. Hock, Professional Staff Member, Gary J. Howard, Systems Administrator.

Michael J. Kuiken, Professional Staff Member, Mary J. Kyle, Legislative Clerk, Anthony J. Lazarski, Professional Staff Member, Gerald J. Leeling, General Counsel, Daniel A. Lerner, Professional Staff Member, Gregory R. Lilly, Minority Clerk, Jason W. Maroney, Counsel, Thomas K. McConnell, Professional Staff Member, Mariah K. McNamara, Special Assistant to the Staff Director, William G. P. Monahan, Counsel, Natalie M. Nicolas, Minority Research Analyst, Michael J. Noblet, Professional Staff Member, Cindy Pearson, Assistant Chief Clerk and Security Manager, Roy F. Phillips, Professional Staff Member, John H. Quirk V, Professional Staff Member, Brendan J. Sawyer, Staff Assistant, Arun A. Seraphin, Professional Staff Member, Travis E. Smith, Chief Clerk, Robert M. Soofer, Professional Staff Member, William K. Sutey, Professional Staff Member, Robert T. Waisanen, Staff Assistant, Barry C. Walker, Security Officer.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, first, I have to say what a joy it is to work with Senator LEVIN. I know the public thinks that no Republicans like any Democrats and vice versa—at least those are the flames they try to fan—and that is not true.

I can only think of two issues on which Senator LEVIN and I disagreed with each other. He has been through 16 of the NDAAs as either chairman or ranking member. I am sure that is some kind of a record. But to work with someone who you know will be totally honest with you even when you have a difference of opinion is really a joy. I hope we can be an example for some of the other committees that don't have that much joy when they are working on an issue.

The long history he has had here and the integrity he has expressed will be sorely missed, I have to say to my good friend Senator LEVIN.

As Senator LEVIN said, we will have to get to the bill before we leave. This bill has passed for 52 consecutive years, and that really says something. But each year there is always a problem.

The comment that was made on the land package—I think the process is wrong regardless of the merits of the bill. As was pointed out by Senator LEVIN, it was supported in a bipartisan way by all the appropriate committees; however, that is not us, that is them. The process should not allow others to come in on this bill, so I think it is flawed. I don't think it will happen again. I really don't.

I talked to the people who will be involved in next year's NDAA, which, by the way, we will start working on in February of next year.

I will go over a couple of other reasons why we have to get this bill done. As I said, we have done this for 52 consecutive years, and I am sure we are going to be able to get this done.

We passed this bill out to the floor from our committee—the committee chaired by Senator LEVIN—on May 23, the day after it was done in the House committee. So we were ready to do this way back in May, and the problem was we could not get it on the floor.

I can remember coming down to the floor with Senator LEVIN and begging people to bring amendments to us. We have to have amendments down here because we can't expect the leader to bring this to the floor unless we know people will work with us on amendments. So eventually they did bring amendments, and we responded. We had many amendments. I don't remember exactly how many amendments were put forth, but I do remember we considered and put 47 amendments into this package—we did it through the big four method, which was the only thing left for us to do—47 amendments divided almost equally between Republicans and Democrats. We considered those amendments and put them in as a part of the bill.

Of course, despite pushing for months that the NDAA be considered under regular order, which we should have done, we find ourselves in the unfortunate situation we are in today. It is reminiscent of last year. Last year we went all the way up to December 26 before we finally passed it.

It would really be a disaster if we didn't pass it. People don't realize that if we don't pass this bill—our last chance is this week because the House will be out of there. There will be no way to have amendments or change anything now from the product we have. We already have a lot of the amendments in, but we can't make changes to them. We can't have another bill because we have run out of time. It will not happen unless it happens with this bill. I know a lot of people would prefer to have something else, although I know this bill is going to pass by a large margin. It is a good bill.

People wonder what would happen if we didn't pass this bill. It would be a disaster. Enlistment bonuses—a lot of these kids have been over there serving, and they have been told they will have certain things, and one of them is the bonuses. Well, all of a sudden, on December 31, if we don't have a bill, those expire and those kids will not have enlistment or reenlistment bonuses.

The incentives are important in order to keep troops with critical skills. We hear a lot about the SEALs and the great work they do. These critical skills incentives will go away on December 31.

There is also incentive pay for pilots. I have researched this because there is a lot of competition out there for our pilots—pilots for heavy vehicles, as well as strike fighters. Right now there is a competition with the airlines. Everyone wants to hire these guys, so there is competition out there. All of a sudden the flight pay would come out on December 31 if we don't pass this bill, and that means we will lose some of these guys. It is a $25,000-a-year bonus for these guys over a 10-year period, so it is $250,000. However, for each one who decides not to come back—to retrain someone to the status of an F–22 would cost about $17 million. We are looking at bonuses that might be $25,000, but the alternative, if we don't get this done by December 31, would cost $17 million for each pilot who needs to be trained. So that is very significant. We have skill incentive pay and proficiency bonuses for all of those. So that singularly would be enough reason to say we have to have it; we just can't do without it. Stopping all military construction, which would be on December 31.

One of the areas where the chairman and I disagree is on Gitmo. We have had a friendly and honest difference of opinion on that. I look at Gitmo as one of the few resources we have that is a good deal for government. We have had it since 1904 and it only costs us $4,000 and half the time Cuba forgets to charge us, so it is a pretty good deal. There is no place else we can put, in my opinion, the combatants. People say bring them back to the United States. The problem is if we intermingle prisoners at Gitmo with the

prison population—these people at Gitmo are not criminals, they are people who teach terrorists. So there are a lot of arguments against bringing Gitmo prisoners to the United States. That in itself would be a 2-hour speech, so I will not get into it now.

There are some areas where the chairman and I disagree and there were a lot of compromises because we knew we had to have the bill. If we don't pass this bill, there will be no European Reassurance Initiative to stand up against Russian aggression. I shouldn't have done this because I was on the ballot this year for reelection, but for the week prior to our election, I went over to see what was happening in Ukraine because Ukraine was having their elections the week before we had our elections. Not many people are aware that in Ukraine, Poroshenko—what happened in their election in Ukraine, a political party cannot have a seat in Parliament unless they get 5 percent of the vote. The vote took place 1 week before our vote. This will be the first time in 96 years that the Communist Party will not have one seat in Parliament. That is amazing. We have to understand what is happening with Putin.

I also went to Lithuania and Estonia and Latvia and those areas in the Baltics. That is another problem we have. They want to give us the assurance that it is not just Putin in Ukraine, but they are becoming aggressive. I coined the term for what Putin is trying to do, ''de-Reaganize'' Europe, to try to take out all the freedoms that were there and try to put a coalition together. That is a huge issue, and it is addressed in this bill in a very aggressive way with the reassurance initiative.

Also, if we don't pass this bill, we would not have the Counterterrorism Partnership Fund, which I think we are all aware is so necessary with ISIL on the rampage they are pursuing.

So we have a lot of provisions. I think the chairman did a good job of covering them. A couple of them perhaps might have been overlooked or that I might add for my own personal interests. One is the support of the Aircraft Modernization Program. Historically, we have always had the best of everything, but now when we look at China and at Russia and what they are doing, it is a very difficult situation for us. We had the F–22; the President terminated that program his first year in office. So now we have all of our eggs in the basket in terms of the strike vehicles and the F–35. A lot of people don't like the F–35, but that is what we have to have and that is in this bill to continue with that.

The E–2D surveillance aircraft is one very few people know about. It is one of the ugliest airplanes in the sky, but it is one that is necessary for surveillance and other functions of government.

We have the KC–46 tanker aircraft. We have been using the KC–135 now for decades and we have to go toward a more modern vehicle, and we do have on the books that we will continue to do that, working with the KC–46. So several others—some improvements to the workhorse of the military, the C–130 aircraft, and other vehicles.

Without this bill, we are going to have to stop some of these projects, so think about the cost. We are in the midst of contracts right now that we could be in jeopardy of losing.

The construction on military and family housing is there. It is very significant.

So I think all of these pieces—and one piece I think people are interested in is this will end the reliance on Russian-made rocket engines. We hear a lot about that. This bill includes a timeframe for when the current contracts run out, so that we are going to be developing our own rocket engine. I have heard from a lot of outside experts. Tom Stafford is one of the famous astronauts from Oklahoma. He and I have talked at length about what we are going to be able to do with some of these rocket engines. So I think this is enough reason why we have to do this, and I think everyone realizes that.

We have heard a lot of talk that frankly is not true. Unfortunately, there are some groups that are kind of antimilitary groups that came out with some statements that weren't true and some of the talk show hosts I admire were given information that wasn't quite as accurate as it should have been.

Right now, if we can think of no other single major reason to pass this bill, it is to take care of those individuals who are in the field right now who are fighting. We have the exact count, to make sure we use accurate figures. As of today, 1,779,343 troops in the field or enlisted personnel. These are the ones who can be affected, 1.8 million of them. We would be reneging on the commitments we have made to them.

We have heard criticism that we are somehow cutting their benefits to put in a land package. That just isn't true. We don't need to talk about this because that is not our committee. That is the committee referred to by the chairman in his remarks—the Energy and Natural Resources Committees of the House and the Senate. But it is budget neutral. Over a 10-year period, the CBO says it is budget neutral. So there is no legitimate argument that we are using any of the funds that would otherwise go to the military on the land package.

I have to say the process was wrong. We have done this in the past and we are not going to do it again. We shouldn't have had a land package come in that has nothing to do with defense, but nonetheless it is there. I was offended by the process. Frankly—I have to confess, and it is good for the soul, I guess—I thought after reading it, it was a pretty good bill. If it would have been brought up outside of this bill, I would have still voted for it. But the process is wrong, and I think we all understand that. We did the best we could.

We have these things that are going on right now, and I think we can't take a chance on not having or, for the first time in 53 years, not passing an NDAA bill by the end of the year. It would be a crisis. The system could be criticized for the way it happened. Considering that we passed our bill out of the committee on May 23, we should have had it on the floor. We should have had it done in regular order. We will do everything we can in the future to try to make that happen. For two consecutive years now we have not been able to do that. We have had to go through the system of what they call the Big Four—the chairman and ranking member of the House and the chairman and ranking member of the Senate—to pass this bill. I think in this case we have come up with a good bill. We have been able to incorporate 47 of the amendments that have come from those that were filed to be added on the floor. So we have done the best we can. There is no other alternative now when we consider what will happen if for some unknown reason this would be the first year in 53 years that we don't have an NDAA bill.

I will just repeat what I started off with; that is, what a joy it has been to work with CARL LEVIN over these years in the capacity of either the chairman or the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He will be sorely missed. Oddly enough, we also have the same situation happening over on the House side with BUCK MCKEON. I served with him when I served in the House. He is going to be retiring after this year as well. So we have two retiring chairmen of what I consider to be the most significant committees in Washington.

We are going to continue to work together for the rest of this bill. We have a good bill, and we are going to uphold our obligation to the 1,779,343 enlisted personnel in the field. We are not going to let them down.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, first let me thank Senator INHOFE for his friendship, most importantly, but also for the great partnership we have enjoyed. It has been a real pleasure working with the Senator from Oklahoma. I should perhaps also say we are confident our successors will carry on this tradition as well. Senator MCCAIN, the new chairman, and Senator JACK REED will be the new ranking member and they will be carrying on this tradition that we have done everything we know how to do to maintain.

I wish to again thank my good friend JIM INHOFE and his staff who worked so well with the staff on this side. We talk about this side of the aisle and that side of the aisle. In this bill obviously there will be differences—very rarely,

by the way, on a partisan basis, even when there are differences. But the aisle sort of disappears when it comes to the Defense authorization bill, and that is the way it should be.

I yield the floor.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, let me reclaim my time just to make one other comment. The two people who are sitting here, Peter Levine on your side and John Bonsell on our side, their compatibility in working together is also unprecedented. It doesn't happen very often. I can't speak for the Senator from Michigan, but I can speak for myself, to say that without these two working together I sure could not have participated in a meaningful way. So I thank them as well.

Mr. LEVIN. The Senator from Oklahoma is speaking for both of us, I can assure him, with his comments and so many other comments he made.

I will yield to the Senator from Colorado, but first I wish to thank him for the great contribution he has made to our committee. I think he is planning on speaking on a different subject. He has played a major role on the Intelligence Committee. I look forward to reading, if not hearing, his remarks on the subject on which I know he has spent a good deal of time. Although he has had perhaps more visibility in terms of the Intelligence Committee, he has been a major contributor on the Armed Services Committee. I can't say we will miss him because I will not be here, but they will miss the Senator from Colorado.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, before I start my remarks on the historic day which was yesterday—when it comes to the publication of our long-in-the-making report on the CIA's torture program—I wish to thank the chairman for his leadership, his mentorship, and his friendship. I also am proud obviously to be a part of the Armed Services Committee and to have chaired the Strategic Forces Subcommittee. Again, I extend my thanks to the good men and women in uniform, as did my good friend from Oklahoma. The NDAA bill is a crucial task in front of us. I look forward to one of my last votes as a Senator from the great State of Colorado, and I look forward to casting a vote in favor of the Defense authorization bill.

Again, I wish to thank my two friends who have mentored me and who have led our committee with great elan and intelligence.

SSCI STUDY OF THE CIA'S DETENTION AND INTERROGATION PROGRAM

Yesterday was a historic day. Almost 6 years after the Senate Intelligence Committee voted to conduct a study of the CIA's detention and interrogation program and nearly 2 years after approving the report, the American people will finally know the truth about a very dark chapter in our Nation's history.

My goal from the start has been twofold. First, I have been committed to correcting the public record on the CIA's multiple misrepresentations to the American people, to other agencies in the executive branch, the White House, and to Congress. Second, my goal has been to ensure that the full truth comes out about this grim time in the history of the CIA and of our Nation so that neither the CIA nor any future administration repeats the grievous mistakes this important oversight work reveals.

The process of compiling, drafting, redacting, and now releasing this report has been much harder than it needed to be. It brings no one joy to discuss the CIA's brutal and appalling use of torture or the unprecedented actions that some in the intelligence community and administration have taken in order to cover up the truth.

A number of my colleagues who have come to the floor over the past 24 hours and discussed this report have referred to 9/11. I, too, will never forget the fear, the pain, and the anger we all felt on that day and in the days that followed. Americans were demanding action from our government to keep us safe. Everyone, myself included, wanted to go to the ends of the Earth to hunt down the terrorists who attacked our Nation and to make every effort to prevent another attack. Although we all shared that goal, this report reveals how the CIA crossed a line and took our country to a place where we violated our moral and legal obligations in the name of keeping us safe. As we know now, this was a false choice. Torture didn't keep us safer after all. By releasing the Intelligence Committee's landmark report, we reaffirm we are a nation that does not hide from its past but must learn from it and that an honest examination of our shortcomings is not a sign of weakness but the strength of our great Republic.

From the heavily redacted version of the executive summary first delivered to the committee by the CIA in August, we made significant progress in clearing away the thick, obfuscating fog these redactions represented.

As Chairwoman FEINSTEIN has said, our committee chipped away at over 400 areas of disagreement with the administration on redactions down to just a few.

We didn't make all the progress we wanted to and the redaction process itself is filled with unwarranted and completely unnecessary obstacles. Unfortunately, at the end of the day, what began as a bipartisan effort on the committee did not end as such, even after my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were repeatedly urged to participate with us as partners.

As my friends in the Senate know, I am a legislator who goes out of his way to form bipartisan consensus. However, it became clear that was not possible here and that is regrettable.

But all told, after reviewing this final version of the committee's study, I believe it accomplishes the goals I laid out and it tells the story that needs to be told.

It also represents a significant and essential step for restoring faith in the crucial role of Congress to conduct oversight. Congressional oversight is important to all of government's activities, but it is especially important for those parts of the government that operate in secret, as the Church Committee discovered decades ago. The challenge the Church Committee members discovered are still with us today: how to ensure that secret government actions are conducted within the confines of the law. The release of this executive summary is testament to the power of oversight and the determination of Chairman FEINSTEIN and the members of this committee to doggedly beat back obstacle after obstacle in order to reveal the truth.

There are a number of thank-yous that are in order. I start by thanking the chairman for her courage and persistence. I also thank the committee staff director, David Grannis; the staff lead for the study, Dan Jones; and his core study team, Evan Gottesman and Chad Tanner. They toiled for nearly 6 years to complete this report. They then shepherded it through the redaction process, all the while giving up their nights, weekends, vacations, and precious time with family and friends in an effort to get to the truth of this secret program for the members of the committee, the Senate, and now the American people.

They have been assisted by other dedicated staff, including my designee on the committee, Jennifer Barrett. We would not be where we are today without them. I am grateful, beyond words, for their service and dedication. I want them to know our country is grateful too.

Let me turn to the study itself. Much has been written about the significance of the study. This is the study. It is a summary of the CIA's detention and interrogation program. I want to start by saying I believe the vast majority of CIA officers welcome oversight and believe in the checks and balances that form the very core of our Constitution.

I believe many rank-and-file CIA officers have fought internally for and supported the release of this report. Unfortunately, again and again, these hardworking public servants have been poorly served by the CIA's leadership. Too many CIA leaders and senior officials have fought to bury the truth while using a redaction pen to further hide this dark chapter of the Agency's history.

The document we released yesterday is the definitive, official history of what happened in the CIA's detention and interrogation program. It is based on more than 6 million pages of CIA and other documents, emails, cables, and interviews. This 500-page study, this document, encapsulates the facts drawn from the 6,700-page report, which is backed up by 38,000 footnotes.

This is a documentary that tells of the program's history based on the CIA's own internal records. Its prose is dry and spare, as you will soon see for yourself. It was put together methodically, without exaggeration or embellishment. This study by itself—using the CIA's own words—brings the truth to light, and that is what it was intended to do.

The study looked carefully at the CIA's own claims—most notably that the so-called enhanced interrogation techniques used on detainees elicited unique, otherwise unobtainable intelligence that disrupted terrorist plots and saved lives. It debunks those claims conclusively.

The CIA repeatedly claimed that using these enhanced interrogation techniques against detainees was the only way to yield critical information about terrorist plotting. But when asked to describe this critical information and detail which plots were thwarted, the CIA provided exaggerated versions of plots and misattributed information that was obtained from traditional intelligence collection, claiming it came from the use of interrogation techniques that are clearly torture.

This study shows that torture was not effective, that it led to fabricated information, and its use—even in secret—undermined our security and our country more broadly. Our use of torture and I believe the failure to truly acknowledge it continues to impair America's moral leadership and influence around the world, creates distrust among our partners, puts Americans abroad in danger, and helps our enemies' recruitment efforts.

Senior CIA leaders would have you believe their version of the truth—promoted in CIA-cleared memoirs by former CIA Directors and other CIA and White House officials—that while there was some excesses in its detention and interrogation program, the CIA did not torture. Their version would have you believe that the CIA's program was professionally conducted, employing trained interrogators to use so-called enhanced interrogation techniques on only the most hardened and dangerous terrorists.

But as Professor Darius Rejali writes in his book ''Torture and Democracy,'' ''To think professionalism is a guard against causing excessive pain is an illusion. Instead, torture breaks down professionalism'' and corrupts the organizations that use it.

This is exactly what happened with the CIA's detention and interrogation program. Without proper acknowledgement of these truths by the CIA and the White House, it could well happen again.

In light of the President's early Executive order disavowing torture, his own recent acknowledgement that ''we tortured some folks'' and the Assistant Secretary of State Malinowski's statements last month to the U.N. Committee Against Torture that ''we hope to lead by example'' in correcting our mistakes, one would think this administration is leading the efforts to right the wrongs of the past and ensure the American people learn the truth about the CIA's torture program. Not so.

In fact, it has been nearly a 6-year struggle—in a Democratic administration no less—to get this study out. Why has it been so hard for this document to finally see the light of day? Why have we had to fight tooth and nail every step of the way? The answer is simple: Because the study says things that former and current CIA and other government officials don't want the American public to know. For a while I worried that this administration would succeed in keeping this study entirely under wraps.

While the study clearly shows that the CIA's detention and interrogation program itself was deeply flawed, the deeper, more endemic problem lies in the CIA, assisted by a White House that continues to try to cover up the truth. It is this deeper problem that illustrates the challenge we face today: reforming an agency that refuses to even acknowledge what it has done. This is a continuing challenge that the CIA's oversight committees need to take on in a bipartisan way. Those who criticize the committee's study for overly focusing on the past should understand that its findings directly relate to how the CIA operates today.

For an example of how the CIA has repeated its same past mistakes in more recent years, look at the section of the executive summary released yesterday that deals with the intelligence on the courier that led to Osama bin Laden. That operation took place under this administration in May of 2011. After it was over, the CIA coordinated to provide misinformation to the White House and its oversight committees suggesting the CIA torture program was the tipoff information for the courier. That is 100 percent wrong and signifies the Agency leadership's persistent and entrenched culture of misrepresenting the truth to Congress and the American people. This example also illustrates again the dangers of not reckoning with the past. So while I agree with my colleagues on the committee who argue that doing oversight in real time is critical, I believe we cannot turn a blind eye to the past when the same problems are staring us in the face in the present. Oversight by willful ignorance is not oversight at all.

In Chairman FEINSTEIN's landmark floor speech earlier this year, she laid out how the CIA pushed back on our committee's oversight efforts. Thanks to her speech, we know about the history of the CIA's destruction of interrogation videotapes and about what motivated her and her colleagues to begin the broader committee study in 2009. We know about the CIA's insistence on providing documents to the committee in a CIA-leased facility and the millions of dollars the CIA spent on contractors hired to read, multiple times, each of the 6 million pages of documents produced before providing them to the committee staff. We know about the nearly 1,000 documents that the CIA electronically removed from the committee's dedicated database on two occasions in 2010, which the CIA claimed its personnel did at the direction of the White House. Of course we know about the Panetta review.

I turn to the Panetta review. I have provided more information on the events that led up to the revelation included in the Panetta review in a set of additional views that I submitted for the committee's executive summary, but I will summarize them.

From the beginning of his term as CIA Director, John Brennan was openly hostile toward and dismissive of the committee's oversight and its efforts to review the detention and interrogation program. During his confirmation hearing, I obtained a promise from John Brennan that he would meet with committee staff on the study once confirmed. After his confirmation, he changed his mind.

In December 2012, when the classified study was approved in a bipartisan vote, the committee asked the White House to coordinate any executive branch comments prior to declassification. The White House provided no comment. Instead, the CIA responded for the executive branch nearly 7 months later, on June 27, 2013.

The CIA's formal response to the study under Director Brennan clings to false narratives about the CIA's effectiveness when it comes to the CIA's detention and interrogation program. It includes many factual inaccuracies, defends the use of torture, and attacks the committee's oversight and findings. I believe its flippant and dismissive tone represents the CIA's approach to oversight—and the White House's willingness to let the CIA do whatever it likes—even if its efforts are armed at actively undermining the President's stated policies.

It would be a significant disservice to let the Brennan response speak for the CIA. Thankfully, it does not have to. There are some CIA officials and officers willing to tell it straight. In late 2013, then-CIA General Counsel Stephen Preston answered a series of questions that I asked about his thoughts on the Brennan response as part of his Armed Services Committee nomination hearing to be General Counsel of the Defense Department.

His answers to the questions about the program contrasted sharply with the Brennan response. For instance, he stated matter of factly that from his review of the facts, the CIA provided the committee with inaccurate information regarding the detention and interrogation program. I have posted on line my questions to Mr. Preston, along with his answers.

Stephen Preston was not alone in having the moral courage to speak frankly and truthfully about the CIA's

torture program. There were also other CIA officers willing to document the truth. In March 2009, then-CIA Director Leon Panetta announced the formation of a Director's review group to look at the agency's detention and interrogation program. As he stated at the time, ''The safety of the American people depends on our ability to learn lessons from the past while staying focused on the threats of today and tomorrow.''

The Director's review group looked at the same CIA documents that were being provided to our committee. They produced a series of documents that became the Panetta review. As I discussed in late 2013, the Panetta review corroborates many of the significant findings of the committee's study. Moreover, the Panetta review frankly acknowledges significant problems and errors made in the CIA's detention and interrogation program. Many of these same errors are denied or minimized in the Brennan response.

As Chairman FEINSTEIN so eloquently outlined in her floor speech on March 11 of this year, drafts of the Panetta review have been provided by the CIA unknowingly to our committee staff years before within the 6 million pages of documents it had provided.

So when the committee received the Brennan response, I expected a recognition of errors and a clear plan to ensure that the mistakes identified would not be repeated again. Instead—this is a crucial point—instead, the CIA continued not only to defend the program and deny any wrongdoing but also to deny its own conclusions to the contrary found in the Panetta review.

In light of those clear factual disparities between the Brennan response and the Panetta review, committee staff grew concerned that the CIA was knowingly providing inaccurate information to the committee in the present day, which is a serious offense, and a deeply troubling matter for the committee, the Congress, the White House, and our country.

The Panetta review was evidence of that potential offense. So to preserve that evidence, committee staff securely transported a printed portion of the Panetta review from the CIA-leased facility to the committee's secure offices in the Senate. This was the proper and right thing to do, not only because of the seriousness of the potential crime, but also in light of the fact that the CIA had previously destroyed interrogation videotapes without authorization and over objections of officials in the Bush White House.

In my view, the Panetta review is a smoking gun. It raises fundamental questions about why a review the CIA conducted internally years ago and never provided to the committee is so different from the official Brennan response and so different from the public statements of former CIA officials. That is why I asked for a complete copy of the Panetta review at a December 2013 Intelligence Committee hearing.

Although the committee now has a portion of the review already in its possession, I believed then, as I do now, that it is important to make public its existence and to obtain a full copy of the report. That is why I am here today, to disclose some of its key findings and conclusions on the Senate floor for the public record, which fly directly in the face of claims made by senior CIA officials past and present.

For example, as I mentioned earlier, on a number of key matters, the Panetta review directly refutes information in the Brennan response. In the few instances in which the Brennan response acknowledges imprecision or mischaracterization relative to the detention interrogation program, the Panetta review is refreshingly free of excuses, qualifications, or caveats.

The Panetta review found that the CIA repeatedly provided inaccurate information to the Congress, the President, and the public on the efficacy of its coercive techniques. The Brennan response, in contrast, continues to insist the CIA's interrogations produced unique intelligence that saved lives. Yet the Panetta review identified dozens of documents that include inaccurate information used to justify the use of torture and indicates that the inaccuracies it identifies do not represent an exhaustive list. The Panetta review further describes how detainees provided intelligence prior to the use of torture against them.

It describes how the CIA, contrary to its own representations, often tortured detainees before trying any other approach. It describes how the CIA tortured detainees, even when less coercive methods were yielding intelligence. The Panetta review further identifies cases in which the CIA used coercive techniques when it had no basis for determining whether a detainee had critical intelligence at all.

In other words, CIA personnel tortured detainees to confirm they did not have intelligence, not because they thought they did. Again, while a small portion of this review is preserved in our committee spaces, I have requested the full document. Our request has been denied by Director Brennan. I will tell you, the Panetta review is much more than a ''summary'' and ''incomplete drafts,'' which is the way Mr. Brennan and former CIA officials have characterized it, in order to minimize its significance. I have reviewed this document. It is as significant and relevant as it gets.

The refusal to provide the full Panetta review and the refusal to acknowledge facts detailed in both the committee study and the Panetta review lead to one disturbing finding: Director Brennan and the CIA today are continuing to willfully provide inaccurate information and misrepresent the efficacy of torture. In other words, the CIA is lying. This is not a problem of the past but a problem that needs to be dealt with today.

Let me turn to the search of the Intelligence Committee's computers. Clearly the present leadership of the CIA agrees with me that the Panetta review is a smoking gun. That is the only explanation for the CIA's unauthorized search of the committee's dedicated computers in January. The CIA 's illegal search was conducted out of concern that the committee staff was provided with the Panetta review. It demonstrates how far the CIA will go to keep its secrets safe. Instead of asking the committee if it had access to the Panetta review, the CIA searched, without authorization or notification, the committee computers that the agency had agreed were off limits.

In so doing, the agency might have violated multiple provisions of the Constitution as well as Federal criminal statutes and Executive Order 12333.

More troubling, despite admitting behind closed doors to the committee that the CIA conducted the search, Director Brennan publicly referred to ''spurious allegations about CIA actions that are wholly unsupported by the facts.''

He even said such allegations of computer hacking were beyond ''the scope of reason.'' The CIA then made a criminal referral to the Department of Justice against the committee staff who were working on the study. Chairman FEINSTEIN believed these actions were an effort to intimidate the committee staff, the very staff charged with CIA oversight. I strongly agree with her point of view.

The CIA's inspector general subsequently opened an investigation into the CIA's unauthorized search and found, contrary to Director Brennan's public protestations, that a number of CIA employees did, in fact, improperly access the committee's dedicated computers. The investigation found no basis for the criminal referral on the committee staff. The IG also found that the CIA personnel involved demonstrated a ''lack of candor'' about their activities to the inspector general.

However, only a 1-page unclassified summary of the IG's report is publicly available. The longer classified version was only provided briefly to Members when it was first released. I had to push hard to get the CIA to provide a copy for the committee to keep in its own records. Even the copy in committee records is restricted to committee members and only two staff members, not including my staff member.

After having reviewed the IG report myself again recently, I believe even more strongly that the full report should be declassified and publicly released, in part because Director Brennan still refuses to answer the committee's questions about the search.

In March, the committee voted unanimously to request responses from Director Brennan about the computer search. The chairman and vice chairman wrote a letter to Director Brennan, who promised a thorough response

to their questions after the Justice Department and CIA IG reviews were complete. The Chair and Vice Chair then wrote two more letters, to no avail. The Director has refused to answer any questions on this topic and has again deferred his answers, this time until after the CIA's internal accountability board review is completed, if it ever is.

So from March until December, for almost 9 months, Director Brennan has flat out refused to answer basic questions about the computer search; whether he suggested a search or approved it; if not, who did. He has refused to explain why the search was conducted, its legal basis, or whether he was even aware of the agreement between the committee and the CIA laying out protections of the committee's dedicated computer system. He has refused to say whether the computers were searched more than once, whether the CIA monitored committee staff at the CIA-leased facility, whether the agency ever entered the committee's secure room at the facility, and who at the CIA knew about the search both before and after it occurred.

I want to turn at this point to the White House. To date, there has been no accountability for the CIA's actions or for Director Brennan's failure of leadership. Despite the facts presented, the President has expressed full confidence in Director Brennan and demonstrated that trust by making no effort at all to rein him in.

The President stated it was not appropriate for him to weigh into these issues that exist between the committee and the CIA. As I said at the time, the committee should be able to do its oversight work consistent with our constitutional principle of the separation of powers, without the CIA posing impediments or obstacles as it has and as it continues to do today. For the White House not to have recognized this principle and the gravity of the CIA's actions deeply troubles me today and continues to trouble me.

Far from being a disinterested observer in the committee-CIA battles, the White House has played a central role from the start. If former CIA Director Panetta's memoir is to be believed, the President was unhappy about Director Panetta's initial agreement in 2009 to allow staff access to operation cables and other sensitive documents about the torture program.

Assuming its accuracy, Mr. Panetta's account describes then-Counterterrorism Adviser John Brennan and current Chief of Staff Denis McDonough—both of whom have been deeply involved in the study redaction process—as also deeply unhappy about this expanded oversight.

There are more questions that need answers about the role of the White House in the committee's study.

For example, there are the 9,400 documents that were withheld from the committee by the White House in the course of the review of the millions of documents, despite the fact that these documents are directly responsive to the committee's document request. The White House has never made a formal claim of executive privilege over the documents, yet it has failed to respond to the chairman's request to the documents or to compromise proposals she has offered to review a summary listing of them. When I asked CIA General Counsel Stephen Preston about the documents, he noted that ''the Agency has deferred to the White House and has not been substantially involved in subsequent discussions about the disposition of these documents.''

If the documents are privileged, the White House should assert that claim. But if they are not, White House officials need to explain why they pulled back documents that the CIA believed were relevant to the committee's investigation and responsive to our direct request.

The White House has not led on this issue in the manner we expected when we heard the President's campaign speeches in 2008 and read the Executive order he issued in January 2009. To CIA employees in April 2009, President Obama said:

> What makes the United States special, and what makes you special, is precisely the fact that we are willing to uphold our values and ideals even when it's hard—not just when it's easy; even when we are afraid and under threat—not just when it's expedient to do so. That's what makes us different.

This tough, principled talk set an important tone from the beginning of his Presidency. However, let's fast forward to this year, after so much has come to light about the CIA's barbaric programs, and President Obama's response was that we ''crossed a line'' as a nation and that ''hopefully, we don't do it again in the future.''

That is not good enough. We need to be better than that. There can be no coverup. There can be no excuses. If there is no moral leadership from the White House helping the public to understand that the CIA's torture program wasn't necessary and didn't save lives or disrupt terrorist plots, then what is to stop the next White House and CIA Director from supporting torture.

Finally, the White House has not led on transparency, as then Senator Obama promised in 2007. He said then this:

> We'll protect sources and methods, but we won't use sources and methods as pretexts to hide the truth. Our history doesn't belong to Washington, it belongs to America.

In 2009 consistent with this promise, President Obama issued Executive Order 13526, which clarified that information should be classified to protect sources and methods but not to obscure key facts or cover up embarrassing or illegal acts.

But actions speak louder than words. This administration, like so many before, has released information only when forced to by a leak or by a court order or by an oversight committee.

The redactions to the committee's executive summary on the CIA's detention and interrogation program have been a case study in its refusal to be open. Despite requests that both the chairman and I made for the White House alone to lead the declassification process, it was given by the White House to the CIA—the same Agency that is the focus of this report. Predictably, the redacted version that came back to the committee in August obscured key facts and undermined key findings and conclusions of the study.

The CIA also included unnecessary redactions to previously acknowledged and otherwise unclassified information. Why? Presumably, to make it more difficult for the public to understand the study's findings. Content that the CIA has attempted to redact includes information in the official, declassified report of the Senate Armed Services Committee, other executive branch declassified official documents, information in books and speeches delivered by former CIA officers who were approved by the CIA's Publication Review Board, news articles, and other public reports.

It is true that through negotiations between the committee, the CIA, and the White House, many of these issues were resolved. However, at the end of the day, the White House and CIA would not agree to include any pseudonyms in the study to disguise the names of CIA officers. In 2009 the CIA and the committee had agreed to use CIA-provided pseudonyms for CIA officials, but in the summary's final version, the CIA insisted that even the pseudonyms should be redacted.

For an agency concerned about morale, this is the wrong approach to take, in my view. By making it less possible to follow a narrative threat throughout the summary, this approach effectively throws many CIA personnel under the bus. It tars all of the CIA personnel by making it appear that the CIA writ large was responsible for developing, implementing, and representing the truth about the CIA's detention and interrogation program. In fact, a small number of CIA officers were largely responsible.

Further, there is no question that the identities of undercover agents must be protected, but it is unprecedented for the CIA to demand—and the White House to agree—that every CIA officer's pseudonym in the study be blacked out. U.S. Government agencies have used pseudonyms to protect officers' identities in any number of past reports, including the 9/11 Commission report, the investigation of the Abu Ghraib detention facility, and the report of the Iran-Contra affair.

We asked the CIA to identify any influences in the summary wherein a CIA official mentioned by pseudonym would result in the outing of any CIA undercover officer, and they could not provide any such examples.

Why do I focus on this? The CIA's insistence on blacking out even the fake

names of its officers is problematic because the study is less readable and has lost some of its narrative thread.

But as the chairman has said, we will find ways to bridge that gap. The tougher problem to solve is how to ensure that this and future administrations follow President Obama's pledge not to use sources and methods as pretexts to hide the truth.

What needs to be done? Chairman FEINSTEIN predicted in March—at the height of the frenzy over the CIA's spying on committee-dedicated computers—that ''our oversight will prevail,'' and generally speaking, it has. Much of the truth is out, thanks to the chairman's persistence and the dedicated staff involved in this effort. It is, indeed, a historic event.

But there is still no accountability, and despite Director Brennan's pledges to me in January 2013, there is still no correction of the public record of the inaccurate information the CIA has spread for years and continues to stand behind. The CIA has lied to its overseers and the public, destroyed and tried to hold back evidence, spied on the Senate, made false charges against our staff, and lied about torture and the results of torture. And no one has been held to account.

Torture just didn't happen, after all. Contrary to the President's recent statement, ''we'' didn't torture some folks. Real actual people engaged in torture. Some of these people are still employed by the CIA and the U.S. Government. There are, right now, people serving in high-level positions at the Agency who approved, directed or committed acts related to the CIA's detention and interrogation program. It is bad enough not to prosecute these officials, but to reward or promote them and risk the integrity of the U.S. Government to protect them is incomprehensible.

The President needs to purge his administration of high-level officials who were instrumental to the development and running of this program. He needs to force a cultural change at the CIA.

The President also should support legislation limiting interrogation to noncoercive techniques—to ensure that his own Executive order is codified and to prevent a future administration from developing its own torture program.

The President must ensure the Panetta review is declassified and publicly released.

The full 6,800-page study of the CIA's detention and interrogation program should be declassified and released.

There also needs to be accountability for the CIA spying on its oversight committee, and the CIA inspector general's report needs to be declassified and released to the public.

A key lesson I have learned from my experience with the study is the importance of the role of Congress in overseeing the intelligence community. It is always easier to accept what we are told at face value than it is to ask tough questions. If we rely on others to tell us what is behind their own curtain instead of taking a look for ourselves, we can't know for certain what is there.

This isn't at all to say that what the committee found in its study is a culture and behavior we should ascribe to all employees of the CIA or to the intelligence community. The intelligence community is made up of thousands of hard-working patriotic Americans. These women and men are consummate professionals who risk their lives every day to keep us safe and to provide the their best assessments regardless of political and policy considerations.

But it is incumbent on government leaders—it is incumbent on us—to live up to the dedication of these employees and to make them proud of the institutions they work for. It gives me no pleasure to say this, but as I have said before, for Director Brennan that means resigning. For the next CIA director that means immediately correcting the false record and instituting the necessary reforms to restore the CIA's reputation for integrity and analytical rigor.

The CIA cannot not be its best until it faces its serious and grievous mistakes of the detention and interrogation program. For President Obama, that means taking real action to live up to the pledges he made early in his Presidency.

Serving on the Senate Intelligence Committee for the past 4 years opened my eyes and gave me a much deeper appreciation of the importance of our role in the balancing of power in our great government. It also helped me understand that all Members of Congress, not only Intelligence Committee members, have an opportunity and an obligation to exercise their oversight powers.

Members who do not serve on the Intelligence Committee can ask to read classified documents, call for classified briefings, and submit classified questions.

This is my challenge today to the American people. Urge your Member of Congress to be engaged, to get classified briefings, and to help keep the intelligence community accountable. This is the only way that secret government and democracy can coexist.

We have so much to be proud of in our great Nation, and one of those matters of pride is our commitment to admit mistakes, correct past actions, and move forward knowing that we are made stronger when we refuse to be bound by the past.

We have always been a forward-looking Nation, but to be so we must be mindful of our own history. That is what this study is all about. So I have no doubt that we will emerge from a dark episode with our democracy strengthened and our future made brighter.

It has been an honor to serve on this committee, and I will miss doing its important work more than I can say.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I rise today to speak to this body and my fellow Montanans about service.

In preparing to leave the Senate, I add my voice to the voices of many other departing Members who have called for a return to civility in Washington, DC. Politics today is too full of pettiness. Public servants—you and I, as well as those elected to serve in the next Congress—should set the standard with better words and better actions, but we should also lead from the front. I am not saying anything that hasn't already been said, but more of us need to say it. If we are lucky, which we are, we are even blessed to stand in this room and do what we do on behalf of our fellow citizens.

Everyone in this Chamber has a unique story about their roots and their path to public service. Mine began in Butte, MT. I was the son of a union pipefitter in a struggling blue-collar town, and my path led to the military. I enlisted out of high school in the Montana National Guard and soon found a career serving my neighbors and family.

The National Guard—the great citizen wing of our Armed Forces—was a home for me. Leading my fellow soldiers into combat in Iraq in 2004–2005 was a defining experience in my life. Overseeing two successful elections for the Iraqis added a new perspective to my view on democracy. Fighting insurgents drove home how fortunate we are to live in the United States of America and to enjoy the freedoms we often take for granted.

The men of Task Force GRIZ who unfortunately didn't come home with me and the men and women who came back with visible and invisible wounds have truly defined the cost of war for me, and they remind me every single day of the cost of public servants getting it wrong when it comes to our national defense. I have devoted much of my professional life since returning home to accounting for the true cost of war.

Today, from my perspective, the debts are stacked against the democratic process in America in many ways. There is too much money, too much noise, and too little commitment to finding common ground. Anonymous money masquerading as free speech can poison campaigns. It silences the voices of the majority of American citizens. The concentration of wealth in fewer hands is bad for our society, just as the ability for a handful of the wealthy to carry the loudest megaphones in our elections is bad for our democracy. Elections are starting to look much like auctions. Dark money and circus politics shouldn't prevent the U.S. Senate from honorably living up to the power we have been given.

Growing up in a little house that shook twice a day from the dynamite

blasts at the copper mine nearby, I never thought I would be involved in public service. I aspired to have a decent job. I aspired to get an education. I aspired to having the time to fish the lakes and streams I fished with my father. Just the normal stuff. And that normal stuff is what I think most Americans still want today and too often can't achieve.

Public service—becoming a soldier—was my ticket to a better life: a job and a college education. After only a small taste, I discovered that I loved public service. I loved being devoted to something bigger than myself.

We should all remember that Congress can always use more Americans from more walks of life who have discovered public service through unlikely means.

It is the privilege of my life to serve the people of Montana in the seat of Senators Lee Metcalf and Max Baucus. Lee, along with Mike Mansfield, was my Senator while I was growing up in Butte, MT. The great citizen conservationist Cecil Garland said:

> It was typical of Lee to fight to give the little guy a voice in government decisions.

In my time in this Chamber, I have tried to follow Lee's example.

The people who need a voice in this Chamber are the ranchers and hardware store owners like Cecil in towns like Lincoln and Dillon. The person who needs a voice in this Chamber is the mother in Troy, MT, who became the primary bread winner when her husband lost his job cutting timber. The person who needs a voice here is the young woman in Shelby, MT, who has done everything right—studied hard and earned her degree—only to be squeezed by too much student debt and too few opportunities. The people who need voices are the servicemembers from Laurel and Great Falls, MT, who returned from the war in Afghanistan and Iraq with delayed onset PTSD and have fallen through the cracks at the VA. They are the entrepreneurs in Big Fork and Bozeman, MT, who have opened small distilleries and faced the tangle of redtape. They are the committed couples across Montana—your neighbors, my family, my friends—who are treated like second-class citizens because of whom they love.

So today I urge my colleagues to lend people like this in each of your States your voice as a Senator in this Chamber.

I am humbled by the number of challenges that face the next Congress. I urge my colleagues to continue to fight to protect Americans' civil liberties. I leave the Senate dismayed by the scope of government surveillance in our everyday life. Congress must always—and I emphasize always—protect the privacy of our citizens.

I remain deeply concerned about the National Security Agency's unconstitutional spying on Americans' communications, the secret backdoors into the Department of Commerce encryption standards, and the gag orders under the FBI national security letter program.

I urge my colleagues to continue fighting for rural America. We need stronger voting rights and more jobs in Indian Country to promote tribal sovereignty and prosperity. We need to keep our farm safety net strong and address brucellosis to protect the livestock industry. We need a stronger commitment to fund and reform the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program and its sister programs. Small county budgets, schools, and roads depend on them. These same rural communities need better management of our national forests—something Congress and the Forest Service need to focus on.

We need an honest conversation and urgent solutions to the incredible challenge posed by climate change. As I said earlier from this same podium, we cannot put our heads in the sand and continue with business as usual.

Members of Congress should be taking responsibility and upholding the oaths we all swore. We should agree with science—climate change is a clear enemy, and Congress must take steps to stop it.

The next Congress should be thoughtful about women and families—from health care decisions to paycheck fairness.

Finally, I implore all of Congress, all of you, to redouble your attention to the crisis of suicide among our veterans. Yesterday the House of Representatives passed the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act. That bill now sits before this body, and we have an opportunity to act. We have an opportunity to pass it. I mentioned the invisible wounds of war already, but if this country were losing 22 servicemembers a day on the battlefield, Americans would be on the streets protesting. Congress would be demanding action. But that is exactly the number of veterans who die by suicide each and every day from across our country. Veteran suicide is an urgent crisis facing our communities, and congressional action is long overdue.

I believe extending the eligibility for combat veterans at the VA is one essential way to address delayed-onset PTSD and reduce the suicide rate among our veterans. This simple fix and other solutions that improve access to mental health for veterans should continue to be a top priority for the next Congress.

It is fitting that in the last days of the 113th Congress, the Senate is sending the President a bill that carries on the public lands legacy of Senators Lee Metcalf and Max Baucus and the thousands of Montanans who worked together to find common ground.

In the words of Randolph Jennings, Senator ROCKEFELLER's predecessor from West Virginia, Lee ''was a tireless champion of preserving and protecting our nation's natural heritage for succeeding generations to use and enjoy.''

After Lee's death, Max and the rest of the Montana delegation carried on his legacy by passing wilderness designations for the Absaroka-Beartooth, Great Bear, and the Lee Metcalf wilderness areas. In the same spirit, I am honored to join Senator JON TESTER and Senator-elect STEVE DAINES in carrying on their legacy by passing the North Fork Watershed Protection Act and the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act. We took a page from Montanans. We sat down together, and we worked out an agreement that protected almost 700,000 acres of the Crown of the Continent. This is how democracy should work.

Forty-two years after the first citizen-driven wilderness, this week Congress is expanding the Scapegoat and Bob Marshall Wilderness areas in Montana. Thirty-eight years after the Flathead River was protected from schemes to dam it and divert it, this week Congress is protecting the Flathead and Glacier National Park forever from efforts to mine it and drill it. Montanans came together. Farmers, ranchers, small business owners, conservationists, hunters, anglers—all worked together to find common ground. Montanans went there first, and their representatives in Congress followed.

When Congress rewards the work of citizens who collaborate, when we finally reach the critical mass in this Chamber to be responsive, that is the day we earn the title of ''public servant.'' Montanans can be hopeful today that government by them and for them still works. They can still effect change. The Senate still listens and serves.

When President Eisenhower left office in 1961, Congress passed legislation at his request that restored his military title. He wanted to be remembered as a career soldier rather than the Commander in Chief.

My 33 years in uniform defined my life. I will always be a soldier. As a soldier, as a husband to my wonderful wife Janet, who has been my partner for 31 years, and as the proud dad of Michael and Taylor, as the father-in-law to my wonderful daughter-in-law April, and as the grandfather of a little girl named Kennedy, who will inherit this great Nation, I will return to civilian life with great hope for the United States Senate and for the United States of America.

I, along with millions of others, will be watching closely and imploring Members in this Chamber to check politics at the door and instead focus on the future. Honor veterans and their families who sacrifice so much. Honor seniors who have heard promises from you. Honor the most vulnerable amongst us. They are who we always should fight for.

Madam President, I am forever grateful to have served the people of Montana in this building standing side by side with each and every one of you. God bless each and every one of you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Madam 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.

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

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

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015 AND 2016

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I am about to ask for unanimous consent to pass a substitute amendment to the Coast Guard bill. Senator VITTER and I hope to get into a bit of a colloquy over it, but first I want to explain what we are doing here.

The Coast Guard bill includes the text of S. 2963, a bill that I introduced to permanently eliminate the requirement that small fishing boats obtain a permit for discharges incidental to normal operation.

This is really important for our small boat fishermen. The bill has 14 cosponsors. I am very happy that Senator MURKOWSKI is now a cosponsor of that important legislation.

This substitute that is at the desk includes that permanent fix so that never again do small fishermen have to worry about being subjected to these permits.

It exempts commercial vessels less than 79 feet from having to get this discharge permit.

We first enacted a moratorium on permits in 2008. We have extended it twice. The current moratorium expires next week. If we don't act, these small vessels will require a permit for the first time. So instead of kicking the can down the road again with these moratoria, I think it is time to say, once and for all, these small vessels do not and will never need a permit. I think a temporary moratorium leaves thousands of the boat operators and the fishermen in limbo instead of giving them permanent certainty.

They are different from large ships that discharge ballast water and introduce harmful invasive species into our coastal waters. That is why a broad array of groups, including the American Sport Fishing Association, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Marine Retailers Association of America, the National Marine Manufacturers Association, and many others, support this permanent exemption for our small boats.

I hope colleagues will support this, but I understand there is another proposal coming forward.

I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2444; the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the substitute amendment containing a permanent exemption for discharges from small commercial vessels and fishing vessels—and that is at the desk—be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read three times and passed; the title amendment be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Louisiana.

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

I appreciate the comments of the Senator from California and want to work with her toward a common goal. In that spirit, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator modify her request and agree to the substitute amendment, which is also at the desk, which includes a 3-year extension of the vessel discharge moratorium.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator from California so modify her request?

Mrs. BOXER. I reserve the right to object, but I do not intend to object.

I wish to say I am going to agree to this 3-year moratorium but I am a little stunned as to why we are doing this again. We could give these small boats a permanent exemption. It is an important economic issue.

I don't like this approach, but it is the best we can do. I want the American people and the fishermen to know we tried so hard to get this fixed permanently. But I am glad we have a 3-year moratorium. It is better than nothing, and I will therefore agree to the modification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request, as modified?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

The amendment (No. 3997) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The bill (S. 2444), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The title amendment (No. 3998) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: ''A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I wish to weigh in on this issue, because it is a critically important issue for my State—for all coastal States, or any State that has commercial fishermen, as my colleague from California and as my colleague from Louisiana know.

I appreciate the fact that we have come to a place where we are going to save these small fishermen from the potential burden of reporting to EPA for any incidental discharge from their vessels for the next 3 years.

I need to acknowledge the good work of my friend from California. She has recognized that we began this years ago, back in 2008, when we had to work together at that time to get a short-term extension to ensure that our small-vessel owners would not be subjected to these EPA requirements that most people would say: What is this reporting all about?

For those who need a little more graphic detail as to what we are talking about, when you take a commercial fishing vessel out, a 45-foot commercial fishing vessel, and you have a good day fishing, there are some salmon guts on the deck, a little bit of slime, and you hose it off. That would be an incidental discharge that would be reportable to the EPA. And if you fail to report, you could be subject to civil penalties. That is not what we are talking about here.

I think it is important to note that we have two leaders here in the Senate who perhaps approach some of the EPA issues from a different angle. Senator BOXER has been a staunch advocate for making sure that when we are talking about clean air and clean water, we are complying with those regulations. Senator VITTER has also been a staunch advocate for making sure our small businesses, our jobs, and our economic opportunities aren't stymied by these regulations.

So the fact that we have two Members coming together to acknowledge we have to do something to ensure these regulations do not impede the ability of our small fishermen, of our commercial operators in the water—those vessels below 79 feet—that we are not harming them.

In my home State of Alaska, we are talking about 8,500 commercial fishermen who were most anxious that 8 days from now they were going to be put in a position where they were effectively violating EPA regulations, subject to civil penalties, for the simple act of runoff off of their decks.

So I concur with Senator BOXER, this is something we don't need to be going from year to year to year to address. We don't need to inject this uncertainty into the operations of our hard-working fishing families. We need to have a permanent solution. I want to work with that permanent solution. Senator VITTER has clearly indicated he is willing to help us with that. Senator THUNE in Commerce has made that clear. We know we have to address the ballast issues. We will do that. And I am looking forward to being engaged with that in the 114th Congress.

But for now, I think it is critically important that consensus has been reached. I acknowledge the good work of both the Senator from Louisiana and the Senator from California, and Senator THUNE, for getting us to this point where we can take the pressure off of our small commercial operators and ensure that they can do what they do so very well.

I look forward to the next Congress where we are making this permanent and, again, where we are dealing with so many of the other issues. But I thank my colleagues today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I want to make sure I thank Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator BEGICH. When I started this, Senator BEGICH was my first cosponsor and Senator MURKOWSKI made this bipartisan.

I think the important thing was that we could have done it permanently and I just don't want that lost. We could have done it permanently, and we didn't, and that is sad. There are reasons for that. I wasn't born yesterday, as most of you can tell.

I know why it wasn't done. People are going to use this as the little engine that could to drive some other stuff behind it which is not good stuff. I want to see that we can protect our small boats, and I am going to continue to do that. I hope we will work together as we move forward in this new Senate, run by—in the case of the committee I proudly chair—Senator INHOFE, who I think will be very good on this issue; Senator THUNE, who we know is good on this issue.

So we have the pieces in place. And whatever objections there were, I don't think they are really objections to the permanency, they are political objections to try and use this to get some other bad stuff attached to it, and I am not going to let that happen, let me tell you right now, no way, no how. So whatever someone has in their mind that they are going to connect to this little baby, it isn't going to happen, because we can't do that. We can't take one good thing and destroy it. I am not going to let that happen.

Right now we have a 3-year deal put in place. We can breathe easy. If I am someone contemplating buying a small boat, this is one less worry I have. I could have had it permanently; I have it for 3 years. It is too bad, but at least I have it, and that is good.

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AND COMMUNICATIONS INTEGRATION CENTER ACT OF 2014

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 526, S. 2519.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2519) to codify an existing operations center for cybersecurity.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment, as follows:

(Insert the part printed in italic.)

S. 2519

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 ''National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AND COMMUNICATIONS INTEGRATION CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 210G. OPERATIONS CENTER.

''(a) FUNCTIONS.—There is in the Department an operations center, which may carry out the responsibilities of the Under Secretary appointed under section 103(a)(1)(H) with respect to security and resilience, including by—

''(1) serving as a Federal civilian information sharing interface for cybersecurity;

''(2) providing shared situational awareness to enable real-time, integrated, and operational actions across the Federal Government;

''(3) sharing cybersecurity threat, vulnerability, impact, and incident information and analysis by and among Federal, State, and local government entities and private sector entities;

''(4) coordinating cybersecurity information sharing throughout the Federal Government;

''(5) conducting analysis of cybersecurity risks and incidents;

''(6) upon request, providing timely technical assistance to Federal and non-Federal entities with respect to cybersecurity threats and attribution, vulnerability mitigation, and incident response and remediation; and

''(7) providing recommendations on security and resilience measures to Federal and non-Federal entities.

''(b) COMPOSITION.—The operations center shall be composed of—

''(1) personnel or other representatives of Federal agencies, including civilian and law enforcement agencies and elements of the intelligence community, as such term is defined under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)); and

''(2) representatives from State and local governments and other non-Federal entities, including—

''(A) representatives from information sharing and analysis organizations; and

''(B) private sector owners and operators of critical information systems.

''(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center Act of 2014, and every year thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the operations center, which shall include—

''(1) an analysis of the performance of the operations center in carrying out the functions under subsection (a);

''(2) information on the composition of the center, including—

''(A) the number of representatives from non-Federal entities that are participating in the operations center, including the number of representatives from States, nonprofit organizations, and private sector entities, respectively; and

''(B) the number of requests from non-Federal entities to participate in the operations center and the response to such requests, including—

''(i) the average length of time to fulfill such identified requests by the Federal agency responsible for fulfilling such requests; and

''(ii) a description of any obstacles or challenges to fulfilling such requests; and

''(3) the policies and procedures established by the operations center to safeguard privacy and civil liberties.

''(d) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center Act of 2014, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the effectiveness of the operations center.

''(e) NO RIGHT OR BENEFIT.—The provision of assistance or information to, and inclusion in the operations center of, governmental or private entities under this section shall be at the discretion of the Under Secretary appointed under section 103(a)(1)(H). The provision of certain assistance or information to, or inclusion in the operations center of, one governmental or private entity pursuant to this section shall not create a right or benefit, substantive or procedural, to similar assistance or information for any other governmental or private entity.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 note) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 210F the following:

''Sec. 210G. Operations center.''.

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''critical infrastructure'' has the meaning given that term under section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101).

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to grant the Secretary of Homeland Security any authority to promulgate regulations or set standards relating to the cybersecurity of private sector critical infrastructure that was not in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn; the Carper substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time; and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 3999) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (H.R. 2519), as amended, was passed.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

PROTECTING AND SECURING CHEMICAL FACILITIES FROM TERRORIST ATTACKS ACT OF 2014

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the

consideration of Calendar No. 578, H.R. 4007.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4007) to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility and Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, 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 ''Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''TITLE XXI—CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI–TERRORISM STANDARDS

''SEC. 2101. DEFINITIONS.

''In this title—

''(1) the term 'CFATS regulation' means—

''(A) an existing CFATs regulation; and

''(B) any regulation or amendment to an existing CFATS regulation issued pursuant to the authority under section 2107;

''(2) the term 'chemical facility of interest' means a facility that—

''(A) holds, or that the Secretary has a reasonable basis to believe holds, a chemical of interest, as designated under Appendix A to part 27 of title 6, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto, at a threshold quantity set pursuant to relevant risk-related security principles; and

''(B) is not an excluded facility;

''(3) the term 'covered chemical facility' means a facility that—

''(A) the Secretary—

''(i) identifies as a chemical facility of interest; and

''(ii) based upon review of the facility's Top-Screen, determines meets the risk criteria developed under section 2102(e)(2)(B); and

''(B) is not an excluded facility;

''(4) the term 'excluded facility' means—

''(A) a facility regulated under the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–295; 116 Stat. 2064);

''(B) a public water system, as that term is defined in section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f);

''(C) a Treatment Works, as that term is defined in section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1292);

''(D) a facility owned or operated by the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy; or

''(E) a facility subject to regulation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or by a State that has entered into an agreement with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission under section 274 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2021(b)) to protect against unauthorized access of any material, activity, or structure licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission;

''(5) the term 'existing CFATS regulation' means—

''(A) a regulation promulgated under section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–295; 6 U.S.C. 121 note) that is in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014; and

''(B) a Federal Register notice or other published guidance relating to section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 that is in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014;

''(6) the term 'expedited approval facility' means a covered chemical facility for which the owner or operator elects to submit a site security plan in accordance with section 2102(c)(4);

''(7) the term 'facially deficient', relating to a site security plan, means a site security plan that does not support a certification that the security measures in the plan address the security vulnerability assessment and the risk-based performance standards for security for the facility, based on a review of—

''(A) the facility's site security plan;

''(B) the facility's Top-Screen;

''(C) the facility's security vulnerability assessment; or

''(D) any other information that—

''(i) the facility submits to the Department; or

''(ii) the Department obtains from a public source or other source;

''(8) the term 'guidance for expedited approval facilities' means the guidance issued under section 2102(c)(4)(B)(i);

''(9) the term 'risk assessment' means the Secretary's application of relevant risk criteria identified in section 2102(e)(2)(B);

''(10) the term 'terrorist screening database' means the terrorist screening database maintained by the Federal Government Terrorist Screening Center or its successor;

''(11) the term 'tier' has the meaning given the term in section 27.105 of title 6, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto;

''(12) the terms 'tiering' and 'tiering methodology' mean the procedure by which the Secretary assigns a tier to each covered chemical facility based on the risk assessment for that covered chemical facility;

''(13) the term 'Top-Screen' has the meaning given the term in section 27.105 of title 6, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto; and

''(14) the term 'vulnerability assessment' means the identification of weaknesses in the security of a chemical facility of interest.

''SEC. 2102. CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM.

''(a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Department a Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program, the Secretary shall—

''(A) identify—

''(i) chemical facilities of interest; and

''(ii) covered chemical facilities;

''(B) require each chemical facility of interest to submit a Top-Screen and any other information the Secretary determines necessary to enable the Department to assess the security risks associated with the facility;

''(C) establish risk-based performance standards designed to address high levels of security risk at covered chemical facilities; and

''(D) require each covered chemical facility to—

''(i) submit a security vulnerability assessment; and

''(ii) develop, submit, and implement a site security plan.

''(b) SECURITY MEASURES.—A facility, in developing a site security plan as required under subsection (a), shall include security measures that, in combination, appropriately address the security vulnerability assessment and the risk-based performance standards for security for the facility.

''(c) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF SITE SECURITY PLANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) REVIEW.—Except as provided in paragraph (4), the Secretary shall review and approve or disapprove each site security plan submitted pursuant to subsection (a).

''(B) BASES FOR DISAPPROVAL.—The Secretary—

''(i) may not disapprove a site security plan based on the presence or absence of a particular security measure; and

''(ii) shall disapprove a site security plan if the plan fails to satisfy the risk-based performance standards established pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(C).

''(2) ALTERNATIVE SECURITY PROGRAMS.—

''(A) AUTHORITY TO APPROVE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may approve an alternative security program established by a private sector entity or a Federal, State, or local authority or under other applicable laws, if the Secretary determines that the requirements of the program meet the requirements under this section.

''(ii) ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES.—If the requirements of an alternative security program do not meet the requirements under this section, the Secretary may recommend additional security measures to the program that will enable the Secretary to approve the program.

''(B) SATISFACTION OF SITE SECURITY PLAN REQUIREMENT.—A covered chemical facility may satisfy the site security plan requirement under subsection (a) by adopting an alternative security program that the Secretary has—

''(i) reviewed and approved under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) determined to be appropriate for the operations and security concerns of the covered chemical facility.

''(3) SITE SECURITY PLAN ASSESSMENTS.—

''(A) RISK ASSESSMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—In approving or disapproving a site security plan under this subsection, the Secretary shall employ the risk assessment policies and procedures developed under this title.

''(B) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PLANS.—In the case of a covered chemical facility for which the Secretary approved a site security plan before the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary may not require the facility to resubmit the site security plan solely by reason of the enactment of this title.

''(4) EXPEDITED APPROVAL PROGRAM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A covered chemical facility assigned to tier 3 or 4 may meet the requirement to develop and submit a site security plan under subsection (a)(2)(D) by developing and submitting to the Secretary—

''(i) a site security plan and the certification described in subparagraph (C); or

''(ii) a site security plan in conformance with a template authorized under subparagraph (H).

''(B) GUIDANCE FOR EXPEDITED APPROVAL FACILITIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall issue guidance for expedited approval facilities that identifies specific security measures that are sufficient to meet the risk-based performance standards.

''(ii) MATERIAL DEVIATION FROM GUIDANCE.—If a security measure in the site security plan of an expedited approval facility materially deviates from a security measure in the guidance for expedited approval facilities, the site security plan shall include an explanation of how such security measure meets the risk-based performance standards.

''(iii) PROCESS.—In developing and issuing, or amending, the guidance for expedited approval facilities under this subparagraph and in collecting information from expedited approval facilities, the Secretary—

''(I) shall consult with—

''(aa) Sector Coordinating Councils established under sections 201 and 871(a); and

''(bb) appropriate labor organizations; and

''(II) shall not be subject to section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et

seq.), subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, or section 2107(b) of this title.

''(C) CERTIFICATION.—The owner or operator of an expedited approval facility shall submit to the Secretary a certification, signed under penalty of perjury, that—

''(i) the owner or operator is familiar with the requirements of this title and part 27 of title 6, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto, and the site security plan being submitted;

''(ii) the site security plan includes the security measures required by subsection (b);

''(iii)(I) the security measures in the site security plan do not materially deviate from the guidance for expedited approval facilities except where indicated in the site security plan;

''(II) any deviations from the guidance for expedited approval facilities in the site security plan meet the risk-based performance standards for the tier to which the facility is assigned; and

''(III) the owner or operator has provided an explanation of how the site security plan meets the risk-based performance standards for any material deviation;

''(iv) the owner or operator has visited, examined, documented, and verified that the expedited approval facility meets the criteria set forth in the site security plan;

''(v) the expedited approval facility has implemented all of the required performance measures outlined in the site security plan or set out planned measures that will be implemented within a reasonable time period stated in the site security plan;

''(vi) each individual responsible for implementing the site security plan is fully aware of the requirements relevant to the individual's responsibility contained in the site security plan and is competent to carry out those requirements; and

''(vii) the owner or operator has committed, or, in the case of planned measures will commit, the necessary resources to fully implement the site security plan.

''(D) DEADLINE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date described in clause (ii), the owner or operator of an expedited approval facility shall submit to the Secretary the site security plan and the certification described in subparagraph (C).

''(ii) DATE.—The date described in this clause is—

''(I) for an expedited approval facility that was assigned to tier 3 or 4 under existing CFATS regulations before the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the date that is 210 days after the date of enactment of that Act; and

''(II) for any expedited approval facility not described in subclause (I), the later of—

''(aa) the date on which the expedited approval facility is assigned to tier 3 or 4 under subsection (e)(2)(A); or

''(bb) the date that is 210 days after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014.

''(iii) NOTICE.—An owner or operator of an expedited approval facility shall notify the Secretary of the intent of the owner or operator to certify the site security plan for the expedited approval facility not later than 30 days before the date on which the owner or operator submits the site security plan and certification described in subparagraph (C).

''(E) COMPLIANCE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For an expedited approval facility submitting a site security plan and certification in accordance with subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D)—

''(I) the expedited approval facility shall comply with all of the requirements of its site security plan; and

''(II) the Secretary—

''(aa) except as provided in subparagraph (G), may not disapprove the site security plan; and

''(bb) may audit and inspect the expedited approval facility under subsection (d) to verify compliance with its site security plan.

''(ii) NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary determines an expedited approval facility is not in compliance with the requirements of the site security plan or is otherwise in violation of this title, the Secretary may enforce compliance in accordance with section 2104.

''(F) AMENDMENTS TO SITE SECURITY PLAN.—

''(i) REQUIREMENT.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—If the owner or operator of an expedited approval facility amends a site security plan submitted under subparagraph (A), the owner or operator shall submit the amended site security plan and a certification relating to the amended site security plan that contains the information described in subparagraph (C).

''(II) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—For purposes of this clause, an amendment to a site security plan includes any technical amendment to the site security plan.

''(ii) AMENDMENT REQUIRED.—The owner or operator of an expedited approval facility shall amend the site security plan if—

''(I) there is a change in the design, construction, operation, or maintenance of the expedited approval facility that affects the site security plan;

''(II) the Secretary requires additional security measures or suspends a certification and recommends additional security measures under subparagraph (G); or

''(III) the owner or operator receives notice from the Secretary of a change in tiering under subsection (e)(3).

''(iii) DEADLINE.—An amended site security plan and certification shall be submitted under clause (i)—

''(I) in the case of a change in design, construction, operation, or maintenance of the expedited approval facility that affects the security plan, not later than 120 days after the date on which the change in design, construction, operation, or maintenance occurred;

''(II) in the case of the Secretary requiring additional security measures or suspending a certification and recommending additional security measures under subparagraph (G), not later than 120 days after the date on which the owner or operator receives notice of the requirement for additional security measures or suspension of the certification and recommendation of additional security measures; and

''(III) in the case of a change in tiering, not later than 120 days after the date on which the owner or operator receives notice under subsection (e)(3).

''(G) FACIALLY DEFICIENT SITE SECURITY PLANS.—

''(i) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) or (E), the Secretary may suspend the authority of a covered chemical facility to certify a site security plan if the Secretary—

''(I) determines the certified site security plan or an amended site security plan is facially deficient; and

''(II) not later than 100 days after the date on which the Secretary receives the site security plan and certification, provides the covered chemical facility with written notification that the site security plan is facially deficient, including a clear explanation of each deficiency in the site security plan.

''(ii) ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—If, during or after a compliance inspection of an expedited approval facility, the Secretary determines that planned or implemented security measures in the site security plan of the facility are insufficient to meet the risk-based performance standards based on misrepresentation, omission, or an inadequate description of the site, the Secretary may—

''(aa) require additional security measures; or

''(bb) suspend the certification of the facility.

''(II) RECOMMENDATION OF ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES.—If the Secretary suspends the certification of an expedited approval facility under subclause (I), the Secretary shall—

''(aa) recommend specific additional security measures that, if made part of the site security plan by the facility, would enable the Secretary to approve the site security plan; and

''(bb) provide the facility an opportunity to submit a new or modified site security plan and certification under subparagraph (A).

''(III) SUBMISSION; REVIEW.—If an expedited approval facility determines to submit a new or modified site security plan and certification as authorized under subclause (II)(bb)—

''(aa) not later than 90 days after the date on which the facility receives recommendations under subclause (II)(aa), the facility shall submit the new or modified plan and certification; and

''(bb) not later than 45 days after the date on which the Secretary receives the new or modified plan under item (aa), the Secretary shall review the plan and determine whether the plan is facially deficient.

''(IV) DETERMINATION NOT TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES.—

''(aa) REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION.—If an expedited approval facility does not agree to include in its site security plan specific additional security measures recommended by the Secretary under subclause (II)(aa), or does not submit a new or modified site security plan in accordance with subclause (III), the Secretary may revoke the certification of the facility by issuing an order under section 2104(a)(1)(B).

''(bb) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—If the Secretary revokes the certification of an expedited approval facility under item (aa) by issuing an order under section 2104(a)(1)(B)—

''(AA) the order shall require the owner or operator of the facility to submit a site security plan or alternative security program for review by the Secretary review under subsection (c)(1); and

''(BB) the facility shall no longer be eligible to certify a site security plan under this paragraph.

''(V) FACIAL DEFICIENCY.—If the Secretary determines that a new or modified site security plan submitted by an expedited approval facility under subclause (III) is facially deficient—

''(aa) not later than 120 days after the date of the determination, the owner or operator of the facility shall submit a site security plan or alternative security program for review by the Secretary under subsection (c)(1); and

''(bb) the facility shall no longer be eligible to certify a site security plan under this paragraph.

''(H) TEMPLATES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may develop prescriptive site security plan templates with specific security measures to meet the risk-based performance standards under subsection (a)(2)(C) for adoption and certification by a covered chemical facility assigned to tier 3 or 4 in lieu of developing and certifying its own plan.

''(ii) PROCESS.—In developing and issuing, or amending, the site security plan templates under this subparagraph, issuing guidance for implementation of the templates, and in collecting information from expedited approval facilities, the Secretary—

''(I) shall consult with—

''(aa) Sector Coordinating Councils established under sections 201 and 871(a); and

''(bb) appropriate labor organizations; and

''(II) shall not be subject to section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, or section 2107(b) of this title.

''(iii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to prevent a covered chemical facility from developing and certifying its own security plan in accordance with subparagraph (A).

''(I) EVALUATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall take any appropriate action necessary for a full evaluation of the expedited approval program authorized under this paragraph, including conducting an appropriate number of inspections, as authorized under subsection (d), of expedited approval facilities.

''(ii) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report that contains—

''(I) any costs and efficiencies associated with the expedited approval program authorized under this paragraph;

''(II) the impact of the expedited approval program on the backlog for site security plan approval and authorization inspections;

''(III) an assessment of the ability of expedited approval facilities to submit facially sufficient site security plans;

''(IV) an assessment of any impact of the expedited approval program on the security of chemical facilities; and

''(V) a recommendation by the Secretary on the frequency of compliance inspections that may be required for expedited approval facilities.

''(d) COMPLIANCE.—

''(1) AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

''(i) the term 'nondepartmental'—

''(I) with respect to personnel, means personnel that is not employed by the Department; and

''(II) with respect to an entity, means an entity that is not a component or other authority of the Department; and

''(ii) the term 'nongovernmental'—

''(I) with respect to personnel, means personnel that is not employed by the Federal Government; and

''(II) with respect to an entity, means an entity that is not an agency, department, or other authority of the Federal Government.

''(B) AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS.—The Secretary shall conduct audits or inspections under this title using—

''(i) employees of the Department; or

''(ii) nondepartmental or nongovernmental personnel approved by the Secretary.

''(C) SUPPORT PERSONNEL.—The Secretary may use nongovernmental personnel to provide administrative and logistical services in support of audits and inspections under this title.

''(D) REPORTING STRUCTURE.—

''(i) NONDEPARTMENTAL AND NONGOVERNMENTAL AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS.—Any audit or inspection conducted by an individual employed by a nondepartmental or nongovernmental entity shall be assigned in coordination with a regional supervisor with responsibility for supervising inspectors within the Infrastructure Security Compliance Division of the Department for the region in which the audit or inspection is to be conducted.

''(ii) REQUIREMENT TO REPORT.—While an individual employed by a nondepartmental or nongovernmental entity is in the field conducting an audit or inspection under this subsection, the individual shall report to the regional supervisor with responsibility for supervising inspectors within the Infrastructure Security Compliance Division of the Department for the region in which the individual is operating.

''(iii) APPROVAL.—The authority to approve a site security plan under subsection (c) or determine if a covered chemical facility is in compliance with an approved site security plan shall be exercised solely by the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary within the Department.

''(E) STANDARDS FOR AUDITORS AND INSPECTORS.—The Secretary shall prescribe standards for the training and retraining of each individual used by the Department as an auditor or inspector, including each individual employed by the Department and all nondepartmental or nongovernmental personnel, including—

''(i) minimum training requirements for new auditors and inspectors;

''(ii) retraining requirements;

''(iii) minimum education and experience levels;

''(iv) the submission of information as required by the Secretary to enable determination of whether the auditor or inspector has a conflict of interest;

''(v) the proper certification or certifications necessary to handle chemical-terrorism vulnerability information (as defined in section 27.105 of title 6, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto);

''(vi) the reporting of any issue of non-compliance with this section to the Secretary within 24 hours; and

''(vii) any additional qualifications for fitness of duty as the Secretary may require.

''(F) CONDITIONS FOR NONGOVERNMENTAL AUDITORS AND INSPECTORS.—If the Secretary arranges for an audit or inspection under subparagraph (B) to be carried out by a nongovernmental entity, the Secretary shall—

''(i) prescribe standards for the qualification of the individuals who carry out such audits and inspections that are commensurate with the standards for similar Government auditors or inspectors; and

''(ii) ensure that any duties carried out by a nongovernmental entity are not inherently governmental functions.

''(2) PERSONNEL SURETY.—

''(A) PERSONNEL SURETY PROGRAM.—For purposes of this title, the Secretary shall establish and carry out a Personnel Surety Program that—

''(i) does not require an owner or operator of a covered chemical facility that voluntarily participates in the program to submit information about an individual more than one time;

''(ii) provides a participating owner or operator of a covered chemical facility with relevant information about an individual based on vetting the individual against the terrorist screening database, to the extent that such feedback is necessary for the facility to be in compliance with regulations promulgated under this title; and

''(iii) provides redress to an individual—

''(I) whose information was vetted against the terrorist screening database under the program; and

''(II) who believes that the personally identifiable information submitted to the Department for such vetting by a covered chemical facility, or its designated representative, was inaccurate.

''(B) PERSONNEL SURETY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.—To the extent that a risk-based performance standard established under subsection (a) requires identifying individuals with ties to terrorism—

''(i) a covered chemical facility may satisfy its obligation under the standard by using any Federal screening program that periodically vets individuals against the terrorist screening database, or any successor program, including the Personnel Surety Program established under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) the Secretary may not require a covered chemical facility to submit any information about an individual unless the individual—

''(I) is to be vetted under the Personnel Surety Program; or

''(II) has been identified as presenting a terrorism security risk.

''(3) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall share with the owner or operator of a covered chemical facility any information that the owner or operator needs to comply with this section.

''(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

''(1) IDENTIFICATION OF CHEMICAL FACILITIES OF INTEREST.—In carrying out this title, the Secretary shall consult with the heads of other Federal agencies, States and political subdivisions thereof, relevant business associations, and public and private labor organizations to identify all chemical facilities of interest.

''(2) RISK ASSESSMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this title, the Secretary shall develop a security risk assessment approach and corresponding tiering methodology for covered chemical facilities that incorporates the relevant elements of risk, including threat, vulnerability, and consequence.

''(B) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SECURITY RISK.—The criteria for determining the security risk of terrorism associated with a covered chemical facility shall take into account—

''(i) relevant threat information;

''(ii) potential economic consequences and the potential loss of human life in the event of the facility being subject to a terrorist attack, compromise, infiltration, or exploitation; and

''(iii) vulnerability of the facility to a terrorist attack, compromise, infiltration, or exploitation.

''(3) CHANGES IN TIERING.—

''(A) MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.—The Secretary shall document the basis for each instance in which—

''(i) tiering for a covered chemical facility is changed; or

''(ii) a covered chemical facility is determined to no longer be subject to the requirements under this title.

''(B) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—The records maintained under subparagraph (A) shall include information on whether and how the Secretary confirmed the information that was the basis for the change or determination described in subparagraph (A).

''(4) SEMIANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, and not less frequently than once every 6 months thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report that describes, for the period covered by the report—

''(A) the number of covered chemical facilities in the United States;

''(B) the average number of days spent reviewing site security or an alternative security program for a covered chemical facility prior to approval;

''(C) the number of covered chemical facilities inspected;

''(D) the average number of covered chemical facilities inspected per inspector; and

''(E) any other information that the Secretary determines will be helpful to Congress in evaluating the performance of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.

"SEC. 2103. PROTECTION AND SHARING OF INFORMATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, information developed under this title, including vulnerability assessments, site security plans, and other security related information, records, and documents shall be given protections from public disclosure consistent with the protection of similar information under section 70103(d) of title 46, United States Code.

''(b) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the sharing of information developed under this title, as the Secretary determines appropriate, with State and local government officials possessing a need to know and the necessary security clearances, including law enforcement officials and first responders, for the purpose of carrying out this title.

''(c) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH FIRST RESPONDERS.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall provide to State, local, and regional fusion centers

(as that term is defined in section 210A(j)(1)) and State and local government officials, as the Secretary determines appropriate, such information as is necessary to help ensure that first responders are properly prepared and provided with the situational awareness needed to respond to security incidents at covered chemical facilities.

''(2) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall disseminate information under paragraph (1) through a medium or system determined by the Secretary to be appropriate to ensure the secure and expeditious dissemination of such information to necessary selected individuals.

''(d) ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS.—In any proceeding to enforce this section, vulnerability assessments, site security plans, and other information submitted to or obtained by the Secretary under this title, and related vulnerability or security information, shall be treated as if the information were classified information.

''(e) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code), section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Freedom of Information Act') shall not apply to information protected from public disclosure pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

"SEC. 2104. CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.

''(a) NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—

''(1) NOTICE.—If the Secretary determines that a covered chemical facility is not in compliance with this title, the Secretary shall—

''(A) provide the owner or operator of the facility with—

''(i) not later than 14 days after date on which the Secretary makes the determination, a written notification of noncompliance that includes a clear explanation of any deficiency in the security vulnerability assessment or site security plan; and

''(ii) an opportunity for consultation with the Secretary or the Secretary's designee; and

''(B) issue to the owner or operator of the facility an order to comply with this title by a date specified by the Secretary in the order, which date shall be not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary issues the order.

''(2) CONTINUED NONCOMPLIANCE.—If an owner or operator continues to be in noncompliance with this title after the date specified in an order issued under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary may enter an order in accordance with this section assessing a civil penalty, an order to cease operations, or both.

''(b) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

''(1) VIOLATIONS OF ORDERS.—Any person who violates an order issued under this title shall be liable for a civil penalty under section 70119(a) of title 46, United States Code.

''(2) NON-REPORTING CHEMICAL FACILITIES OF INTEREST.—Any owner of a chemical facility of interest who fails to comply with, or knowingly submits false information under, this title or the CFATS regulations shall be liable for a civil penalty under section 70119(a) of title 46, United States Code.

''(c) EMERGENCY ORDERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (a) or any site security plan or alternative security program approved under this title, if the Secretary determines that there is a reasonable likelihood that a violation of this title or the CFATS regulations by a chemical facility could result in death, serious illness, severe personal injury, or substantial endangerment to the public, the Secretary may direct the facility, effective immediately or as soon as practicable, to—

''(A) cease some or all operations; or

''(B) implement appropriate emergency security measures.

''(2) LIMITATION ON DELEGATION.—The Secretary may not delegate the authority under paragraph (1) to any official other than the Under Secretary for the National Protection and Programs Directorate.

''(d) RIGHT OF ACTION.—Nothing in this title confers upon any person except the Secretary or his or her designee a right of action against an owner or operator of a covered chemical facility to enforce any provision of this title.

"SEC. 2105. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.

''(a) PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING PROBLEMS.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF A REPORTING PROCEDURE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall establish, and provide information to the public regarding, a procedure under which any employee or contractor of a chemical facility may submit a report to the Secretary regarding problems, deficiencies, or vulnerabilities at a covered chemical facility that are associated with the risk of a chemical facility terrorist incident.

''(2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The Secretary shall keep confidential the identity of an individual who submits a report under paragraph (1) and any such report shall be treated as a record containing protected information to the extent that the report does not consist of publicly available information.

''(3) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT.—If a report submitted under paragraph (1) identifies the individual making the report, the Secretary shall promptly respond to the individual directly and shall promptly acknowledge receipt of the report.

''(4) STEPS TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) review and consider the information provided in any report submitted under paragraph (1); and

''(B) take appropriate steps under this title if necessary to address any substantiated problems, deficiencies, or vulnerabilities associated with the risk of a chemical facility terrorist incident identified in the report.

''(5) RETALIATION PROHIBITED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An owner or operator of a covered chemical facility or agent thereof may not discharge an employee or otherwise discriminate against an employee with respect to the compensation provided to, or terms, conditions, or privileges of the employment of, the employee because the employee (or an individual acting pursuant to a request of the employee) submitted a report under paragraph (1).

''(B) EXCEPTION.—An employee shall not be entitled to the protections under this section if the employee—

''(i) knowingly and willfully makes any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; or

''(ii) uses any false writing or document knowing the writing or document contains any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry.

''(b) PROTECTED DISCLOSURES.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit the right of an individual to make any disclosure—

''(1) protected or authorized under section 2302(b)(8) or 7211 of title 5, United States Code;

''(2) protected under any other Federal or State law that shields the disclosing individual against retaliation or discrimination for having made the disclosure in the public interest; or

''(3) to the Special Counsel of an agency, the inspector general of an agency, or any other employee designated by the head of an agency to receive disclosures similar to the disclosures described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

''(c) PUBLICATION OF RIGHTS.—The Secretary, in partnership with industry associations and labor organizations, shall make publicly available both physically and online the rights that an individual who discloses information, including security-sensitive information, regarding problems, deficiencies, or vulnerabilities at a covered chemical facility would have under Federal whistleblower protection laws or this title.

''(d) PROTECTED INFORMATION.—All information contained in a report made under this subsection (a) shall be protected in accordance with section 2103.

"SEC. 2106. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.

''(a) OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to supersede, amend, alter, or affect any Federal law that regulates the manufacture, distribution in commerce, use, sale, other treatment, or disposal of chemical substances or mixtures.

''(b) STATES AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.—This title shall not preclude or deny any right of any State or political subdivision thereof to adopt or enforce any regulation, requirement, or standard of performance with respect to chemical facility security that is more stringent than a regulation, requirement, or standard of performance issued under this section, or otherwise impair any right or jurisdiction of any State with respect to chemical facilities within that State, unless there is an actual conflict between this section and the law of that State.

"SEC. 2107. CFATS REGULATIONS.

''(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may, in accordance with chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, promulgate regulations or amend existing CFATS regulations to implement the provisions under this title.

''(b) EXISTING CFATS REGULATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 4(b) of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, each existing CFATS regulation shall remain in effect unless the Secretary amends, consolidates, or repeals the regulation.

''(2) REPEAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall repeal any existing CFATS regulation that the Secretary determines is duplicative of, or conflicts with, this title.

''(c) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall exclusively rely upon authority provided under this title in—

''(1) determining compliance with this title;

''(2) identifying chemicals of interest; and

''(3) determining security risk associated with a chemical facility.

"SEC. 2108. SMALL COVERED CHEMICAL FACILITIES.

''(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'small covered chemical facility' means a covered chemical facility that—

''(1) has fewer than 100 employees employed at the covered chemical facility; and

''(2) is owned and operated by a small business concern (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)).

''(b) ASSISTANCE TO FACILITIES.—The Secretary may provide guidance and, as appropriate, tools, methodologies, or computer software, to assist small covered chemical facilities in developing the physical security, cybersecurity, recordkeeping, and reporting procedures required under this title.

''(c) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on best practices that may assist small covered chemical facilities in development of physical security best practices.

"SEC. 2109. OUTREACH TO CHEMICAL FACILITIES OF INTEREST.

''Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall establish an outreach implementation plan, in coordination with the heads of other appropriate Federal and State agencies, relevant business associations, and public and private labor organizations, to—

''(1) identify chemical facilities of interest; and

''(2) make available compliance assistance materials and information on education and training.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–196; 116 Stat. 2135) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''TITLE XXI—CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI–TERRORISM STANDARDS

''Sec. 2101. Definitions.
''Sec. 2102. Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.
''Sec. 2103. Protection and sharing of information.
''Sec. 2104. Civil enforcement.
''Sec. 2105. Whistleblower protections.
''Sec. 2106. Relationship to other laws.
''Sec. 2107. CFATS regulations.
''Sec. 2108. Small covered chemical facilities.
''Sec. 2109. Outreach to chemical facilities of interest.''.

SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT; REPORTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program'' means—

(A) the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program initially authorized under section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109-295; 6 U.S.C. 121 note); and

(B) the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program subsequently authorized under section 2102(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2;

(2) the term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security; and

(3) the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) THIRD-PARTY ASSESSMENT.—Using amounts appropriated to the Department before the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall commission a third-party study to assess vulnerabilities of covered chemical facilities, as defined in section 2101 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by section 2), to acts of terrorism.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program that includes—

(A) a certification by the Secretary that the Secretary has made significant progress in the identification of all chemical facilities of interest under section 2102(e)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2, including—

(i) a description of the steps taken to achieve that progress and the metrics used to measure the progress;

(ii) information on whether facilities that submitted Top-Screens as a result of the identification of chemical facilities of interest were tiered and in what tiers those facilities were placed; and

(iii) an action plan to better identify chemical facilities of interest and bring those facilities into compliance with title XXI of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2;

(B) a certification by the Secretary that the Secretary has developed a risk assessment approach and corresponding tiering methodology under section 2102(e)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2;

(C) an assessment by the Secretary of the implementation by the Department of the recommendations made by the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute as outlined in the Institute's Tiering Methodology Peer Review (Publication Number: RP12–22–02); and

(D) a description of best practices that may assist small covered chemical facilities, as defined in section 2108(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2, in the development of physical security best practices.

(2) ANNUAL GAO REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—During the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress an annual report that assesses the implementation of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(B) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress the first report under subparagraph (A).

(C) SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year from the date of the initial report required under subparagraph (B), the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress the second report under subparagraph (A), which shall include an assessment of the whistleblower protections provided under section 2105 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2, and—

(i) describes the number and type of problems, deficiencies, and vulnerabilities with respect to which reports have been submitted under such section 2105;

(ii) evaluates the efforts of the Secretary in addressing the problems, deficiencies, and vulnerabilities described in subsection (a)(1) of such section 2105; and

(iii) evaluates the efforts of the Secretary to inform individuals of their rights, as required under subsection (c) of such section 2105.

(D) THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Comptroller General submits the second report required under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress the third report under subparagraph (A), which shall include an assessment of—

(i) the expedited approval program authorized under section 2102(c)(4) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2; and

(ii) the report on the expedited approval program submitted by the Secretary under subparagraph (I)(ii) of such section 2102(c)(4).

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE; CONFORMING REPEAL.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–295; 120 Stat. 1388), is repealed as of the effective date of this Act.

SEC. 5. TERMINATION.

The authority provided under title XXI of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2(a), shall terminate on the date that is 4 years after the effective date of this Act.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered; the Carper-Coburn amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the committee substitute, as amended, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

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

The amendment (No. 4000) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 4007), as amended, was passed.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

CIRDA ACT OF 2014

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2952 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2952) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the laws relating to the advancement of security technologies for critical infrastructure protection, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the Carper substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

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

The amendment (No. 4001) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term ''Cybersecurity Category'' means a position's or incumbent's primary work function involving cybersecurity, which is further defined by Specialty Area;

(2) the term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security;

(3) the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

(4) the term ''Specialty Area'' means any of the common types of cybersecurity work as recognized by the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education's National Cybersecurity Workforce Framework report.

SEC. 3. CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY.

(a) WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary shall assess the cybersecurity workforce of the Department.

(2) CONTENTS.—The assessment required under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum—

(A) an assessment of the readiness and capacity of the workforce of the Department to meet its cybersecurity mission;

(B) information on where cybersecurity workforce positions are located within the Department;

(C) information on which cybersecurity workforce positions are—

(i) performed by—

(I) permanent full-time equivalent employees of the Department, including, to the greatest extent practicable, demographic information about such employees;

(II) independent contractors; and

(III) individuals employed by other Federal agencies, including the National Security Agency; or

(ii) vacant; and

(D) information on—

(i) the percentage of individuals within each Cybersecurity Category and Specialty Area who received essential training to perform their jobs; and

(ii) in cases in which such essential training was not received, what challenges, if any, were encountered with respect to the provision of such essential training.

(b) WORKFORCE STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, develop a comprehensive workforce strategy to enhance the readiness, capacity, training, recruitment, and retention of the cybersecurity workforce of the Department; and

(B) maintain and, as necessary, update the comprehensive workforce strategy developed under subparagraph (A).

(2) CONTENTS.—The comprehensive workforce strategy developed under paragraph (1) shall include a description of—

(A) a multi-phased recruitment plan, including with respect to experienced professionals, members of disadvantaged or underserved communities, the unemployed, and veterans;

(B) a 5-year implementation plan;

(C) a 10-year projection of the cybersecurity workforce needs of the Department;

(D) any obstacle impeding the hiring and development of a cybersecurity workforce in the Department; and

(E) any gap in the existing cybersecurity workforce of the Department and a plan to fill any such gap.

(c) UPDATES.—The Secretary submit to the appropriate congressional committees annual updates on—

(1) the cybersecurity workforce assessment required under subsection (a); and

(2) the progress of the Secretary in carrying out the comprehensive workforce strategy required to be developed under subsection (b).

SEC. 4. CYBERSECURITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the feasibility, cost, and benefits of establishing a Cybersecurity Fellowship Program to offer a tuition payment plan for individuals pursuing undergraduate and doctoral degrees who agree to work for the Department for an agreed-upon period of time.

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

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 2952), as amended, was passed.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Carper title amendment be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The title amendment (No. 4002) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: ''To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess the cybersecurity workforce of the Department of Homeland Security and develop a comprehensive workforce strategy, and for other purposes.''.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—Continued

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION

Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I will be brief, but I want to thank both Senators on the floor, Senators BOXER and VITTER, for working on this issue. It was critical for Alaska's fishermen and really for fishermen across the country. More importantly this will resolve the issue with the Coast Guard bill, which is critical to get done for many other reasons.

First, on the discharge issue, as stated earlier, this is an important waiver for our fishermen in Alaska. This will ensure that a regulation that wasn't going to have any positive impact with regards to what they were attempting to do but would have a negative impact in regards to our fishermen—giving them a 3-year waiver is exceptional because every year we would have a 1-year waiver. So a 3-year waiver is fantastic, but I agree with Senator BOXER that this should be permanent. I would like to watch from the outside in to see how this develops over the years.

The Coast Guard authorization bill was critical to get done. This has many important provisions. As the chair of the committee that dealt with the Coast Guard bill, not only this year but 2 years ago, we have been successful now at least since I have been chair to ensure the bill passed by unanimous consent and not to have big fights over working out the differences. Again, I thank Senator VITTER for his effort, making sure we move forward on this piece of legislation.

The issue I want to highlight—and then I will close—is that the Coast Guard bill is not only important for our fishermen in Alaska, the 79 feet and under ships, but also many other things. It ensures additional resources for the Arctic and Antarctic and ensures ice-breaking capabilities, including extending the service life of the currently idled *Polar Sea*. It enhances vessel safety information regarding ice and weather conditions and improves the oil spill prevention and response capabilities. It also ensures availability of quality childcare for our Coast Guard personnel. We require Coast Guard personnel to go all over this country. Part of it is their families are obviously with them and making sure they have quality of life aspects that are important for us to continue to recruit and get the best of the best. It also creates educational and portable career opportunities for Active-Duty Coast Guard spouses and eases the transition for Coast Guard personnel into postservice life. It provides inflation adjustment for funding levels for something very important to us in Alaska, the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Committee. This group of citizens is involved in ensuring that the community at Cook Inlet—there is a lot of oil activity and fishing activity and other types of activities that are in that region—and citizens are engaged in their input. It is not just industry, but it is industry and citizens working together. This ensures that their funding continues and is inflation adjusted for the future. That is important.

Lastly, a small item, but it allows the Commandant to issue leases on tidelands and submerged lands. That is important because there are parcels of property that the Coast Guard controls that are adjacent to communities, and we need to make sure that there is flexibility for them to do the work they need to do. This piece of legislation was cosponsored by Senator ROCKEFELLER, Senators THUNE, RUBIO, MARIA CANTWELL and many others. This truly is a bipartisan piece of legislation and an example of what we do best when we work together.

Imagine a piece of legislation such as this, an authorization legislation for one of our large agencies, the Coast Guard, now the second time happening without a big fight on the floor, without this back and forth between the House and Senate, but actually getting the work done so our Coast Guard personnel know they have a budget that improves upon their quality of life issues and in my case in Alaska, making sure the Arctic is taken care of. We also increased and made sure the Coast Guard ongoing replacement programs are there, with $1.5 billion to continue to increase and improve the Coast Guard programs for our country, which is also very important.

Again, I want to thank the body, thank the folks on both sides of the aisle. As chair of the committee, it was my honor to be able to move this forward, but also I want to give a special thanks to all my staff members who worked on this because without the Senate staff who participated in this work, we could not have gotten the work done. I appreciate that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. VITTER. Thank you, Madam President. I rise today to express strong concern and opposition to President Obama's Executive amnesty, which I think is clearly, flat-out illegal and unconstitutional.

I announce that because of that I will be voting ''no'' on the confirmation of Loretta Lynch to become Attorney General—because she would directly

help President Obama execute that illegal Executive amnesty, and she would be actively giving him legal cover, if you will—bad legal reasoning—used for PR purposes to further that illegal Executive order. I urge all my colleagues who share my concern about this illegal Executive amnesty to do the same.

I strongly oppose President Obama's recent action for two reasons. The first is I think it is a horrible policy that is going to take a desperate situation of illegal immigration into this country—a situation that has truly reached crisis proportions, including over the last several months with these new waves, for instance, of illegal minors—and make that desperate situation much worse.

Why do I say that? Well, it is common sense. If you take a big action that is going to reward folks who have participated in that illegal crossing, what do you think you are going to get—more of it or less of it? If you reward behavior, you are going to get more of it; if you punish or stop behavior, you will get less of it. So on policy grounds, this Executive action—this illegal Executive amnesty for about 5 million illegal aliens in our country—is going to reward that behavior and produce more of it.

As we have proved, we don't have adequate protections at the border—an adequate system of enforcement in place either at the border or just as importantly at the workplace. It is horrible policy that is going to make the situation worse.

But the second concern I have is much more fundamental, and it goes to the constitutional authority of the President and the fact that this is clearly beyond his authority because he is acting contrary to statutory law. The Congress and the President have acted together in the past and laid out statutory law about immigration. This is clearly directly contrary to statutory law because the President through this Executive action is not simply saying: I am going to refuse to prosecute this case or that case or even a broad category of cases. He is going even further and saying: I am going to issue work permits to affirmatively say that these people can work legally in our country, to affirmatively say that employers can hire these people, even though that is directly contrary to all sorts of statutory law on the books now.

Every President in the United States has significant powers, obviously, and Presidents have the power to fill in the details of legislation when those details are not clear and when they need to do so to properly execute the law. But that is completely different from doing something contrary to statutory law, and that is what President Obama is doing here.

Several people directly involved in this—including the Supreme Court, including President Obama, ironically—have made this clear: The Supreme Court in the past has recognized that ''over no conceivable subject is the power of Congress more complete'' than over immigration. So the Supreme Court has said that in all subject matters of law across the board, immigration is squarely in the hands of Congress under the Constitution.

As I said, even more interesting, President Obama in the past, before this illegal Executive order, has said he doesn't have this power. He has repeatedly acknowledged that in the past before he took this action. He said: ''This notion that somehow I can just change the laws unilaterally is just not true.''

Furthermore he said: ''For me to simply, through Executive order ignore those congressional mandates would not conform with my appropriate role as President.''

That is what he said when he was defending not taking action before, and he was right. Now he has done exactly what he correctly said before he did not have the power to do.

As I suggested at the beginning of my remarks, the Attorney General is directly related to this immigration issue and this legal constitutional issue. The Attorney General is the top law enforcement officer of the United States. The Attorney General is the top legal expert for the President and for the Federal Government. So I think if we truly believe—as I do and as certainly my Republican colleagues and as several Democrats do, based on their public statements—that this Executive action is wrong, is unconstitutional, is illegal, then we should not confirm an Attorney General who is going to further that illegal unconstitutional course of action. To me that is very straightforward. This is not just grabbing someone out of the blue. The Attorney General is directly—directly—related to these issues of the constitutional bounds of law, the constitutional lines between the executive and the legislative—and immigration enforcement. Based on that, I will vote no, and I will strongly push against the confirmation of Loretta Lynch as attorney general, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

If you believe that President Obama's actions are illegal or unconstitutional through executive amnesty, then I think you need to reach the same conclusion, but the attorney general is directly related to these issues of both immigration enforcement and the Constitution.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Massachusetts.

FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I come to the floor today to ask a fundamental question: Who does Congress work for? Does it work for the millionaires, the billionaires, the giant companies with their armies of lobbyists and lawyers, or does it work for all the people?

People are frustrated with Congress and part of the reason, of course, is gridlock, but mostly it is because they see a Congress that works just fine for the big guys, but it won't lift a finger to help them. If big companies can deploy armies of lobbyists and lawyers to get the Congress to vote for special deals that benefit themselves, then we simply confirm the view of the American people that the system is rigged.

Now the House of Representatives is about to show us the worst of government for the rich and powerful. The House is about to vote on a budget deal—a deal negotiated behind closed doors—that slips in a provision that would let derivative traders on Wall Street gamble with taxpayer money and get bailed out by the government when their risky bets threaten to blow up our financial system. These are the same banks that nearly broke the economy in 2008 and destroyed millions of jobs, the same banks that got bailed out by taxpayers and are now raking in record profits, the same banks that are spending a whole lot of time and money trying to influence Congress to bend the rules in their favor.

You will hear a lot of folks say that the rule that will be repealed in the omnibus is technical and complicated and you shouldn't worry about it because smart people who know more than you do about financial issues say it is no big deal. Well, don't believe them. Actually, this rule is pretty simple. Here is what it is called—the rule the House is about to repeal, and I am quoting from the text of Dodd-Frank, is entitled ''Prohibition Against Federal Government Bailouts of Swaps Entities.''

What does it do? The provision that is about to be repealed requires the banks to keep separate a key part of their risky Wall Street speculation so there is no government insurance for that part of their business. As the New York Times has explained, ''the goal was to isolate risky trading and to prevent government bailouts'' because these sorts of risky trades, called derivatives trades, were ''a main culprit in the 2008 financial crisis.''

We put these rules in place after the collapse of the financial system because we wanted to reduce the risk that reckless gambling on Wall Street could ever again threaten jobs and livelihoods on Main Street. We put this rule in place because people of all political persuasions were disgusted at the idea of future bailouts. And now, no debate, no discussion, Republicans in the House of Representatives are threatening to shut down the government if they don't get a chance to repeal it.

That raises a simple question: Why? If this rule brings more stability to our financial system and helps prevent future government bailouts, why in the world would anyone want to repeal it, let alone hold the entire government hostage in order to ram through this appeal? The reason, unfortunately, is

simple—it is about money and power. Because while this legal change could pose serious risks to our entire economy, it will also make a lot of money for Wall Street banks.

According to Americans for Financial Reform, this change will be a huge boon to a handful of our biggest banks—Citigroup, J.P. Morgan, and Bank of America.

Wall Street spends a lot of time and money on Congress. Public Citizen and the Center for Responsive Politics found that in the runup to Dodd-Frank, the financial services sector employed 1,447 former Federal employees to carry out their lobbying efforts, including 73 former Members of Congress.

According to a report by the Institute for America's Future, by 2010, the six biggest banks and their trade associations employed 243 lobbyists who once worked in the Federal Government, including 33 who worked as chiefs of staff for Members of Congress and 54 who worked as staffers for the banking oversight committees in the House and Senate. That is a lot of former government employees and Senators and Congressmen pounding on Congress to make sure that the big banks get heard.

It is no surprise that the financial industry spent more than $1 million a day lobbying Congress on financial reform, and that is a lot of money that went to former elected officials and government employees. Now we see the fruits of those investments.

This provision is all about goosing the profits of the big banks. Wall Street is not subtle about this one. According to documents reviewed by the New York Times, the original bill that is being incorporated into the House spending legislation today was literally written by Citigroup lobbyists who ''redrafted'' the legislation, ''striking out certain phrases and inserting others.'' It has been opposed by current and former leaders of the FDIC, including Sheila Bair, a Republican who formerly chaired the agency, and Thomas Hoenig, the current vice chairman of the agency. For those who are keeping score, this is the agency that will be responsible for bailing out Wall Street when their risky bets go south.

I know that House and Senate negotiators from both parties have worked long and hard to come to an agreement on the omnibus spending legislation, and Senate leaders deserve great credit for preventing the House from carrying out some of their more aggressive fantasies about dismantling even more pieces of financial reform, but this provision goes too far. Citigroup is large and powerful, but it is a single, private company. It should not get to hold the entire government hostage to threaten a government shutdown in order to roll back important protections that keep our economy safe. This is a democracy, and the American people didn't elect us to stand up for Citigroup, they elected us to stand up for all the people.

I urge my colleagues in the House—particularly my Democratic colleagues whose votes are essential to moving this package forward—to withhold support from it until this risky giveaway is removed from the legislation. We all need to stand and fight this giveaway to the most powerful banks in this country.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I rise today to discuss an issue that I believe should be discussed and worked on so much more in Congress. It demands an urgency of action, a dedication, and a focus to address our shortfalls as a nation to live up to our ideals, liberty and justice for all. Equal justice under the law is written on the Supreme Court, and is a theme of our Nation.

It is the source of anguish that I believe is driving protests all over our country right now. From Ferguson to Staten Island, from New Jersey to Oakland, citizens of all races and all backgrounds—Americans are joining together to call for change, and to have this idea that our legal system really should be a justice system.

Now this is an anguish that is not simply the result and the reaction to specific incidents. Yes, there is much discussion about those specific incidents in places such as Staten Island, but it is a reflection of a deeper anguish, an unfinished American business that has lasted for decades.

I feel in my own personal life this sense of gratitude for my unique upbringing. As a young man in 1969, my parents literally had to get a white couple to pose as them to buy the house I grew up in in New Jersey. They literally had to go through the indignity of trying to break barriers of race to move into a town that was all white at the time.

I stand here to tell you I grew up in the greatest place. The citizens of Harrington Park, NJ, are why I am standing here right now. The love and caring that exists in my State is remarkable.

I am also here today because of a city that is a majority Black city, Newark, NJ, that embraced me as a young professional, and where I eventually became mayor.

Through my unique position, I have to say I am able to understand all corners of this country. In an intimate way, I see this anguish that I speak of with so many of my friends and colleagues. I heard it here in the Senate. I have had security guards pull me aside to talk to me about their anguish and frustrations about the criminal justice system. I have had the people who do the work in this body—those who clean our floors or tend to the needs of our Senators—and they feel this frustration about an American legal system that is falling short of American ideals and is not a justice system.

I saw it with my own parents who, with agony and pain, talked to me about not having a margin of error when it comes to dealing with police officers. They would coach me on how I should speak and talk and what I should do with my hands because of the fears they had of the treatment I might have that would be different than other Americans.

I stand today because this cannot simply be reduced to a racial issue. This is the larger questions of justice in our country. This calls to the consciousness of all Americans, and it is sourced by the realities we face in this country where we lead the globe in areas that no American who believes in freedom and liberty should want to lead.

We have had over the last decades of my lifetime an explosion in incarceration that belies the truth of who we are. This Nation has seen this country have an 800-percent increase in the Federal prison population over the last 30 years. Think about that—an 800-percent increase. We now have the very ignominious distinction on the globe for leading the planet Earth in a country that incarcerates its own citizens. In fact, America is just 5 percent of the globe's population, but we have 25 percent of the world's imprisoned people, and I tell you that is not because Americans have a greater proclivity for criminality, it is because our legal system is not a justice system.

This overincarceration and overcriminality anguishes this Nation, aggravates divisions, undermines freedom and liberty and costs taxpayers so much more money. It is an unnecessary burden and expense that is a self-inflicted wound in this Nation that undermines our prosperity and our success. We spend $¼ trillion a year locking people up, and the majority of those people are nonviolent offenders.

In fact, over the last decade, right now in America there are more people in prison for drug offenses than all of the people in prison in the 1970s. It is an extraordinary fact. Whether you are Black or White, if you get arrested and charged with a felony crime for doing some things that the last three Presidents of the United States admitted to doing, and then tried and convicted—I say ''tried'' with hesitancy because the majority of them are plea bargains. As the President knows, if you get convicted of that felony offense, the nondrug violent offense, the collateral consequences to your life are horrendous.

We now live in a nation where the collateral consequences are profound. We now know that time behind bars, even for these nonviolent offenders, reduces people's hourly wages by 11 percent, their annual employment by 9 weeks, their annual earnings by 40 percent. It has a powerful economic impact.

If a person is convicted for possession of controlled substances use, they become ineligible for so many benefits that we would often think we would want these very people to have. They

can't get Federal education grants such as a Pell grant. They can't get loans or work assistance. They become ineligible for business licenses, outrageously so. A person convicted of a felony will be denied public housing, even the ability to visit their family in public housing. They could be kicked out of their current housing arrangements. Former inmates can't get jobs, shelter, or loans. They often feel that no option exists other than going back to that slippery slope toward more crime. That is for all the people within the criminal system.

But what is anguishing so many is the clear and undeniable applications of this criminal justice system and the applications of this legal system in unequal ways to different portions of our population.

In my life I have seen that firsthand—how the usage of drugs in different communities where there is no difference between Blacks and Whites is treated differently based upon their race or their socioeconomic status.

Let me be clear. These issues are American issues, not simply race issues. They affect us all because we are a nation with a profound declaration of independence, but the truth of our country speaks also to an interdependence. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

I point out these facts to let you understand why we have to have such an urgency. African Americans and Whites have no difference in drug usage whatsoever, but an African American who chooses to use marijuana is 3.7 times more likely to be arrested for that usage than someone who is White.

In fact, between 2007 and 2009, drug sentences for African-American men were 13.1 percent longer than those for White men. Usage has no difference, but arrest rates are dramatically higher for African-American men. In fact, for all crimes, when you start breaking the actual data down, you see patterns of discriminatory impact that are unacceptable in a nation this great.

Even for police violence, we have to understand that today nearly 2.5 times more Whites are arrested than Blacks for crimes that are violent and nonviolent—2.5 times more arrests for Whites than Blacks, but somehow African Americans are 21 more times more likely to be shot dead by a police officer.

This is data that should not shock us along racial lines but shock us along American lines. We are the Nation of liberty and justice for all. We are the country of equal protection under the law. African Americans make up just 13 percent of our population but 40 percent of the prison population.

In New Jersey, African Americans are 13.7 percent of New Jersey's population but 62 percent of New Jersey's prison population. Much of that, as clearly the data shows, has come about through the persecution of the American drug policy that is applied to different groups and different effects. The reality for minorities is punishing. By the age of 23, 44 percent of Latino youth will be arrested. We know the sad reality that 1 in 3 black males born in America today can expect, if we make no changes, to be incarcerated at some point in their lives compared to 1 in 87 White males, ages 18 to 64, incarcerated, while 1 in every 12 Blacks is.

I struggled with these issues my whole life. As a mayor of a city constantly working to fight to protect citizens, I know how complicated these problems can be. My police department, ourselves, we dug into the data. We saw that our practices had to be changed, that we had to find better ways of keeping our community safe, but we also knew something deeper. I will never forget when I sat with the head of the FBI in Newark, and I asked him about the violent crime problem: How are we going to solve this problem?

He looked at me and said: You don't understand, Mayor. We—meaning law enforcement—are not going to solve this problem. What has to be done are changes greater than this.

I watched how young kids get arrested for breaking the law, for smoking marijuana or being caught with possession. Teenagers find themselves—because they have marijuana on them of a certain amount and weight so the charges increase, to being in a school zone which is every place in many cities—now facing mandatory minimums of upwards of 5 years. These teenagers are scared, afraid, knowing they broke the law, but other folks like the last three Presidents have gotten away with it. They get offered it by the prosecutor, overworked, trying hard to serve the public and keep people safe. The prosecutor doesn't give them the mandatory minimum, they give them a deal: Just take time served or a month or 6 months, but they find themselves with a felony conviction. Now they find themselves in a world where they think they have no options. They can't get jobs. They can't get education grants. They can't get hope.

Hopelessness is a toxic state of being, and those kids then often get caught up again into the underground economy, back into the world of drugs.

What we saw in my time as mayor is that so many of the people who ultimately end up being violent criminals started as kids who felt all their options closed in on them because they got caught up in this world of drugs.

One of the worst collateral consequences of the way we are going about prosecuting our criminal legal system is the violence we are seeing from people who think they have no options but to do what they are doing.

I say this all to simply say we must find a way out. If we are America, a system that believes in elevating human potential and believes in ideas of liberty and freedom and deplores this concept that government should take people's liberty for no good means, we have to do something about this issue.

We who believe in freedom, who tell the world to look at our light and our torch and our promise, should evidence something better than leading the globe in incarcerating our own citizens. We, this country, where generation after generation has conquered discrimination against Irish, has conquered discrimination against Italians, has beat back discrimination against Catholics, has stood up to discrimination against Jews, has fought against Jim Crow and slavery; advancing not toward Black ideals or Jewish ideals or Irish ideals, but the common ideals that bind us as brothers and sisters of justice, of freedom, of equality—we have to do better than lead the globe in incarceration, to have a legal system that subjects more of its people and minorities toward search and scrutiny than seizure and arrest. This we cannot tolerate.

Why I stand so confidently with a faith in my Nation that we can do better does not just stem from this hallowed history. It also stems from the President. Right now in America there are States doing incredible things, incredible things, to change away this reality.

I am proud of my State. We have gone far but not far enough. In New Jersey, between 1999 and 2012, we reduced our prison population 26 percent. Guess what. During that same period of time, New Jersey saw a 30-percent reduction in violent crime. We showed to America that we are better than this. We can give more liberty to people, lowering our prison population, having a disproportionate effect on minorities, and actually drive down crime as well.

We are not the only State. New York's prison population is down 24 percent from the late 1990s. This is due almost entirely to reforms of the Rockefeller drug laws, policies that sent thousands of people to prison often serving sentences for low-level crimes. Over that same period, New York reduced its crime by more than half, lowering prison populations, disproportionately affecting African Americans and Latinos and lowering crimes.

Texas reduced its prison population in 2013 dramatically and has seen decreases in both crime and recidivism rates. All of these States can do more, but why has the Federal Government done little to nothing to follow suit?

I am proud of what is going on in the Senate with many of my colleagues. I came and joined this body when people pulled together to begin legislation such as the Smarter Sentencing Act or, more recently, the REDEEM Act I did in partnership with RAND PAUL.

I am so proud that this issue cuts across political sides, that we have Democrats and Republicans, red States and blue States, all beginning to say we can do better. I am here today to end my remarks with that call to the consciousness of our country. If we

have an injustice in our midst with a legal system that is so far away from the justice system to which we should aspire, we have to do better.

I was raised to believe that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. In the words of Langston Hughes: ''There's a dream in this land with its back against the wall; to save the dream for one, we must save the dream for all.''

I know in my heart that with anguish of millions of Americans being punished by a legal system that has gone way out of control, affecting Blacks and Whites, young people of all backgrounds, a legal system that patently has a discriminatory impact on minorities, a legal system that steals the people's liberty, we can do better than this. We can save taxpayer money. We can lower our prison incarceration rates. We can elevate the promise of so many now denied their promise, and we can celebrate our American ideals. We need to lead this globe, not in incarceration, by telling the truth of who we are; that America is a land of freedom, of justice, where there truly is liberty and justice for all.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

EPA REGULATIONS

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I want to talk a little bit about regulation today. We end this Congress failing once again for the Congress to take more responsibility for regulation. Items such as the REINS Act, which I have sponsored with Senator PAUL and others and which would require Members of Congress to vote on regulations that had significant economic impact did not get done.

A bill that I introduced with Senator KING from Maine that would create a regulatory review process that got great reviews in every economic and many other papers and magazines did not get done. But what I am seeing in Missouri and around the country is more and more concern that begins to focus on the Congress not doing what it needs to do to keep the regulators under control—legislation that would routinely put an end date on every regulation so that regulation has to be reviewed and regulation has to come up again and be looked at. Frankly, if you combined that with the requirement for the Senate and the House to vote on that regulation, it would be very unlikely that regulations that no longer made sense would be presented another time—having to look at this in a way that makes sense for our economy.

One of the generally used estimates is that $2 trillion is spent every year in the United States complying with regulations. Well, let's assume that maybe as much as half of that—it could be more—is either duplicative or simply unnecessary. What would happen in our economy if we had $1 trillion chasing the future rather than trying to needlessly comply with things that no longer make sense.

We have to take more responsibility for that because frankly there is no other way to get our hands on the regulators. The regulators are often out of control and almost always unaccountable. Frankly, they are more unaccountable in the second term of a President than they are in the first term because nobody in the chain of command ever has to go back and answer to the people we work for about the cost of these regulations.

I know in my State of Missouri, people are really concerned about a couple of regulations out there now that are dealing with energy policy and water policy, regulations the EPA has imposed that really do not make sense when you look at the cost of those regulations versus what would be gained by the regulations if they were even possible to comply with.

I think a clear message was sent in November to the next Congress that people want the government to be more responsive, that people want the government to—when you have a cost-benefit analysis of something the government has done, make it a realistic analysis, make it an analysis that would stand the straight-face test, when you say, oh, this is not the emotional cost of worrying about some societal problem that you really cannot quite define, this is what it really costs American families in terms of, for instance, their utility bill.

We look at these regulations that frankly go beyond the capacity of the regulators. I am not suggesting that the Congress is the right place to draft most regulations. I would say that the process of passing a law and saying that we want this agency to figure out how to implement the law is, in fact, the right way to do that. But I would also suggest that then that agency has to come back to the Congress and say: Here is the regulation that we think is the proper implementation. Now you have to vote yes or no. This regulation is the way to go forward with this law.

I think often the regulators now are well beyond what the law allows them to do. There is a case in point I am going to talk about in a minute, the water rule that is out there, where a navigable water was used as a definition of where the EPA had some jurisdiction. Well, I think their view right now is well beyond ''navigable.'' So what would we do about that? There is the ENFORCE the Law Act that I introduced in the Senate and that the House passed months ago with a bipartisan vote, where the Congress would have standing in court to be able to go to court if either House of the Congress thought the President was not enforcing the law as intended, so that the Congress—which now cannot go to court and say that we want a third party to step in right now and define this principle—could go to court and say that we want to know right now what ''navigable'' meant in 1972 when it was put into law, in the early 1970s, what it meant in 1899 when it was used for the first time, and what it means today.

There is no reason to have a couple of years of trying to comply with a regulation when eventually the Supreme Court will say, as they did a handful of times last year, that the Federal Government does not have jurisdiction to do this or that people were appointed illegally to a board or commission and that all of the actions they took had to be set aside. This is not a hypothetical case. This is what the Court decided just last year. The ENFORCE the Law Act would give us the capacity not to require a citizen to have to bear the burden of looking at a regulation that is outside the law or does not make sense and would allow the Congress to actually participate in that process at a much earlier time. So I hope in the next Congress we will do in the Senate what the House did and pass something like the ENFORCE the Law Act. I certainly intend to introduce that legislation again, put it on the President's desk, and have that discussion.

The administration recently took the opportunity to roll out a new rule on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. This was an estimate of—this was a rule on air matter, ozone. A new ozone rule came out the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Believe me, if you have a rule that you think people are going to like, you do not put it out the Wednesday afternoon before Thanksgiving. This is like the—we always watch late Friday afternoon what comes out because that is what whoever is announcing it did not want to announce on Monday. Even a bigger day is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. We have an air rule now that we have not achieved. We have made great strides in the right direction, but looking at where we are now on this rule and mercury in the air and the quality of the air, we would have to have at least 75- to 85-percent attainment in counties all over America before you could then raise the bar one more time.

This would take the 75-percent standard, or the 75 standard that we have now for particulate matter—the so-called MACT Standards—and reduce it even further. We are not in attainment with the first rule yet. In fact, the EPA just recently, years after the rule, put out the guidelines you would need that were helpful to try to achieve the rule. But as soon as you get the guidelines for the last rule, the EPA wants to say: Oh, here we want to talk about the next rule, even though we just now told you how to begin to think about complying with the last rule. Even though there are nonattainment areas all over the country, we want to move right beyond that and go to the next rule.

That is the kind of thing that should not be allowed to happen. People are still looking for good-paying jobs. They are still looking at a utility bill they want to make sense of. I hope the Congress can be a part of that. The EPA has another rule they have been asking

for comment on, the so-called clean powerplant. Well now, who is opposed to that? Nobody. There is nobody who does not want clean power. In fact, the standards for utility powerplants have moved in a very positive direction in the last 10 years.

We have made great gains. The question is, are the next gains worth the economic cost, if the next gains are worth people having utility bills they cannot pay or if the next gains are worth people not having jobs they would otherwise have. That is a discussion we need to have. You know, the wrong utility policies produce an absolute lose-lose. A utility bill goes up, we lose jobs that we otherwise would have, and they go to places that care a whole lot less about what comes out of the smokestack than we do.

So the problem gets better, we lose jobs, and the country that has made the most positive strides in recent years is the country that pays the price for rules that no longer make sense. The rule that is out now—our State is largely coal dependent. We are the fifth most coal-dependent State. We are about 82-percent coal dependent. Of the 1 million comments that have been made on the rule, 305,000 of them came from Missouri families.

There are 1 million comments of people talking about why this rule does not make sense for them. We need to be sure that we do the things that not only meet the legal standard but also meet the commonsense standard as we move forward. The Wall Street Journal recently ran an op-ed—an opinion editorial piece—by Harvard Professor Laurence Tribe, who happened to be one of President Obama's law school professors and who is more often a witness for the left side of an argument than for the right side of an argument.

He joined the world's largest private coal company, Peabody Energy, to criticize the executive overreach in what the EPA is proposing as they propose to regulate carbon emissions from existing powerplants. There is a big difference if you have a rule that talks about what you do in the future for the utility companies than regulating what people have previously decided to do under the old rules.

There is a bill out there that I am a cosponsor of that really tries to use the great resource we have through coal in a most effective way. We do not produce any coal in Missouri any more, but we used to. We do not have any coal mines left in our State. But we have coal-fueled power plants. It is not really a war on coal as far as Missourians are concerned; it is a war on coal-fired plants.

If you built a plant under the old rules and, in fact, it has better air quality than any powerplant has ever had up until this time, as all of our recent plants have had, and you still have life in that plant, but the EPA comes in and says that now you have to meet a new standard with the plant you just built or you built 5 years ago, somebody has to pay that bill.

There is this mythical view that well, it is big industry or it is manufacturing. The most laughable of all is that somehow the utility companies are going to pay the bill. The utility companies do not pay the bill. People that get a utility bill pay the bill. The people that are most impacted by that are the people who are having a hard time paying their utility bill now.

These are bad policies. I am committed that as a Congress we should do more than we have been doing to accept responsibility for these agencies we fund, for some overall law, that no matter how much they are abusing it by stretching it beyond what the Congress intended, the Congress would have passed—nobody is out there issuing a rule and saying: By the way, we do not have any legal authority to do this. So defining that authority, being sure the rules make sense is important.

On the power rule, on December 2 I filed comments urging that this rule be withdrawn and we think more carefully about the impact it has on jobs that have good take-home pay and about families who have a hard time paying their utility bill now—our retired individuals, our single moms or others who have a hard time paying their utility bill now. We need to continue to look at that.

One other rule I want to talk about, as my time comes to a conclusion here, is the so-called waters of the United States rule. The EPA was given the authority under the Clean Water Act, as I said earlier, to have some authority over navigable waters. Navigable water, beginning in the 1890s, was used in Federal law as a constitutional explanation of why the Federal Government would be involved in water policy, because the Federal Government under the Constitution is involved in commerce.

Navigable and commerce come together. Navigable actually means you can navigate with some sort of vessel that can carry a commercial load. Well, the EPA has now decided, or is in the process of proposing, at least, that navigable waters means any water that can run into any water that could run into any water that can be navigable. I am confident that is not what the Congress intended.

Now, if they want to propose that, that is fine. Through the President and the administration, the EPA can come to Congress and say: We think we ought to control all the water everywhere; let's have a debate about that. And the Congress would not give the EPA that authority.

I hope the next Congress sets as a priority taking responsibility for what the Federal Government does, taking responsibility for these regulators and regulations, being sure we have regulations where we need them that make sense, and that we push back and don't have regulations where all they do is hurt families, hurt jobs, and don't solve the bigger problem. I hope we see that happen, and I hope the next Congress will be more focused on doing that job than this Congress was.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

(The remarks of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 596 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise today in support of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I commend the work of my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee—especially the chairman, Senator CARL LEVIN of Michigan—on reaching an agreement with the House to complete this important legislation.

It is also appropriate that this legislation be named in honor of both Senator CARL LEVIN and Congressman BUCK MCKEON, the chairmen of their respective committees who this year are retiring after extraordinary service and dedication to the Nation and particularly to the men and women of the armed services. It is another reason why this bill is particularly special—because it represents the culmination of the work of these two extraordinary gentlemen.

For over 50 consecutive years this Senate has passed a defense authorization bill. I hope we will be able to send the bill before us to the President for his signature. We owe it to our servicemembers to pass a law that will support them and enable the DOD to execute this year's budget efficiently and effectively.

This year, once again we have had to make very difficult decisions, especially because of the economic circumstances we face as a nation, the resources, and the threats which are challenging at this moment in our history. But this bill will allow the Department of Defense to combat these current threats, plan for future threats, and provide for the welfare of our brave servicemembers and their families.

While it is disappointing that we are not able to bring this bill to the floor for amendments in regular order because time really is running out, this is a very good bill which is based on the principle of compromise between many parties. It is critical at this moment that we pass it for the men and women in uniform for the United States.

I wish to point out a few highlights of the bill.

First, it authorizes a 1-percent across-the-board pay raise and reauthorizes over 30 types of bonuses and

special pays for our men and women in uniform.

It includes numerous provisions that build on the reforms we passed last year to further strengthen and improve sexual assault prevention and response programs. It is unacceptable and it is completely antithetical to the ethic of the military that anyone in uniform would be a predator. To be a soldier, to be a marine, to be a sailor, to be an airmen—it is about your subordinates, your comrades, helping them and sacrificing for them, not using them. So we can do more, and we must do more, but I am pleased to see that we have taken important steps and we are following through on these steps.

The legislation in general improves the ability of the Armed Forces to counter emerging and nontraditional threats, particularly cyber warfare. This is a new dimension of warfare. It is one we are coping with, but I don't think anyone should feel we have the technology, the techniques, the operations, and the insights to feel fully competent. This legislation will help us move in that direction.

The legislation also authorizes the full request of $4.1 billion for the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund to sustain the Afghan National Security Forces as the U.S. and coalition forces shift our mission to training, advising, and assisting these forces, letting them take the lead in combat operations. It is very essential.

It also authorizes several train-and-equip programs to assist foreign militaries conducting counterterrorism and counternarcotics operations. Of particular note are programs and resources that will go to Iraq and Syria, where we face serious challenges, where we have to provide the kind of support that is indicated in this legislation.

This year I once again had the honor of serving as the chairman of the Seapower Subcommittee alongside Senator JOHN MCCAIN, the ranking member. Our subcommittee focused on the needs of the Navy, Marine Corps, and strategic mobility forces. We put particular emphasis on supporting Marine and Navy forces engaged in combat operations, improving efficiencies, and applying the savings to higher priority programs. Specifically, the bill includes the required funding for two Virginia-class submarines and a moored training ship and approves other major shipbuilding programs, including funding for two DDG–51 destroyers, the aircraft carrier replacement program, and three littoral combat ship vessels, and it permits incremental funding for another amphibious transport dock ship.

I am particularly pleased about the funding for the Virginia-class submarines and the DDG–1000 destroyers. So many Rhode Islanders build them, design them, and they are an incredible part of our national security. So we are reinforcing shipbuilding programs that are not only under budget and ahead of schedule but are vitally important to the security of the United States.

Along these same lines, I am pleased to note that the bill establishes the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund to provide resources and to manage the construction of the Ohio-class replacement ballistic missile submarine program. According to testimony provided to the Armed Services Committee, the Ohio-class replacement is the Navy's highest priority program. We are currently constructing attack submarines. These submarines are designed to go against other submarines, to deliver special operations troops, and to conduct fire missions from the sea.

The Ohio class will replace our ballistic missile submarines, which are part of our deterrence forces. These submarines have nuclear weapons and are part of our triad, our architecture to deter the use of nuclear weapons; we have to replace them. It cannot be done just with Navy resources because it is not just a Navy program, it is a national security program embracing our nuclear deterrence. This fund is a good starting point for that process, and I am very pleased to see it in the legislation.

Working together with Senator MCCAIN, particularly following Senator MCCAIN's lead, this bill increases accountability for the taxpayers' dollars spent on several major Navy programs. For example, the bill includes a provision to require the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation to submit a report of the current LCS test and evaluation master plan for seaframes and mission modules. The report would provide an assessment of whether completion of the test and evaluation master plan will demonstrate operational effectiveness and operational suitability for both seaframes and each mission module.

This is a very important program. We want to make sure we get it right. We want to make sure we build in efficiencies where we can, and the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation will help us do that.

The bill also includes language that will continue support of and advance planning for the refueling of the USS *George Washington* aircraft carrier and preclude the Navy from spending any funds to inactivate this ship. Again, this goes to the congressional mandate of having a specified number of aircraft carrier battle groups, and without refueling the *Washington*, we will not meet that legislative mandate. So we hope we will go forward this year and provide the requisite funding to complete the refueling, but at least we are moving in the right direction. I think that is important.

I particularly want to voice my thanks to Senator MCCAIN and other members of the Seapower Subcommittee for their diligence, for their leadership, for their assistance in not only giving what our Navy and Marines need, but also making sure that the taxpayers are protected as best we can. And, frankly, we have to do more with respect to efficiencies, economies, and being wise in our allocation of resources.

Before I conclude with my remarks regarding the traditional defense programs, I want to touch on two other aspects of the legislation, one in particular with respect to the Defense act. I am pleased that it includes the HAVEN Act. This is bipartisan legislation that I introduced with Senator JOHANNS to help more veterans with critical repairs and modifications for their homes so they are safer and more accessible.

This program is directed at our disabled and low income veterans. They find themselves out of the service, they have benefits, but they have needs to fix their homes and this program will help them do that. It establishes a competitive pilot program allowing nonprofit organizations throughout the country to apply for grants administrated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to help make key improvements to the houses of veterans with disabilities, or low-income veterans.

It is fitting we take this step to give back to those who have made a personal sacrifice for our Nation, and I am particularly delighted I was able to work with Senator JOHANNS. As I noted in my remarks yesterday, he is retiring, but his decency, integrity, intelligence, and commitment to his constituents and also to the men and women of the Armed Forces will be missed here.

I am also glad that, on a topic not usually found in the defense authorization bill, we reached a bipartisan agreement on a package of public land bills, including two longstanding priorities for my State. For years, I have supported the preservation and renewed development of the Blackstone River Valley and have led the effort to designate parts of that area as a national park, which the bill before us will finally establish.

In 1793, Samuel Slater began the American industrial revolution in Rhode Island when he built his historic mill on the Blackstone River—really the first industrial-scale operation in the United States—and from that, much has ensued. Today, the mills and villages throughout what is now known as the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in Rhode Island and Massachusetts stand as witness to this important era of our history.

Much credit has to go to Senator John H. Chafee, who picked up the ball from those who preceded him. In fact, I was told last weekend that this attempt to get recognition goes back as far as a letter to Lady Bird Johnson in the 1960s, asking if she could help get land in the Blackstone Valley preserved. So it has been a long and winding road, and John Chafee was a key person in that process.

Creating a national historic park within the existing corridor would preserve the industrial, natural, and cultural heritage of the Blackstone Valley for future generations. It will improve the use and enjoyment of the natural resources, including outdoor education for young people; it will assist local communities while providing economic development opportunities; and it will increase the protection of the most important and nationally significant cultural and natural resource of the Blackstone River Valley.

I can recall last year inviting Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell to Rhode Island, and we kayaked along the Blackstone River. When I was young, in the 1950s and 1960s, the idea of going into the Blackstone River, which was then frankly an industrial waste zone, would have been ridiculous. Today, we not only use the Blackstone River for recreation but, with this national park designation, we will be able to do so much more.

The public lands package also includes legislation to authorize the National Park Service to look at another river system in Rhode Island and adjacent Connecticut—specifically rivers within the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed—for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. These rivers are, again, so important to Rhode Island.

One of the things you discover as you go around Rhode Island, particularly after a storm when you can see the true power of these rivers, is that development during the industrial revolution was centered around rivers because water was a source of energy. As a result, many of our communities are clustered around the rivers and have great historic, cultural, recreational, and environmental value.

So let me thank not only my colleagues here but in the House, Congressmen DAVID CICILLINE and JIM LANGEVIN, for their great effort; also the Members of the Massachusetts delegation, because the Blackstone runs into Massachusetts; and I particularly want to thank SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a stalwart when it comes to all these issues—anything to do with the environment, particularly Rhode Island's environment. His leadership and his support were absolutely critical in getting this measure today included in this bill. I would also like to thank the countless number of stakeholders in Rhode Island and Massachusetts who have tirelessly advocated for the preservation of the Blackstone River Valley all these years.

We have a good national defense authorization bill before the Senate, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it. I look forward to being able to witness, even remotely, the signing of the Levin-McKeon national defense authorization.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

OBAMACARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, earlier today the former Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, said there was a way to fix ObamaCare. She said: Change the name. She said: Change the name. That was her solution.

Now that is not something she just told a friend. It is something she told many, as she was participating in Politico's ''Lessons From Leaders'' events. Well, leaders don't blame the failure of a bad product on a name. You can blame it on a lot of things, but the name is not it. After all, the President said he was fond of the name ObamaCare. Apparently, Kathleen Sebelius is taking a page from the playbook of Professor Gruber about underestimating the intelligence of the American people.

This law isn't unpopular because it was named after the President. The law is unpopular because it doesn't work. It is unpopular because it doesn't deliver what the President promised the American people it would. So Democrats can rename this health care system whatever they want and people all across the country are still going to know that the law is failing them.

People have been hit by higher costs—higher copays, higher premiums, higher deductibles. Many of them can't continue to see the doctor who treated them in the past. So no matter what the Democrats and Kathleen Sebelius want to call it, the law remains very unpopular because it is unworkable and it is unaffordable.

As we head into the middle of December, next week, December 15, is the deadline for people to sign up on Healthcare.gov if they want to have their health insurance coverage starting next January—January 1—just a few weeks from now.

That is for people living in the 37 States that use the Federal health care exchange. A lot of people still haven't signed up, and they may learn over the next few days if they do go to the Web site to sign up that their health care and their insurance premiums are actually more expensive next year than they were this year. That is what people continue to see: Health care rates going up in spite of the President's promise.

When President Obama was selling his health care law to the American people, he promised them they would save money. He actually went so far as to say people would save $2,500 per year, per family, under his plan. And NANCY PELOSI, the former Speaker of the House, actually went on ''Meet the Press'' and at one point said: Everyone's rates would go down. Everyone's rates, she said, would go down.

Well, that didn't happen. Now the Obama administration finally admits that people are paying more, not less. Americans buying health insurance through the Federal exchange will see their premiums go up and the administration finally admits it. And that is according to a new report by the Department of Health and Human Services which came out last Thursday.

Democrats said prices would go down, the President promised they would go down, and NANCY PELOSI said they would down for everyone. Instead, the prices keep going up.

Here is what one person in Syracuse, NY, wrote to his local newspaper last week. Lawrence Petty wrote to the Syracuse Post-Standard last Monday, December 1. He wrote that he has a plan he bought through the State ObamaCare exchange. This year, the cost was about $664 a month for the couple. Next year, going on the exchange, the rate for the same plan—the same plan, because the President said if you like your plan you can keep it—the same plan is going up from $664 a month to $773 a month. That is over $1,300 extra per year. Mr. Petty asked the newspaper in Syracuse, NY: ''So what gives?''

The average increase across the country is less than that, but this man in Syracuse, NY, is looking at a price hike of more than 17 percent. Every Democrat in the Senate voted for the President's health care law—every one of them. The Democratic Senator from New York voted for the health care law—the very State where this man is writing to his newspaper in Syracuse, NY. What do they have to say to this man in Syracuse whose insurance premiums are going up 17 percent next year? How do they respond to this man who is writing to the paper in New York asking ''what gives''?

Maybe his question has something to do with what the senior Senator from New York said a couple of weeks ago at the National Press Club, when he admitted that the health care law, in his words, ''wasn't the change we were hired to make.''

It is not just premiums. They are not the only problem here. The health care law has added so many Washington mandates, so many things people didn't want, can't afford, aren't interested in, don't need, that other costs have gone up as well. That includes the money people have to pay out of pocket for things such as copays, their deductibles. Some people have actually had to delay their medical care because of all these additional expenses. According to a new Gallup poll last month, 33 percent of Americans say that over the past year they have put off getting medical treatment because of the cost.

Gallup has been asking this same question all the way since 2001, well before the health care law was passed. And this year it is the highest number ever. This is after the President's health care law has been signed into law and has taken effect and the exchanges are in effect—the highest number ever of people not getting care because of the cost.

Two-thirds of these people say they have put off treatment for a serious condition. One of them is a woman

named Patricia Wanderlich. She is 61 years old, and she works part time at a landscaping company outside of Chicago, in the President's home State. She told the New York Times that she has a small brain aneurysm that needs monitoring.

She tells her story in an article the New York Times published on October 17 under the headline ''Unable to Meet the Deductible Or the Doctor.'' Patricia has a health insurance plan through ObamaCare that has an annual deductible of $6,000, so she has to pay for most of her medical expenses up to that amount. Because of that, she says she is skipping this year's brain scan and hoping for the best. She says: ''A $6,000 deductible—that's just staggering.''

This is the kind of person ObamaCare was supposed to help. And changing the name of ObamaCare, as Kathleen Sebelius has recommended today, isn't going to solve the problems for this patient with the $6,000 deductible. She got the insurance, she got the coverage, but she still cannot get care, and that is a fundamental problem with this health care law.

The other thing this New York Times article points out is that people can't meet their deductibles, and they also can't meet their doctor. Patricia told the newspaper that if she switches to a policy with a lower deductible next year, she will get a smaller network of doctors, which means she will lose access to the specialists taking care of her.

A lot of people are finding that they are in the same situation—losing access to their doctors. Sometimes it is because the insurance has these narrow networks of health care providers. Sometimes it is just because the doctors are so overburdened that you can't get an appointment.

There was an Associated Press report that came out over the weekend, the title was: ''Health Law Impacts Primary Care Doc Shortage.'' We already knew there was a shortage of primary care doctors in the country, also a shortage of specialists, also a shortage of nurses. The President's health care law has made it worse.

The Associated Press article quoted an insurance agent in California named Anthony Halby, who says he has clients tell him that their ObamaCare plan made it extremely difficult for them to find primary care doctors. As he says, ''Coverage does not equal access.''

He is advising his clients to skip ObamaCare next year and pay more for insurance with a broader network so they can at least see the doctors they want, the doctors they choose, the doctors they need.

He tells people:

> The premiums are going to be higher because there's no subsidy. However, I'm going to guarantee you can [actually] keep your doctor.

So people are finding they are paying more, when they were promised by President Obama, by the Speaker of the House NANCY PELOSI that they would pay less. But she is the same one who said: First you have to pass it before you get to find out what is in it.

So people are having to put off care they need because Washington says they have to pay for things they don't want, they don't need, and they can't afford. People are finding out that coverage isn't the same as care, and millions of people are finding out they can't meet their deductible or their doctor.

That is not what the American people wanted from health care reform. People wanted access to the care they need, from a doctor they choose, at lower cost. That is what they wanted. Instead, what they got are all these new Washington mandates, all these new expenses, all these new problems.

What was the President's solution to that? He said: Put more people on Medicaid. He told Governors around the country to expand the Medicaid Program—make sure people have gotten on Medicaid.

We know that is a system that has been broken for a long time. The question we continue to ask is: Can somebody who has gotten a Medicaid card printed up and given to them or sent to them, can they actually see a doctor?

The Department of Health and Human Services says: Don't worry about that. What did the inspector general say this week? Yesterday in the New York Times: ''Half of Doctors Listed as Serving Medicaid Patients Are Unavailable, Investigation Finds.''

Who did the investigation? The inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services.

So even though Health and Human Services says all of these doctors are available to take care of Medicaid patients, their own inspector general of the Department says not true—not true. Only half of the doctors listed as serving Medicaid patients are available.

This is what we are dealing with. That is why Republicans are going to vote to repeal the entire health care law. Meanwhile, we will also vote to strip away the worst and most destructive parts of the law: things such as the arbitrary 30-hour workweek which has been damaging to part-time workers across the country; things such as the unfair medical device tax that sends American jobs overseas, threatens life-saving innovation.

The Republicans are going to talk about finally giving people choices. That is what people want with health care. They want choices. They want availability. They want affordability. That is what they are looking for—available, affordable care and choices, not more Washington mandates—and, finally, giving access to the health care people wanted all along.

Kathleen Sebelius may come out and give a lecture on lessons of leadership. Changing the name of this health care law from ObamaCare to anything else isn't going to make it any better for the people across this country who are finding out that the President's promises were empty promises; that they have been intentionally deceived as to the way this health care law was presented and passed, and now they find out their insurance is less affordable, their costs of care are going up, the availability of that care is going down, and they have lost their choices.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. LEE. Madam President, the bill before the Senate today at once represents the best of our Nation and some of the worst of Washington. On the one hand, the primary purpose of the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, represents the best of America. In past years it has been one of the few very consistently bipartisan pieces of legislation considered by the Senate, and it usually has been afforded lengthy debate and open and transparent amendment process on the floor. That is because it is one of the most important and solemn duties of Congress to provide for our national defense.

The United States of America has the best armed services the world has ever seen, not just because of what they do, but because of who they are: honest, courageous, selfless patriots who love our country and have dedicated themselves to protecting and defending our way of life.

Of all the bills that come before Congress, the NDAA deserves to be treated with the kind of integrity and respect with which our military personnel approach their jobs. And yet the process that has unfolded this year in connection with the NDAA has fallen fall short of the standard that our armed personnel have set forth. Congress has waited until the last minute to conduct our most important business, using the holidays to fabricate a false sense of urgency. The Senate majority leader has refused to allow an open and transparent debate, shutting down our ability to offer amendments on the Senate floor to this important piece of legislation.

Finally, only a privileged few Members of Congress have a hand in drafting this bill, which was cobbled together with numerous extraneous provisions behind closed doors.

What used to be an exception to the typical legislative process, the typical legislative sausage making for which Washington has become famous, has been subsumed by the status quo, and it is exactly what is wrong with Washington today.

Each one of us as Members of Congress is here for just one reason: We

have been elected to represent and serve the American people. Unfortunately, the twisted, tainted process that has produced this bill prevents all of us from carrying out this responsibility, and it threatens our obligation to do what is right for our men and women in uniform.

As the title suggests, the National Defense Authorization Act is supposed to be a relatively straightforward, largely noncontroversial bill. It is the primary legislative instrument for Congress to exercise its constitutional power granted in article 1, section 8 of the Constitution which is to provide for the common defense. But that is not what we are voting on today; that is not what we are considering in connection with this bill.

This bill, the NDAA for fiscal year 2015, is a legislative hodgepodge that includes those straightforward noncontroversial items that almost all of us support, but also numerous other provisions that are entirely unrelated to national defense.

Most egregiously, the drafters secretly added 68 unrelated bills pertaining to the use of Federal lands—the so-called lands package portion of this bill. They put that into this bill without any opportunity for debate or for a vote on any of those 68 independent bills. None of these bills were included in the version of the NDAA that the Senate Armed Services Committee debated and voted on in May of this year, because had any Member tried to include them in the normal process of our committee, they clearly would have been ruled out of the committee's jurisdiction.

Another outlier in this legislative grab bag is a provision reauthorizing a Defense Department program to train and equip ''moderate'' Syrian rebels for the next 2 years.

Now we have testimony from some of America's top military leaders warning us of the immense risks involved in this program. They have told us there is no way to guarantee these efforts won't backfire, further embroiling the U.S. military in volatile and unpredictable parts of the world—in the Middle East, in conflicts in that part of the world. Yet here we are, forced to reauthorize this risky program in order to provide for our troops and the Defense Department.

The authority for this program was first added to the NDAA in the closed committee markup process in May and then later attached to the must-pass spending bill in September, giving Senators the all-or-nothing choice of either approving this controversial program or voting against all other government spending. This is not how Congress is supposed to work.

Congress is supposed to evaluate, debate, and amend individual pieces of legislation based on their own merits, with enough time to inform and educate the American people about what their representatives are doing. Instead, it is politics as usual in Washington. Rather than an open, transparent, and inclusive process, several extraneous and sometimes controversial provisions were added to the NDAA at the last minute by a select few operating entirely behind closed doors.

As we have come to expect from the outgoing majority in the Senate, once the bill appears from behind those closed doors, the American people are denied any real debate or even a chance to read, let alone understand, the bill.

This is a shame, because there are good bipartisan amendments out there, such as the Due Process Guarantee Act, an amendment that Senator FEINSTEIN and I attempted to offer for the Senate's consideration, which would improve the 2015 NDAA by prohibiting the indefinite detention of U.S. persons. Even though the Due Process Guarantee Act received 67 votes of support in the last Congress, it continues to be blocked by these privileged few who cobbled together this bill.

Now at the eleventh hour we are told we have to vote for everything in this legislative medley or vote for none of it. After deliberately allowing time to expire, up to the final moments before the holiday, the Senate majority leader has told the American people that the only way to support our soldiers is to support a distorted legislative process and controversial items that have never been debated in public. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, and others who serve us in the pursuit of our national security interests deserve better.

Many of my colleagues have said that this is a ''must-pass'' bill. I would put it slightly differently. I would say we must pass legislation without political gimmicks or procedural games that enable men and women serving our Defense Department to fulfill their missions. We absolutely must pay our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, and authorize our national defense budget as a matter of constitutional responsibility, national security, and moral duty. We must do these things. But not like this. I fear that we in the Senate have perhaps become far too comfortable with the idea that the most important issues such as paying our troops, funding our Defense Department, sending our sons and daughters halfway around the world into harm's way—that it is somehow OK to bend the rules to a breaking point and we allow our colleagues to hijack funding for our men and women in uniform to pass their unrelated political priorities.

There is no doubt that it is easier this way—easier, that is, for Senators. It is easier to outsource our representative duties to a select few and to avoid debate on the tough topics that come up along the way. But that doesn't make it right. As our courageous servicemembers and their families know, easier is rarely best.

The rules governing how a bill becomes a law are not optional. They are not arbitrary, either. They exist for a good reason: to ensure that the will of the American people is heard and followed. If we fail to adhere to the rules, then we fail in the duties we were elected to carry out, and we fail to be a truly representative democracy. But these rules are not self-enforcing. Writing them down doesn't make them so. Unless we hold them true in our hearts and in our minds and in our actions, they will be nothing more than words on paper, mere parchment barriers, as James Madison put it.

If we as an institution can accept a legislative process driven by backroom deals rather than fair and inclusive debate when we are dealing with the most important issues, then when are we ever going to do things the right way?

We can do better. The American people and especially those serving in uniform deserve better; and as we saw in the recent elections, the American people demand we do better. I think we can and we must.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). The majority whip.

SSCI STUDY OF THE CIA'S DETENTION AND INTERROGATION PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, many people think that Congress is irrelevant, unimportant, and wastes time with the floor speeches that go nowhere. Yesterday on the floor of the Senate something historic occurred. Standing right back here, the senior Senator from California, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, delivered to Congress and to the Nation a report on the use of torture by the United States of America. Seated on this side was Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER who, as the predecessor and chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, initiated this investigation into the use of torture. Her speech, which lasted about an hour, was followed by Senator JOHN MCCAIN, who stood up and applauded her for releasing this report.

It is worthy of note that what happened on the floor of this Senate yesterday was an assertion of constitutional principles that goes back to the founding of this country. It was an assertion of the three branches of government and their authority, and the authority of Congress to oversee the executive branch of government, and it got down to basics. Let's remember how we reached the point where this report was put together and delivered to the American people.

I will say at the outset that before I came to this job, I used to practice law and occasionally I would go into a courtroom. I really waited for that moment when I could turn to the jury and say: I want to let you know that my opponent in this case destroyed evidence, and I want to let you know why my opponent destroyed evidence—because what was in that evidence was so terrible they would rather leave it to your speculation of how bad it was than actually to let you read it. That is what started this debate which led to

the report. What happened was the Central Intelligence Agency destroyed videotapes of the interrogation of prisoners. After it was discovered that they destroyed them, the Senate Intelligence Committee asked: Why did you destroy those videotapes? They said: Because Congress never asked for them. The Intelligence Committee said: We didn't know they existed.

At that point the Central Intelligence Agency said to the Senate Intelligence Committee: We did nothing wrong, and we invite you, through your staff and members of the committee, to review the cables and emails within the Central Intelligence Agency which prove our case. It proves we did nothing wrong.

I think the CIA was surprised and shocked when the Senate Intelligence Committee took up their invitation. It meant, I understand, 5 years of work. They reviewed some 6 million pages of information. Two staffers from the Senate Intelligence Committee sat in what they call the cave day after day after day, poring through emails and cables to try to reconstruct what happened after 9/11 when the Central Intelligence Agency was interrogating prisoners. It wasn't an easy task. It was made even more difficult when we came to learn that the Central Intelligence Agency hacked into the computers of the Senate Intelligence Committee. It was a tough confrontation between two branches of government, and it is one that resulted, I think, in the right ending when Senator FEINSTEIN, and the Senate Intelligence Committee, following the lead of Senator ROCKEFELLER, stepped forward and produced this report.

I will reflect for a minute on how we reached this point, but first I will tell you that this report concluded that the CIA repeatedly misled senior officials in the Bush and Obama White Houses about detention and interrogation programs. The report said the CIA falsely told the Justice Department that techniques such as waterboarding helped to obtain lifesaving information that kept our country safe.

The report said the CIA detained more individuals and subjected more individuals to abusive interrogation techniques than it ever disclosed to Congress or the President. The CIA did not disclose the use of brutal interrogation techniques that went way beyond what even the torture memo of the previous administration had authorized.

It is worth noting what brought us to this point, and of course, it was the tragic, horrible events of September 11. After that occurrence, the Bush administration unilaterally decided to set aside treaties and laws that have served us in the past. President Bush's then-White House counsel, Alberto Gonzales, recommended to President Bush that the President ignore the requirements of the Geneva Conventions. The Geneva Conventions were treaties that grew out of World War II and established rules of warfare to protect soldiers and civilians. These treaties were ratified by the United States of America. They are and were the law of the land.

Colin Powell, who was Secretary of State under President Bush, objected to Alberto Gonzales's recommendation. He argued that we could comply with the Geneva Conventions, fight terrorism, and still keep America safe.

Here is what Secretary Powell said at the time about setting aside the Geneva Conventions. This ''will reverse over a century of U.S. policy and practice . . . undermine the protections of the law of war for our own troops. . . . It will undermine public support among critical allies, making military cooperation more difficult to maintain.''

Today, Secretary Powell's words seem prophetic. Unfortunately, President Bush rejected Secretary Powell's advice and instead followed Alberto Gonzales's recommendations to set aside the Geneva Conventions.

Then in August 2002, the Department of Justice issued the infamous torture memo. The memo said abuse only rises to the level of torture if it causes pain equivalent to organ failure or death. The memo also concluded the President has the authority to order the use of torture even though that torture would be a crime under U.S. law.

The Justice Department of the United States also signed off on the use of torture techniques such as waterboarding. This was in August of 2002. Thanks to the Intelligence Committee report, we now know that the Justice Department's legal advice was based on false information given to them by the CIA.

I have a long history with this issue. It was almost 10 years ago that I stood at this very desk and read into the RECORD a graphic description of an FBI agent's record of abuse of interrogation that she witnessed at Guantanamo Bay. At the time I was criticized by members of the Bush-Cheney administration, but we now know that the description by this FBI agent was accurate, and what she described was authorized by the Bush administration based on false information provided by the CIA.

It was 10 years ago when I first authored legislation to ban cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of detainees. In June of 2004 America was shocked by the revelations about what had occurred at Abu Ghraib prison. The Bush administration told us these were rogue actions of a few bad players. I introduced my torture legislation in 2004. I wanted to make it clear that America condemned the abuses at Abu Ghraib and stood by our commitment to the humane treatment of prisoners. But what we didn't know was that the administration had approved the use of abusive interrogation techniques in CIA facilities and at Guantanamo Bay. A Defense Department investigation later concluded that these techniques migrated to Abu Ghraib.

I offered my legislation as an amendment to the defense authorization bill. I expected it to be noncontroversial. It was adopted unanimously here in the Senate; however, the Bush administration had it removed in conference.

In the fall of 2004, I tried again. I offered the same amendment to the 9/11 commission intelligence reform legislation. Again, my amendment was adopted unanimously by the Senate, and again in conference negotiations the Bush administration removed it. I didn't understand their opposition to my amendment because the United States ratified the torture convention, a treaty that prohibits cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, the same thing my amendment said.

A few months later, I had an opportunity to get to the bottom of this. Alberto Gonzales, President Bush's White House counsel, was nominated to be Attorney General. During his confirmation hearings in January 2005, Mr. Gonzales told me the administration believed they had legal authority to subject detainees to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. That was the first time that a Bush administration official had acknowledged this legal loophole. The Washington Post called that testimony ''a gross distortion of the law'' and cited it as a key reason for opposing the Gonzales nomination to be Attorney General.

After this revelation, Senator MCCAIN asked me if he could take the lead on legislation that I had written to ban cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. I agreed. There was no better person than JOHN MCCAIN, who in service to the United States of America was a prisoner of war in Vietnam for more than 5 years. He had been subjected to torture because of his service on behalf of our Nation. It became known as the McCain torture amendment. Despite a veto threat from President Bush, the Senate passed the McCain torture amendment in December of 2005 by an overwhelming bipartisan 90-to-9 vote. When the President signed the amendment into law, he issued a signing statement reserving the right to ignore it if he chose.

In June 2006, in the Hamdan decision, the Supreme Court held that the administration was required to follow the Geneva Conventions in its treatment of detainees. The Court took the same position as Secretary Colin Powell had argued years before when President Bush had first decided to disregard the Geneva Conventions.

In September 2006 President Bush publicly acknowledged the CIA detention and interrogation program for the very first time.

In July 2007 President Bush signed an Executive order stating the CIA's detention and interrogation program ''fully complies with the obligations of the United States'' under the Geneva Conventions and authorizing the use of certain interrogation techniques. Again, the administration twisted the law to justify the use of abusive tactics

based on false information provided by the CIA.

In October 2007 the Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings on the nomination of Michael Mukasey to be Attorney General. The hearings were going smoothly until I asked Mr. Mukasey to condemn waterboarding as torture. He refused. That became the focal point of the debate on his confirmation.

On December 6, 2007, the New York Times reported that in November 2005 the CIA had destroyed videotapes showing the CIA's use of abusive interrogation techniques. The next day I sent a letter to Attorney General Mukasey asking the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation into the destruction of CIA interrogation video evidence. I was the only Member of Congress to call for that investigation. In January the Attorney General opened the investigation. The CIA's destruction of these videotapes is what led to this Intelligence Committee report.

Then-CIA Director Hayden suggested that the Intelligence Committee staff review the operational cables and emails. The Intelligence Committee study was authorized by an overwhelming 14-to-1 bipartisan vote after the SSCI, the Select Committee on Intelligence, found that the cables detailed detention conditions and interrogations far worse than what the CIA had previously described to the committee.

The investigation led to the production of a report that is more than 6,700 pages long, including nearly 38,000 footnotes. It is based on a review of more than 6 million pages of CIA records.

In December 2012 the Intelligence Committee approved this report with a 9-to-6 bipartisan vote. Two months later, in February 2013, I received a briefing on this report before it was redacted. I was so disturbed by what I heard that I personally spoke with the President, then-Secretary of Defense Panetta, and John Brennan, to urge each of them to do everything possible to be briefed on its findings and support its declassification.

In March 2014 I sent a letter to CIA Director Brennan raising serious concerns about the CIA's hacking of Senate Select Committee on Intelligence computers and again urging declassification of the report.

In April 2014 the Intelligence Committee approved the declassification and the public release by an 11-to-3 bipartisan vote.

It is critically important that this has been declassified so the American people can understand what has been done in their name. It was inconsistent with American values. It didn't make us safer, and it must never be repeated again.

Yesterday Senator MCCAIN came to the floor to support Senator FEINSTEIN's disclosure. During the course of his statement on the floor, he said: Our enemies are acting without conscience. America cannot act without conscience. We are called to a higher standard than some because we believe in basic human values and in basic principles, and it may mean that some of the tactics used by our worst enemies are out of bounds for us, as they should be.

What happened with this disclosure is an important reaffirmation of our separation of powers and our constitutional responsibility.

I wish to congratulate Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator ROCKEFELLER, and every member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, but particularly those who voted to go forward time and time again. They were under immense pressure not to do so.

The fact they have held the CIA accountable to the American people, to Congress, and to the President is part of our constitutional responsibility. It reminds people that in a democracy the people govern and the people have a right to know what this government is doing in their name.

There has been a lot of debate since the release of this report, and I assume it will continue. But if it ends with the report in the press, we have not done enough. We have to reform our processes, and let me start with Congress.

I served on the Senate Intelligence Committee for 4 years. It was a daunting assignment. Virtually every hearing is behind closed doors and classified. No one knows here even at the Select Committee on Intelligence unless you tell them afterwards. Testimony before us isn't available to the public. Most of the time, the professionals from the intelligence agencies come before us and speak in the acronyms of their agencies to the point you can't even follow what they are saying. It took me 2 years of sitting there puzzling over what they were saying to finally get an insight into what the committee and its responsibility were all about. That is not right.

We need to make sure that congressional oversight of our intelligence function is up to the job and up to the Constitution. That means more resources put in the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. When I served, members of the committee shared a staffer. We each shared a staffer. We didn't even have one staff person working for each of us on these subjects. The amount of money that is being spent, tens of millions of dollars in covert activities and the like, needs to be carefully monitored. As the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, I have that responsibility to look at the overall budget on intelligence. There is not enough oversight. We need to make certain that our branch of government is up to that challenge so we can guarantee to the American people that we are doing our job, so that we can be held accountable as we hold the intelligence agencies accountable as well.

I think what happened yesterday is going to be part of the history of the Senate, an important, positive part. I hope it is just the beginning where both political parties come together and accept their constitutional responsibility.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. DURBIN. I have some tributes here for my colleagues who are retiring, leaving the Senate. It is a lengthy list of tributes.

TOM HARKIN

To Senator TOM HARKIN, neighboring State of Iowa, whom I worked with over many years on so many important topics, I want to salute him for his service. The highlights of his service include the Americans With Disabilities Act and, of course, the Affordable Care Act. His work on education and medical research is legendary. There was a time when TOM HARKIN and Arlen Specter, Republican of Pennsylvania at that time, set out to double the medical research budget at the National Institutes of Health and they did it. Lives have been saved, people have been spared suffering because they had the political determination and courage to achieve it. I am going to miss TOM HARKIN.

I have served in Congress for a number of years and I have heard an awful lot of speeches. One of the most powerful speeches I ever witnessed in this Senate was delivered by TOM HARKIN in 1990. He gave his speech without uttering a single word. He delivered it entirely in American Sign Language—a language he knows from years of communicating with his brother Frank, who was deaf. In that historic speech in sign language—a first for this body—TOM HARKIN was urging the United States Senate to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The ADA is one of the great civil rights laws of the 20th century. It is often called ''the Emancipation Proclamation for Americans with disabilities.'' It is a landmark achievement in America's ongoing efforts to create a more perfect union. No one worked harder for its passage than the senior Senator from Iowa, TOM HARKIN. He is often and rightly referred to as ''the father of the ADA.''

That speech in 1990 was unique in its use of sign language. In another way, however, it was like nearly every speech TOM HARKIN has given because he was speaking for people whose voices too often are not heard in Congress.

In his 40 years in Congress, TOM HARKIN has been a passionate, often fiery and relentless voice for good people who have often been dealt a bad hand by life. He has been a champion for men like his father, a coal miner with black lung disease, and others who desperately need health care. He has been a champion for people with disabilities—in America and around the world. He has been a champion of children in foreign lands who are trapped in the worst forms of forced labor.

TOM HARKIN has been a champion of working men and women in this country—and of their constitutionally protected right to organize and bargain for decent pay and safe working conditions.

TOM HARKIN has been a leader in safeguarding Medicare and Social Security, and moving people from welfare to work.

The senior Senator from Iowa and I were both very lucky. We are first-generation Americans. Senator HARKIN's mother came to this country from Slovenia; my mother came from Lithuania.

He knows from his own family's experience the love and gratitude that so many immigrants feel for the freedoms and opportunities America has given them and their children. So he has fought for immigration laws that protect America's security at the same time they honor our heritage as a nation of immigrants.

I want him to know that we will continue our efforts to pass such laws until we succeed—just as we will continue to push for adoption by this Senate of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities until we pass that important treaty.

As are so many others, TOM HARKIN was inspired to public service by the example of President John Kennedy. After working his way through college, Senator HARKIN spent 5 years as a Navy pilot in the 1960s. He had applied to become a pilot for a commercial airline when he received a more compelling offer. In 1969, an Iowa Congressman invited TOM HARKIN to join his Washington, DC staff. He said yes. He also used his GI Bill benefits to earn a law degree from Catholic University.

TOM went back home to Iowa—and then he returned to Washington in 1974, not as a staffer, but as a Member of the House of Representatives. A decade later, Iowa voters elected him to the U.S. Senate. And in 1990 he became the first Democrat ever to be re-elected to the U.S. Senate by Iowa voters. They must have thought that was a good idea because they re-elected him three more times after that.

Today, 40 years after his first election, TOM HARKIN is grayer and wiser. But he has never forgotten where he came from. He is a proud Midwestern progressive who has never forgotten the hope and dignity that smart, compassionate government gave his family when they needed it. And he has never tired of working to make sure that other families have the same chances his family had.

I wish TOM and Ruth, their daughters and grandchildren all the best.

TOM HARKIN leaves a legacy of achievement and compassion. I will miss his presence in this Senate but he and Ruth will always be a part of our Senate family.

KAY HAGAN

KAY HAGAN, my colleague from North Carolina, has done an amazing job. In her one term in the Senate, she really made a name for herself when it came to public service. She stepped up time and again and took tough votes. I know it because as whip I asked her to take on some important issues that would made this a better and stronger nation.

When KAY entered the Senate in those perilous days, America was in crisis. The economy was in freefall. Millions had lost their homes to foreclosure. America was fighting two wars—and though our military is the finest in the world, many of its members were exhausted from multiple deployments.

Six years later, we have made progress in all of these areas. Historians will record that Senator KAY HAGAN helped to make America stronger and better.

Senator KAY HAGAN comes from a family that knows a great deal about serving and sacrificing for America. Her maternal uncle, Lawton Chiles, was a Korean War veteran who represented Florida in the U.S. House and Senate and served as Florida's governor. Her father-in-law was a two-star Marine general, her brother and father both served in the Navy, and her husband is a Vietnam veteran who used the GI Bill to help pay for law school.

Senator HAGAN first learned the ups-and-downs of Congress—literally—by operating the Senators-only elevator while interning for her uncle.

Senator HAGAN is a former ballet dancer—a discipline that demands great discipline and hard work. As a Senator, she has used those same qualities to benefit her State and our Nation.

She served 10 years in the North Carolina State Senate and in those 10 years, she earned a reputation as a commonsense hard-worker interested in results, not partisan fighting. As co-chair of the State Budget Committee, she increased the State's ''Rainy Day'' fund and balanced five straight budgets. You heard that right—five straight budgets. She also helped make record investments in education, raised teacher pay, and increased the minimum wage.

Here in the U.S. Senate, she has continued to be a leader on education issues, most notably helping to lead a group of Senators to start fixing No Child Left Behind. With her family's military background, it is no surprise that Senator HAGAN has fought hard for military families and veterans. She introduced another bill that is close to my heart and that I will continue to work for. It would prohibit for-profit colleges from using the phrase ''GI Bill'' in aggressive marketing efforts aimed at separating veterans and servicemembers from their hard-earned education benefits. And she led the successful effort to provide health care to those affected by water contamination at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, the largest Marine Corps base on the East Coast.

KAY HAGAN will leave this Senate with a proud record of dauntless accomplishment and I am proud to have had the privilege to call her colleague. I thank her for her friendship and service, and I wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

MARK BEGICH

I can't imagine how the Senator from Alaska handles that commute back and forth, but he did it. I said the other day when we spoke about his service that many people don't realize his father was a Congressman before him and he died in a plane crash with Hale Boggs when they were flying back to Alaska to appear at an event. That plane was lost and never recovered. When MARK BEGICH came from Alaska to serve the United States, he completed the journey his father never could complete. His 6 years of service to Alaska have been extraordinary.

Before he got into politics, though, MARK was a whiz kid entrepreneur. When he was just 16 years old, he got a business license and he and his brother opened two businesses: a nightclub for teens and a vending-machine operation. The business world's loss was our gain.

Senator BEGICH started his political career working as an aide to then-Anchorage Mayor Tony Knowles. At 26, he was elected to the Anchorage Assembly, or city council. And in 2003, he became the first native-born Alaskan to serve as mayor of Anchorage.

In 2008, he dared to take on an Alaska legend: Senator Ted Stevens. When the votes were counted, MARK had become the first Democrat since Mike Gravel in 1981 to represent Alaska in the U.S. Senate.

As a Senator, MARK BEGICH has been a voice for working families in Alaska and across America. He has diligently and doggedly pursued common-sense, bipartisan solutions to big challenges. In all things, MARK's heart is always with Alaska. He has helped to protect Alaska fisheries, promoted renewable energy development in the State, and made sure Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson remains strong and active.

Here is something about MARK my colleagues may not know. In 2011 he was part of a four-man team in the Hotline's live annual trivia contest. His teammates were three House members: DENNIS ROSS, Tom Davis, and Martin Frost. They were up against a formidable team that included Chuck Todd and Amy Walters. No one gave MARK's team a prayer of winning. But once again, MARK BEGICH scored an upset victory. He is to DC political trivia what Ken Jennings is to Jeopardy: A memorable champion.

But the actions for which he will be remembered are very far from trivial. When MARK BEGICH and others in the Class of 2008 arrived in the Senate America's economy was in freefall. Millions of families had lost their homes to foreclosure—the worst foreclosure crisis in America since the Great Depression. America was fighting two wars. Our military is the finest in the world. Many of its members were

exhausted from multiple deployments. On top of that, an outdated policy of ''don't ask, don't tell'' forced some servicemembers to lie about who they were in order to serve the Nation they love. Time after time, Senator MARK BEGICH took brave and principled votes that have made America better and stronger—militarily, economically, and socially.

This son of one of Alaska's great families has well earned—and will always hold—a place in our Senate family.

TIM JOHNSON

TIM JOHNSON and I came to the Senate together, TIM from South Dakota. He eventually became chairman of the banking committee after he faced one of the toughest physical challenges any Senator has ever faced, a debilitating brain injury that left him physically limited but never limited in spirit and intelligence. Thank God, with Barb at his side, he continued in public service to serve the State of South Dakota.

I am going to miss my great friend TIM JOHNSON.

He and I go back quite a ways. We served together in the House—and we came to the Senate together in 1996. That year, TIM JOHNSON was the only Senate candidate to defeat an incumbent U.S. Senator in a general election.

He won that first Senate election the old-fashioned way—with dedication, hard work, and a lot of shoe leather. I think he knocked on every door in South Dakota—twice. Dedication, humility, and unbelievable hard work—those are the values TIM learned as a fourth-generation South Dakotan. And they are the values that have exemplified his entire career.

In 1986, TIM JOHNSON was a semi-obscure state legislator from Vermillion, SD when he decided to run for his State's only seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. TIM might have been the only person who thought he had a chance of winning that race, but he surprised people. He did win—and he has never lost an election since. Eight consecutive statewide victories and zero losses. That is quite an accomplishment.

Here is another interesting fact about TIM JOHNSON: During his first term in the House, he was responsible for passing more legislation than any of the other 50 first-term Members.

In his 36 years of public service, TIM JOHNSON has been a strong voice for family farmers and ranchers in South Dakota and across America. He is a longtime advocate of Federal support for renewable energy—especially ethanol and wind energy. He helped lead the effort to pass the Country of Origin Label Act—the COOL Act, for short—to let consumers know if the meat they feed their families was raised in America.

Senator JOHNSON has been a leading advocate for Native Americans. He has fought especially hard for the members of the Lakota and Dakota tribes—descendants of the legendary Indian leaders Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse—who call South Dakota home.

TIM JOHNSON has fought for a livable minimum wage. He helped strengthen America's health safety net by voting to create the Children's Health Insurance Program and to expand Medicaid to those who need it. He voted for the Affordable Care Act, which passed this Senate without a vote to spare. That was a difficult vote for many but I believe that history will show it was the right vote for America, and TIM JOHNSON was on the right side of history.

As chairman of the Senate Banking Committee these last 3 years, TIM JOHNSON has played an historic role in helping to implement the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform law and prevent a repeat of the kinds of abuses that nearly crashed our economy in 2008. He has moved forward despite intense opposition to reform from both inside and outside of Congress.

One of the most important of the Dodd-Frank reforms was the creation of a new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Chairman JOHNSON pressed successfully for Senate confirmation of Richard Cordray to head that new bureau so it would have a strong leader at the helm.

While he is justifiably proud of the legislative victories that bear his imprint, TIM JOHNSON may be even more proud of the constituent services he and his staff have given the people of South Dakota. Helping a veteran secure a proper disability rating or helping a senior citizen receive the Social Security and Medicare coverage he or she is due may not make headlines, but it makes a huge difference in the lives of individuals. TIM JOHNSON and his staff understand that.

I will never forget seeing TIM JOHNSON walk onto the Senate floor on September 5, 2007—less than a year after a brain hemorrhage nearly killed him. The courage and strength it took to come back from such a trauma is hard to imagine. Senator MARK KIRK, my partner from Illinois, told me that during his own recovery from a stroke, if he ever felt like giving up, he would ask himself: ''What would TIM JOHNSON do?''

Dedication to public service is a family trait in the Johnson Family. Barb's work on behalf of children and families has made life better for so many. Kelsey is an advocate for breast cancer awareness and research. Brendan is the U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota. And Brooks is in the National Guard following Army service in Bosnia, Kosovo, South Korea, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Some time ago, the chief and people of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe honored Senator JOHNSON by bestowing on him a Lakota name. His Lakota name is Wacante Ognake. In English, it means ''holds the people in his heart.''

That is the spirit that has guided TIM JOHNSON throughout his public life.

I wish TIM and Barb the very best in all their future endeavors.

SAXBY CHAMBLISS, TOM COBURN, AND MIKE JOHANNS

I want to say a word about three others on the other side of the aisle who are retiring: SAXBY CHAMBLISS of Georgia, TOM COBURN of Oklahoma, and MIKE JOHANNS of Nebraska. I got to know them when I gathered with one of these gangs, as they call them around here, to talk about deficit reduction. We spent more time together trying to explore the Federal budget in ways to reduce our deficit in a thoughtful manner so that we really got to know one another and respect one another.

There is a world of difference in our political values and philosophies, but each of them in their own way made a positive contribution toward making this a stronger nation.

I remember well the day Senator CHAMBLISS announced that he would not let Grover Norquist and Grover's ''no tax increases ever'' demand dictate the terms of a deficit-reduction plan. That needed to be said, and it took political courage. Although Senator CHAMBLISS will not be with us when the Senate convenes in January, I hope his example will be with us. And I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Senator TOM COBURN and I come from different parts of the country and different ends of the political spectrum, but we found there is a lot we agree on. I have always believed, as Senators Paul Douglas and Paul Simon said, that being a liberal doesn't mean you have to be a ''wastrel.'' Senator COBURN knows that being a conservative and protecting America's economy demands more than blind budget-cutting. His nickname is ''Doctor No,'' but when it comes to wishing him well as he steps down from the Senate, my colleagues join me in a resounding ''yes.''

Finally, here is a suggestion for when you have watched all of the ''shouting head'' political TV talk shows you can take: Listen to Senator MIKE JOHANNS. MIKE's quiet, reasonable approach was a real asset not only to the Gang of Eight negotiations, but to the entire Senate. We will miss his calm demeanor and his good-faith efforts to find smart, fair solutions to tough challenges.

None of them is running for re-election so I can't hurt them politically by saying that I regard each of these Senators as friends. They showed political courage when partisanship would have been easier.

I wish them the best in all their future endeavors.

CARL LEVIN

Last night it was my honor to salute CARL LEVIN of Michigan for his 36 years of service in the U.S. Senate. He has done so many things so well. As chairman of the Armed Services Committee, he has produced this contentious and challenging bill year after year, both as ranking member and as chairman. As chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, he really raised that subcommittee to a new

level. He tackled some of the most complex issues of our day, particularly when it came to corporate abuse. He spent the time to get the facts right. When he had a hearing, he made an extraordinary contribution to the public dialogue about reforming our law and making this a better nation.

When I was first elected to the Senate, people back home said to me: Well, now that you have been in the Senate a year or two, which Senators do you respect the most?

I said then, and I will repeat it today, if I had a tough, important decision, one I was wrestling over, an issue or a vote, and I could only reach out to a couple of Senators at the time, one would be Paul Sarbanes of Maryland, now retired, and the other is CARL LEVIN. That is still a fact.

Long before CARL LEVIN was elected to the U.S. Senate it was clear that he had a gift for politics. Picture this—true story: At Central High School in Detroit, CARL LEVIN was elected class president. He won that race after, as he tells it, ''running around with a piece of matzoh telling other students: 'This is what happens to bread without LEVIN.' ''How's that for a slogan?

As much as I hate to think about it, soon we will have a United States Senate without LEVIN—for the first time in 36 years. Our only consolation is that CARL LEVIN leaves a legacy of good and important laws. He also leaves a powerful example of what can be achieved when we choose integrity over ideology . . . and our common good over confrontation.

A Jewish publication in Detroit wrote a while back that CARL LEVIN and his brother, Congressman Sandy Levin, both deserve ''honorable menschen awards''—with the accent on ''mensch''—for their historic service to our Nation. I agree wholeheartedly. Senator LEVIN's keen intellect, honesty and fair-mindedness—his decency and unfailing civility—have earned him the respect of Senators on both sides of the aisle.

Many years ago I was an intern for a great Senator, Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois. Every year now, the University of Illinois presents a ''Paul Douglas Ethics in Government Award'' to an elected leader who shares Senator Douglas' deep commitment to social and economic justice, and efficient government. The recipient of the Paul Douglas Ethics in Government Award in 2006 was Senator CARL LEVIN. Paul Douglas would have approved that choice heartily.

As was Paul Douglas, CARL LEVIN has been a foot soldier for justice. Paul Douglas was a leader in the effort to pass a strong Federal Civil Rights Act. In 1964, the year that law finally passed, CARL LEVIN was appointed the first general counsel for the Michigan Civil Rights Commission.

Paul Douglas believed in government and he hated government waste. He used to say: ''You don't have to be a wastrel to be a liberal.'' CARL LEVIN reminds us that: ''There are some things that only government can do, so we need government. But we don't need an inefficient, wasteful, arrogant government.''

CARL LEVIN was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1978. Before that, he was active for 15 years in Detroit and Michigan State politics. He taught law before he entered politics. He also held some other interesting jobs—including driving a cab in Detroit and working on a DeSoto assembly line.

He showed up in Washington in 1979 driving a 1974 Dodge Dart with a hole in the floorboard. He was still driving that same car to the Capitol 10 years later. That tells us something about CARL LEVIN's devotion to the US auto industry, its workers and unions.

When General Motors and Chrysler faced potential collapse in 2008, he pressed Congress and a new president to support the companies with billions of dollars in loans.

Those loans have since been repaid and Chrysler and GM are not only solvent, they are making a profit. The U.S. auto industry is in the midst of its fastest expansion since 1950.

CARL LEVIN is a champion as well of America's military, military families and veterans. He has served on the Armed Services Committee since coming to the Senate 36 years ago. He is one of Congress's most respected voices on national security and military issues.

Some years back he used his power on the Armed Services Committee to question the procurement practices of the military. He asked: Why was the Pentagon spending thousands of dollars apiece for things like toilet seats and hammers? He said: We need more money for soldiers and less wasteful spending for contractors. With the world growing more volatile and complex and increasing pressure to reduce defense budgets, those are questions we must all be willing to ask.

As a ranking member and then chair of the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Senator LEVIN's piercing intellect and his patient mastery of complex issues helped, over and over, to expose and correct serious wrongdoing.

As PSI chairman in 2002, he led a probe of the activities of Enron Corp; the investigation resulted in legislation to improve the accuracy and reliability of corporate disclosures.

From white collar crime, to money laundering, abusive tax shelters, and gasoline and crude oil price-gouging, he has pursued the subjects of every investigation with nonpartisan vigor, seeking results, not spotlights.

The list of laws bearing his imprint is long and historic: The Competition in Contracting Act of 1984; Social Security Disability Benefits Reform, 1984; The Anti-Kickback Enforcement Act, 1986; The Whistleblower Protection Act, 1989; The Ethics Reform Act in 1989; The Lobbying Disclosure Act in 1995—the first major lobbying reform in 50 years.

The list goes on and on. Senator LEVIN voted: To repeal ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell''; to protect voting rights; and to limit the influence of private-interest money in elections.

He has voted to support American manufacturing—and stop giving tax breaks to corporations to ship American jobs overseas.

He supported my efforts to change bankruptcy laws to allow deserving homeowners to save their homes in foreclosures.

He voted to regulate tobacco as a drug—another issue that is personal for me.

I will always remember Senator LEVIN's vote on the Iraq war resolution. For years before 9/11, he warned anyone who would listen that America was threatened by terrorism. When the horrific attacks came, he supported pursuing the attackers in Afghanistan.

A year later, he and I were among just 23 Senators to vote against the Iraq War. He voted no, even though he was then chair of the Armed Services Committee. That took extraordinary moral and political courage, and history has shown he was right.

CARL LEVIN is the longest-serving Senator in Michigan history, surpassing another Senate legend, Arthur Vandenberg. As he proved long ago when he was elected president of his high school council, he is a natural-born politician. But like Senator Vandenberg, he is more than a politician; he is a statesman.

I will miss his presence in this Senate and I wish him, and his wife Barbara, all the best in the future.

MARK UDALL

MARK UDALL, my friend from Colorado and the Presiding Officer's colleague. As I said last night, I served with his dad. His dad may have been the funniest public servant I ever served with. What a wit, what a sense of humor. He once said: If you have politics in your bloodstream, only embalming fluid will replace it.

Thank goodness the Udalls have politics in their bloodstream. Mo Udall served in the House of Representatives, candidate for President; MARK UDALL's uncle, Stewart Udall, who was Secretary of Interior under President John Kennedy; TOM UDALL, MARK's cousin, the son of Stewart Udall, serves as Senator of New Mexico; MARK UDALL himself, what a great person.

I can remember so many things about his public service, but I remembered, especially last night, when he lost his brother and came before our caucus lunch and talked about the love he had for that man and what that loss meant to him. It touched the heart of everyone in the room. It gave us an insight into the heart of MARK UDALL as a person.

He was committed to a number of causes. His wife Maggie and he have given so much time to the environment and preserving our national heritage, but he also showed great courage when it came to his service on the Senate Intelligence Committee. Even as a new

member of that committee, he stepped up for principles and values, and I am glad he did, preserving our rights and liberties as American citizens and fully supporting the disclosure that Senator FEINSTEIN made yesterday with her report.

MARK has fought to protect Americans' privacy rights with thoughtful reforms of the NSA and the PATRIOT Act.

In keeping with his family's tradition, he has made protecting our environment and our precious natural resources a top priority. He has been a leader in addressing climate change as a growing threat to our national security. He organized support in the Senate for legislation that would require 15 percent of electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2021.

And in the 2013 Defense Authorization Act, MARK UDALL led the effort to allow the Pentagon to continue to develop and use renewable energy

During his one term, MARK UDALL made more dauntless decisions and achieved more good for America than many Senators who have served far longer.

He supported a recovery act that helped turn the tide against the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. He voted for the most far-reaching financial reform since the Great Depression and he supported one of the biggest investments in college affordability since the GI Bill. Millions of Americans are back at work and millions of Americans know the security that comes with affordable health care, in part, because of his courage.

The famed explorer Edmund Hillary once said, ''Human life is far more important than just getting to the top of a mountain.''

For MARK UDALL, being a U.S. Senator has been about something more important than acquiring power. It has been about using that power to preserve our precious natural treasures and make life better for others.

Mo Udall would be proud of the U.S. Senator his son has become, and I am certainly proud to have worked with him.

I have been in the Senate now for 18 years, and I have seen many come and go. But we have lost, sadly, in this departure of these Members some of our best.

MARY LANDRIEU

I will close by mentioning the one whose fate was determined the last, and that was MARY LANDRIEU of Louisiana. She has been a great Senator for Louisiana. She worked harder and achieved more for that State than, obviously, the people of that State realized. There wasn't an issue that came before us that MARY didn't stand up and say: Now let me tell you how that affects Louisiana, and usually make an ask which was fulfilled.

Let me add one other grace note when it comes to her personal and public life. MARY and her husband have adopted two children. They are the light of their lives. Her dedication to the cause of adopted children has really made a difference not just to the United States but in the world. I am sure she didn't get a lot of political reward for it, but thank goodness she put a big part of her life and her public life into standing up for the rights of adopted children and adoptive parents, encouraging more and more, so the kids would have a loving home as part of their lives. It was just one of the things that MARY worked on, but it was one of the things I will remember. I am going to miss her and her service to the U.S. Senate.

MARY bleeds Louisiana. Her father is the legendary statesmen Moon Landrieu, former New Orleans mayor, HUD Secretary under President Jimmy Carter, and Judge of Louisiana's 4th Circuit Court. Her brother, Mitch, is the current Mayor of New Orleans.

MARY—the eldest of the eight siblings—learned important political lessons early. She was taunted in early grade school about her father's pro civil rights stands in the 1960s. Those experiences taught her that taking the right position sometimes makes you unpopular—but you do it anyway.

MARY was only 23 when she entered the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1980. She went on to serve as a member of her State's senate.

MARY is a formidable fighter for Louisiana. In her State's darkest hours, during Hurricane Katrina and in the aftermath of that terrible catastrophe, she stood strong. She was exactly the right person for Louisiana. More than any other single official, she deserves the credit for directing billions of dollars in relief and rebuilding money to her hometown and home State.

Governor Bobby Jindal's Secretary of Administration had this to say about MARY LANDRIEU: ''She's relentless; once she starts, she will not stop. And once she's on your side, she's on your side.''

This is what St. Tammany Parish Sheriff Jack Strain remembers about Katrina: ''The very first federal representative we had on the ground after Katrina was MARY LANDRIEU . . . when water was still in our houses and neighborhoods. . . . She spoke to my deputies and offered assistance to them.''

Perhaps the best description of MARY LANDRIEU was offered by her mentor, former Senator John Breaux, who calls her ''a pit bull with Louisiana charm.''

In 2009, when Hurricane Katrina was just a dim, bad memory for some, Senator LANDRIEU made sure the stimulus bill included a provision that ended up allowing the state to rebuild Charity Hospital, the cornerstone of health care for many low-income New Orleans families.

Senator LANDRIEU has been a champion of the energy industry—so crucial to the economy of her State and her Nation. She has fought to preserve Social Security and Medicare and other safety net programs that provide dignity and security for so many. She has fought to defend voting rights, women's right, and children's right. She has earned a spot in heaven with her work to promote adoption. She provided a crucial vote to pass the Affordable Care Act, knowing full well that it would cost her politically. If that doesn't earn her a spot in heaven, it will at least earn her a place in history as a profile in courage.

With her political genes and determination, I know that MARY LANDRIEU will continue to be a force in Louisiana and American politics for years to come. And while I will miss seeing her every day in this Senate, I look forward to seeing her fight for what is right for many, many more years. It has been an honor to serve with her.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

TAX EXTENDERS AND OMNIBUS

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, as we come to the close of the 113th Congress, I wish to speak for a few minutes about why I think we should be optimistic about the future and what we can and must do to take advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead.

Despite economic slowdowns throughout much of the world among developing and developed Nations alike, America's economy continues to steadily grow. Just last Friday we got great news that our economy created more than 300,000 jobs in the month of November. That marks 57 straight months, or nearly 5 years, of positive job growth numbers. For the first time since Bill Clinton was President of this Nation, we have averaged more than 200,000 new jobs per month for 10 straight months.

Particularly in the economy is an area of growth and opportunity that I have focused on in my time before coming into public service and in my 4 years here. That is American manufacturing, an industry about which I have spoken at length here on the Senate floor and have worked with my colleagues to craft and assemble a group of bipartisan bills that can help move American manufacturing forward.

The news this last month was good, as it has been for months, for years now, about American manufacturing, which continues to grow as well. There were 28,000 new American manufacturing jobs last month, which continued this steady climb. It has now created more than 750,000 new jobs over the last 4 years. Manufacturing jobs are great jobs. They typically are higher wage and higher skill and have higher benefits than jobs in any other sector. They are good, middle-class jobs

you can raise a family on. They deal with one of the biggest ongoing remnants of the great recession, which is the lack of real wage growth in our economy. So I am excited to see that manufacturing jobs continue to grow in our economy and to talk about the things we can and should do to help sustain this growth in manufacturing.

We have reason to be optimistic, but we cannot be complacent. As much as we built momentum over the last year since the recession, and especially this year, there is, of course, no natural law, no economic fundamental principle that says it will not turn back around. We need to sustain our positive direction, particularly in this sector, particularly as we move toward the 114th Congress.

I am proud that Congress last year passed a 2-year budget to create some stability and some certainty for our country and economy. We have gotten out of the way and allowed our businesses and workers to do what they do best, to move our economy forward. In the next few days we will have chances to do the same when we vote on a number of bills, one that, most importantly, will keep our government running, not for a few days or weeks or months, but the overwhelming majority of this government will be authorized and funded through next September.

The funding bills that are included in this omnibus continue investments in innovation and continue to move our country forward. There is a whole rash of bills that I have been interested in and engaged in as a member of the Appropriations Committee that are valuable programs, that will strengthen manufacturing—for example, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which has done amazing work on the ground in Delaware, helping small and medium manufacturers to be competitive, to train their workforce in current skills, to grow into the spaces of the world economy where we have real opportunity. This bill will help sustain the funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership nationally.

There are several other programs related to innovation in the Department of Energy. For example, sustained funding for the ARPA–E, for an innovative model that helps fund cutting-edge, category-redefining research and investment in energy and in clean energy manufacturing and in technology deployment.

There are also opportunities for us to continue to put Americans to work through investments in infrastructure. As someone who lives on Amtrak 16 hours a week, I am thrilled with the outcomes for both the Amtrak budget and for the TIGER grant programs, a tool used by the Department of Transportation to help incentivize innovative transportation projects that break through bottlenecks and help put Americans back to work.

There are so many different ways that the work of this bipartisan committee, the Appropriations Committee, helped move our economy forward that at times are not focused on here on the floor or in the general press coverage. It is such a large and comprehensive bill, the omnibus. But I wanted to take a moment and highlight a few ways in which the omnibus invests in innovation, in competitiveness, and in moving our economy forward. I am also grateful, in some ways most importantly, that it includes emergency funding to respond to Ebola, both at home and abroad, which will be critical to helping stamp out this deadly virus at its origin in West Africa and in protecting Americans here at home and others around the world.

The appropriations bills that were shepherded through the dozen subcommittees give us reason to be optimistic about the future because the Chair, Senator MIKULSKI, and the Vice Chair, Senator SHELBY, have done a laudable job of listening to each other, of working together, and of crafting a bipartisan bill here in the Senate, which I hope the Members of this body will study, consider, and move forward and adopt.

As we move to complete the business of funding the government, we would be remiss if we did not also take stock of the opportunities in front of us we have not yet grasped. There is unfinished work to be done. This week we will also almost certainly pass a 1-year tax extenders bill, which will carry forward certain temporary tax credits and deductions, but for just the 1 year.

Although the extension for many businesses and many sectors is better than nothing, it signifies a missed opportunity on our part. Much of what has made me optimistic over the last year is how much our economy has begun to thrive in a stable fiscal environment, in a more predictable regulatory environment. Yet, this 1-year extension does not do much to give businesses the certainty they need to predict and plan for the future.

I have worked hard with Democrats and Republicans alike to expand and make permanent the research and development tax credit, which is particularly relevant to manufacturing, because manufacturing is the most R&D-intensive sector in the American economy. Manufacturers invest more in R&D than any other part of the American landscape. This 1-year extension misses an opportunity to either make the R&D tax credit permanent, or to make it more accessible.

I was excited to have the opportunity early on here to team up with two Republican Senators, MIKE ENZI of Wyoming and PAT ROBERTS of Kansas, to find ways to make the R&D tax credit more accessible to early-stage and startup companies, companies with high growth potential, but because of the way the R&D tax credit has been structured and used for decades, do not have the opportunity to access it.

The Startup Innovation Credit Act, which I introduced with Senator ENZI, would have further expanded the access to the R&D credit for startups. The bipartisan Innovators Job Creation Act, which I introduced with Senator ROBERTS, would have expanded the credit to innovative small businesses as well. Both of those bills passed on a bipartisan basis out of the Finance Committee and were part of a package being advanced here in the Senate but will not be part of the ultimate 1-year extenders considered later this week.

I wanted to highlight that as we look forward there are opportunities still in front of us for us to tackle the challenges and to seize the opportunities, to take things that are important to manufacturing and to move them forward. There are lots of other bills in the mix that will be adopted this week, either by unanimous consent or as part of larger packages, and a number of them relate to manufacturing. I am optimistic that we will adopt a national manufacturing strategy bill that I have worked hard on with Republican Senator MARK KIRK of Illinois. I am optimistic that a bipartisan manufacturing hubs bill that Senator SHERROD BROWN of Ohio and Senator ROY BLUNT of Missouri have worked hard together to craft and to hone and to get to a place where it is ready to be passed—that they both will make it across the finish line to the President's desk.

But just this past week, I stood on this floor with Senator KELLY AYOTTE of New Hampshire and we spoke about a bill that is not yet ready for adoption, but we will take up next year, the Manufacturing Skills Act, which helps to focus and prioritize the investments in manufacturing skills training at the State and municipal level all over the country in partnership with the Federal Government.

What I wanted to do today was to simply highlight a few perhaps underappreciated, underrecognized areas of legislative action on a bipartisan basis in this Chamber that helped put some lift under the steady forward progress of the manufacturing sector in our country and to express my hope that we can find ways to continue to work together on a bipartisan basis to keep our economic momentum going in the year and the Congress ahead.

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING SENATORS

As I close, I would also like to thank those of our colleagues who will be leaving the Senate after the New Year.

It is an incredible privilege to work in this Chamber and to represent the people. Every day I am awed by the dedication and talent of many of my colleagues, public servants who come to work to fight for their States and their government.

To those who are ending their service in the Senate, know that I value your friendship and partnership. It has been an honor to work with you, and I thank you for all you have done for our Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of some of the public lands provisions that were included in this year's National Defense Authorization Act. Before I do so, I wish to recognize the work Senators LEVIN and INHOFE have put into this bill and their dedication to reach an agreement with the House so that this bill could move forward on time, as it has done over the past 50 years.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I hear every day about the sacrifice our servicemembers make to protect our country. Passing the authorization bill that helps ensure they have the equipment they need and the resources required to meet the mission they are tasked with is very important.

While I am pleased the Senate will be moving forward on this bill, I wish to note that the bill's reduction in servicemembers' benefits concerns me. I do believe Members should have had the chance and the right to debate and amend it, and I hope the Senate will have the opportunity to do so in the future.

This year the final Defense bill includes several Nevada public land priorities that will spur economic development and job creation in our State while enhancing U.S. national security. I have been working on many of those proposals since I was first elected to Congress in 2006.

I thank incoming Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chair LISA MURKOWSKI for her leadership and work on this public lands package. We have been working together for many years on many of the bills included in the package, and I am pleased to see they are finally getting across the finish line.

Let me first clarify that just because some of these bills are related to public lands does not mean they have a direct relationship to defense and protecting our national security. My Nevada Copper bill will protect domestic production of copper—the second most used mineral at the Department of Defense—as well as directly benefit two bases that are located in the State of Nevada.

As the Presiding Officer knows, roughly 85 percent of the land in Nevada is controlled by the Federal Government. This presents our local and State governments with many unique challenges. Our communities' economies are directly tied to the way the Federal Government manages those lands. They often work closely with me to develop legislative solutions to their problems.

Whereas out East local governments can acquire land on their own to build public works projects, out West, unfortunately, we have to get the permission of Congress. That is why reducing the Federal estate and increasing access to our public lands has been one of my top priorities in Congress, and this package goes a long way toward accomplishing these goals. It resolves over 60 of these types of issues throughout the West. In total, over 110,000 acres of land will be removed from Federal ownership and utilized for mineral production, timber production, infrastructure projects, and other community development. In addition, it releases approximately 26,000 acres of current wilderness study areas, which unlocks lands to be used for multiple use.

It is very important to discuss the eight Nevada provisions today to show my colleagues in the Senate the many hoops our western communities have to go through to take the same steps many eastern communities can accomplish in a single day.

The Lyon County Economic Development and Conservation Act is a jobs bill I first introduced while in the House, but it has been held up by the Senate for many years because of gridlock.

This bill allows the city of Erring to partner with Nevada Copper to develop roughly 12,500 acres of land surrounding the Nevada Copper Pumpkin Hollow Project site to be used for mining activities, industrial and renewable energy development, and recreation.

Senate passage is the final hurdle to more than 1,000 new jobs at an average wage of over $85,000 per year. The mine will contribute nearly $25 million in property and net proceeds taxes per year that would be distributed to the State, to Lyon County, their schools, the hospital district, and the Mason Valley Fire Protection District.

In addition, Nevada Copper plans to invest $80 million in infrastructure for the mine and processing facilities that can be utilized to support other land uses and economic development.

This bill will transform the local economy of one of the counties in our Nation that are struggling most during this recent economic downturn.

As I said before, copper is the second most used mineral at the Department of Defense and is considered an essential mineral for weapons production. Copper is also the primary mineral from which other strategic and critical metals, such as rhenium, are derived. A domestic supply of this important resource greatly benefits our national security.

Second, there is a provision in this package that will allow Naval Air Station Fallon to acquire over 400 acres of BLM land for a safety arc for an explosive ordnance-handling facility and to construct much needed family housing at the station. Both of these plans will greatly benefit mission operations and the quality of life for our brave servicemembers serving there. The station first asked for these lands over 20 years ago. I am pleased their wait can finally come to an end.

Third, the package includes the Pine Forest Recreation Enhancement Act—a proposal that has been in the works in Humboldt County for nearly a decade. Just north of the Black Rock Desert, the Pine Forest offers a diverse landscape of sagebrush, aspen, and rock formations. Scenic lakes and reservoirs offer world-class trout fisheries. From the ranchers who make their livelihood on grazing allotments to conservationists intent on preserving a rugged landscape, anyone familiar with the place agrees it is special.

In addition to conserving these areas, the bill releases areas from wilderness that needs watershed restoration and treatment due to a high wildfire threat. It also provides for the construction of additional campsites and accommodations for motorized camping.

The initial work on the Pine Forest bill was grassroots-driven, transparent, and ultimately supported unanimously by all stakeholders and local governments in this county.

Fourth, the package includes the Elko Motocross and Tribal Conveyance Act—another bill I first introduced in the 111th Congress as a Member of the House. The commonsense bill conveys 275 acres of BLM lands to Elko County for a public motocross park. Additionally, it provides 373 acres to the Elko Band of Te-Moak Tribe for housing and tribal economic development.

Outdoor recreation and tourism are such important parts of life in Nevada. Opening up this land will benefit the residents of northern Nevada for years to come.

Fifth, this land package also includes the Las Vegas Valley Public Land and Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument Act, which is the culmination of several years of effort to conserve the ancient Tule Springs fossil beds while providing job-creation opportunities and critical civilian and military infrastructure that will be necessary to meet the needs of the Las Vegas Valley.

After working with stakeholders at every level, I am pleased that we can navigate a path forward for southern Nevada.

While serving in the House, I also introduced legislation in both the 110th and 111th Congresses to convey parcels of BLM land to the Nellis Air Force Base to create an off-highway vehicle park in the Nellis Dunes and to convey land to the Nevada System of Higher Education to expand educational opportunities for southern Nevadans.

Those smaller bills were ultimately included in S. 973 in this Congress, so I am pleased that 6 years of work on this Tule Springs legislation will finally become a reality.

The final three Nevada bills included in the lands package are newer proposals but achieve long-term economic development objectives that the affected communities have long asked for.

The Fernley Economic Self-Determination Act provides Fernley the opportunity to purchase up to 9,114 acres of Federal land within the city boundaries for the purpose of economic development.

Fernley was incorporated in 2001. Since incorporation, the city has been

working with private business partners and State and Federal regional agencies to develop a long-term economic development plan. These parcels have significant potential for commercial and industrial development, agricultural activities, and the expansion of community events.

Similarly, the Carlin Economic Self-Determination Act allows Carlin to purchase up to 1,329 acres of BLM lands. This city, located in Elko County, is completely landlocked by the Federal Government. Without this legislation, it would be impossible for their leaders to meet the demands for the expansion of their growing population needs.

Finally, the Storey County provision conveys over 1,700 acres of BLM lands to Virginia City. These properties have been occupied for decades by individuals who purchased them or acquired them legally; yet their continued residency is trespass, according to the Federal Government.

It is a very burdensome oversight by the Federal Government that must be resolved for the sake of my constituents. They have struggled for years, haunted by this error that is the result through no fault of their own.

These small public lands proposals are going to make a major impact on Nevada's economy. They have been developed at the local level and signed off on by the local communities.

I understand my colleagues' concerns that they would have liked the opportunity to debate and vote on more amendments to this bill. I, too, filed a number of amendments that I wished to see considered, and I will continue pushing those priorities next year. But right now Congress has a rare opportunity to pass this public lands package that enables important mining, energy development, ranching, and timber work to go forward, generating economic and employment opportunities for my State, other States, and local residents.

Let's get the government off these Nevadans' backs and allow them to do what they do best; that is, create jobs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The Senator from Maryland.

APPROPRIATIONS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I come to the floor today during the consideration of the national defense authorization to bring my colleagues up to date on the appropriations bill.

As we know, the continuing resolution expires on Thursday at midnight, but I am here to talk about some good news. The Appropriations Committee on both sides of the dome—the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate, working in a conference committee—has completed its work. This legislation is now as we speak heading to the Rules Committee and to the House. Hopefully it will head to the House for tomorrow, on to the Senate tomorrow night and into Friday. This means no government shutdown, no government on auto pilot, and we fund the government through the rest of the fiscal year for 2015, except Homeland Security, which will be a continuing resolution.

What we are talking about here is a monumental achievement. It is a monumental achievement showing how we can work together, we can govern, and we can get the job done.

Working on a bipartisan basis in the Senate, we worked in our subcommittees, and we held our hearings. We held 60 hearings in 60 days and did a good bit of our markups. We were able to work on our Senate appropriations. Over in the House, they did the same thing. But then, alas, when we got to September, we had to go on a continuing resolution until December 11.

I, as a rule, don't like continuing resolutions. We have 12 subcommittees, and I had hoped, under the time I chaired the committee and held the gavel, that we could consider one bill at a time and bring it to the Senate floor. Alas, partisan politics, gridlock, deadlock, gamesmanship, and showmanship prevented all of that.

But you know what, we on the Appropriations Committee, working with our vice chair, Senator SHELBY of Alabama, kept ourselves on track. Then we met in the conference committee, first our subcommittee chairs and then Chairman ROGERS, Senator SHELBY, Congresswoman LOWEY, and myself. We worked together on a $1 trillion spending bill. That number is breathtaking, but we need to remember that over $550 billion is in national defense. The rest is in domestic discretionary. That means everything from veterans, to foreign aid, to school aid, and also funding innovation.

I will talk more explicitly about the bill when it comes to the Senate floor. But for today I wanted everyone to know we are keeping the process going. We actually made the process work. We showed that we could govern. We worked across the aisle. We worked across the dome. We practiced civility. We argued. We debated. We fought. You know, sometimes you give a little, you take a little, but you stand for them all. And I want everyone to know we were able to concentrate and compromise what I call capitulation on principle.

So I wanted to say to my colleagues: Stay steady, stay strong. We expect that the House will pass its rule sometime after 3 o'clock today. That is the framework that enables them to go to the floor tomorrow. They will follow their own rule and hopefully that bill will pass. If it does pass, it will come to the Senate, and we will immediately take it up under the rules the two leaders will have worked on and established. So we look forward to completing the job on the Appropriations Committee within the next 72 hours.

I hope this update is of value to my colleagues as they plan their schedule and wish to participate in the debate and in the discussion. But it is not whether it is of value to us, it is whether it is of value to the Nation. I think what the voters in the last election said was: We have lost confidence in your ability to govern.

I hope over the next 72 hours, by the way we will bring this bill to the floor, we will take a significant step in regaining that confidence and getting out of this whole game of government by crisis, government by artificially imposed deadlines, where all it is, is more drama than debate.

We would like to get back to the regular order. Hopefully, though, we now can move forward on our bill.

I thank the Chair for his attention, and I yield the floor. I note the Senator from Arizona is on the floor so I will not ask for a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

TRIBUTE TO TOM COBURN

Mr. MCCAIN. Today, I would like to offer words of tribute to my departing colleague, Senator TOM COBURN, whose service exemplifies standards of purposefulness, integrity, and decency, to which we should all aspire and whose example ought to inspire the service of new and returning Senators alike.

I am going to miss an awful lot our colleague from Oklahoma. I have always admired TOM for the strength of his convictions and the courage and candor with which he expresses them day after day. ''The No. 1 thing people should do in Congress,'' TOM once said, ''is stay true to their heart.'' No one in the history of this institution has ever followed that injunction more faithfully than TOM COBURN has.

TOM COBURN has an unshakable faith in the goodness of America, and he has worked diligently with others when he could and alone, if necessary, to make sure government respects the people we serve—respects their hopes and aspirations, their concerns and sacrifices. He has never forgotten he is the people's servant first and last, and they have never had a more genuine and determined champion.

I think TOM has often acted as the conscience of the Senate. He can be unmovable on matters of principle when to do otherwise would harm or do no good for the country. TOM COBURN is sometimes called ''Dr. No,'' affectionately most, if not all, of the time. He has held up more legislation that he thought ill served the public interest than any other Member of this body. He even placed a hold on one of his own bills that he thought no longer met his high standard of accountability after it was reported out of committee. I don't think the American taxpayer has ever had a greater defender than TOM COBURN.

I like to think I have taken a few principled stands when the situation has warranted it, and I have made myself an occasional nuisance in service to what I thought was a good cause. But I have never been so conscientious that I felt obliged to defeat my own legislation. That is a pretty high

standard of personal responsibility to meet and a character test of the first order. I am not sure many of us would pass it. I wouldn't. But then, as all his colleagues can attest, TOM COBURN is a person of the very highest character. He possesses the highest virtues—courage, humility, compassion—in an abundance. It has been an honor to serve with him.

As principled as he is, as unwavering as he can be when he believes it necessary, he has also been a brave and determined proponent of compromise when he believed it served the public interest, when it would help build a more prosperous and secure society with more opportunities for more people and brighter futures for our children.

We always have detractors. It comes with the job. Whether TOM was standing on principle or seeking a principled compromise, he stood up to criticism. He stood up to pressure. He stood up to threats and insults and whatever negative personal consequences he might suffer. He stood up to whatever came his way to do what was right for his country. He stood up for the American people, no matter how difficult it was. What better can you say about a public servant?

TOM and I worked together on a lot of things. We fought together to end earmarks and opposed other forms of wasteful spending. We worked together on oversight projects for the stimulus bill and highway trust fund spending. We also fought for a long time to let veterans decide where they could best receive health care. We made good progress on some issues and not enough on others, but TOM COBURN was always an example and an inspiration to me.

If I could speak more personally, TOM has been more than a paragon to me and to other Members of the Senate. He is first and foremost a kind, considerate, and loyal friend—a friend in good times and bad, a friend who brings out the best in you because he believes in the best part of you. I said earlier TOM COBURN sees the innate goodness in the American people. He also sees it in his colleagues, even when it isn't apparent to other observers.

We have shared happy times together, TOM and I, but TOM has the instinct and the kindness to be the kind of friend who is there when you need him—when you need him most, in moments that aren't so happy.

We all lead pretty good lives here. We get the chance to serve the greatest country in the world and, on occasion, to make history. We are honored and feted and praised more than we deserve. But as all human beings do, we have moments of worry and doubt and disappointment. TOM always has the knack for showing up when I need cheering up. He has made the point over the years of being company when you most need it.

Friendship is a virtue to TOM, and he means to live a virtuous life. You could be working on something with him or opposing each other on an issue, it doesn't matter. If you need him, he will be there for you with a kind word, a piece of advice, a little encouragement or just good company. There are too few people like that in anyone's life not to cherish the hell out of those who are. I cherish my friendship with TOM COBURN, and I always will.

The Senate will be a poorer place without TOM COBURN to set an example of public service for the rest of us. But in gratitude to him for his leadership and friendship, I will try a little harder to live up to his standards, and I hope he will let me know when I fall short.

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.

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

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

THE TAX CODE

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, there was an opportunity this session to work together in a bipartisan way to provide certainty around the Tax Code for families and farmers and businesses, at least for 2014 and 2015. There may still be a small window of opportunity to get things done. I certainly support doing that, if we can. But I want to speak to the importance of having some certainty, at least through the end of 2015, as it relates to our tax policy for investing, for the economy, and for homeowners to make decisions.

Back in April, thanks to the leadership of Chairman WYDEN and Ranking Member HATCH, those of us on the Senate Finance Committee worked together closely and passed the EXPIRE Act, a bipartisan bill that would renew tax provisions for 2014 and 2015 so that again people could plan, businesses, and farmers, at least through that 2-year period. It would give businesses and families across the country the certainty they desperately need.

Unbelievably, back at the time when we brought it to the floor, after a bipartisan effort, Republicans in the Senate filibustered it and we could not move it forward. So we have been trying to get this 2-year bill done as the first year has been ticking away. We are now at the end of the first year of the tax bill, and, unfortunately, instead of having a 2-year bill, we now have a bill from the House that contains what we call tax extenders—extending tax policy for the economy, from research and development to homeowners to depreciation for investments and jobs. We have something that is only extended to the end of this year. As our chairman has said, it is a 3-week bill. By the time we get done, it will probably be a 2-week bill.

We need to do more. The chairman, ranking member, and many of us are still trying to do everything we can to get the House to agree to something with more certainty than 2 or 3 weeks. I think it is an embarrassment for the Congress that we are not able to come together and pass the EXPIRE Act to be able to give more certainty.

There is a glimmer of hope though on a piece of tax reform I wish to mention. Frankly, there is disagreement on this on our side of the aisle, and I respectfully disagree with those in the White House on this as well. But there is a bill I hope will move on the suspension calendar in the House around charitable giving.

I can't imagine at this time of year of charitable giving, as we come up to the end of the year and people are making decisions about where to place their dollars, what kinds of causes and so on, that we couldn't come together on a bipartisan bill to deal with donations to food banks and conservation easements that protect our land for the future, that make sure we are not plowing up our land and putting more CO_2 into the air right at the time we are trying to deal with climate issues—land protection, forestry protection for the future; dealing with investments in our research institutions, dealing with investments in important areas near and dear to my heart—such as the city of Detroit, where our foundations are playing such a critical role in making the investments, whether it is in transportation infrastructure, whether it is job training, whether it is rebuilding the neighborhoods to be able to turn Detroit around. I believe we are going to be able to do that. I know we are going to be able to do that. But a major reason has been the foundations—the Kresge Foundation, the Keller Foundation. There are so many that have been there.

So we have an opportunity prior to going into a larger debate on tax reform to actually take a piece of this, which normally would be, on its substance, very bipartisan, and actually be able to get that done. I am hopeful we will be able to do that before the end of the year because of the important provisions in it.

I go back to though the broader tax bill being sent as a 1-year renewal from the House of Representatives and, as I said, at most is a 3-week bill. By the time it is done, it may end up being a 2-week bill at this point in time. I can't believe people honestly, with a straight face, are calling this tax policy to be able to do this.

There are homeowners who lost their job during the recession and can no longer afford their mortgage payments. They have had their homes foreclosed on or maybe they have been able to do a short sale with their mortgage lender or the bank. For the past year—11 months and 10 days—these families have had no way to know whether we were going to renew the mortgage forgiveness tax relief bill, which I was proud to author as a bipartisan bill back in 2007, which we have continued to renew because we still have families

struggling from the recession in terms of their loan.

If we can renew this bill, it will spare families from having to pay income tax on the difference between their mortgage and the value of their home. So if in fact they get loan forgiveness or can work something out with the bank—and if in fact $20,000 is forgiven on the mortgage or $30,000 or $40,000—they don't end up paying taxes on that as income, which is what will happen if we don't get something done.

But we are looking at the fact that these folks, going into 2015, at a time when they are trying to decide what to do on their homes—whether they can keep their mortgage—will be right back in the same situation of not knowing whether they are going to owe thousands of dollars' worth of tax going into next year.

We are seeing a lot of folks trying to keep their homes who had to cut corners in every which way—parents stopped paying toward their kids' college fund or they put off buying new clothes or they canceled vacations or plans to visit their relatives while they are trying to figure out how to keep a roof over their head. Obviously there are many things that need to be done to support families, but one piece of tax policy that has given them some ability to plan has been this mortgage tax forgiveness bill.

What we are saying is: OK. For 2 weeks you can know that you can refinance with the bank—not next year. We kept you hanging for all of 2014, but for 2 weeks or 3 weeks we will give you some certainty.

So next year more families are going to be stuck with the same wrenching decisions they have this year if we can't at least get a 2-year bill.

When we look at other areas where folks will be left hanging, we have a very important area of the economy creating jobs every day in wind energy. There is a huge supply chain—as the Presiding Officer knows, as someone who cares deeply about manufacturing—from the making of turbines to the installation in the field, to the operations, to the maintenance, all of these are connected to American jobs, good-paying jobs. In fact, one of the big turbines has 8,000 parts in it. Somebody is making those parts. I would suggest to everyone that we can make every one of those in Michigan. I am sure we can make them in other places as well, although we would love to make them in Michigan. But what the industry doesn't know is whether the production tax credit which they depend on will be renewed for more than 3 weeks at the end of the year.

In fact, what the House did say is: You have 3 weeks to make business decisions about hiring new people, growing your business, building more parts for the winter. You have 3 weeks. Go get them—in 3 weeks. So they can't make business decisions, and they are going to have to cut.

In the meantime, that means layoffs, similar to the 30,000 workers who were laid off when Congress waited to the very last minute in 2012; 30,000 people were laid off when the same thing happened in 2012 when the production tax credit renewed at the last minute. Even if this bill passes, extending the production tax credit this week through the end of the year may be too late for 30,000 people, right before the holidays. Merry Christmas. Thirty thousand people not being able to have their job extended, people who could help us lead the world in clean energy production, who could help us develop energy here to be less dependent on foreign oil, but because we don't have the fortitude to extend this even after we had a bipartisan bill—the EXPIRE Act—come out of the Finance Committee last spring, they are looking at job losses.

So 30,000 families are putting holiday gifts on their credit card not knowing whether they are going to be able to make payments when the bills arrive.

Businesses in the wind power industry make investment decisions on what their taxes will be, similar to any other business, 5 years, 10 years, 15 years into the future.

There have been, by the way, tax breaks for Big Oil for almost 100 years; the first one in 1916 embedded in the Tax Code, never having to be renewed so long-term business decisions can be made. But for their competitors to create jobs and bring prices down through things such as wind or solar or biofuel, it is a slog every year, every 2 years to try to keep these industries going.

Is that fair? It is absolutely not fair. We ought to have the same kind of tax policy. If we are embedding the Tax Code provisions to support oil production, we should be doing the same for wind, the same for solar, the same for biofuels.

What Republicans are doing when they force us into a situation where it is only a 3-week extension is they are basically telling Americans businesses: Don't invest. Don't hire people. We don't want competition to bring prices down on gasoline or prices in electricity. We don't want you to do that. We are unwilling to commit to something that will create jobs beyond somebody we have been fighting to protect for almost 100 years.

So this is a great concern to me. In the process, Americans deserve better. Our businesses and our innovators deserve better. We go out and say we want new innovation to create new kinds of jobs. That is happening. Then the doors are shut over and over again or it takes forever to pry open the door: You have 3 weeks, the door is open, and then it shuts.

Let me talk about another area I am deeply concerned about where people will be hurt if we do not pass the 2-year EXPIRE Act that we put together in the Finance Committee in a bipartisan way; that is, salaried workers such as those at Delphi auto parts manufacturer—which used to be a part of General Motors. During the 2008 rescue of the auto industry, somehow the salaried workers slipped through the cracks in terms of losing portions of their pensions, their health care coverage, and their insurance, and it is not fair.

One woman who worked at Delphi for over 30 years lost nearly half her pension and all of her health care coverage, which she needed for her husband who suffers from chronic pain.

A manager who worked at a Delphi facility in Michigan was so devoted to the people he supervised that he volunteered to retire rather than lay off some workers. Then 4 months after his retirement, he found out he was losing 40 percent of his pension and all of his health care coverage. Most of what was left out of his pension will go toward paying the cost of his health care, and it was devastating to him and his family.

So we have in this extenders bill, this EXPIRE Act, the health coverage tax credit which was created for people such as these people. I am proud to be a coauthor with Senator BROWN, who has been a real leader on this for people who have lost their benefits that were supposedly guaranteed to them. It does not restore their pension, but this credit pays 72.5 percent of their health care premiums, making it possible for retirees to afford coverage similar to what they could have earned when they were working. It frankly helps people who can't get help in other ways, who fell through the cracks.

The credit expired at the end of 2013, and the bipartisan bill we passed in the spring, in April, renewed that credit. I was very pleased we were able to put this in the bill and thought we were on our way again to help people throughout this year who have been waiting and waiting.

Again, when we passed this in April it was filibustered on the floor by the Republicans. Now we are at 3 weeks left before the end of the year and what we get from the House is a bill that is retroactive for 2014, but it does not even include the health coverage tax credit. So even though this is retroactive for 2014, the people involved—the salaried workers who lost pensions who have been getting some help for their health care at least—will not even get that for this year. There are 20,000 Delphi retirees not only in Michigan and Ohio, but Pennsylvania, Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois, all who are watching right now this process in the Senate and the House to see what will happen, and are reaching out to their House Members and Senate Members—Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

To renew all the other tax provisions but cancel the HCTC is a cruel trick to play on families and certainly is underscored in terms of the holiday season we are getting into now. It is time for our colleagues across the aisle to stop forcing Americans to play a guessing game about their future taxes or their health care.

I regret that the clock has been ticking and running out and left us with no time at this point to get the fairness in the Tax Code that we need. There is still time if we wanted to to pass this EXPIRE Act and send it back to the House, and I am all for it, and I know our chairman, Senator WYDEN, has been working night and day with colleagues across the aisle to try to make that happen. If it is too late for this year, if the clock runs out, shamefully, and we return next year with our Republican colleagues in the majority, I would suggest a New Year's resolution to stop doing retroactive extensions—stop doing retroactive extensions when it involves investments that people have to make that they are not going to be able to do retroactively or decisions about health care or decisions about a home. Start getting serious about making long-term economic decisions.

I know the Presiding Officer agrees with me on this and has spoken with me frequently on this.

Whether it is tax policy, health care policy, infrastructure policy, we need to make long-term decisions and support policies so that businesses can make long-term decisions.

Finally, we need to deliver certainty for families, for small businesses, for manufacturers, for those in alternative energy, for all who are working hard to invest in America across this country. Stop doing retroactive extensions, start working seriously on long-term tax policy and deliver certainty for families and businesses across the country. I think there is still time, if we wanted, to at least give the certainty of next year. Shame on the Congress if that does not happen. But I hope that we will at least commit ourselves that this is the last time this is done this way.

Thank you, 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. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

DECLINE OF THE MIDDLE CLASS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the American people must make some very fundamental decisions in the coming years, and the most important of them is whether we continue the status quo of American society, and that is in terms of our economics and our politics which includes a 40-year decline of our middle class. Let me repeat that.

We are not just talking about what is happening today. We are not talking about the Wall Street crash of 2008. We are talking about a 40-year decline of the American middle class and an ongoing and growing gap between the very wealthy and everybody else. That is the reality of America now.

We can continue the same old, same old, or we can develop a bold economic agenda that begins the process of creating the millions of jobs we desperately need, an agenda which raises wages so that most of the new jobs being created are not low wage or part time, an agenda which protects our environment, and an agenda which enables us to join the rest of the industrialized world and guarantee health care to all people as a right. That is the issue of our time. Do we continue the status quo, continue the disappearance of the middle class, continue the growing gap between the very rich and everybody else, or do we have the courage to come up with an agenda that stands for working families and raises wages and provides for our kids and our seniors?

As part of that decision in my view is the reality that we cannot go forward unless we deal with another very important question, and that is, do we as a nation have the courage to take on the enormous economic and political power of the billionaire class? I know many of my colleagues don't like to talk about it. We talk about this and we talk about that, but most Americans in their gut understand that our economic and political life are controlled by a small number of very wealthy people and institutions, including but not limited to Wall Street, the oil companies, the insurance companies, the drug companies, the military-industrial complex, et cetera, and all of their lobbyists who flood Capitol Hill—trying to get this or that provision in tax bills and everyplace else—and, of course, their power in terms of campaign contributions, and especially since this disastrous Supreme Court Citizens United decision. It means the billionaire class can put unlimited sums of money into electing candidates who represent their interests.

Those are the most important questions of our time. Do we have the courage to take on the handful of billionaire special interests who wield so much economic and political power? Do we have the will to push forward an economic agenda that works for working families and not just for the very wealthy?

The long-term deterioration of the middle class, accelerated by the Wall Street crash of 2008, has not been a pretty sight. Today we have more wealth and income inequality than any major country on Earth and the gap between the very rich and everybody else is growing wider. The top 1 percent now owns about 41 percent of the financial wealth of our country, while the bottom 60 percent owns all of 1.7 percent. The top 1 percent owns 41 percent of the financial wealth, the bottom 60 percent owns 1.7 percent. In fact, amazingly enough, the top one-tenth of 1 percent now owns almost as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent of the American people. Does anyone believe that is what America is supposed to be about, where the top one-tenth of 1 percent owns as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent?

Today we have the absurd situation, the obscene situation, where one family, the Walton family, the owners of Walmart, are worth about $148 billion. That is more wealth in that one family than the bottom 40 percent of the American people.

Today in the United States we have the highest rate of childhood poverty of any major country on Earth. About one-quarter of our kids get nutrition through food stamps, and we are the only industrialized country—major country—that does not guarantee health care to all people as a right.

We once led the world in terms of the percentage of our people who graduated college, but today in a highly competitive global economy we are now in 12th place.

In terms of infrastructure, the United States used to have the finest, most envied infrastructure in the world. Today, as I think every citizen of this country knows, our infrastructure, our roads, our bridges, rail, water systems, airports, dams are virtually collapsing. The American Society of Civil Engineers tells us that we need to spend $3 trillion just to bring our infrastructure up to par. But with infrastructure spending now at its lowest level since 1947, we rank 16th in the world in terms of infrastructure according to the World Economic Forum.

So once we led the world in terms of the numbers of percentages of people graduating college; today we are 12th. Once we led the world in terms of the strength of our infrastructure; today we are the 16th. But we do have the dubious distinction of being first in terms of childhood poverty of any major country.

Real unemployment today is not what the official unemployment states of 5.8 percent; it is over 11 percent when you include those people who have given up looking for work or are working part time. Youth unemployment is over 18 percent.

We hear a lot about Ferguson, MO, and that is a very important issue, but we don't hear enough about the reality that African-American youth unemployment is over 30 percent.

Today in this country millions of Americans are working longer hours for lower wages. In inflation-adjusted-for dollars, the median male worker—listen to this; this is really quite unbelievable and it tells us a little bit as to why the American people are angry. The median male worker—that worker right in the middle of the economy—last year earned $783 less than he made 41 years ago—$783 less than he made 41 years ago in inflation-accounted-for dollars. In the explosion of technology, the great global economy, all of the great free trade agreements, and that male worker today is earning over $700 less than he made in real dollars 41 years ago. The median female worker made $1337 less last year than she earned in 2007.

Since 1999, the median middle-class family has seen its income go down by

almost $5,000 after adjusting for inflation, now earning less this year than a family earned 25 years ago. Are we better off today than we were 6 years ago when Bush left office and we were hemorrhaging 700,000 jobs a month and the financial system was on the verge of collapse with a $1.3 trillion deficit? Of course we are. But if you look at the trends over the last 40 years, the reality is, the middle class in this country is disappearing and almost all new income and wealth is going to the people on top.

The American people must demand that Congress and the White House start protecting the interests of working families, not just wealthy campaign contributors. We need Federal legislation to put the unemployed back to work, raise wages, and make certain that all Americans have health care and education in order to live healthy and productive lives.

We can spend hours dissecting and analyzing the problems of American society, and in my view, they are worse today than at any time since the Great Depression, and if you throw in the planetary crisis of climate change, we may have more problems today facing our Nation than at any time in a very long period.

But what I wish to do today is very briefly throw out and discuss 12 initiatives that I believe, if enacted by the Congress, could begin to address the collapse of the middle class and rebuild our economy. I will just touch on them briefly.

No. 1, as I mentioned earlier, our infrastructure is collapsing—our roads, bridges, water systems, wastewater plants, airports, railroads, and older schools. We spent $3 trillion—or when we take care of the last veteran, we have spent $3 trillion fighting a war in Iraq that we never should have fought in the first place.

If over a period of years we were to invest $1 trillion in rebuilding our infrastructure, we could create 13 million decent-paying jobs, and that is exactly what we have to do. Think of what America would look like if you went around the country and saw work being done on roads, bridges, and cutting-edge technology for our water plants and wastewater plants. We would become more productive and efficient. We would put people back to work.

No. 2, in my view—and I know many of my Republican colleagues don't agree, but the scientific community is united when they say climate change is real, it is caused by human activity, and if we do not reverse and substantially cut back carbon emissions, this planet will become increasingly uninhabitable for our kids and our grandchildren. In my view, we must transform our energy system away from fossil fuels and into energy efficiency and sustainable energy, such as wind, solar, geothermal, et cetera.

When we address energy efficiency and sustainable energy, not only do we lead the world in transforming our energy system and reversing climate change, but we also create a significant number of meaningful and important jobs.

No. 3, in my view, instead of giving tax breaks to large corporations which shut down in America and go to China, we want to invest in new economic models to increase job creation and productivity, and that is giving workers the opportunity to own their own businesses. We have some of that in Vermont, and I know in Ohio there are worker-owned businesses where workers are more productive and feel better about their jobs. I would rather invest in that than in corporations that will shut down in this country and move abroad.

No. 4, I think most people understand that when you have a union to negotiate and engage in collective bargaining, wages are higher and working conditions are better. Today corporate opposition to union organizing makes it extremely difficult for workers to join a union. We need legislation which makes it clear that when a majority of workers signs cards in support of a union, they can have that union.

No. 5, the Federal minimum wage today is a starvation wage of $7.25 an hour. We need to raise the minimum wage to a living wage. People who work 40 hours a week should not live in poverty.

No. 6, women workers today earn about 78 cents on the dollar to what their male counterparts earn doing the same work. That is not acceptable. We need equal pay for equal work. We need pay equity in our country, and we have to pass that legislation.

No. 7, an issue that we don't talk about enough, and, in fact, has had bipartisan support for many decades, is our disastrous trade policy, NAFTA, CAFTA, and permanent normal trade relations with China. The simple fact is these trade policies have been a disaster for the American worker. Since 2001, we have lost more than 60,000 factories in this country and more than 4.9 million decent-paying manufacturing jobs. Not all of that is attributable to bad trade policies, but a lot of it is. We need to rethink our trade policies and demand that corporate America invest in the United States of America and not in China.

I know that is a radical idea. Imagine going shopping in a department store where we can actually purchase products made in America and not in China, but I think we should be doing that.

No. 8, we are not going to be a successful economy unless our young people have the ability to get the college education they need regardless of the income of their families. Right now it is increasingly difficult for working families to afford college. Many of our young people are coming out of college deeply in debt. In this area we are moving in exactly the wrong direction. Forty, fifty years ago, tuition was virtually free at some of the great public universities in America, such as the University of California, New York City, and State colleges around country. Today it is unaffordable.

We need to radically rethink higher education in this country. Our goal is that everyone, regardless of income, should be able to get a quality college education and not come out in debt.

No. 9, I think everybody understands the enormous stranglehold that Wall Street has on our economy. Banking is supposed to be the facilitator to get money out in the productive economy where companies are producing products and services and not see Wall Street or financial institutions as an end in itself, but that is exactly what we have right now. We have six financial institutions in this country that have assets equivalent to over 60 percent of the GDP of the United States of America. That is too big, and it gives them too much economic and political power. In my view, they must be broken up and we must bring about a more competitive financial system where money is getting out to the real economy so businesses can create real jobs.

No. 10, and many people don't know this, but the United States is the only major country on Earth that doesn't guarantee health care to all people as a right. Yet we end up spending almost twice as much per capita on health care as any other Nation. In my strong opinion, if we want health care for all and we want to do it in a cost-effective way, we need to move toward a Medicare for all, single-payer system.

No. 11, today in this great Nation, millions of seniors are living in poverty, and that number is growing, and we have the highest rate of childhood poverty of any major country. We must strengthen the social safety net, not weaken it. Instead of talking about cutting Social Security or cutting Medicare or cutting Medicaid or cutting nutrition programs, we should be expanding those programs. This is a great country, and we should not have millions of people wondering how they are going to be able to buy medicine for their illness or heat their homes in the wintertime. We have to expand the social safety net for our kids, our seniors, and our vulnerable populations.

Last, but certainly not least, at a time of massive wealth and income inequality, we need a progressive tax system in this country which is based on ability to pay. It is not acceptable that major profitable corporations have paid nothing in recent years in Federal income taxes and that corporate CEOs in this country often enjoy an effective tax rate which is lower than their secretaries'.

We are losing about $100 billion a year from companies that stash their profits in the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, and other tax havens. We need real tax reform. We need to end all of these corporate tax loopholes so we have the revenue we need to do the important tasks in front of us to rebuild this country.

With that, I think the American people have some fundamental choices to make. Do we continue the status quo from an economic perspective and political perspective or do we demand that Congress start listening to the pain of the middle class and working families of this country and start producing legislation which rebuilds our crumbling middle class?

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of the Senator from Vermont.

I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of my remarks, of up to 10 minutes, that Senator MANCHIN be recognized for his remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, every year about this time—actually every few months, or maybe every month—there are attempts by Wall Street to again change the rules, cut back consumer protection laws, and change the regulations that protect the American public against Wall Street greed.

It happens almost weekly, it seems, in the Financial Services Committee in the House of Representatives. There are attempts in the Agriculture Committee, beaten back by Senator STABENOW, to her credit, and attempts in the banking committee, beaten back by Chairman JOHNSON, to his credit.

Almost every week, it seems, there are efforts by Wall Street to undermine the protections that we were able to build in under the Dodd-Frank bill to stop Wall Street from doing to the economy what it did in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008. September of 2008 had been preceded by a decade of deregulation of the financial industry, decades of lobbying by very effective lobbyists for the six biggest Wall Street banks. Risky behavior was rewarded with gargantuan profits for the firms and multimillion-dollar bonuses for the executives.

The CEO of one of the largest megabanks in the history of the world—not just in our country—said: As long as the music is playing, you have got to get up and dance. There is a lot of money to be made on Wall Street, and they have to take advantage of every loophole, particularly those loopholes that their lobbyists create.

This unmitigated greed led to 8 million people losing their jobs, 7 million losing their homes after being foreclosed on because the financial system lacked the necessary safeguards to protect Wall Street. Dodd-Frank was supposed to end all of that. It has made progress by preventing taxpayer bailouts for banks. Risky derivatives trading was one of the central goals of Dodd-Frank. An amendment by Senator Lincoln, then the Chair of the Agriculture Committee, brought forward an amendment in 2009. Dodd-Frank went through the process.

The day that President Obama signed the Dodd-Frank bill to protect Americans from Wall Street greed, the chief lobbyists for the chief financial trade association in this town said: Now it is half-time. What does ''now it is half-time'' mean? Well, the bill passed, and Wall Street financiers and lobbyists said, we don't like that, but now we can go to the regulatory agencies and weaken the rules, delay their implementation, sometimes stop some of the rulemaking, and we can go back to Congress and continue to lobby and weaken these rules.

To give you an example of what has happened, in 1995, the 6 largest banks in the United States had assets equal to 18 percent of the GDP. I don't want to bore people with numbers, but in 1995, the 6 largest banks had assets equal to 18 percent of GDP. Today they make up 64 percent of GDP. The largest six Wall Street banks—everybody knows their names—are getting larger and larger, increasing their economic power, and as we see almost every day in this Congress and especially in the House of Representatives dominated by tea party Republicans and people at the beck and call of Wall Street, we see their political power growing.

Under the accounting rules applied by the rest of the world, the derivatives holdings of the 6 largest banks—basically insurance policy on top of insurance policy on top of insurance policy as financial instruments—are 39 percent larger than we think they are, which is a difference of about $4 trillion.

Derivatives were described by Warren Buffett as timebombs—financial weapons of mass destruction carrying dangers that are potentially lethal. Senator LEVIN, who is about to retire from the Senate after 36 years, calls these derivatives nuclear weapons.

According to the New York Times, bank lobbyists wrote provisions dealing with derivatives that will repeal—not to get too technical—the Lincoln language. And here is what the language in section 716 says: Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal assistance may be provided to any swaps entity with respect to any swaps, security-based swap, or other activity of the swaps entity.

This is the language that is now Federal law. This language says no more bailouts.

However, the legislation likely to be in front of us, the omnibus we will be facing, because of Wall Street lobbyists, because of Republican financial services members caving to special interests, this provision that says ''no more bailouts'' is done with. We will see language now stripped out of Federal law that says ''no more bailouts.''

The public needs to understand that if this language passes to strip this language out, if this bill passes, that again bailouts can be imminent—bailouts brought on by Wall Street greed, bailouts brought on by risky trading, now protected by taxpayers. So, in other words, it is heads I win, tails you lose. If I make big bets on derivatives and I am a Wall Street banker, I make tens of millions of dollars. However, if I make big bets and something bad happens, taxpayers get to pay for it. That is the problem with stripping out section 716.

I am not the only one who thinks this. Tom Hoenig, Leader MCCONNELL's selection to the FDIC board, supports keeping 716 in the law. Sheila Bair—once Senator Bob Dole's chief of staff, President Bush's appointment, and then President Obama kept her on as a major Federal regulator—she is opposed to repeal, as has the White House opposed the repeal.

Mark Stefanski, a friend of mine from Third Federal in my neighborhood in Cleveland, in Slovak Village, which is about an $11 billion bank on the southeast side of Cleveland. That is a bank which makes mortgages. It does not trade in exotic derivatives. He told me: You know, banking should be boring. It is not about taking excessive risks, especially when those excessive risks are underwritten by taxpayers.

That is what abolishing 716—that is what the repeal of the 716 language does. It puts taxpayers on the hook in the form of a future bailout. It is a subsidy today for the six largest banks. It puts taxpayers on the hook in the future, gives all kinds of additional incentives for Wall Street bankers to engage in more risky derivatives trading, and puts us all again under the possibility of a bank bailout.

It simply does not make sense. We have the opportunity to reject this part of this legislation. We owe it to the families in my State, to families in Virginia, to families in Delaware, to families in Georgia, and all over this country. That is why we cannot support a measure that values corporate greed over working America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, first I thank my colleague for giving me this time, and I acknowledge the hard work he has done.

WEISS NOMINATION

I represent the great State of West Virginia. It is a rural State where we believe in commonsense solutions and values. In the Mountain State, we understand the importance of leveling the playing field for community institutions and helping small businesses create and keep jobs. As a Senator from West Virginia, I was sent here to represent the people of Main Street. For those reasons, I rise today to explain why I must oppose the nomination of Wall Street investment banker Antonio Weiss to be Under Secretary for Domestic Finance at the Department of the Treasury.

I cannot and will not support his nomination because I do not believe he possesses the characteristics and the background we need in an Under Secretary to push for strong Wall Street oversight and to protect our small

businesses and financial institutions on Main Streets all across America.

The position to which Mr. Weiss has been nominated is one that would put him at the head of the Treasury's decisionmaking on issues of domestic finance, fiscal policy, government liability, and other related domestic matters. He would oversee critical issues such as Wall Street reform, financing the national debt, housing finance reform, and small business credit. I have serious doubts that Mr. Weiss has the right experience to take on such a role.

It is clear that as the global head of investment banking at Lazard, Mr. Weiss is very talented and experienced in working in financial markets and economic institutions, but as an investment banker on Wall Street, he does not have the experience for this particular oversight position. He has dealt almost entirely with European investment banking, not domestic finance or community banking or regulatory issues of any kind, all of which fall under the jurisdiction of this important position.

Besides not having the right background for the job, the fact that Mr. Weiss is a top corporate dealmaker with a specialization in international financing is in itself troubling to me. He has spent a good deal of his professional career working on mergers and acquisitions for the world's largest corporations. He has spent time in Paris running the firm's European division. There is not a thing wrong with that, but this fits the administration's pattern of choosing Wall Street insiders for senior policy positions instead of those with strong consumer protection or community bank and credit union experience, plain-spoken people who have worked on Main Street.

To make matters worse, the substantial compensation Lazard plans to offer Mr. Weiss upon his confirmation is another reason to be very skeptical. The financial giant is planning to pay him $20 million if he can win confirmation and come into government service. This kind of arrangement and human nature suggests he will be especially sympathetic to Lazard's lobbying efforts. Public service is a noble cause. A $20 million golden parachute makes it very hard to gain the public's trust.

With that being said, I do not believe Mr. Weiss can fulfill the duties of Under Secretary of the Treasury Department.

Since joining the Senate banking committee, I have tried to make our banking and financial system work better for small businesses, banks, and middle-class West Virginians and Americans. I will continue to do so. That is why I cannot support this nomination. Mr. Weiss does not have the experience for this particular job.

It is important to send a message that we will no longer allow Wall Street to exclusively make our fiscal policy decisions, especially when they affect so many around this country on Main Street. Economic and banking policies have too often been made without the input of our Nation's midsized banks, community banks, and credit unions. We must strive to have a balanced view of engaging voices on all sides of these important issues. By confirming Mr. Weiss as the Under Secretary, we are putting Wall Street before Main Street. We have already seen from the 2008 crisis how that harmed the Nation as a whole. We do not need to repeat that picture again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO SAXBY CHAMBLISS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wanted to rise very briefly because I know Senator CHAMBLISS is about to give his farewell speech. I commend my dear good friend the Senator from Georgia for his service. I am going to stay through his speech, but I know there will be others who will probably rise afterwards to give accolades, and I wanted to be first in line to salute him for his service, his friendship to so many of us in this body, and my personal good wishes for his future. I know there will be others later; I thought for a change I would get a word in first.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, as my service in the Senate comes to an end, I rise today to say thank you to some of the wonderful people who have been part of a great ride for over 20 years.

We as Americans are fortunate to live in the greatest country in the world; a country where the American dream is still alive and well; a country where, in spite of all of our problems, we are the envy of the free world; a country where a preacher's kid from rural southern Georgia can rise to be elected to the House of Representatives and then to the Senate.

We as Members of the Senate are fortunate to have the opportunity to serve. We are blessed to be able to work in such a historic venue as we are in this afternoon. As we come into our offices and into this building every day, there are some things we take for granted. So to the entire Capitol Hill workforce, from those who clean our offices, to those who change the lightbulbs, provide our food, maintain our subways, keep us safe and secure, and to all of those in between, I say thank you. You are very professional in what you do, and you always do it with a smile.

To the floor staff and the cloakroom staff for both the majority and the minority, thanks for putting in the long hours, listening to often boring speeches, reminding us when we have not voted, scheduling floor time, reminding us of the rules, and making sure our mistakes are at a minimum.

I am fortunate to have been surrounded by great staff during all of my 20 years in the House and Senate, mostly young people from varied backgrounds who are the brightest minds my State and my country have to offer. They are committed patriots and loyal to the core. To those current and former members of my staff, thank you for your service to me and to the State of Georgia.

I have been served by four chiefs of staff: Rob Leebern, Krister Holladay, Charlie Harman, and Camila Knowles. Every office plan that each one of them put together starts with providing better constituent service than any other Member of the House or the Senate. I am extremely proud that our record shows we achieve the goal of doing just that. I have even had government agency personnel call my office asking for guidance on cases from other offices.

I have often said that my greatest satisfaction from this job comes not from negotiating major pieces of legislation but from being able to help Georgians with difficulties they are experiencing and having a positive impact on their lives.

I am particularly blessed to have three members of my staff who have been with me for all 20 years. My deputy chief Teresa Ervin, Debbie Cannon, and Bill Stembridge have walked every mile with me and have been so valuable. Thanks, guys.

My greatest support comes from my family. My wife Julianne, my daughter Lia and her husband Joe, my son Bo and his wife Bess, along with our grandchildren—John, Parker, Jay, Kimbrough, Anderson, and Ellie—have all been somehow involved on the campaign trial.

Come the 28th day of this month, Julianne and I will have been married for 48 years, having met at the University of Georgia a couple of years before that. For tolerating a husband who had a 24/7 job for 20 years, for being a single mom part of that time, and for understanding why I could not get home until Christmas Eve some years, I say thank you, sweetheart.

I am privileged today to represent almost 10 million Georgians who are the most wonderful people God ever put on this earth. I lost my first primary election and went on to win each of my next seven races. I won every one of those seven races because I shared the values of my constituents, I outworked each of my opponents, and I had better ideas and the best advisers and staff. Thanks, Tom and Paige.

Thanks to Senators Nunn and Miller for their regular advice and counsel. Thanks to my three leaders, Senator Lott, Senator Frist, and Senator MCCONNELL, each of whom provided me with strong leadership and always listened to me even when I had ideas that might have been different from their ideas.

I am often asked what I will miss most about the Senate. The answer is very easy. I will miss my friends and the relationships we have developed over the years. Senator ISAKSON and I

entered the University of Georgia 52 years ago in September and became friends immediately. We have been the dearest of friends ever since. He is without question the most trusted friend and adviser I have. I will miss our daily conversations.

My three best buddies from my House days, Speaker JOHN BOEHNER, Congressman TOM LATHAM, and Senator RICHARD BURR, along with Senator TOM COBURN, have been the legislative collaborators, dinner partners, golfing buddies, confidants, and numerous other things that should not be mentioned on the floor of the Senate.

Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM is like a member of my family. We have traveled the world together many times, hearing a lot. I have no plans to write a book, but if I did, LINDSEY GRAHAM's anecdotes would fill a chapter.

Senator FEINSTEIN has been a great chairman and partner on the Intelligence Committee. I will miss her leadership, her wisdom, her friendship, and those late-afternoon glasses of California wine.

My most productive time in the Senate has been spent with my dear friend Senator MARK WARNER. Our work with the Gang of 6, which included Senators DURBIN, CONRAD, COBURN, CRAPO, and then later Senators JOHANNS and BENNET, represents the very best of everything about the Senate. We spent, literally, hundreds of hours together debating ideas and trying to solve major problems, and we came very close. Senator WARNER's insight, his wanting to solve problems, and his political inspiration are lessons that I will carry with me forever.

As the Senate now goes forward under new leadership, I have two comments. First, the Senate should return to regular order. Senator MCCONNELL has indicated that will be the case, and it should be.

The rule change by the current majority changed the institution of the Senate in a negative way. I hope the rule is changed back to require 60 votes on all issues, including judges and nominees. Some of those most vocal favoring the rules change lost their elections, and while the rules change did not cost them their election, it is very clear that the American people wanted a change in the leadership that changed the rule. Regular order will help in restoring trust and confidence to the world's most deliberative body.

Second, it is imperative that the issue of the debt of this country be addressed. Just last week our total debt surpassed $18 trillion. We cannot leave the astronomical debt our policies have generated for our children and grandchildren to fix. It is not rocket science; it is what must be done.

Cutting spending alone—for example, sequestration—is not the solution. Raising taxes is not the solution. As Simpson-Bowles, Domenici-Rivlin and the Gang of 6 all agreed, it will take a combination of spending reduction, entitlement reform, and tax reform to stimulate more revenue. Hard and tough votes will have to be taken, but that is why we get elected to the Senate. The world is waiting for America to lead on this issue. If we do, the U.S. economy will respond in a very robust way. The Gang of 6 laid the foundation for this problem to be solved, and it is my hope that we do not leave the solution for the next generation.

I close with what I have enjoyed most about Congress, and that is the opportunity that I have had to spend with the men and women in uniform and those in the intelligence world, all of whom are willing to put their lives in harm's way for the sake of our freedom.

Whether it was Robins Air Force Base, Kabul, Ramadi, Jalalabad, Khowst or Dubai, I always get emotional telling the men and women how proud I am of them and how blessed we as Americans are to have them protecting us. They are special people who sacrificed much for the sake of all 300 million Americans.

Let us also remember and be thankful for the families of those military and civilian personnel who likewise make a commitment to America. As we head into another Christmas season, many of those families will not have at home their spouse, their parent, their son or their daughter.

May God bless them. May God bless this great institution, and may God continue to bless our great country.

I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from California is recognized.

TRIBUTES TO SAXBY CHAMBLISS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Senator CHAMBLISS, my remarks are personal. We worked together for the past 8 years on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. For 4 years we have worked as chair and cochair. We have exchanged views, we have negotiated bills, and we have shared information. We have been there through very tough times and some very pleasant times. It is very hard for me to see you go.

I have learned to trust you. I respect you. We have worked together. The committee put together a Benghazi report. We worked very hard. We found areas of agreement.

Senator COLLINS of the committee is here, and Senator WARNER is here. Am I missing anyone else from the committee? There is Senator BURR, who will be the new chairman, and Senator COATS, Senator COBURN. We were able to come together and put together a report unanimously, and it was really because of your leadership.

As I watched, what became very apparent is that maybe your side isn't as fractious as my side is. You were able to say yes, we can do this or no, we can't do that, and you reflected your Members. That made it very easy for me, and I am very grateful.

Yesterday we disagreed. You have never taken a cheap shot. We worked together at the same time to move our intelligence authorization bill. There was one last glitch which you worked out, and that bill passed unanimously last night.

Together we have worked to put together an information-sharing bill for what is probably our No. 1 defensive issue, which is cyber and the attacks that have taken 97 percent of our businesses into difficulties.

You have compromised, and I have compromised. Unfortunately, on our side, we have some unsolved issues. So, hopefully, I will be able to pick up with Senator BURR where we left off, and we will be able to get that job done next year.

What I want you to know—and I said this to you in another way—that it was such a wonderful experience for me to work with you. This is the hard part. We are only here for an instant in eternity, and the only thing that matters is what we do with that instant.

What I want you to know is you have really done yeoman's work in that instant, and I am very grateful to have the pleasure of working with you. I have learned from you, and I wish you all good things.

Thank you very much, Senator CHAMBLISS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. ISAKSON. I rise to pay tribute to my friend, SAXBY CHAMBLISS.

I will admit to you this is a speech I never wanted to make. I never wanted to make it because we have had a wonderful relationship in this body for the past 10 years. We have done everything together.

He has had my back, and I have had his back. He is a great friend, and I will miss him. But I am not a selfish guy. He married one of the finest women I have ever known, Julianne Chambliss, who is one of the best friends my wife has.

Although he is leaving us and I will miss the crutch I have used for so long, Julianne is getting her SAXBY back. For Julianne, her family, and those grandkids he loves so much, that is exactly what SAXBY wants to do.

Georgia has had some great Senators: Richard Russell, who was really the master of the Senate; Zell Miller, a former Governor of Georgia, a great friend of mine and a great mentor of our State; and Sam Nunn, one of the finest in national defense and foreign policy our State ever offered. SAXBY will be the fourth on the Mount Rushmore of Georgia Senators who have served Georgia with distinction and with class.

I want to tell SAXBY this in person. For 10 years we have done joint conferences. We have messed up twice. When I messed up he covered my back and when he messed up I covered his.

In 2008 when he almost lost a race and got into a runoff in December in Georgia, I rode a bus for 21 straight days introducing him three times a day and eating barbecue every single day

for dinner and for lunch. That is a price to pay that only friendship will bring out.

He is a dear friend, a trusted person. I love him very much and I love his family very much.

I could talk all day, but I wanted to open and close by saying, SAXBY, I love you. The State is going to love having you back. This country is going to miss you, but my grandchildren are safer, my State is better, and our relationship has never been stronger.

May God bless you and your family in every endeavor you undertake, and may God bless the United States of America.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. MANCHIN. First, I would say I have only been in the Senate for 4 years. When I came, let's just say it was not what I expected. For that, you look for a little bit of respite, if you will.

I looked at my colleagues and my friends on the Republican side. I didn't come to the Senate looking at what side you were on. I looked at basically the person I was dealing with.

There was a person who befriended me almost from my first day, knowing that the transition was a challenge. He stepped up to the plate with a few of my other friends over there—I see Senator COBURN behind him—and basically took me under the wing and said: Listen, we can all work together and get along. What we do here is bigger and for the greater good than what we do for ourself.

SAXBY not only showed me, but basically I was able to follow and watch what he did. This Chamber should be filled right now—it really should be from all sides—but the bottom line is the Senator is loved by everybody. I never heard an ill word said about SAXBY CHAMBLISS, the distinction he carries as far as the Senate and as a human being.

I say to the Senator, your family and your priorities are correct. Your moral compass is working and working well. I can only tell you thank you. As someone from the other side of the aisle and as a fellow colleague and a fellow American, you are an inspiration to us all.

SAXBY, there will not be another SAXBY, but I am glad they gave you to me for this short period of time of 4 years. Some of you—I look at JOHNNY, and I envy JOHNNY. For 52 years he has been your close friend.

There is your partner in crime back there, Senator BURR. We hope he doesn't tell it all when he gets up.

But with that being said, there are so many people who have a relationship that is unmatched and that is because of you.

I say, my dear friend, my hat is off to you. Thank you, and God bless you for what you have done for the United States of America, for Georgia, but most importantly for all of us. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from North Carolina is recognized.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, this moment is bittersweet for me.

I spent more time with SAXBY than I have with my own wife for the past 20 years. We have done everything together. Those vacation spots he mentioned—Kabul, Baghdad—I was right beside him.

We traveled to areas of the world that others wouldn't venture to, and there was a reason he was there. He was concerned about America's future, he was concerned about his children's future, and he was in a position to have an impact on it to make it better for them in the future. That is why he served. It is obvious to all of our colleagues that he is a lot older than I am, but he has worked just as hard as the youngest Member of this institution.

Even though we have seen each other's children grow up, and now we have seen them all married off, he deserves the time to go home and spend some time with his grandchildren and, more importantly, to get to know his wife again.

I want to say, Senator FEINSTEIN, I like red wine just as much as SAXBY does. I probably can't be bought as cheaply as he could, but I do look forward to continuing to work with you and, more importantly, to continue to do the work on the Intelligence Committee that really does build on what SAXBY started in the year 2000 as we went on the House Intelligence Committee together.

There is only one way to sum up SAXBY CHAMBLISS. He is a true southern gentleman. He is absolutely a statesman, but what everybody who meets SAXBY understands is this. He is a great American, he loves this country, he loves this institution, and some piece of him will remain here when he leaves at the end of this year. He will have an impact on what happens even though his presence may not be here.

We wish him Godspeed in life after.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I am a bit out of order here. I was waiting for some of my colleagues who have spent a bit more time here than I to speak, but I wanted to take this opportunity to add my sincere thanks to SAXBY CHAMBLISS for the kind of person he is and the kind of leadership he has provided and the kind of example he has set during his time in Congress and in the Senate.

I was privileged to be able to come back to the Senate and join the group of people who shared the same deep concerns I had shared. The reason I did come back was due to the threats to our country from abroad and the fiscal plunge into debt that is going to affect our country dramatically in the future if we don't deal with it. But having the privilege of being with the people who have set such an example has been a great privilege for me.

If I were a producer and director of a movie I was going to have come out about the Senate, I would want SAXBY to be the leading man. First of all, he looks like a Senator, and he has that southern calm presence that most of us envy and he just seems to fit the profile. The next choice would have to be for the leading lady, and you couldn't find a more gracious, beautiful, supportive leading lady than Julianne Chambliss. Together, they just make a stunning couple.

I have had the privilege of traveling with them and seeing them in different places and in different situations, and what a tremendous gift it is to be with the both of them. So the Senate and many of us here will dearly miss SAXBY CHAMBLISS. He comes from a line of distinguished Senators representing the State of Georgia, and as Senator BURR said, he fits right into that long list of people whose tenure here has been remembered for decades and will continue to be remembered for decades.

His commitment to our men and women in uniform, his service to the agriculture community but particularly, in my experience, his leadership of the Intelligence Committee has been leadership this country has needed in a time of dire circumstances. His work with Chairman FEINSTEIN in dealing with the daily pressures and weight of responsibility that falls on the leadership—and all of us who serve on the committee but particularly the leadership of the Intelligence Committee—has probably been as great in the last several years as any time in our history. Very difficult decisions have had to be made.

I know I sometimes stagger out of that committee thinking, this is more than I can get my mind around. This is more than I can get my arms around in terms of how do we deal with some of these threats and some of these challenges that have popped up all over the world in various manifestations. Yet the solid leadership on the Republican side with SAXBY CHAMBLISS has united us in a way that has forged a real bond and a desire to work in a nonpartisan basis to live up to our responsibility to provide oversight for the intelligence community and to be a part of helping make those decisions that are so important and so formative in terms of how we deal with these particular issues.

So I thank SAXBY for the person he has been, the person he is, and the person he will continue to be, for the example he has set, for his friendship, and for his extraordinary leadership. I know the refrigerator will be stocked with Coca Cola, there will be Georgia peanuts in his pocket, maybe a little bit of bourbon in a drawer somewhere, and he will have a tee time at Augusta just about any time he wants. I wish him the very best as he and Julianne go forward with their life. He has left his mark here and certainly he has left his mark on me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, a lot has been said about SAXBY already, but I have an observation I have noticed over the last 10 years since I have been here, and it is about leadership. We see elected leadership on both sides, but then we see real leadership. We see the person people go to for advice. We see the person people go to for counsel. We see the person whom people go to for wisdom and judgment. That is what I have noticed the last 10 years.

More than anybody in this body, whether it is from the other side of the aisle or this side of the aisle, the person whose counsel is most sought is that of SAXBY CHAMBLISS. That is real leadership that is earned, and it needs to be recognized and honored for what it is. Because what it says is his leadership comes without judgment on the person asking the question, without condemnation of a position that may be different than his. It is giving of himself for the benefit of the rest of us.

Hear, hear, my friend from Georgia.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. JOHANNS. Mr. President, it is an honor for me to stand and pay tribute to SAXBY CHAMBLISS. I think the first time I got to work around SAXBY was when I was nominated as the Secretary of Agriculture, and I think the first hearing SAXBY chaired as chairman of the Senate ag committee might have been that hearing.

I arrived in Washington, and I was scared to death. I had no idea what to expect. But I met with SAXBY, and I knew immediately that when I was in that hearing I was going to be treated with dignity and with respect because he wouldn't have it any other way. That is the way he did business.

Fortunately, I was confirmed, and that started our working relationship. In those years, I would not try to argue that we agreed on every nuance of farm policy. I am positive there were times when SAXBY was convinced I didn't understand a thing about southern agriculture. But he was patient and he was determined to represent all of agriculture, whether it was the South, the Midwest or the West. His goal was to be a chairman of the ag committee for all of agriculture. It was during that time the farm bill was written, and he was a tough negotiator. He had a mind in terms of where he was headed and he was going to stand up for his people and I came to respect him so much.

It was in the Senate though where I truly began to understand his talent. I can't tell you how many times we have been in a caucus meeting and somebody would ask the most intricate, difficult question relating to intelligence and national security, and invariably we would turn to SAXBY. SAXBY would stand and, in that quiet but forceful way he has, he would walk us through the intricacies of the issues. On whatever the topic was, he would explain it in a way that literally everybody in the room understood. They got it. Watch out. You had better be prepared to be Senators with the information he had given us.

What has impressed me so much, and I know I speak for my colleagues when I say this, is he could do the same thing with the most intricate issues relative to farm policy or ag policy or finance or the Federal budget. The breadth of his knowledge is absolutely unbelievable.

I thank you, SAXBY, for the many times you probably disagreed with me immensely but treated me thoughtfully and respectfully and listened to my opinion. I saw you do that with other Members in this body. I thank you for your service. As one of the retiring Members, I will look forward to the opportunity to spend more time with you. I hope our paths cross many times in the future because I know I will be the better for it.

God bless you, my friend, and best wishes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. The junior Senator from Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Your words.

Mr. PORTMAN. Look. I am so proud to be here to say a couple of words about my friend SAXBY. As you have heard from my colleagues, he is beloved. By the way, two of those who spoke are Senators who are also choosing to leave us. TOM COBURN talked about leadership. I will tell you, they are leaving a huge void.

I got to know SAXBY when he came to the House of Representatives. I was there in the early 1990s, and we became friends. Although I am from Ohio and he is a son of the South, he and Julianne embraced me and Jane, and I got to know his son Bo—such a great family.

But I didn't truly get to know him until I was the U.S. Trade Representative and my job was to try to open markets for U.S. agricultural products around the world. That required looking at something called subsidies—agriculture subsidies. This is a dangerous area in terms of politics, and MIKE JOHANNS is very well aware of this as an ex-Secretary of Agriculture, having been at my side during some of these negotiations.

My job was to come to the Senate ag committee and talk about what we were up to and try to find out how much flexibility there was for us to get these markets open that were so important for our farmers and ranchers but entailed considerable political risk. I learned a new SAXBY CHAMBLISS there. That is when I saw the leadership that was talked about earlier.

SAXBY was willing to not just be constructive but to take that risk and to be totally discreet and confidential in dealing with very sensitive issues. I came away with a whole new level of understanding about SAXBY and therefore a new respect for him, his character, and his willingness to do what was right.

More recently, of course, we have seen his leadership on other issues: standing up for our men and women in uniform. My colleagues, to me, he has been the guardian at the gate, giving us all comfort as ranking member of the Intelligence Committee. We live in a dangerous, volatile world, and knowing SAXBY was there, clear-eyed, disciplined, discreet, and able to tell it like it was and tell it like it is today, I think has given not just us but our families and all Americans considerable comfort. So I appreciate his service there.

Finally, I admire his willingness to step up on this issue of our national debt. This is again not an easy issue, and he joined with some colleagues to promote some proposals. Again, my colleagues who are leaving know this, TOM COBURN, in particular; MIKE JOHANNS, whom I will always have a great deal of respect for the way he has handled that issue as well.

Despite everything we have heard about him today though, perhaps his greatest accomplishment has yet to be mentioned; that is, the fact that he played golf with the President of the United States and managed to get a hole in one. The press report from that day says two things that are very interesting. First, it says he hit the hole in one on the south course. The son of the South chose to use the south course, of course, for his hole in one, but, second, it says ''he was choking up on a 5-iron.''

Taking nothing away from his hole in one—and it sounds like it wasn't as long a shot as he explained to me it might have been—but choking up on a 5-iron makes no sense to me. There is nobody more poised, more smooth. I have never seen him choke on anything.

SAXBY, we are sad to see you leave but happy to see you spend more time with Julianne, the kids, and the beloved Bulldogs. Godspeed, my friend.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I rise to thank my friend SAXBY CHAMBLISS. Senator COBURN spoke about leadership. We are very much going to miss Senator COBURN, Senator JOHANNS, and Senator CHAMBLISS in this body.

But what he said is very true; because as someone who has only served here for 4 years, one of the people who has been most welcoming to me and a mentor and role model and someone from whom I have sought advice is SAXBY CHAMBLISS.

As we look at this body and people whom we can emulate as role models, SAXBY CHAMBLISS is one of those role models. Not only is he incredibly knowledgeable on the issues that are so important to this Nation—and I can say, having served with him on the Armed Services Committee, he is one of the most knowledgeable people in this country, not only on what we need to do to keep the country safe because

of his role on the Intelligence Committee, but also what we need to ensure that our men and women in uniform have the very best to keep our country safe. SAXBY has a deep understanding and very much loves our men and women in uniform, and has stood up for them in ensuring that they have gotten what they need to keep this country safe.

From my perspective, he is someone who is going to be so missed in this body, because he has understood that you can stand on principle, as he has, for the important challenges facing this Nation—whether it is keeping us safe, or addressing the national debt that threatens not only our security but the prosperity of America; but he has also done it in a way that he has been able to build relationships—relationships within our own conference in the Republican Caucus, where he is a go-to leader, where people like me seek his advice on how to get things done—but also, as we can see here, relationships across the aisle.

As we go into the new Congress, I hope as SAXBY goes on to do other important things with his lovely family and Julianne and his children and grandchildren, that we will follow the example of SAXBY CHAMBLISS of what it means to work together, of what it means to be respectful of each other to get things done for this country, and to address the great challenges that SAXBY has done so much important work on—including keeping our Nation safe and making sure that America remains strong.

SAXBY, I want to thank you for being so welcoming to me, for being a role model, and for being someone who I think is an example of what it means to serve this country with distinction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING SENATORS SAXBY CHAMBLISS, TOM COBURN, AND MIKE JOHANNS

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, in the new Congress we will welcome 12 new Republican Senators, and that is wonderful. They are great people. They are excited. They are enthusiastic. I think they are going to do wonderful things. So there are 12 new Republican Members coming into the new Senate, and I am looking and we are going to lose 3 of our Republican colleagues. I am thinking, maybe that is about the right ratio; it is about 4 to 1.

But these are three individuals who are unbelievable in what they have been able to do in the relationships they built, the friendships, and the work they have done on behalf of the American people. So I am looking at that statistic and I am thinking: Wow, these are three great people who have done the work of many, and I think they have laid the foundation in many ways for us to get to a majority: Senator JOHANNS, Senator COBURN, and Senator CHAMBLISS. I think they have done a lot of that work required for us to get to majority.

We have heard about the great Senator from Georgia. But I think the things I am going to talk about for a minute in regard to SAXBY CHAMBLISS apply to the two individuals sitting here with him. They are cut from the same cloth: Senator COBURN, Senator JOHANNS, true public servants. People who ran for the right reason; people who serve for the right reason. I think we could ask anybody in this body on either side of the aisle, and they would tell us that these three individuals served for the right reasons, and served to the very best of their ability the American people—not just the people of their State, but the American people. They will be remembered long after they are gone. They will be remembered because of the great, wonderful people they are, for the relationships they have built, and for that service. So I echo Senator AYOTTE's comments.

Senator COBURN touched on it, too. One of the first people I looked to as a mentor when I came here 4 years ago was SAXBY CHAMBLISS. Now, that doesn't seem intuitively like something I would do—I am from North Dakota, he is from Georgia. MIKE JOHANNS has been a mentor of mine since Governor days, so for more than a decade. But one of the first people I looked to as a mentor was SAXBY CHAMBLISS, and I don't even know why. It was one of those things that immediately you like the guy. But as you listened to him a little bit, you respected the guy. You thought: This guy has something to say. He knows what he is doing. But then, it is that relationship thing—that thing where he goes out of his way to work with you, to help you, to understand what you are trying to do in a friendly way, with great humor, and he does it naturally. It is just who he is. It is automatic. I think Senator ISAKSON really put his finger on it: It is just the way he is. You are naturally drawn to him.

I think we could talk to any of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and they would tell you the same thing: integrity, honesty, intelligence; somebody you can work with, somebody who cares, somebody who always has the best interests of the American people at heart.

I had the opportunity to work with him on the farm bill, and I was counting on Senator COBURN to kind of jump in there and do it with him, but that didn't happen right away. I am kidding a little bit. But we couldn't have had a farm bill without Senator CHAMBLISS.

When I think how difficult it is to move legislation like that, particularly over the course of the past year, and realize that a farm bill really isn't so much Republican/Democratic—it really isn't. If you look at how a farm bill works, that is not the makeup. It comes down to people who know and understand agriculture, who understand the importance of a good farm bill for our farmers and ranchers, but understand also that our farmers and ranchers across the country create the highest quality, lowest cost food supply in the world. It is not perfect, but every American benefits every day from the highest quality, lowest cost food supply in the world.

So when I think of my State of North Dakota, or Senator COBURN's great State of Oklahoma, or Senator JOHANNS' State of Nebraska—we all produce all of these different ag products. We raise all these crops, we raise all these animals. And there are so many people out there, so many farmers and ranchers—they don't know SAXBY CHAMBLISS. But I will tell you what: They owe him a great big thank you. They really do, because without him we wouldn't have a good farm plan for this country.

The reality is it is not just the farmers and ranchers. It is true for so many people across this country: They may not know SAXBY CHAMBLISS, but they owe him a lot. He is somebody who epitomizes the very best of this institution.

I know his wife Julianne is here. I have to admit, when I first met her I thought it was his daughter because she is so young and beautiful. I am teasing him a little. But she is fantastic. And the same thing—she was immediately a friend and a mentor to my wife Mikey.

When we talk about SAXBY CHAMBLISS, TOM COBURN, MIKE JOHANNS, it doesn't get any better than that. We will miss them a lot.

I wish all three of them Godspeed, and may God bless you in your next career.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF SANDY HOOK

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I add my congratulations to Senator CHAMBLISS. It is strange, coming here in the last 2 years and getting to serve only 2 years with giants in the Senate like SAXBY, like TOM HARKIN, and like Senator ROCKEFELLER, whose legacies will live on.

Knowing what a good soul Senator CHAMBLISS is, I bet he would enjoy the Newtown Labor Day parade. I have a picture of it here.

We had the 53rd annual Newtown Labor Day parade this last year. This is the biggest event that happens in Connecticut on Labor Day. It is a celebration of the town. There are 120 different groups that make up the parade. There is the Newtown High School marching band. This year Grand Marshall Sydney Eddison was proudly marching at the front. The Litchfield Hills Pipe Band and newer groups such as the Marching Cobras of New York were there this year. It is a must-stop if you are a Senator, Governor, or Congressperson. We all march together at the front of the parade regardless of party. It is a really fantastic and wonderful place.

This year there were marchers from the Avielle Foundation; a truck decorated in pink promoting a culture of

kindness. Sandy Hook Elementary School had a float called ''The Magic School Bus to Sandy Hook School.'' It had a positive message of ''Think You Can, Work Hard, Get Smart, Be Kind,'' and the judges selected Sandy Hook School's float as the winner in the best school category.

It is a reminder that Sandy Hook is a positive place; Newtown is a positive place—a place that is rebounding as we come upon the 2-year anniversary, the 2-year memorial of the tragic shooting in that town that took the lives of 20 6- and 7-year-olds, and 6 of their teachers who were sworn to protect them.

Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have come to the floor today to mark that 2-year anniversary and to talk for a brief few moments about what has happened over the last 2 years—what has happened that has been positive, and the work that is left to still be done.

There are a lot of positive things that have happened. It is impossible to try to find any good that comes out of this, but the foundational work that has happened in the memory of these children is remarkable.

The Jessica Rekos Foundation was formed in an effort to pay homage to Jessica's love of horses and her love of whales. They opened up a summer camp where kids ages 6 to 10, the age that Jessica was when she passed, could be able to enjoy horses, learn how to ride and take care of them. They raise money to sponsor the Orca Fellowship, which is dedicated to conservation initiatives for the orca whale.

I mentioned the Avielle Foundation. Avielle's brilliant parents started a foundation seeking to do new research into brain activity. They have a new PSA video to highlight the need to understand the aspects of the brain that can lead to aggression and violence.

Ana Grace Marquez-Greene. Her family is a musical family. They started a foundation which tries to identify ways to build stronger communities. Her father is a wonderful jazz musician, and he recently released an album called ''Beautiful Life.'' The proceeds all go to this effort.

Sandy Hook Promise, a group of families, is asking schools and communities to take a simple first step to ending violence. That first step is to talk to children and teens about how to be a good bystander—to look out for those first signs of trouble, and to report anything that may seem out of the ordinary.

We frankly have seen how that small act can make a big difference. Just last week a young man was arrested in Utah after he admitted he had brought a gun to school with the intent to shoot a girl he had a falling out with and then his plans were to open fire on the rest of his classmates, but a student heard about it and tipped off authorities so he could be stopped before he carried out his plan. That is what Sandy Hook Promise is trying to do in the wake of this tragedy, to spread the word that those small acts can make a difference.

I will talk for a few minutes about what hasn't been done when it comes to policy changes, but there is a lot that has happened when it comes to policy as well. In Connecticut we passed the strongest antigun violence measure in the country. It cracks down on illegal guns and invests more resources into identifying trouble spots before they happen. Washington State just passed a new referendum with 60 percent of the vote that extends their background check systems to private sales and to transfers. In Colorado they passed a strong new law as well. On the private sector side retailers are stepping up. Big retailers from Starbucks to Chipotle, to Target have taken proactive steps, separate and aside from anything government has done, to keep firearms out of their stores. So there are a lot of positives that have happened in the private sector and in the public sector, and hopefully we can build on that work. Hopefully Congress can recognize that our silence, our inability to pass anything in the 2-year period of time since Sandy Hook passed, effectively makes us complicit in the continuing assault on students all across this country.

Here is the map. In the 2 years since Newtown, there have been 95 different school shootings all across the country. Ninety-five different school shootings have occurred. During the last 3 months alone, there were 17 school shootings, including a single week where there was one every day, five events over the course of 5 days. This is an absolute epidemic that is happening all across this country since Sandy Hook. Why I say we are complicit is that when there is no response from Congress, when there is not a single legislative act passed to try to do something about this, it sends a message of quiet endorsement of what is happening. I know that is not our intent. I know that is not in the hearts or minds of any of our Members, but people notice when every week there is a new story of a school shooting all across the country and Congress does absolutely nothing about it while the private sector and State legislatures step up to do something about it. So this is a day when we remember what happened 2 years ago, but it is also a day in which we should feel ashamed that we haven't done a single thing to try to stem this tide.

I get it that we are not going to get a background check bill passed in the next 2 years, but why not work on mental health funding? Why not have everybody in this Chamber spend 5 minutes of your time reading the report that was just released by the Connecticut child advocate detailing the history of Adam Lanza's intersection with the mental health system during his early years and adolescence and how it failed step after step, year after year, month after month—a lack of followup, a lack of coordination, a lack of diagnosis. We have a mental health system in this country that is broken and can be fixed—yes, with some more resources but just with better coordination. That is something we can work on together over the next 2 years. So we can say when this chart gets peppered with another 50 dots by this time next year that we didn't just stand silent.

Nobody is more articulate than Senator BLUMENTHAL in talking about that day, and I don't want to relive it on this floor, except to share the most powerful testimony I have heard about what happened that day.

This is a community that is recovering, but it is still a community in crisis. We don't lose 20 little boys and girls and just come back to life in 2 years. It is a resilient community, but it is a community that still hurts, and it hurts in part because they don't see us doing anything about it.

So before I yield the floor to Senator BLUMENTHAL to say a few words, I wish to close with somebody else's words. I have shared these words on the floor before, but they are just as powerful now as they were the last time I read them.

This is Neil Heslin testifying before Congress in February of 2013. He is still Jesse Lewis's father, one of the little boys who was killed that day. So as we think about what happened 2 years ago in Sandy Hook and we think about the charge we have before us and we think about the fact that there are those of us such as myself and Senator BLUMENTHAL and others who will not rest until we honor their memories by our actions, let me give you these words:

On December 14, Jesse got up and got ready for school. He was always excited to go to school. I remember on that day we stopped by Misty Vale Deli. It's funny the things you remember.

I remember Jesse got the sausage, egg and cheese he always gets, with some hot chocolate. And I remember the hug he gave me when I dropped him off. He just held me, and he rubbed my back. I can still feel that hug.

And Jesse said, ''It's going to be alright. Everything's going to be okay, Dad.'' Looking back it makes me wonder. What did he know? Did he have some idea about what was going to happen? But at the time I didn't think much of it. I just thought he was being sweet.

Jesse had this idea that you never leave people hurt. If you can help somebody, you do it. If you can make somebody feel better, you do it. If you can leave somebody a little better off, you do it.

They tell me that's how he died. I guess we still don't know exactly what happened at that school. Maybe we'll never know. But what people tell me is that Jesse did something different.

When he heard the shooting, he didn't run and hide. He started yelling. People disagree on the last thing he said. One person who was there said he yelled ''run.'' Another person said he told everybody to ''run now.'' Ten kids from my son's class made it to safety. I hope to God something Jesse did helped them survive that day.

What I know is that Jesse wasn't shot in the back. He took two bullets. The first one grazed the side of his head. . . . The other hit

him in the forehead. Both bullets were fired from the front. That means that the last thing my son did was look Adam Lanza straight in the face and scream to his classmates to run. The last thing he saw was that coward's eyes.

Before he died, Jesse and I used to talk about maybe coming to Washington someday. He wanted to go up to the Washington monument. When we talked about it last year Jesse asked if we could come and meet the President.

. . . Jesse believed in you.

This is Neil Heslin, his father talking.

. . . Jesse believed in you. He learned about you in school and he believed in you. I want to believe in you, too. I know you can't give me Jesse back. Believe me, if I thought you could, I'd be asking you for that.

But I want to believe that you will think about what I told you here today. I want to believe you'll think about it and then you'll do something about it, whatever you can do to make sure no other father has to see what I've seen.

That is a pretty powerful message, a message that on the 2-year anniversary mark of that horrible tragedy we would be wise to listen to.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, on December 14, 2012, we saw evil, but we also saw good. We saw tragedy, but we also saw actions that should continue to inspire us.

The evil was in a deranged young man who committed unspeakable and unimaginable horrific acts, but the good was exemplified by the police, the emergency responders, and the teachers who not only risked their lives but saved other ones. The good was something that came forward in the days and months and in the past 2 years.

Often I visit the playgrounds that have been built throughout the State of Connecticut in memory of those children, in memory of Charlotte Bacon in West Haven and Ana Grace Marquez-Greene in Hartford, Jessica Rekos in Fairfield, and Dylon Hockley in Westfork, and Victoria Soto in Stratford. I visit them to watch children playing, children often the same age as the wonderful, beautiful children who perished on that day, and parents about the same age as the teachers who lost their lives, sixth-grade educators.

On that day parents in Newtown took their children to school, kissed them goodbye and went about their days, went to work to plan play dates and snack breaks and holiday parties, and just hours into that morning many parents were standing at the Sandy Hook Volunteer Fire Station where I also went that day. What I saw was through the eyes of a parent, not just a public official, the cries of grief, the faces, and voices filled with tears and longing. Those images I will never forget, and they have redoubled my own determination to try to make America safer and better, to keep faith with those 26 wonderful people whose lives were lost that day, and more than 30,000 people who perished in the United States as a result of violence simply because many of them were in the wrong place at the wrong time—on the street or in neighborhoods or in their own home.

The good that is done every day by our police and firemen and emergency responders to try to stem and stop this epidemic of violence cannot overcome the flood of guns in our Nation and cannot compensate for the lack of effective measures to make America safer and better by making our laws against gun violence more effective.

I will never forget that day or any of the victims or their families, and I hope America never forgets them as well. We are memorializing now their wonderful lives by acts of kindness, but the best and truest way to memorialize them in history is to approve effective, commonsense, sensible measures against gun violence.

In the aftermath of those horrific events of December 14, all of Connecticut, certainly in Newtown, and our State came together to lift those who were so devastatingly impacted, and those families have shown incredible strength. They sat in the gallery, they came to visit us and our colleagues urging action. Congress's failure to act is contemptible and unconscionable and a betrayal of those individuals. The action that is ultimately truest and best as a memorial to them will be for this Congress to act.

In Newtown and around the Nation, every community in some way was affected in those days and in some way came together with Newtown. So my hope is still that that spirit will be an inspiration to action, that it will be an impetus to the Congress for effective, commonsense measures that will protect countless others who are in danger and who will die if Congress does not act.

More than 60,000 firearm deaths have occurred since December 14, 2012. There are 32,000 firearm deaths per year. Those families have demonstrated unrelenting resolve, and so should we, and we will. It took more than 10 years for the Brady law to be approved, even after a President of the United States was almost assassinated and his Press Secretary, Jim Brady, was severely injured and paralyzed.

I hope it will not take 10 years for action to be taken by Congress, but we need the persistence and perseverance that will carry us through whatever it takes to achieve lasting reform.

I have been proud to serve as a member of the Judiciary Committee and to have worked hard for this measure, helping to lead the effort to approve the ban on high-capacity magazines as well as assault weapons and background checks. But a mental health initiative and school safety initiative have also been part of what we need do. I will continue my work on those efforts—mental health and school safety bills I have introduced, including the Lori Jackson Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act.

Lori Jackson was estranged from her husband. She obtained a court order against him because of the real evidence of danger from him. Unfortunately, that court order failed to save her life because it was only temporary, and it failed to take away the guns her husband had. The Lori Jackson Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act will fill that gap in our laws now.

Women are five times as likely to die as a result of domestic violence when there is a gun in the home. One in five women are victims of domestic violence at some point in their lives. That is the reason we need to continue this fight on many fronts. Since that day or about then, on December 14, I have worn a bracelet and I still do. The writing has faded and is no longer visible, but the one thing it said was, ''Love wins.'' I truly believe that love won in Newtown, that love won when Connecticut's legislature passed a strong and effective measure. It was the next step. It is not the end of the work, but the next step. I believe that love won through the grace and courage and strength of the families of those children and the loved ones of the teachers who lost their lives.

I believe love wins every day in our classrooms around the Nation when teachers work hard—and they work hard—and resolve to keep their children safe. Love wins every day when someone stands up and speaks out against gun violence. Love will win, eventually. Honor will win. We will honor those children, and we will celebrate the love they felt so deeply and unconditionally—as only children can—unqualifiedly for their parents and their community. I believe that love will win eventually as long as we keep working.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

FAA MODERNIZATION AND REFORM ACT OF 2012

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 2614 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2614) to amend certain provisions of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 2614) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2614

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ROLLOVER OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED IN AIRLINE CARRIER BANKRUPTCY.

(a) EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE CLAIM FOR REFUND.—Section 1106(a)(3) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (26 U.S.C. 408 note) is amended by striking ''2013'' and inserting ''2015''.

(b) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—Section 1106(c) of such Act is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)(i), by inserting ''or filed on November 29, 2011,'' after ''2007,''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(A) by striking ''terminated or'' and inserting ''terminated,''; and

(B) by inserting '', or was frozen effective November 1, 2012'' after ''Pension Protection Act of 2006''.

Mr. BROWN. I thank the Presiding Officer.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

TAXPAYERS RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I wish to spend a few minutes to talk as in morning business. I am not going to offer a unanimous consent request, but I am putting the majority leader on notice that I will do that before we leave today or tomorrow or whenever we leave.

Yesterday the chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Senator CARPER, and I, thought we cleared all holds on the Taxpayers Right-To-Know Act. I wish to give a little history about that because for 2 years the House and Senate, in conjunction with the committees, have been working on this bill. The history goes back to a bill that was passed with President Obama, myself, Senator MCCAIN, and Senator CARPER, and it was the Federal Financial Transparency and Accountability Act, usaspending.gov. It was the first start towards transparency in terms of how and where we spend our money.

Quite frankly, as we got that bill through Congress, with we heard the same thing from OMB that Senator REID is representing today. President Bush and his OMB Director didn't want that bill. They didn't think the American people ought to know where their spending was going. They didn't think the American taxpayer ought to have the right to hold us accountable to know where we spent the money, on which programs, and how.

Interestingly, under Republican leadership, we passed that bill against the wishes of the OMB Director of the Bush administration, and that bill became law. The President has touted that bill as the first in a long line of transparency which his administration has embraced—the idea that the American people ought to know where their money is being spent.

Since that time, we passed the DATA Act, which will move us towards better quality in terms of usaspending.gov, and then we have the Taxpayers Right-To-Know Act, which the majority leader objected to yesterday.

Here is what the Taxpayers-Right-To-Know Act says. It says the taxpayer has the right to know how many programs we have in each department, how much spending is going on in each program, and where the money is being spent. It is pretty simple, straightforward stuff that we ought to know about our government.

The question that I am asking is, Why would anybody in this body object to us knowing where our money is being spent? Why would anybody in this body object to knowing how many programs each agency has? Why would anybody in this body object to coordinating with all the transparency things that we have done thus far and make it so that 2 years from now the American people can actually see where their money is being spent, how much is being spent on each program in each State and at what location.

If somebody can give me an honest explanation and a logical reason for why we wouldn't want to do that, I will take that, and I will not offer another unanimous consent request. But the answer from OMB is that it is too hard to work. It is not too hard to work. That is exactly what the Bush administration said when we said we are going to have the transparency act and usaspending.gov. They said it was too hard, and we can't do it. We can do it.

The American people are owed that explanation, they are owed that transparency, and this administration, through its claims of being the most transparent administration should step forward and release this hold.

So before we leave here, I will offer the unanimous consent request again. If it is objected to, we will know that it has nothing to do with reality. It has nothing to do with honesty, it has nothing to do with integrity, it has nothing to do with truth, it has nothing to do with being transparent with the American people, and it has everything to do with the Federal Government saying that it is just too hard to be honest with the American people to allow them to see where we are spending the money.

I find that is really unacceptable for us, as Members of the Senate. For a Member of the Senate to stand up and say, I object to doing that, tells us that we have a long way to go on much, much bigger problems if we are going to play the game just because something is a little bit tough to do, and we are going to fall for complaining that we just can't get it done.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

SSCI STUDY OF THE CIA'S DETENTION AND INTERROGATION PROGRAM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I wish to salute my friend and colleague from Oklahoma. I don't agree with probably 80 to 90 percent of what he says, but I really respect him. He is a person of integrity who really cares. When you shake his hand and make a deal, a deal is done, which is a rarity around here, and we wish him the best.

Today I rise to discuss the recently released report by the Senate Intelligence Committee. As a representative of one of the most targeted cities in the world, I feel compelled to speak about this report. I want to say clearly that I am troubled by many of its findings.

First, the many members of the CIA and the intelligence community selflessly serve this Nation and put their lives on the line. They are patriots who are committed to protecting and serving America, keeping her safe from those very real enemies who are actively seeking to do the unspeakable in terms of harm. We owe the members of the CIA and the Intelligence Committee their due recognition and gratitude. We salute them for protecting us. In many cases, they risk their lives to protect us and our freedom.

But as with many institutions in our society, be it part of the government or part of the private sector, transparency and accountability for mistakes are an essential part of the process that preserves the balance in our democracy. The fact of the matter is this report lays bare some very troubling activities on the part of the CIA. It warrants a close examination. When we find the conduct of the CIA to be grossly counter to the Nation's ideals, we must reckon with that and make sure we never go back to the days when our government sanctioned torture.

Here, I agree with my colleague and friend from across the aisle, Senator MCCAIN. He has been an unimpeachable voice on this topic, and has said time and again that these actions were torture, and that torture besmirches the honor of this great Nation.

I also agree with the remarks made by Vice President JOE BIDEN, that only a great Nation and only an open and free society can forthrightly take ownership of their mistakes, find ways to change those policies, and move positively forward on both the domestic and international levels.

It is doubtless this report contains lessons that our intelligence community must take to heart—for their goal must be to protect our Nation without sacrificing what it stands for.

Before I go any further, I wish to recognize the many years of hard work, diligence, and courage—yes, courage—on the part of my colleagues on the Intelligence Committee and their staffs for putting this report together.

I particularly wish to recognize my dear friend and colleague, the chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, for her work with

this report. She has been a fearless, yet level-headed chair of the committee for many years now. She is just what you would envision as an ideal chair.

I thank her for her excellent report, where once again, she has been both fearless and level-headed.

An extensive report like this one deserves careful review, but at first reading, two things have been made very clear. First, the CIA undoubtedly went too far in its pursuit of intelligence from captured sources abroad.

As I have said in formal proceedings in this legislature before, I am absolutely opposed to waterboarding and deplore some of the tactics depicted in this report.

I believe our intelligence community can obtain information using methods that are not anathema to our Nation's values.

Second, the report makes it clear that there was a breakdown of communication between the CIA and the administration at the time of these events.

There is no doubt we live in a dangerous world. There are threats abroad and threats here in the homeland. We cannot expect to counteract these threats and protect our people and to do so in a responsible way if the CIA and the executive branch are not effectively communicating with one another.

I was astounded to learn that the report asserts that over 4 years went by without the President having full knowledge of some of the CIA's actions detailed in this report. That simply cannot be the modus operandi for the CIA. They are accountable to the government and to the people and cannot behave without proper oversight. There is so much to unpack in this report. I urge my colleagues patience and a careful examination of the work produced by my colleagues on the Intelligence Committee. It should be out in front of the American people, and now it is. We must take a very, very close look at it.

The United States, its government, and its people must take stock of this account and reckon with the conclusions of the study. We have hundreds of thousands of brave men and women posted around the world, tasked with the difficult job of keeping us safe. We should always be mindful of their dedication and thankful for their sacrifice. Their mission is demanding. It is never-ending and nearly all of them perform with a level of professionalism beyond reproach.

However, from time to time, it is important for us to review those actions to make sure they meet the hard scrutiny of our Nation's ideals while still protecting its people.

In that light the Senate Intelligence Committee report is an extremely important document for us all to examine.

Again, I thank my colleagues, especially my friend Senator FEINSTEIN, for their exhaustive and exemplary work on this report.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

ISIS AND AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE

Mr. CASEY. I rise today to discuss the fight against ISIS and the debate we are having here in the Senate and across the country about the authorization for use of military force, known by the acronym AUMF.

The debate about the appropriate use of force is, I believe, healthy for our country. The American people deserve to know when and how our servicemembers are going to be deployed to protect our national security interests. All Senators in this body have an abiding obligation to take the time to learn about this issue and to ask questions about our strategy, to thoroughly debate the strategy and the issues that relate to the authorization for use of force, and then we have an obligation to vote on the grave question of the use of military force.

It has been 6 months since ISIS began its major offensive in Iraq, taking control of key boarder crossings and the city of Mosul. The President has laid out since that time a strategy for combating ISIS through all available means—military action, diplomatic coalition building, coordinating efforts to cut off financing and recruitment, and providing humanitarian assistance.

The Administration has taken these actions under previous authorizations. In these weeks and months I have consulted with Administration officials, both military and civilian, outside experts and former diplomats, as I know many of our colleagues have. I also have listened to my constituents in Pennsylvania. We owe it to the American people to have a debate and a vote on a new authorization for use of military force that clarifies, and if necessary, places limitations on the President's authority in this fight against ISIS.

We know that 1,830 servicemembers, 91 of whom were from Pennsylvania, have been killed in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and 3,482 servicemembers, of which 197 were from Pennsylvania, have been killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Those are two conflicts, and in Pennsylvania alone the killed-in-action number was 91 in Afghanistan and 197 in Iraq.

Thousands more have been wounded in action from Pennsylvania and from across the country—some of them grievously, permanently injured because of their service. I am mindful, as I know many are here, that with both the 2001 and 2002 authorizations for use of force, Congress moved very quickly to take that action. I understand that. We know in hindsight that in the case of Iraq, at least, mistakes were made because leaders did not take the time to debate and ask tough questions and demand answers to those tough questions. I believe it is appropriate for us to do the following: thoroughly debate this AUMF, as we should every time we consider sending U.S. servicemembers into harm's way; second, to be prepared to continually reassess and debate our strategy against ISIS to ensure it is achieving our national security goals.

We all hope to develop an AUMF that has broad bipartisan support. However, our priority must be to give the President clear and specific authority to continue the fight against ISIS.

The Administration should have come forward with a recommendation early in the process for what they would like to see in an authorization for use of military force. I welcomed Secretary Kerry's testimony before the Foreign Relations Committee yesterday. That hearing was an important step in the right direction.

It is appropriate for the Congress to not only conduct rigorous oversight of the executive branch's decisions about military force but also, from time to time, to take steps to shape or place boundaries around the Administration's strategy. I appreciate Chairman MENENDEZ's efforts to craft an AUMF proposal that satisfies the needs of the Administration and the concerns from both sides of the aisle and across our country.

The Congress should move forward with an authorization for use of military force which addresses the following:

First, this AUMF should not allow for any significant deployment of U.S. troops in traditional ground combat roles. This is consistent with what the President has determined is necessary at this time. We also need to see nations in the region step up to do the fighting. We can't just have—to use an old expression from Pennsylvania—coat holders. That is someone that says you go do the fighting and I will hold your coat while you fight.

We need a real coalition which we have in place now but it has to be built and strengthened and fortified and sustained. That coalition, especially in the case of members of the coalition from the region, will contribute fighters to the battlefield because it is their region. It is their conflict as much as it is for other nations in the coalition.

When I say we cannot have a coalition of coat holders, I am serious about that. We need a coalition that will help us. We have already done a lot, and our people have, our taxpayers have, and our soldiers have. We need a real coalition that will do the fighting.

We also know that ISIS has taken American hostages before and will try to do so again. If, for example, the Administration has a chance to bring one of these Americans home, I want them—the Administration—to take action expeditiously and with clear authority. If the Administration disagrees with the current proposal for

authorization for exceptional circumstances or operations—for example, a search and rescue operation inside Syria or the recovery of an American hostage—the Administration should propose to us language they find acceptable to use in those difficult situations.

Second, this authorization for force should not be geographically limited. ISIS and its associated forces do not and will not respect sovereign borders. However, I would like to see language that requires the Administration consult closely with Congress if they want to consider U.S. military operation against ISIS in countries beyond Iraq and Syria. Expanding this fight geographically could have the unintended effect of prompting unrest in other countries or pushing recruits into the arms of ISIS.

Third, this authorization for use of force should have a reasonable timeline—something along the order of 3 years—with the explicit option for the administration to extend it a bit longer if needed. We cannot know exactly how long it will take us and our coalition partners to degrade and defeat this terrorist organization. However, the AUMF should not be open-ended in the way that the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs were. We have seen how difficult it is to shift gears or even to repeal an existing authorization for use of military force.

Fourth, and finally, this authorization must also address the nonmilitary components of the administrations's strategy. I was one of the first Members to call for greater support for the moderate well-vetted Syrian opposition. We know that opposition, especially in the north, is fractured and suffering, especially under the continual onslaught from Mr. Assad's barrel bombs—not to mention other actions he has taken against the opposition.

Although efforts to support them are ramping up, the brutal Assad regime has done significant damage. That is an understatement. Further, the Assad regime continues to commit unspeakable atrocities against Syrian civilians, starving, torturing, or indiscriminately murdering them in violation of international law and U.N. Security Council resolutions—that is plural.

I have also emphasized on a bipartisan basis with Senator RUBIO several years ago the importance of cutting off ISIS's finances. This could include airstrikes against known oil-smuggling pipelines or additional sanctions against facilitators. I should say with Senator RUBIO that the financing efforts or the cutting off of the financing was this year. I have worked with him in other years on other parts of Syrian policy.

As we have heard multiple administration leaders today say, there is no purely military solution to this conflict with ISIS. I would also say that if we have an authorization for force, this bill should include strict reporting requirements that press the administration to answer a series of questions:

First, what are you going to do to support the moderate opposition in Syria? I have raised this over and over again with the administration and still do not have satisfactory answers.

Second, what steps are you taking to address the Assad regime's brutal barrel bomb campaign, and what are you doing to bring about a political settlement to the conflict in Syria?

Third, how is the military campaign helping to cut off the financial support that ISIS is receiving, as I mentioned before?

There is strong bipartisan agreement that ISIS proposes a clear and proximate if not immediate threat to our national security interests and those of our partners. I believe we can reach the same level of bipartisan agreement on an authorization for the use of military force.

We have no greater or more sacred responsibility than to carefully and thoroughly consider when and how we send American men and women in uniform into harm's way. I urge my colleagues in both parties to engage in this debate and to work expeditiously to pass an authorization for the use of military force. I would have preferred and I know many would have preferred that we would have passed a bill before we adjourn this year, knowing that in this holiday season there are servicemembers already deployed away from home, from their families, to support this operation, Operation Inherent Resolve.

If we cannot get that done by the end of this year, where the debate would not be fully developed enough to pass an authorization, we must get it done early in 2015. It must be among our first orders of business in the new year, in the new Congress when we come back in early January. This is a very grave matter. It is among the highest and most difficult responsibilities Congress has. I believe we will discharge that obligation with a full debate, with a debate that is well-informed and a debate that every Member participates in before we make a decision about the authorization for the use of force.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss title 30 of the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, the title of which has become referred to as the lands package. As with most of the items Congress considers, this provision has generated some controversy. For my part, however, it appears that many of the concerns here are outpaced by the substance of good public lands policy being advanced here and the economic development opportunities it will generate.

The bill the committees of jurisdiction included in the package all have some form of committee procedure in either the House or the Senate. Thirty-four of the measures have passed the House on suspension. Another nine have passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

It is also worth noting that because the Federal Government owns so much land, particularly in the Western United States, Congress has to approve all sorts of transactions involving these public lands no matter how small the tracts might be.

On the substance, I believe the bipartisan group who assembled this package of bills struck a pretty good balance, deferring to intrastate priorities that will promote responsible economic growth. In Arizona, for example, I was pleased to see the inclusion of the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act. This is a bill sponsored by my colleague JOHN MCCAIN. I was happy to join him to advance the measure. It also shares bipartisan support in the House among Members of Arizona's House delegation: Representatives GOSAR, KIRKPATRICK, FRANKS, SALMON, and SCHWEIKERT.

At its core, this bill will facilitate access to the largest copper ore deposit in North America. By some estimates the economic impact of the mine could exceed $60 billion over the course of the mine operations. It will support approximately 3,700 direct and indirect jobs annually.

It is also worth noting that copper is a critical component in most technologies, from weapon systems, to computers, to automobiles, to turbines that generate electricity, to name a few.

This mine would supply an amount of copper roughly equivalent to 25 percent of the U.S. demand.

Also notable is what this bill does in terms of conservation. It would preserve more than 5,300 acres of conservation land in Arizona.

Despite the broad benefits for economic development and conservation as well as the bill's bipartisan support, there has been some opposition. We have done our best to include some provisions that address those concerns. For instance, the land exchange would not occur until after the completion of a NEPA environmental impact statement. It will also generate a special management area around the large escarpment known as Apache Leap. Likewise, it will provide protections for Native Americans to continue traditional gathering and ceremonies after the land exchange has been completed so long as it remains safe to do so.

I would also note that Resolution Copper has proactively sought ways to address its anticipated water needs. To that end, I was encouraged to learn that the company has entered into a contract with the Gila River Indian Community to use a portion of the tribe's water supplies to meet the long-term needs of the mine. This is further evidence of how the measure, even before it is passed, can help foster economic opportunities for Indian and non-Indian communities around the State.

I would also like to take a moment to talk about a couple of the other positive provisions in the lands package. From a resource management perspective, it would support further economic activity on Federal lands by conveying approximately 110,000 acres of land out of the Federal estate. This includes not only the aforementioned Resolution Copper project but also a Copper mine in Nevada, timber harvests in Alaska, and coal production in Montana.

The lands package also includes a provision that would streamline the permitting process for oil and gas leases. This is critical. We have seen the pace of oil and gas production on Federal lands decline in recent years while development on private lands has increased significantly. This measure also improves the permitting process for grazing and makes a downpayment on so-called payment in lieu of taxes, or PILT. This is critical in helping communities that are burdened with tracts of Federal land to meet the obligations of providing services related to those lands without a corresponding tax base. This applies to a lot of the land in rural Arizona.

Although reasonable people can disagree, I believe this is a good measure for the State of Arizona and the United States as a whole. I am pleased to see that it will advance as part of this package. I know the lands package was difficult to negotiate. They always are. It has achieved strong bipartisan support. I think it does strike the right balance between deference to intrastate concerns and Federal lands decisions. I urge support of the legislation.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am on the floor this evening for ''Time to Wake Up'' speech No. 82.

Scientists tell us that the evidence for climate change is now ''unequivocal''—not a word often used in scientific writing. The American people know that climate change is real.

In a new poll released by the insurance firm Munich Re, 8 out of 10 Americans believe the climate is changing. They see it happening around them. The American people also know we need to cut our carbon pollution if we are to avoid the worst effects of climate change. We can't keep burning carbon-polluting fossil fuels indiscriminately. Seven out of 10 Americans put using more carbon-free energy, such as solar and wind, among the best ways to battle climate change.

Changing the way we generate power will help cut emissions from the largest sources of carbon pollution in the country, our coal-fired powerplants. The Energy Information Administration notes that coal generates less than 40 percent of our country's electricity while it generates 75 percent of the carbon pollution from the power sector.

The 50 dirtiest coal plants in America emit more carbon pollution than all of South Korea or all of Canada, which brings us to the war on coal.

Every effort to protect the American people from coal pollution has been denounced by the fossil fuel industry and its various mouthpieces as a ''war on coal.'' When EPA proposed limits on emission from new powerplants, we heard ''war on coal.'' When EPA promoted limits on existing powerplants, ''war on coal.'' For mercury limits, ozone limits, particulate limits, always ''war on coal.''

The war on coal is a fabrication. The denial machine, funded by fossil fuel money, literally owns the war on coal. The Web site waroncoal.com is owned by American Commitment, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit that has been funded by the Koch brothers-backed group Freedom Partners. War-on-coal is a public relations strategy, a catchphrase, a gimmick that serves to distract people from the harm coal wreaks on us.

Dr. Drew Shindell is a professor at Duke University. He worked at NASA for two decades. Last week in the Environment and Public Works Committee he said:

> We hear a lot up here on Capitol Hill about the war on coal; what we forget about is coal's war on us.

So let's talk about the so-called war on coal versus coal's war on us. When Republicans talk about President Obama's war on coal, they leave a lot out. They leave out that coal companies have shifted to big open-topped mines—what is called mountaintop removal—so they can lay off miners and still produce the same amount of coal. They leave out that coal simply can't compete with today's cheaper, cleaner burning natural gas.

In 2012 Duke Energy's own CEO acknowledged that EPA's proposed climate rule for new powerplants was not to blame. This is what he said:

> The new climate rule is in line with market forces anyway. We're not going to build any coal plants in any event.

''We're not going to build any coal plants in any event,'' he said.

He continued:

> You're going to choose to build gas plants every time, regardless of what the rule is.

That is not a regulatory war on coal; that is the free market operating.

EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan for existing powerplants is the newest PR front in the imaginary war on coal. EPA projects that the Clean Power Plan will yield between $55 billion and $93 billion in benefits per year by 2030, compared to $7 billion to $9 billion to comply with the rule. That math makes it a winner for the American people. Some war on coal. What would they expect us to do—give up $90 billion at the high end in benefits for the American people in order to avoid a $9 billion compliance cost, again at the high end? Again, $90 billion for the American people versus $9 billion in compliance—who wouldn't take that deal?

If the Obama administration is waging a war on coal, it has a funny way of going about it. Coal exports grew by 44 percent from 2008 to 2012. The Obama administration keeps opening up Federal lands to coal extraction, awarding many leases at below-market rates. It actually took a Federal judge in Colorado to tell the Obama Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service to factor the cost of climate change into their cost-benefit analysis of coal mining leases. The Federal agencies had looked at only one side of the ledger. They counted the economic benefits of mining coal but not the costs. Some war on coal. Two years ago the Obama Army Corps of Engineers fast-tracked environmental review of a proposed coal export terminal on the Columbia River in Oregon. Local communities and tribes objected, and the State of Oregon denied the permit for the project. If that is what a Federal war on coal looks like, somebody didn't get the memo.

On the other side, let's look at what coal's war on us looks like. Evidence that mining and burning coal harms our health and our environment and our oceans is undeniable. It is this other side of the coal ledger which hits home in Rhode Island and Connecticut and many other States, and it is that side which the polluters want to ignore and obscure with ''war on coal'' rhetoric.

Burning coal releases carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. That warms our atmosphere, bringing changes we are already seeing in seasons, weather, and storms. There is a strong association between global warming and the kinds of rain bursts that flooded homes and businesses in Rhode Island in 2010, for instance.

Coal burning contributes to the formation of toxic ground-level ozone, which is a cause of the bad air days in my home State of Rhode Island. Kids with asthma in the emergency room in Rhode Island are connected with midwestern powerplants that burn coal and pump often unscrubbed emissions up smokestacks designed to move the problem downwind—out of State, out of mind.

Don't overlook our oceans, which absorb about one-third of the carbon pollution being emitted and most of the excess heat. As a result, oceans are becoming more acidic, water temperatures are rising, and sea levels are rising across the globe. In Rhode Island the sea is up nearly 10 inches at the tide gauge at Naval Station Newport since the 1930s, when we had our great hurricane of 1938.

So whether you have a flooded home or are a mom with a child with asthma in the emergency room or somebody

with coastal property facing 10-inch higher seas, there are costs to coal. This is all virtually indisputable, and it follows immutable laws of nature. Damage to coastal homes and infrastructure from rising seas and erosion, asthma attacks in children triggered by smog, forests dying from beetle infestations and unprecedented wildfire seasons, farms ravaged by worsened drought and flooding—these are all real costs to Americans. This other side of the coal ledger counts too.

It even hits home in coal country, where blowing up mountaintops pollutes streams and harms folks around the mining operations. West Virginia University has linked the dust thrown up by these mountaintop mines to lung cancer among nearby residents.

Coal-fired powerplants are the biggest sources of mercury pollution in the United States, and they also emit arsenic, acid gases, and other toxins.

Dr. Shindell, whom I mentioned earlier, is an expert in atmospheric chemistry and health. Here is what he told the EPW Committee last week:

> Of all of the sources of the emissions that lead to poor air quality in the United States, coal burning is the single largest, causing by my calculations about 47,000 premature deaths per year. That happens to be larger than the total number of Americans killed in all of the years of the Vietnam War by hostile fire.

If you look at the casualties, the Federal Government isn't waging a war on coal. If there is any war, coal is waging a war on us.

This is business as usual for the polluter industry and its propaganda apparatus. Coal companies have long fought public health standards, mine worker protections, and compensation for ailments such as black lung disease, as well as efforts to address acid rain or reduce toxic pollutants, such as mercury, that cause brain damage in kids.

In 1989 Southern Company's CEO Edward Addison testified that acid-rain controls would increase electricity rates in States with the most coal power by 10 to 20 percent by 2009. Well, we couldn't evaluate that prediction then, but now we can. This is a fact: In the 10 States with the most coal, rates actually fell. Big Coal's war on the truth has a long history.

I recently had the opportunity to visit West Virginia with Senator MANCHIN to learn about what coal means to the Mountain State economy. I get it. We need to care about the miners, the truckers, the powerplant operators, the engineers, and others who make their living in this industry. It would be wrong to ignore their plight, just as it is wrong when the coal industry tries to ignore the effects of its carbon pollution.

I think we need a carbon fee to correct the market and to slow climate change. I am sure I will hear that is a war on coal. It is not. It is simple fairness. It is simply paying for the mess you cause. That is not war. It is not even punishment. It is just fair accounting, taking both sides of the ledger into account.

When people do that—economists and scientists—they calculate the cost of carbon pollution as what they call the social cost of carbon. The administration estimates the social cost of carbon at around $40 per ton of carbon pollution—$40 per ton. The effective cost to polluters for causing that mess is zero.

My carbon fee bill would correct that. It would correct what even economists and groups as conservative as the American Enterprise Institute agree is a market failure, and then return every dollar of the fee to the American people. That could include transition assistance for coal workers—and assistance for communities far from coal mines, like in Rhode Island, facing these costs of climate change. It is also becoming increasingly clear that a revenue-neutral carbon fee will spur innovation, create jobs, and boost the economy nationwide.

So it is time to end the polluters' holiday from responsibility. It is time to see through their fanciful war on coal, and protect those facing the effects of coal's war on us and coal's war on the truth. It is time to seize the economic benefit of a clean energy economy. It is time to wake up.

I yield the floor to my friend, the distinguished Senator from Louisiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Rhode Island. I am so happy to follow him on the floor today and to see him again. We have worked together on so many important issues. It is wonderful to see the Presiding Officer to be back on the floor.

I come today for a very special reason. I am so proud to present to the Senate a package of lands bills that have been included in the Defense Authorization Act.

What is significant about this particular package is it is quite large, and it is the first package in almost 6 years and almost three Congresses, which is quite an accomplishment for our committee.

I am so proud of the staff of our committee, Energy and Natural Resources. I made this a priority when I took over as Chair 9 months ago. It was a long shot to see if we could put any package at all together that had eluded us for several Congresses, but I worked very closely with my counterpart, Congressman HASTINGS, in the House. We met on several occasions with our top staff and committed to do all we could to see what was possible.

One of the important principles that made this grand compromise possible—and there are Republican bills and Democratic bills; it is very well balanced as between the parties, but also geographically in projects and expansions of parks, creation of new parks, and land transfers. The principle that we followed is it is revenue neutral. Some of these bills raise money, some of these bills spend money, but the lands package is revenue neutral. I think the taxpayer is going to get some extraordinary value in the package being presented today.

In addition, one of the principles I pushed very strongly is to make sure that this package included opportunities for the development of our natural resources. We are very proud of our wilderness areas. We are very proud of our parks. We are very proud of our areas that are off limits to economic development. But there are parts of the Federal landscape of public lands that should be developed—whether it is forests, or oil and gas, or hard-rock mining, for the benefit of the taxpayer and for our overall economy. That was a very important principle for me and of course for Congressman HASTINGS.

We also wanted to make sure that we expanded our national park system. Again, this has been a 6-year hiatus, almost three Congresses. We have not been able to make any progress on adding to the beautiful heritage areas and special national park system that America is known for and helped to pilot for the world. Next year will be the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Park Service, and we are excited about the additional eight new national parks that will be created by this lands package, and it expands the boundaries of six existing national parks.

One of the expansions I want to note particularly is in Texas, in San Antonio. It expands the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. The reason I am excited about this is because the San Antonio missions are next on the list in the United States sites to be designated as world heritage sites. I had a great opportunity to help our only site in Louisiana, Poverty Point, achieve that designation just a few months ago. What an extraordinary action it was to be there when we cut the ribbon on a site that is going to continue to be excavated that we believe is over 3,500 years old, with a very sophisticated Native American settlement on these beautiful raised mounds in one of the highest points in the Louisiana-Mississippi delta area. I was excited to see that San Antonio missions will be next. This puts these sites on the same level as the Grand Canyon and other really extraordinary international places of cultural significance. So that is one example.

In the new national parks, it has only taken us 200-something-plus years, with Senator CARPER and Senator COONS, to get a national park in Delaware. They were the only State without a national park. Although they are small in size, they are very important as they are the first State in the Union. So as it would be appropriate, the name of their park is the First State National Park. So now every State in the United States has at least one national park. Of course, some States have many more. Our commitment is to continue this great heritage for our Nation for generations to come.

This package represents a major milestone in our work to reach a consensus across party lines. We will clear much of the backlog of the public lands bill that has built up in the Senate, last passed in the omnibus package 5 years ago. It is worth noting the Congressional Budget Office has again scored this as revenue neutral.

Let me speak for a minute about a few Louisiana priorities. Although most of these bills do not have anything to do with Louisiana—we did not have any major expansion efforts of any of our parks to present—I did wish to discuss two meaningful impact on the economy of my State.

The first provision will ensure the economic vitality and viability of the Toledo Bend hydroelectric project located on the beautiful Sabine River on the Louisiana-Texas border. Toledo Bend provides power to thousands of Louisiana homes and serves as an economic engine for our western border with Texas.

The project was first licensed in 1963. Russell Long and our congressional delegation were very instrumental in getting this dam for hydropower established in our State. Although we are known for oil and gas, we do have some hydropower in our State. It was relicensed in August—I am proud of, with my support and leadership—for an additional 50 years, which is a terrific certification on the part of the Federal Government that this project is fulfilling its original goals and objectives. Not only is it generating power, it is providing an extraordinary recreational opportunity.

This project includes a dam which impounds a 185,000-acre reservoir, the largest manmade body of water in the South, and a powerhouse capable of generating 81 megawatts of electricity. The project is operated primarily for water supply purposes, secondarily for hydropower, and thirdly for recreation. But it has become an extremely popular recreational site both on the Texas side and on the Louisiana side. It is an interesting project, because we have joint jurisdiction. The Texas Commission runs its side, the Louisiana Commission runs our side, and it occupies about 3,800 acres of Federal land in a narrow 3-foot strip along the shore of the reservoir where it borders the Sabine National Forest and Indian mounds.

Under current law, just because of that 3-foot strip, the forest, land, and other Federal agencies were claiming jurisdiction just because of this very narrow edge around the Toledo Bend. So we eliminated their jurisdiction. It gave the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the basis to impose annual charges. We didn't think that would be fair, so we carved out a much-needed exemption that would prohibit undue regulation, and allow the local governmental structures and appropriate Federal agencies to determine the best use of this land. Local zoning ordinances will apply, local rules about what areas can be developed privately and publicly. There is plenty of public access to this reservoir. We hope, and I anticipate, that it will be another momentum builder for the economic development in this region.

Significantly for me—I have worked on it for many years, because I have been aware of this since I was a legislator years ago and the real need to develop this as a really first-class destination for resorts, hotels, marinas—not only for the people who live and have property there, but for visitors who may come from all over the region.

In addition, Fort Polk is situated only about 40 miles away. So it is within driving distance for soldiers and their families for recreation. It is really quite beautiful. It is isolated. We don't have quite enough highway infrastructure I think for us to develop it in a way that we really should, but that will come with time. But this was a very important step to get the 50-year certification to move forward. And now our local communities—the parishes of Sabine, DeSoto, and Vernon—can lean forward and dream and plan for how this area can be developed.

The second Louisiana-related provision authorizes the National Park Service to study areas along the Lower Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish for the potential addition to the national park system. It is just a study, but this Lower Mississippi area is of course rich in cultural history. It was first traveled by Spanish explorers in the 1500s and later, in 1699, became the site of the first fortification on the Lower Mississippi River known as Fort Mississippi.

The area to be studied includes several other historic fortifications, including Fort St. Philip, which played a key role during the Battle of New Orleans and was the final major battle of the War of 1812. While Andrew Jackson's forces were successful on land, it was William Overton's 10-day defense of the back door to New Orleans that helped seal the American victory.

Fort Philip, and its companion fort located across the river, Fort Jackson, also played a pivotal role during the siege of New Orleans during the Civil War. These two forts, with their withering crossfire, held the Union Navy at bay for 12 days. And the history goes on and on.

These special places are tangible links to the dramatic stories of our Nation's history and deserve to be studied for inclusion in our national park system.

Let me underscore again how important I think is the principle of developing our public resources in the right ways—preserving what we can, conserving what we must, but developing what we can for the benefit of the taxpayer. That is one of the underlying principles of this grand compromise. I recognize that to break the logjam, particularly with the House of Representatives, we needed to find a way to address both the development of natural resources and conservation and preservation, as well as the expansion of our public lands and public parks. This package reflects that balance. Let me mention a couple of the economic development provisions.

We will convey 70,000 acres in the Tongass National Forest to Sealaska, an Alaska Native corporation, to complete its land settlement under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. This legislation has been a longstanding priority for Senator BEGICH and Senator MURKOWSKI. I thank them both for their extraordinary leadership in working on this land transfer.

This bill has been considered in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for years, and the final language was carefully negotiated with the Department of Agriculture. So I thank the Department for helping us work out this extraordinary land transfer.

Another provision which was included at the request of Senator MCCAIN and Senator FLAKE and which has been worked on by the Arizona delegation is a land exchange in Arizona between the Forest Service and the Resolution Copper company to allow development of a major copper mine. My friend TRENT FRANKS has been a leader in this area as well in the House and in his legislative district, and I have had good conversations with him. This may be the deepest copper mine in the United States of America. It is going to be one of the richest in the world.

There was some original language in this legislation that was perhaps not as responsible as it should have been—or as sensitive maybe is a better word—to some of the needs or requests of some of the nearby tribes. We tried to address some of their concerns in the final language. We haven't, of course, settled all complaints, but we have settled as many as we can.

This is an extraordinarily valuable asset for the people of the United States, and the people of the United States own this land and right now own the potential copper that would come out of this mine. I most certainly, through my staff, have insisted and negotiated that the taxpayers get a fair exchange, that they are not underpaid in any way in this transfer and this development. I am very hopeful that the Forest Service, which will continue under the authorization in this bill to negotiate, will make sure the taxpayers of the United States are paid fairly for the exchange of this very valuable property, which will create many jobs in Arizona and which will create opportunities for economic development in our whole country and around the world, as copper is a very valuable substance. One of my overriding conditions for approval was to make sure the taxpayers get a full benefit.

While the Sealaska and Resolution Copper provisions have drawn most of the attention in this bill, in total the

package includes many other prominent Federal land conveyances, all which will allow for community services such as cemeteries and schools, provide land for development by local communities, allow for outdoor recreational opportunities, and increase management efficiencies for both public and adjacent private land.

The package also wonderfully includes almost 250,000 acres of new wilderness designations, including in Washington State. I thank Senator CANTWELL and Senator MURRAY for their advocacy for their State and for our Nation. Senator TESTER has been a strong proponent for the State of Montana, Senator REID in the State of Nevada, and in the State of Colorado, Senator BENNET and Senator MARK UDALL, and, of course, in New Mexico we have had some expansion of wilderness areas. Each of these bills was the product of years of discussion among stakeholders and each State's congressional delegation.

In addition to wilderness designations, the package will protect the watershed of over 360,000 acres of natural forest lands adjacent to Glacier National Park and will designate 200,000 Forest Service and BLM lands in Montana as the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Heritage area and protect 70,000 acres of the Hermosa Creek Watershed in Colorado.

Among the eight new national parks are two in Maryland and New York that celebrate the life of Harriet Tubman, known, of course, for her great role in civil rights and developing the Underground Railroad and for so many other things she did as a leader at that time. Our new national parks will protect 80,000 acres of forest land and volcanic peaks in New Mexico; designate the first national park in Delaware; protect fossil resources outside of Las Vegas; and interpret the story of the World War II Manhattan Project in Washington State, which was so important to Representative HASTINGS. Tennessee and New Mexico are, of course, also included in that history and the Colt firearms company in Hartford, CT, which is an unusual kind of park to celebrate, but it is part of the American development of manufacturing, and the Colt firearms company played a major role. So we have that included in this bill.

The individual bills that are included have been developed with local support and in many cases have been priorities of Senators for years. I am pleased to have played a pivotal role in building this comprehensive package, and it took a lot of compromising and an awful lot of hard work.

I thank the lead Senator on the Defense bill, Mr. LEVIN, for allowing us to be part of the Defense authorization bill, along with Senator JACK REED, whom I spoke with on many occasions along with Senator LEVIN, because without their support I don't know if this bill could have survived standing alone with one or two strong objections still out there. But they can't fight the Defense authorization bill. Tucking it in a bill that is going to pass and will not be vetoed is a way to move these bills forward.

It does enjoy broad and deep bipartisan support from literally hundreds of Members of Congress, and hundreds of staffers have spent hours and hours, and the executive branch—particularly Interior and Agriculture—has spent hours negotiating the fine details of this package.

I thank David Brooks, who is a lead staff member with our committee, Energy and Natural Resources, who has been a magnificent staffer here in the Senate for many years. He is known as the Senate expert on public lands, and that title certainly is appropriate for a man who knows so much and cares deeply about our public spaces and finding the right balance between preservation, conservation, and development.

I thank Liz Craddock, who is my staff director for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, who was absolutely tireless. Not only running the committee in my absence, sometimes when I was on the campaign trail, but also taking appropriate time to come and work with me for reelection and in addition putting together, with David, this package while all this was going on is really a testimony to their professionalism. I thank them very much.

I thank all the Members of my side particularly for their patience and their understanding as we worked through this package of almost 80 to 90 bills and the subcommittees that worked so well moving them forward.

I will submit this for the RECORD. There may be other Senators, I am sure, who want to put in individual remarks for the parks and projects and land swaps, but I think it is pretty remarkable that we have cleared up 6 years of backlog at zero expense to the taxpayer with extremely broad and deep bipartisan support.

I will only say as one of my last remarks on the Senate floor that it is possible to find common ground if we are willing to look for it and work hard enough to find it. We need to have our eyes open a little wider. We need to put our shoulder to the wheel a little bit stronger, and if we can do that, we can move a lot of significant legislation through that benefits generations of our citizens and taxpayers for years to come.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I have come down to the floor today to talk about the package of public lands measures included in the House-passed Defense bill. I am told we are likely to vote on that bill as early as tomorrow in the Senate.

Within the lands package is a measure we worked on called the Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act.

The watershed, which is pictured here, is a beautiful parcel of national forest land up the road from Durango in the southwest corner of Colorado.

I will say at the outset that our office may have introduced the bill in the Senate, but it was really the people I represent in southwest Colorado who wrote every bit of this piece of legislation.

Over 6 years ago, a diverse group of local citizens, mountain bikers, anglers, outfitters, local officials, and many others all got together to talk about the future of the land. Everyone involved liked to visit the area for recreation or to do business there. Their discussion was to developing a plan to manage the area so everyone could enjoy it and benefit from the multiple uses well into the future.

Over the Memorial Day weekend in 2011, the Hermosa workgroup invited my family and me for a hike through the watershed and to join the discussion, and we took them up on that offer.

We loaded up the van, drove to Durango, and met the working group at the Hermosa Creek trailhead.

My youngest daughter Anne, who was then probably about 8, made a hiking stick out of a nearby fallen branch, and we started up the trail with 40 or so others from the local community.

The Presiding Officer knows this area well. As we climbed higher and higher, we were overcome by the beauty around us and the forests and valleys and crystal-clear streams and unspoiled views in almost every direction.

After about an hour, the group pulled off the forest service trail into a meadow, and as Anne, Halina, and Caroline Bennet, my three daughters, made me a dandelion necklace out of the dandelions that were there, we started a discussion about what this area meant to the people who were on this trip.

The sportsmen came to fish for native Colorado cutthroat trout and for back-country elk hunting. The mountain bikers came to enjoy single-track riding trails known throughout the country and throughout the world. The local water districts love Hermosa because it provides clean water for the city of Durango, and workers in the timber and mining industry stress that some of the watershed could contribute to extractive development in the future.

The upshot of the discussion we had in the meadow that afternoon was an agreement to work together on a bill, a balanced bill that managed the watershed so it would contribute to the local economy long into the future. More than just working on this bill, I think

the people in that meadow set out to prove that people in this country can still work together and set an example for the U.S. Congress.

After nearly 3½ years of negotiations since that hike, we are on the verge of passing that bill and sending it to the President for his signature. The Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act governs the entire watershed. It includes provisions to allow for multiple uses, such as timber harvesting for forest health, continued access for Colorado's snowmobilers—a critical provision to allow Silverton's winter economy to continue to prosper.

The bill enhances opportunities for back-country fishing made possible by the great work of Trout Unlimited and Colorado Parks and Wildlife to reintroduce native cutthroat trout to the watershed.

The bill also adds—importantly—nearly 40,000 acres to the National Wilderness Preservation System, lands that provide unique and important opportunities for solitude and reflection, lands that will remain undeveloped forever so that they will always have clear streams to fish and lush forests for local outfitters to take clients into the forest on horseback.

I am proud to report that the bill has the unanimous bipartisan backing of the two county commissions involved, the San Juan County Commission and the La Plata County Commission. I thank those commissioners for their leadership, collaboration, and their vision, and the two local towns, Durango and Silverton. It has the support of the Hermosa Creek Workgroup, ranging from hardrock miners to environmental groups. These are the people we say can never get along and can never get anything done because everybody has to get only their position and disregard the position that the other has, and we have proven that is not true, as I said, ranging from hardrock miners to environmental groups such as the San Juan Citizens Alliance, Conservation Colorado, and The Wilderness Society.

It has the support of sportsmen, Trout Unlimited, and the back-country hunters and anglers.

The Hermosa bill is also supported by the local water district, the Southwestern Water Conservation District.

The outdoor recreation community—including the Colorado Snowmobile Association, Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition, and the Trails 2000 mountain bike group—supports the measure. And support for Hermosa is especially strong from the local business community. Companies as diverse as fly shops, car dealerships, the Durango Chamber, and Mercury Payment Systems, one of the area's largest employers, all agree that protected public lands add to the region's quality of life and help them attract topnotch talent to the region.

This bill grew from the grassroots up. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents worked together to cement a long-term plan for their community's future.

I thank Senator UDALL, a long-time champion for Colorado's public lands and wilderness, for joining me as a cosponsor of the bill.

I also wish to thank Congressman SCOTT TIPTON, our partner in the House, for supporting this bill and demonstrating that bipartisanship still exists in some corners of the Capitol. He has been outstanding to work with, as has his staff, and I look forward to collaborating on other conservation measures in the future.

To close and bring this back to the beginning—I see my colleague is here—I don't have to convince most people that Colorado is a special place. Many people from all over the United States have been to our State to ski our mountains, run our rivers, or climb a 14er.

The Hermosa Creek watershed represents some of the best Colorado has to offer. It deserves to be protected, and that is what this bill does.

However, in some respects, I wish Hermosa didn't have to pass this way. This lands package is a great achievement. It came through a robust bipartisan and bicameral process, and that work is something truly to be commended.

At the same time, I think the Hermosa Creek bill could have passed by unanimous consent years ago as a stand-alone bill, or as part of another smaller, bipartisan, bicameral package that didn't have to wait almost 6 years while local communities all across the country have been left in limbo. People there don't work on the same time that people here work, and their expectations are that we are going to move things along. No one should object to bipartisan, commonsense measures that are widely supported. But instead of regular order, we are left voting on large packages of lands bills every number of years.

In fact, save one wilderness bill that passed earlier this session, Congress has not passed a wilderness bill since 2009. Congress has not passed one wilderness bill since 2009—I suppose we passed one.

Last Congress was the first time a session of Congress hadn't passed a wilderness bill in the 50-year history of the Wilderness Act. That had never happened before, whether the Senate was Democratic or the Senate was Republican, whether the House was Democratic or Republican, or whether the President was a Democrat or a Republican. It never happened before. This Congress—provided the vote goes well tomorrow—will have waited until the eleventh hour.

The 2009 bill, which was one of the very first ones I voted on as a Senator, created 2 million acres of new wilderness.

The package we will vote on tomorrow contains several hundred thousand acres more, including nearly 40,000 new wilderness acres, as I mentioned in the Hermosa bill. While that is great progress, and it truly is, I wish we were doing more.

Despite dozens of other widely supported conservation proposals that have been introduced this session, there are only four other wilderness bills included in this package. Once again, I am strongly supportive of the package, and I urge my colleagues to vote yes. But in the new Congress we ought to hit the reset button and truly honor the intent of the Wilderness Act—which President Johnson signed into law 50 years ago—by passing more wilderness bills. I can't think of a better anniversary present for the landmark law than for the 114th Congress to return and pass more of these bills.

Let's defy expectations about what the change in the majority means here. Let's lift up the bipartisan work that is happening around here and pass more of these bills.

Historically conservation has been a bipartisan issue going all the way back to Teddy Roosevelt, and I hope we might return to the cooperation we have seen in the decades since then and get some more wilderness and conservation done for the American people.

This is a glorious and beautiful country that we all represent. We ought to save some of it for our kids and grandkids by passing this package and coming together on some others.

I urge yes on the bill.

I thank the Presiding Officer for all of his work to make sure we could bring this lands bill together with the NDAA bill.

I urge a ''yes'' vote.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I thank my colleague from Alaska for allowing me to go ahead with my remarks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I thank my colleague and his comment about the courtesy for allowing him to go first. I think the Senator from Colorado was scheduled to go first, and we were just a little bit behind, so I was pleased to listen to my friend's comments about one of the provisions in this NDAA lands bill, and I thank him for those comments.

I also wish to acknowledge the comments of the Senator from Louisiana, our chairman of the Energy Committee. I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with her as the ranking member on the committee now for the past 6 to 8 months since she has held the chair. But even before that, I have had the honor and privilege of working with her on so many energy issues.

As the Senator from Louisiana was detailing the contents of this lands package that is contained within the NDAA bill, I was reminded of what a good partnership we have had working together on the committee. They are not exactly easy issues that come before us. They generate a level of controversy—certainly a level of debate and dialog—but there has always been

good, civil debate and dialog as we try to work through some very difficult issues.

As Senator LANDRIEU leaves the Senate at the end of this Congress, I want her to know, as I stated in committee just this morning, how much I have appreciated the good work she has done, not only on energy issues, but the good work she has done on behalf of the people whom she represents in Louisiana.

If there is anybody who exemplifies the word ''tenacious,'' it is MARY LANDRIEU, and I think the people of her State have enjoyed the benefit of the very tenacious approach and how my friend and colleague takes care of those she represents. I thank the Senator for that.

I too wish to add my comments this evening in support of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, and more specifically, to the public lands package, which is title 30.

As Senator LANDRIEU detailed in greater specificity, what we have here is a collection of smaller bills related to public lands. Just because a bill is small and somewhat discreet in terms of its area of impact, it doesn't mean these are not issues that are critically important to the people of that State, critically important to that region.

With so many of these bills that are now part of this package, we have spent months—and in some cases we have spent years—developing, considering, refining, amending, and working through these packages. We have spent weeks negotiating which ones will actually be in the package that we have before us in title 30. We have now arrived at this point where we have a bipartisan and bicameral consensus in support of it.

What I wish to do with my time this evening is to explain how this package is fundamental to economic development in our Western States.

I also wish to lay out what this package is as well as what it isn't because I think there have been some misconceptions about what is contained in this. I also want to provide a little bit of insight into the process by which we crafted this and why it is now time for the Senate to do what the House has already done in passing it by a very overwhelming margin.

But before we get into the substance of some of these measures, I think the Senate needs to understand why we want this package, why we need to pass it now rather than waiting until the next Congress or perhaps the one after that or perhaps whenever we have a slow day around here. So I will proceed to the basics of some of this.

It is probably best described by just looking at the map. The dominant landowner in the United States is the Federal Government. The Federal Government, like it or not, owns roughly 640 million acres of land. That is more than one-quarter of our country that is held by the Federal Government. Ninety-three percent of these lands are clustered in just 12 Western States. So we can see here our Federal fault line. These 12 Western States are areas where less than 50 percent of the land is owned or held by the State and private interests. When we look at this divide, on this side, more than 95 percent is state-controlled land.

So we have a situation where in many of our Eastern States the Federal Government owns just a small fraction of the lands. But if we look to some of our Western States and we look at the extent of Federal ownership, this is where the picture comes into greater focus. In Wyoming, 42.3 percent of the State of Wyoming is held in Federal lands. In my State of Alaska, 69 percent of the State of Alaska is federally owned. Nevada walks away with No. 1, where over 80 percent of the State of Nevada is held by the Federal Government.

For folks back on the east coast, what does that mean? Let's say it presents some real difficulties for us in the West. Say we want a minor land conveyance—not a big deal. But if a person lives in a State such as New York with less than 1 percent of Federal lands, chances are that person can go see a real estate attorney and they can have a document drawn up, and they might even be able to draw it up in 1 day or maybe it takes a couple of days, but a person can complete a transaction without too much difficulty. If a person tries to do a conveyance in 1 of our 12 Western States, where 93 percent of the Federal lands are, it is a different story. Chances are a person will not have the same luck as they might in New York. Even if they are seeking the smallest of land conveyances, say 1 acre—just 1 acre is all we want to move from the Federal side to the State side, to a local side, to the private side—a person does not go see an attorney. A person needs to go talk to one of the four Federal land management agencies to get approval for their request, and they are not done there. Then a person needs to go see their Congressman and their Senator because they need Federal legislation to make it happen. It honestly takes an act of Congress. In the East, in places where land ownership is different than it is in the West, people can handle all of these conveyances. We can work through some of what we are seeing in this public lands package. We can do it through private transactions. But in the West, it takes an act of Congress for a land conveyance.

That is why we see hundreds of public lands bills introduced each Congress. It underscores why their passage is so critical to economic development and to job creation in our country. I have to admit, I am pleased the Senator from New Mexico is in the chair today, coming from a State such as New Mexico, which is at 41.77 percent. The Presiding Officer knows full well what we are talking about when we talk about the imperative of our communities that are asking for a little relief when it comes to a land conveyance, and the level it rises to is not the city council, it is not the mayor or the legislator or the Governor, it is a Congressman and Senator, and ultimately signed into law by the President of the United States.

So what are we actually looking at in this package? After truly months of negotiations, perhaps a few near-death experiences, and many temptations to walk away, we have agreed to a balanced, budget-neutral, revenue-neutral, bicameral, bipartisan package contained in title 30. These provisions that are contained here will create jobs. They will create thousands of American jobs. They will cut the redtape to energy production. They will boost American mineral production. They protect multiple use and public recreation. They convey Federal land for community development. They protect our treasured lands through measured conservation, and they provide new means for private dollars to support our national parks.

We have included a bipartisan provision to streamline oil and gas permitting on our Federal lands. It is supported by the Western Governors' Association. It cleared the Senate by unanimous consent before the elections. So think about that. So many things get tied up in the politics of elections, but this was so important to so many, on a bipartisan basis, on a regional basis, we moved it through the Senate by unanimous consent.

We have included a provision to address the backlog of the grazing permit renewals for our western ranchers to ease their burdens. Then there is another provision we have included that will help to hopefully protect the collapse of the timber industry in Southeastern Alaska with the conveyance to our Alaska Native peoples—a promise that has been 40 years—40 years—in achieving.

We have included a major priority for Arizona. This is an issue Senator LANDRIEU spoke to, an extensively negotiated land exchange led by Senator MCCAIN and Senator FLAKE. I know Senator MCCAIN has been working on this for a decade to find a way to responsibly open a copper deposit that could meet 25 percent of our country's needs while at the same time taking incredible care to protect and maintain access to cultural resources and traditional uses of those lands.

There is another provision that relates to Nevada which also facilitates development of a different copper mine. But now think about this. We are going to have an opportunity in Nevada and in Arizona to extract copper. Our military needs copper. The construction industry needs copper. The automotive industry needs copper. The renewable energy industry needs copper. There are so many benefits to be had here.

We have some provisions that are contained in this package that perhaps generate fewer headlines but are still hugely important for local communities. Probably the best example of

this is a provision for a school in Minnesota. This is a measure we have been working on with Senator FRANKEN. But it facilitates a land exchange of just 1 acre—1 acre to a school in Minnesota—a single, lonely acre. We probably have people saying, So do we really have to pass a bill in order to make that happen? The simple answer is yes. That is why we are here. That is why we are including these provisions—so many provisions—in this very important bill.

I also want to mention what the package is not—what it does not do, what it does not contain, and some of the parade of horribles that certain groups have been saying that in fairness, they are not looking again to the balance we have achieved with this overall package.

We saw some rightful concerns emerge before this title was finalized. Everybody's ears always perk up when they hear ''public lands package,'' wondering what it is going to be. But we have seen some inaccurate criticisms emerge even after the release. It is one thing if they haven't seen what is in it. It is another thing to look at it and then be critical of it.

As I mentioned earlier, this is a balanced, revenue-neutral package. We have taken great care to make sure it is not all focused on new wilderness, new parks. In Western States, and particularly coming out of Alaska, we are just not going to have the support we need if it is all focused on wilderness and parks, so it is not. There is a conservation piece, absolutely, and it is a strong conservation piece, and I think it is a good, balanced one. But we also have the very important development piece that is critical to what is contained within.

To those who have spoken out against creating new national parks, given the maintenance backlogs that I think we recognize—it could be as high as $20 billion. I get it. I agree with Senator COBURN that we must address the backlog issues, the maintenance issues, and I thank him for the scrutiny he and his staff have given to this issue and the report they came out with. We are going to be working to address that in a manner that is constructive and long term. I want to reduce the backlogs, and we will do it.

Again, this has been judged to be revenue neutral. Through its passage, we could make progress on the backlog issue.

One provision that is contained in the bill that will help is the authorization of a National Park Service commemorative coin. There are 75 Senators who are cosponsors that will allow for additional funds to be raised. Senator COBURN has a measure in here that will allow for appropriate recognition of volunteers to our national parks. We have also tailored this package to include the wilderness provisions, but it is a discrete number. All of these have strong local and congressional support. We are looking at less than 250,000 acres in all, and actually from a practical perspective, far less than that. Most of these provisions were sponsored by a House Republican. Some have been endorsed by a Governor or a State legislature. With others, we are simply making it official. Nearly half of what would become wilderness is already managed as if it were wilderness. It is in wilderness study areas or it is in roadless area designation.

This is not a zero-sum game because we should be focused on the productive value of our public lands above all else. But for those who are kind of keeping score—is this acre per acre—I want to remind people that the package transfers almost 110,000 acres of Federal land into State or private hands through conveyances, exchanges, and sales. We are also releasing more than 26,000 acres of land from wilderness study back into multiple use. Examples of what those lands could be used for include building of transmission lines or motorized recreation.

I know some have raised issues about the various studies that are contained within the bill which, in my view, are more a matter of due diligence than anything else. Because a further act of Congress will be required before any new park, any new museum or wild or scenic designation can be established, and then we have the funding aspect of it as well. So, again, these are studies. This is not the creation of a new museum. This is not the creation of a new park. These are studies.

I think it is also important to reiterate that we have taken great care to protect private property. We have forbidden the use of eminent domain and the condemnation of private property. We have also set a positive precedent by eliminating the potential use of buffer zones around designated lands.

Again, I am going to say it one more time: This package is the result of bipartisan and bicameral negotiation, weeks of meetings amongst Members and staff of the committees of jurisdiction, the committees that have crafted the overall NDAA bill, leadership in both Chambers, and many individual Members.

For those who would suggest that this package was somehow hastily assembled, that this is some kind of rush to judgment, it is at the end of a very long and actually a very traditional process. We have considered, debated, and amended these provisions over the course of Congress using the committee process and the House and Senate floor when we could. Every bill within this package has been reviewed by the committees of jurisdiction. We are not hopscotching over anybody. At least 30 bills have passed the House and 7 have passed the Senate. Even though we haven't devoted time to a large package of individual bills, some of these provisions have been considered in multiple Congresses. You may look through the list, and they look like reruns. It is because we have tried, and the process didn't allow for full completion.

What we have with title 30 builds upon the lands and natural resource provisions that were included in the initial House-passed NDAA. These were provisions that were primarily the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's jurisdiction.

We have seen in the past the NDAA bill include public lands packages. It has happened enough times that the House leaders actually name the House Resources Committee as official conferees to it. But I think what is very important for us to remember about this lands package is that what we have done, this effort, has taken no time and no funding away from our military or our veterans, nor has its inclusion held the NDAA back for a single moment here.

I think we would all prefer a process where we could take the time to bring up Senator BENNET's bill on the floor and talk about it and have him tell us about all the magic of this region, but we haven't seen that in this body in far too long. I would prefer that process where all these bills could be considered individually on their own, but know that we have reviewed everything closely. This is a revenue neutral package. We found the right balance and reached bipartisan and bicameral agreement. We don't need to start over. We don't need to be working these same bills in a new Congress. We don't need to see a groundhog's day with so many of these measures that are small but are so important to these Western States. It is time to finish this. It is time to pass these reasonable measures. So I would encourage the Senate to support this package as part of the larger NDAA bill so that we can fulfill our responsibility to those in the Western States and those who have public lands that we are happy to have, but we also need to know we can have a level of responsiveness within our system to allow us to work those lands.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I would like to thank the Senator from Alaska for her tireless efforts on the lands bill and the NDAA bill and the bipartisan spirit she brought to all of these negotiations over a long period of time. She is to be commended for it. I don't think we would be anywhere close to where we are without her work. I thank her for that.

I am here to speak briefly about the Intelligence Committee's report on the CIA's interrogation methods. I support the committee's decision to release the report. As a country, it shows we have the courage to face the truth no matter how ugly that truth may be. Coloradans need to know the truth. The American people deserve to know the truth. Our willingness to face this difficult truth reminds us that we live and we are lucky to live in the most open and transparent democracy the world has ever known. Unlike the acts brought to light by the Intelligence Committee report, the willingness for self-examination is something to be celebrated about America.

The report will be the subject of significant debate over the coming weeks and months and maybe even years, as it should be. Nobody should be cavalier about the risks that are associated with the release of this information, but this is a discussion our country needs to have.

Although I am still reviewing the report, a couple of things are pretty clear at the outset.

First, the use of so-called enhanced interrogation techniques failed to secure accurate information or cooperation from detainees. The very first finding of the report says:

While being subjected to the CIA's enhanced interrogation techniques and afterwards, multiple CIA detainees fabricated information, resulting in faulty intelligence. Detainees provided fabricated information on critical intelligence issues, including the terrorist threats which the CIA identified as its highest priorities.

Not only has torture not made the country safer, it may have made us less safe—at least according to this report.

Second, the report reveals that the CIA withheld information from the FBI, the State Department, and the Director of the Office of National Intelligence. It denied access to detainees and provided inaccurate information about the interrogation tactics. Information was withheld from former Secretary of State Colin Powell out of concern he would ''blow his stack if he were to be briefed on what's been going on.'' The CIA repeatedly misled Congress and impeded oversight by its own inspector general.

The report rebuts any notion that these brutal tactics led to actionable intelligence that made our country safer. It highlights the lengths to which people systematically misled other agencies, the Congress, and for years the American people. But most significantly, this report—and I thank the Presiding Officer for his service on the Intelligence Committee. It is a committee that by definition people can't learn very much about, and I know it takes a lot of time and an awful lot of work that can go underappreciated. But this week we are learning why the work on that committee is so important.

Most significantly, as I was saying, this report has reminded us that the use of torture is completely at war with who we are as a country and the ideals we hold. Throughout our country's history, our American values—the notion that all people are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable, sustainable rights—have sustained us through our most difficult times. They helped us triumph in World War II and eventually led to the fall of communism during the Cold War. They have attracted millions of immigrants to our shores. They inspired generations of Americans to rectify the inequality that exists in their own time to create a more perfect union. In fact, the values of democracy and human dignity are what brought my mother and her family to the United States after surviving the horrors of the Holocaust in Poland. It was a place that they called beautiful America, as much an idea as it was a place to them. Torture is repugnant to these fundamental American ideals.

It is often said that the strength of our democratic institutions is tested during times of crisis. Understanding what happened and ensuring we won't use torture again will help our democratic institutions persevere in the future and serve future generations as well as the generations that were here before. It will demonstrate that we are better and we are stronger than our enemies. It will ensure that our uniquely American values will continue to inspire people like my mother and her parents all across the globe.

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.

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

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

HAVEN ACT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with my colleagues Chairman LEVIN of the Committee on Armed Services and Chairman JOHNSON of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

Mr. REED. I join with my colleagues to speak about the inclusion of the HAVEN Act in the National Defense Authorization Act we are considering today. The HAVEN Act, which I sponsored along with Senator JOHANNS, authorizes a pilot program to help make repairs or modifications that are necessary for disabled or low-income veterans to stay in their homes. The HAVEN Act lies within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, to which it has been referred. However, working in close coordination with the chairman of the banking committee, we were able to include this measure in the NDAA bill, in recognition of its potential to assist veterans of our armed services who are in need; isn't that correct, Chairman JOHNSON?

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Senator REED is correct, I thank him for working with me on this matter and for his continued advocacy on behalf of veterans.

Mr. LEVIN. I would like to thank both Senator REED and Chairman JOHNSON for working with our committee to include the HAVEN Act within the bill we are considering today.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO JAMES BAKER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, James Baker has served the State of Vermont with great distinction over many years, and I was saddened when he announced his retirement in 2009 after 3 decades with the Vermont State Police. To no one's surprise, he finished his tenure there at the top, as commander.

But we knew retirement would not last long for a man of his talents.

In 2010, Jim Baker answered the call to step in where he was most needed, taking the helm of the Rutland City Police Department when the department and the community were beset by turmoil. Chief Baker's leadership and loyalty was infections, and his plan to serve for only a few months turned into a few years.

During that time, Chief Baker pulled together a team of committed neighbors, businesspeople and community organizers to face the challenges head-on. They tackled blighted neighborhoods and encouraged new investment. They sent a strong message to drug dealers: NOT in our community. And they developed a statistical mapping system to reduce crime in the city's worst-hit blocks. This effort, known as ''Project VISION,'' has shown great success.

With Rutland now on a steady course, one might think Chief Baker would again be thinking of retirement, but that will not be the case. Instead, Jim Baker will be bringing his leadership talents to Washington D.C., where he will serve as director of law enforcement and support with the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Rutland's loss is our Nation's gain. I look forward to a continued working relationship with Jim, and thank him for his dedication and leadership to the State of Vermont. I ask that the following profile of Jim Baker, which recently appeared in the Vermont weekly Seven Days, be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Seven Days, Nov. 19, 2014]

INFLUENTIAL POLICE CHIEF HAS A NEW GIG

(By Mark Davis)

When Jim Baker first took over Rutland's scandal-plagued police department in the winter of 2012, he had a running joke with the mayor.

In department-head meetings during which a particularly vexing problem arose, Baker would hold up his city-issued notebook and point to the first word of his job title. ''Mayor, mayor, look—'interim,' OK?'' Baker would say to Mayor Chris Louras. ''That question is for the next guy.''

Baker, a former head of the Vermont State Police, initially signed on for a six-month stint as Rutland's chief of police. Nearly

three years later, he still occupies the corner office at the Rutland police station.

Baker is widely credited with stabilizing the department, initiating a statistics-based policing program and rallying dozens of community groups to fight the city's drug problem. ''He was the driving force not just to turn around a dysfunctional department but in helping the renaissance of the city,'' Louras said. ''It would not have happened without him.''

But now, talk of the ''next guy'' is no joke.

Although the mayor had started preliminary contract discussions to keep Baker around for a couple more years, the chief decided it was time for something less stressful. In December, Baker is leaving for a position with the International Association of Chiefs of Police, a Washington, D.C., think tank.

''I burn a lot of jet fuel when I get into a situation like I found here,'' said Baker, who has preferred working short stints—no longer than a few years—during his lengthy law-enforcement career. The D.C. opportunity, he said, will enable him to engage in national and international issues on a less demanding schedule.

A New York native and Southern Vermont College graduate, Baker methodically climbed the ladder during the 30 years he worked at Vermont State Police. He held nearly every position there, including director, before retiring in 2009.

Baker says it is unlikely he'll ever stop working. After leaving the state police, he launched a consulting business and became something of a Mr. Fix-It for Vermont law enforcement. Then a scandal rocked the Vermont Police Academy: A training coordinator committed suicide after his computers were seized during a child-pornography investigation. It prompted the director of the academy to resign, and in 2010, Baker took over that job for several months with the intention of rooting out problems and improving morale.

Next Baker spent a few months as interim police chief in Manchester. That's when Louras and Rutland Police Commissioner Larry Jensen came calling. They convinced Baker to come aboard for six months to help ''settle down'' a department in the midst of its own scandal.

The Rutland force had been in disarray since 2010, when state police busted former sergeant David Schauwecker for viewing pornography on his work computer and removing a pornographic video from an evidence locker for personal use. After he accepted a plea deal, Schauwecker was fired. Rutland aldermen urged the police commission to do the same to then-chief Tony Bossi, but they said no; Bossi finally resigned in early 2012.

The Rutland Herald asked for documents related to the investigation, but the city's police department refused. So the newspaper sued—and won: In 2013, the Vermont Supreme Court ordered the department to release the records, which revealed that, years earlier, two other Rutland officers had also watched porn on the job.

Meantime, the city wasn't faring much better than its police department. Once a boomtown fueled by railroads and a marble quarry, Rutland's economy had lagged for decades. Out-of-state drug dealers moved in as property values plummeted, downtown went dormant and vacant buildings proliferated. Drugs had decimated large swaths of the city long before Gov. Peter Shumlin devoted his 2014 State of the State address to Vermont's ''opiate epidemic.''

Known throughout Vermont as ''Rut-Vegas''—a moniker that Baker forbade his officers from using inside the station—the city was the brunt of countless jokes.

Then, in September 2012, a tragedy illustrated the severity of the city's plight. A 23-year-old Rutland man passed out while driving through downtown, as a result of inhaling gas from an aerosol can. His foot remained on the accelerator, and, moving at 80 miles per hour, he slammed into a bank of parked cars outside the Discount Food and Liquidation Center. Carly Ferro, a 17-year-old Rutland High School senior, had just worked a shift in the store and was walking to her father's car when she was struck and killed.

''That was the tipping point,'' Baker said. ''That was the single incident where people in the community said they had finally had enough and starting rallying around the police department and the neighborhoods.''

To tackle Rutland's growing list of urban ills, Baker and a few others organized regular meetings with housing agencies, social workers, neighborhood activists, lawyers, mental health experts, educators and city hall workers.

The group that formed called itself Project VISION—Viable Initiatives and Solutions through Involvement of Neighborhoods—and focused on problems related to drugs, crime, housing and jobs. Its monthly meetings, which attracted 70 to 100 people, helped build public support for a methadone clinic that opened earlier this year, among other initiatives.

Seeking further collaboration, Baker invited mental health workers, social workers, prosecutors, probation officers and domestic violence experts to relocate their offices to the police station.

Meanwhile, inside the police force, the chief aimed to strengthen relations with residents and institute smarter enforcement. He helped create a crime-mapping project that plotted the details of every police call—whether for a family fight or a noise disturbance—into a database. Every two weeks, officers and members of Project VISION reviewed ''hot spots'' and developed strategies to defuse them.

Baker also instructed his officers to stop measuring success by arrest numbers. ''We're not focused on arrests or how much drugs were seized, but on working through problems,'' Baker said.

When his first six-month contract was up, Baker signed a one-year extension, then two more, the last of which paid him $125,000 a year. ''I saw some opportunity, that I thought I could contribute,'' Baker said. ''I found out there were some people in the community working very hard to get it right.''

Among them was Linda Justin. A Rutland native who had become increasingly distraught by the city's decline, she and her husband, Bill Beckim, cashed out their 401(k), bought a derelict building in Rutland's Northwest neighborhood, and in January 2013 opened the Dream Center, where they host youth groups, prayer sessions, meetings, block parties and free meals. One day, Justin called Baker looking for an answer to a neighbor's question.

After talking for a while, Baker realized, ''Oh my gosh, you guys are doing what we're talking about doing,'' the chief recalled.

Baker started to join Justin and Beckim on their neighborhood walks, chatting with residents about problems and their ideas for making things better. ''He doesn't just sit in his office and direct,'' Justin said. ''He gets his hands right in it. He's a real person. He's down-to-earth.''

And while no one is declaring victory, officials say Rutland is improving. Calls for police service have dropped since Project VISION launched, and Baker said the department is registering double-digit drops in burglaries and property crimes this year.

Rutland police have had a lot of help. Federal authorities conducted a three-year operation in the city and have been responsible for most of the prosecutions against prominent drug dealers operating there. Vermont Attorney General Bill Sorrell tasked one of his prosecutors to focus exclusively on Rutland; assistant attorney general Ultan Doyle works out of the downtown police station.

Its porn scandal may be over, but the department still isn't perfect.

In September, two officers were suspended after a brawl outside a Rutland bar.

In a pending lawsuit filed in January 2013, Andrew Todd, a former Rutland police officer and now a Vermont State Police trooper, describes a culture of police misconduct and cover-ups, and alleges that superiors subjected him to racial abuse.

Todd, who is African American, claims he brought several concerns to higher-ups but that little was done. The alleged misconduct, including officers stealing, having sex and sleeping while on duty, occurred before Baker came to Rutland. Though Todd left the department before Baker arrived, he has alleged that Baker tried to ''influence'' an outside review of the Rutland police department.

Baker declined to comment on the lawsuit.

In three years, nearly half of the department's roster has turned over, through firings and attrition. Baker says he is proud of the holdovers who were willing to adapt to his methods. ''It would have been very easy for those folks to bunker down, wait me out,'' Baker said. ''My track record is pretty clear—I don't stay anywhere very long.''

The mayor is intent on continuing Baker's legacy. Guiding the search for a new chief, Louras said, will be his or her ability to adopt Baker's methods.

That includes the continuation of Project VISION. In recent months, Baker handed off much of his work there to Capt. Scott Tucker. The community agencies that populate the top floor of police headquarters aren't going anywhere. And the monthly Project VISION meetings still attract a crowd.

''You can't lead,'' Baker said, ''if no one is following you.''

THANKING CURRENT AND PAST DEMOCRATIC STAFF OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to thank the current and past Democratic staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for their hard work and diligence on the Committee Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program.

Committee staff spent 7 years preparing the report, going through more than 6 million pages of documents and writing a final report that is over 6,700 pages, including 38,000 footnotes. Staff worked incredibly long hours over many years and sacrificed time with their families and friends. They overcame significant obstacles to put out this report. They took no short-cuts in their research. And they took no liberties with the facts.

The staff produced a report of historic importance, which will be studied for many years to come. Because of their work, the true facts about the CIA's interrogation program under President Bush are now available for all Americans to understand. Because of their work, we as a country can commit that never again will we repeat

these mistakes. This report, and the work of the staff, is an outstanding example of the constitutional oversight role that the Senate can and should play.

I want to particularly thank David Grannis, the committee's staff director and Daniel Jones, the lead staffer and author of much of the report. Many other committee staffers past and present participated in producing the report including: Evan Gottesman, Chad Tanner, Alissa Starzak, Nate Adler, Jennifer Barrett, Nick Basciano, Michael Buchwald, Jim Catella, Eric Chapman, John Dickas, Lorenzo Goco, Andrew Grotto, Tressa Guenov, Clete Johnson, Michael Noblet, Michael Pevzner, Tommy Ross, Caroline Tess, James Wolfe, and Andy Johnson.

REMEMBERING JUDY BAAR TOPINKA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to one of Illinois' great pioneers, State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka. Judy passed away suddenly last night at the age of 70. She was the only woman in our State to hold two State constitutional offices, and her leadership built bridges for countless women.

Born in 1944 to William and Lillian Baar, Judy and her family lived in Riverside, near Cicero and Berwyn, two blue-collar Chicago suburbs. Her mother ran a real estate business while her father fought in World War II. She went to Northwestern University and graduated with a degree in journalism from the university's Medill School in 1966.

Judy became a reporter for a suburban Chicago newspaper chain and rose through the ranks to editor. But in 1980, she decided to run for the Illinois House. She said she ran because the corrupt officials were ignoring the community.

Her trademark humor and her work ethic served her well and she went to serve as State senator from 1985 until 1995. In 1994, she became the first woman in Illinois history to hold the post of State treasurer and then went on to set another first as the only State treasurer to be reelected to three consecutive terms. Judy was a consummate public servant. A few weeks ago, she was re-elected as State comptroller and was about to start her second term.

Judy never shied away from taking tough stands or making the hard decisions. When it was not popular among many in her party, she was an advocate of women's rights and gay rights. When both parties needed to be held accountable, she was fearless. She was always a straight talker.

She was one of a kind. Judy could play the accordion, and she spoke four languages—English, Czech, Spanish, and Polish. She loved dance polkas and really was Illinois' Polka Queen. Anyone who knew her also knew about her beloved dogs and their preference for McDonald's cheeseburgers. In an era where far too many are stuck on talking points, Judy said what she thought and did it with style.

In a political world of cocker spaniels she could be a bulldog taking a bite out of both Democrats and right-wing Republicans without missing a beat. She was a blue-collar, immigrants' kid who lit up the room with her quick wit and boundless energy.

Illinois lost someone special. My prayers and thoughts go out to her son Joseph, her new granddaughter Alexandra Faith, and the rest of her family.

NOMINATION OF THO DINH-ZARR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I address the Senate on the nomination of Dr. Tho ''Bella'' Dinh-Zarr of Texas to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, NTSB.

Dr. Dinh-Zarr is uniquely qualified to serve as a Member of the NTSB. Dr. Dinh-Zarr currently holds the position of Director of the U.S. office of the FIA Foundation, an independent nonprofit charity based in the United Kingdom which supports activities that promote international road safety research and sustainable mobility. I have been informed that, prior to assuming her current role, Dr. Dinh-Zarr also served as the Foundation's Road Safety Director from 2007–2014. Dr. Dinh-Zarr has extensive professional experience with traffic and highway safety issues, working previously as Director of North America's Make Roads Safe Campaign for Global Road Safety, a scientist at the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration, and as National Director of Traffic Safety Policy for the American Automobile Association.

I would like to highlight some of Dr. Dinh-Zarr's connections to our shared home State of Texas—in particular, her education and work experience at some of our well-known academic and research institutions. Dr. Dinh-Zarr and her family escaped Vietnam in 1975, eventually taking up residence along the Gulf Coast in Galveston, TX. From an early age, Dr. Dinh-Zarr developed an awareness of the region's extensive multi-modal transportation network and the importance of rail, marine, and pipeline safety in her community. One of her first jobs was working at the Galveston Railroad Museum, an institution dedicated to preserving the region's storied history of rail transportation through educational exhibits and programs. Dr. Dinh-Zarr earned both a Masters of Public Health and a Ph.D. in Health Policy and Injury Prevention from the University of Texas School of Public Health. She is a graduate of Rice University and worked as a Research Associate at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, TTI, widely recognized as one of the premier transportation research agencies in the country.

The NTSB plays a critical role in advancing transportation safety. The agency is charged with investigating transportation-related accidents and making recommendations aimed at preventing future events. In order to best meet its goal of improving safety across our Nation's transportation system, the NTSB must ensure safety recommendations are reasonable, balanced and evidence-based. The agency's investigative and advocacy responsibilities must be considered in light of the unique and diverse safety challenges confronting our States, where innovative and tailored solutions can often more effectively reduce or eliminate the likelihood of future incidents or injury versus a one-size-fits-all approach. Toward this end, NTSB must place a high priority on transparency and accountability, working to ensure communities, individuals, small businesses, and all others impacted by its work are provided adequate opportunities to be heard.

I am confident that Dr. Dinh-Zarr is up to the challenge. She will not only bring to the position a wealth of knowledge and experience, but also a Texan's sense of compassion and dedication to the service of others. I am pleased to join her friends and family, members of Vietnamese American community in Texas and across the country, and many others in support of this well-qualified nominee.

INSURANCE CAPITAL STANDARDS CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2014

Ms. COLLINS. I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with Senators BROWN and JOHANNS.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in June of this year the Senate passed by unanimous consent, S. 2270, urgent legislation I introduced with Senators BROWN and JOHANNS to address the capital requirements that apply to insurance companies under Federal supervision pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act. This legislation clarifies the Federal Reserve's authority to recognize the distinctions between banking and insurance when implementing section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Act, ensuring that bank-centric capital standards are not applied to such companies' regulated insurance activities.

One of the central elements of the Dodd-Frank Act was stronger capital rules for both banks and certain non-bank financial institutions. Two sections of the Dodd-Frank Act accomplished this—section 165, which applies to large bank holding companies and to non-bank systemically important financial institutions, SIFIs, and section 171, which applies minimum capital standards to insured depository institutions, depository institution holding companies, including insurance savings and loan holding companies, and to SIFIs.

Insurance companies, specifically insurance savings and loan holding companies, are different from banks. Insurers must match long-term obligations

to their policyholders with long-term assets, mostly bonds, while banks have more callable obligations—securities and loans and mortgages—and fund them with deposits as well as a mix of debt and equity of varying maturities and durations. The Dodd-Frank legislation reflected this reality, both in its text and in the legislative history, which repeatedly recognizes that the business of insurance is unique and presents different risks.

Mr. BROWN. I and other original cosponsors and strong supporters of S. 2270 have, like you, been disappointed by the regulators' failure to recognize that they have the authority to implement the Collins amendment as it applies to insurers in a manner that tailors the capital requirements for insurers to reflect the substantial differences between insurers and depository institutions. We continue to believe that the regulators could solve this problem using their existing authority. This legislation shows that there is strong bipartisan support for addressing this issue. As you know, 31 of your colleagues and I cosponsored the bill, and the legislation passed the Senate with unanimous support in early June.

S. 2270 is narrowly crafted to only address this issue as it relates to insurance companies and insurance savings and loan holding companies. If you are a bank, or another entity that owns a bank, you will be subject to the full force of the Collins amendment for your banking activities. At the same time, if you are a financial organization engaged in insurance which is also engaged in bank activities, including derivatives market making, those activities would be subject to the Collins amendment.

To accomplish the goal of directing the Federal Reserve to tailor rules for insurance, our legislation permits the Federal Reserve to create a non-Basel III regime for the insurance operations of supervised entities. The legislation allows the Fed to work with State insurance regulators to develop appropriate insurance-based capital standards for insurance activities.

Mr. JOHANNS. I am an original cosponsor of this legislation and appreciate your long-standing partnership on this issue. The bill clarifies that, in establishing the minimum leverage capital and risk-based capital standards under section 171, the Federal Reserve Board is not required to include activities or companies that are engaged in the business of insurance and are subject to State insurance regulation, including State insurance capital requirements. Similarly, regulated foreign affiliates or subsidiaries engaged in the business of insurance and subject to foreign insurance regulation and foreign insurance capital requirements that have not been deemed to be inadequate also may be excluded from section 171 capital standards. We believe it is worth noting that the Government Accountability Office found that the State risk-based capital rules performed well during the financial crisis.

The bill allows the insurance capital requirements that have been effective to continue to determine the capital requirements for the activities of insurance companies and groups that are supervised by the Federal Reserve Board. Furthermore, activities of a holding company supervised by the Federal Reserve Board that are not the business of insurance would remain subject to the capital standards under section 171. In determining insurance versus non-insurance activities of a supervised entity, the legislation provides regulators with the flexibility to tailor the rules for certain affiliates or subsidiaries of insurance companies that are necessary to the business of insurance, including, for example, affiliates or subsidiaries that support insurance company general and separate accounts.

Our legislation defines ''business of insurance'' by reference to section 1002 of the Dodd-Frank Act, and under this definition the business of insurance means ''the writing of insurance or the reinsuring of risks by an insurer, including all acts necessary to such writing or reinsuring and the activities relating to the writing of insurance or the reinsuring of risks conducted by persons who act as, or are, officers, directors, agents, or employees of insurers or who are other persons authorized to act on behalf of such persons.'' The reference to this definition of the ''business of insurance'' will help ensure that insurance activities of federally supervised companies are subject to tailored capital rules, whether those activities are undertaken by the insurance companies themselves or by their affiliates or subsidiaries on their behalf.

Ms. COLLINS. We also want to ensure that the Federal Reserve uses its authority to tailor capital rules for insurance operations of entities under its supervision, regardless of the size of the subsidiary insured depository institution. As we have stated, under this legislation and under current law, the Basel banking regime and the Collins amendment requirements will continue to apply to all insured depository institutions. It would be at odds with sound public policy and the intent of this legislation for the Federal Reserve to impose a Basel banking capital regime on the entire enterprise of an insurer that happens to also own a sizable insured depository institution—the depository institution in that operation will already be subject to banking rules, but the insurance operations should not be.

Mr. BROWN. Another important provision of our legislation addresses the issue of insurance accounting for a small number of non-publicly traded insurance companies. While every publicly traded company in the United States is required by the Federal Securities laws to prepare consolidated financial statements under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, GAAP, all insurance companies in the United States—whether in mutual or stock form of organization—are required by their State insurance regulators to utilize an accounting method known as Statutory Accounting. Indeed, most mutual insurance companies only use Statutory Accounting in preparing their financial statements.

Statutory Accounting Principles, SAP, are generally more conservative than GAAP because they are specifically designed to promote insurer solvency and the ability to pay claims instead of measuring an insurer's value as a going concern. SAP does not allow a number of non-liquid or intangible assets to be included on an insurer's balance sheet and provides less favorable accounting treatment for certain expenses. In both the text of the Dodd-Frank Act and its legislative history, Congress recognized the acceptability of SAP for holding companies engaged in insurance activities coming under Federal Reserve jurisdiction. Specifically, Congress 1) directed the Federal Reserve to rely on existing reports and information provided to State and other regulators (which for insurance companies would have been prepared according to SAP); and 2) included Senate report language stating that Federal Reserve assumption of jurisdiction over savings and loan holding companies engaged in the business of insurance did not reflect a mandate to impose GAAP. However, in proposed rulemakings, the Federal Reserve expressed its intention to require all companies to eventually prepare GAAP financial statements-consistent with their existing model for all bank holding companies. Imposing such a mandate on companies using only SAP would cost insurers a substantial amount to take on multi-year financial projects yielding minimal, if any, supervisory benefit to regulators.

S. 2270 makes clear that under Section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Act and the Home Owners' Loan Act, such a mandate is inappropriate where the holding company is a non-publicly traded insurance company that is only required to prepare and file SAP statements. Nothing in this provision prevents the Federal Reserve from obtaining any information it is otherwise entitled to obtain from a SAP-only insurer.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I and the many other supporters of S. 2270 are pleased that this legislation has passed the Senate. It is critical that this legislation be enacted this year. We look forward to its enactment this year and working with regulators as they implement appropriate, tailored capital rules for insurers under their supervision.

NEWBORN SCREENING SAVES LIVES REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I applaud the passage of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act.

Across the United States, newborns are screened routinely for certain genetic, metabolic, hormonal and functional disorders. Most of these birth defects have no immediate visible effects on a baby but, unless detected and treated early, they can cause serious physical problems, developmental disability and, in some cases, death.

Fortunately, most infants are given a clean bill of health when tested. In cases where newborns are found to have metabolic disorders or hearing impairment, early diagnosis and proper treatment are crucial in making the difference between healthy development and lifelong infirmity.

Newborn screening has been saving lives for more than 50 years, but programs vary from State to State. To address disparity among States' newborn screening capabilities, Congress passed the original Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2008, P.L. 110–204, legislation I sponsored with Senator Chris Dodd. The law established national newborn screening guidelines and helped facilitate comprehensive newborn screening in every State in America and the District of Columbia.

Before passage, some States offered as few as only four of the recommended tests, and only 11 States and D.C. required the recommended screening for all disorders. Today, 42 States and D.C. require screening for at least 29 of the 31 treatable core conditions, and both parents and physicians are more aware of the availability and necessity of newborn screening.

To maintain the important work of newborn screening programs, I am a proud sponsor of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2013. This legislation will allow States to continue improving their programs to help medical providers promptly diagnose and treat conditions which could result otherwise in irreversible brain damage, permanent disability, or death.

I very much appreciate and commend the hard work of my colleagues and their staffs here in the Congress, the administration, and the public health community to ensure that this program will continue to help States provide critical, timely, and lifesaving newborn screening for our youngest Americans.

DODD-FRANK REFORM

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, 14 years ago, Congress made a grave mistake. In the dead of night, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2001, Congress passed a little-noticed provision that prohibited all meaningful oversight and regulation of swaps, which then were the latest financial product in the fast-growing financial derivatives market. In that new regulatory void, the swaps markets grew to unprecedented size and complexity. It was the swaps market that ultimately lead to unprecedented taxpayer bailouts of some of the largest financial institutions in the world.

Some have estimated that the cost of the last crisis was $17 trillion—with a ''t''. To the families across the country, it meant lost jobs, home foreclosures and reduced home values for those who did not lose their homes. Far too many of my constituents, far too many Americans, are still struggling to recover. It was all enabled by Congress passing a financial regulatory provision with little consideration, tucked inside a funding bill.

We enacted the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, in part, to address the significant risks posed by swaps and other financial derivatives. Section 716 was a key component of the financial reforms. That provision is titled ''Prohibition Against Federal Government Bailouts of Swaps Entities.'' It explicitly prohibited taxpayer bailouts of banks that trade swaps. It set out a plan to help achieve that goal, by requiring bank holding companies to move much of their derivatives trading outside of their FDIC-insured banks.

This provision has come to be known as the ''swaps push out'' provision. Four years after its enactment, however, banking regulators have yet to finalize a rule to enforce compliance. Before they do, some in Congress want to relieve them of the obligation altogether.

Some of the largest bank holding companies prefer to conduct their swaps trades in their government-backed, FDIC-insured banks because they have better credit ratings, which means lower borrowing costs and therefore higher profits. But because the activity is within the bank, it puts the Federal Government—and taxpayers—directly on the hook for those bets that, as we saw in the financial crisis, can be unlimited in number, because banks can create an unlimited number of ''synthetic'' derivatives related to a particular financial asset.

A couple years ago, JPMorgan Chase lost billions of dollars on a bad bet in the credit derivatives markets. The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, conducted an extensive investigation and issued a 300-page bipartisan report with its findings. JPMorgan's risky trading by its bank was a disaster—costing the bank over $6 billion. It was receiving the taxpayer subsidy the whole time.

To be clear, Section 716 does not cure all the risks posed by swaps. But it was an important part of the effort to protect us from another crisis. Along with the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Merkley-Levin provisions on proprietary trading and conflicts of interest, these reforms form the backbone of the Dodd-Frank Act's safeguards.

By repealing this provision, we would ignore the lessons of the last financial crisis and weaken Dodd-Frank's protections against the next crisis.

American families and businesses deserve better than this. If there are provisions in the Dodd-Frank Act that need to be improved or reformed, the appropriate Senate committees should review, evaluate, and modify them. They should be given time on the Senate floor for further review and improvement. The proponents of this legislation should explain why they think that deregulating swaps—before we ever started re-regulating them—is the right course of action. They should explain why taxpayers should run the risk of bailing out risky swaps trades gone bad. They should explain why, despite the loss of millions of jobs and trillions of dollars the last time Congress deregulated derivatives, this time will be different. A legislative vehicle is the right place for considering these issues, not an urgent appropriations bill.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

SAXBY CHAMBLISS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, as the current session of Congress comes to a close it is our custom to take a moment to express our appreciation for the service of our colleagues who are retiring and will not be with us when the next session begins in January. We will miss them all. Over the years their experience and insights on a number of issues have been a very valuable part of our debates and deliberations.

I know I will especially miss SAXBY CHAMBLISS. His work here on the floor and in his committee assignments has played an important role in our consideration of a number of issues over the years. Simply put, he has been a great champion for conservative causes during his service in the House and Senate and he has made a difference for his constituents in many, many ways. He is a man of principle and he has a great gift for expressing his viewpoint in a thoughtful, clear and interesting manner. He is so persuasive, in fact, that even if you disagree with him he makes you take a moment to reconsider your position just to be sure you have not missed something.

Before he began his years of public service to the people of Georgia, SAXBY proved to be the kind of individual who would have been a success at just about anything he decided to pursue. Fortunately, the path he chose to follow in his life brought him to the Nation's capital to represent Georgia—first in the House of Representatives and later in the Senate.

SAXBY served four terms in the House. It was a challenge that he enjoyed because it gave him a chance to sit on the committees that were taking a closer look at our intelligence organizations to be certain they would be ready to face any future threats to our national security. Georgia was proud to see that they had elected someone to Congress who was hard not to notice. He did such a good job, in fact, he was encouraged to run for the Senate.

When he arrived in this chamber, he had already established himself as one

of our leading conservative voices. That did not surprise any of us. He has a calm, even way of expressing himself and articulating how his principles play out in whatever issue we have before us.

One great attribute that SAXBY brought with him to his work in the Congress was his willingness to work with people who did not always agree with him. He knew there would come a time when they would agree with him on something no matter how many times they had disagreed in the past. When the situation presented itself that was what he would focus on.

Simply put, SAXBY believes very strongly in making progress and getting results. He is not all that concerned about who gets credit for it. As the old adage reminds us, for SAXBY, it is all about leaving things a little better at the end of the day today than they were yesterday.

Over the years SAXBY has always found a way to make progress no matter how rough the road seemed to be. It has been one of the guiding principles behind SAXBY's 20 years of service. His commitment to moving forward has enabled him to leave his mark in Georgia and throughout much of the United States.

Now that this chapter of SAXBY's life has come to a close, I am not sure what he has planned for his next great adventure. He just does not strike me as someone who will be content to sit on the sidelines. I am sure we will be hearing from him from time to time with some words of encouragement and support—and a suggestion or two. In fact, I am looking forward to it.

SAXBY, thank you for your service in the House and the Senate. In your 20 years of service in the House and the Senate you have not only been a witness to the history of your home State of Georgia and our Nation, you have helped to write it. Because of you the Nation is stronger, safer and more secure. Yours is a record of leadership of which you should be very proud.

Diana joins in sending our best wishes to you. From one Sigma Chi brother to another, you have made a difference because you have always led the best way—by example. What others are content to talk about you have stepped up to do the work needed to get the job done and because of that you have been able to make a difference—an important and long lasting one.

MIKE JOHANNS

Mr. President, as the current session of Congress comes to a close it is our tradition to take a moment to express our appreciation for the faithful service of those of our colleagues who will be returning home at the end of the year. We appreciate their hard work and great service on behalf of their home States and our Nation. We will miss them and the thoughtful suggestions and good ideas they have brought to our deliberations on the issues before us.

The word ''service'' brings to mind one of our retiring colleagues, MIKE JOHANNS. MIKE has followed a path that has brought him from his service as the Mayor of Lincoln, to his post as the Governor of Nebraska, on to serve in the President's Cabinet as Secretary of Agriculture and then on to the floor of the United States Senate. He has made important contributions at each post and now, as he has decided with the support and guidance of his family, ''it is time to close this chapter in his life.''

As a former mayor myself I have a great deal of regard for MIKE and his commitment to the people that he has served for many, many years. He has a great understanding of his home State of Nebraska and the workings of its State and local government. He understands the challenges that face his home State in the present, and the hopes and dreams of the people of Nebraska for the future.

It did not take long to discover that MIKE is a workhorse, not a showhorse. He is not someone to land on a weekend talk show every week talking about what needs to be done—he would rather be in committee or on the floor every day doing it. In everything he did MIKE always brought along an abundance of Nebraska common sense. He used that special gift of his and his varied background as a starting point for finding common ground and a workable solution on a number of issues that would be acceptable to all.

During his service in the Senate it has been good to have a neighbor to work with who understands agriculture and our rural way of life. He has been a great help in making the case clear to the Congress about the difference between living on a farm and living in a big city or town.

That is why I will not be the only one who will miss him. Our rural communities in the West will miss his ability to understand the problems of rural America and what should be done to address them.

MIKE has also been one to focus on the money side of each issue that came to the Senate. He knows how important it is for us to get a handle on our Nation's finances to ensure that our children and grandchildren will not have to clean up the financial mess we are going to leave them if we are not careful. MIKE has said that our failure to act will cause our financial problems to appear sooner than we might think.

I am sorry to see MIKE go when there is so much to be done that could use his understanding not only of the issues, but from his experience, the impact they will have on the local, State and national level.

Still we know where to find him whenever we could use some of his Nebraska-rooted common sense. Thanks, MIKE, for your service to the State of Nebraska and to our Nation. You can be proud of what you helped to accomplish and the seeds you planted that will lead to more accomplishments in the years to come.

Thanks for your leadership and thanks for your friendship, too. Diana joins in sending our best wishes to you and our appreciation for all you have done. Please keep in touch with us. We will always be pleased to hear from you.

CARL LEVIN

Mr. President, once again, as is our tradition here in the Senate, we take a moment to express our appreciation for the service of those Members who will be retiring at the end of the year. We will miss them, their good ideas and thoughtful suggestions, and their concern and active involvement in the challenges facing our Nation in a number of areas.

It is hard to mention the word ''service'' and not have CARL LEVIN come to mind. As a former local official myself, I have a great deal of respect and regard for all those who have worked their way up from the local level to the Senate.

For CARL the great adventure of his political life began with his service on the Detroit City Council. During his 8 years on the council *Carl* probably had enough run-ins with the Federal bureaucracy that he decided he had to do something about it. For him that meant a run for the Senate.

CARL's election and his subsequent service in the Senate have shown him to be quite an effective legislator and a force for the positions he has taken on a long list of issues. He has been a Member of the Senate since 1979 and he has hit a number of milestones since then that reflect the length and production of his service.

It is important to emphasize that CARL's service in the Senate has never been about longevity, it is been about results. That is why he has been a part of so many issues that needed someone with his talents, skills and abilities to help move them through. Such an issue has been his great support for our Nation's military and our veterans.

CARL has been working for the benefit of those who have served in our Armed Forces since he first walked in the door of the Senate. Determined that they reap the benefits they have earned with their service, CARL joined the Armed Services Committee to ensure our military and our veterans were getting what they deserved and required both during and after their service.

That is one of the main reasons why he is currently serving as the Chairman of our Armed Services Committee. He wanted to make a difference for those who were sacrificing so much to serve in our Nation's military. I don't think our servicemen and women—and our Nation's veterans—have ever had a better friend than CARL LEVIN.

Now he is closing the chapter of this great adventure of his life. With his service he has made a difference in more ways than I could ever hope to mention in my brief remarks. In the process CARL has touched more lives for the better than we will ever know with his commitment to the day-to-day

issues that affect us all—like education, the environment and health care. He has had an impact on his home State and our Nation that will be felt for a long time to come.

Thank you, CARL, for your service in the Senate. I know I join with the people of Michigan in expressing our appreciation to you for dedicating so much of your life to making our Nation a better place for us all to live. That is why your constituents have always been there to express their appreciation of your work here in the Senate with their votes. That is also why no other Senator has ever represented Michigan as long as you have.

Diana joins in sending our best wishes to you for all you have accomplished and for your close and personal attention to the needs of our Armed Forces and the concerns of our veterans. Thanks, too, for your friendship. We will miss you, but I am certain we will be in touch.

TOM HARKIN

Mr. President, it is hard to believe how quickly this session of Congress has come to an end. Before that final gavel brings it to a close, however, it is good to have this time to express our appreciation for the service of those Members who will be retiring at the end of the year. They all have a lot to be proud of—from their first speech here on the floor to their representation of their State over the years.

Those words can not help but bring to mind TOM HARKIN. I have had a chance to come to know him and work with him as the Chairman of the health committee. I have been very impressed with his dedication to his work and his determination to make a difference for the people who voted to hire him on for the job—and all Americans in all of the States.

I think one of the reasons why we were able to work together has to do with his Wyoming background. TOM spent some of the best years of his life in Rock Springs and I can not help but think that his time there made a big difference in his life.

TOM has quite a remarkable record of service to the people of Iowa and it is clear they feel the same about him. They have sent him back to the Senate to serve as their representative for five terms in the House and five terms in the Senate. During his service in the Senate I appreciated having the opportunity to work with him as the ranking member of the committee. In addition, the leadership he has provided the committee as chairman has enabled him to take an active role on issues that will have an impact on his home State and the rest of the country for many years to come.

If I were to name just a few of the issues on which TOM has made a difference I would begin with his work on behalf of those living with disabilities that resulted in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. TOM's groundbreaking legislation was written to help ensure all Americans would have an opportunity to lead more fulfilling and productive lives. In the days to come, his work on this issue will continue to provide the support that will help those living with disabilities to work toward their goals in life—and achieve them.

I also wanted to point out his work with our education system. TOM understands the importance of a good education and the difference it makes in young lives—today and tomorrow. Thanks to his hard work and determination students of all ages have a new appreciation for the fact that an education consists of more than just a few years in a classroom—it is a lifelong adventure, a journey that never ends because there is always something new to learn, some new skill that will make someone a more valuable member of the workforce.

I am sure he has heard it before but it is pretty clear that TOM HARKIN is Iowa, through and through. He has devoted so many years of his life to the people of his State and they are greatly appreciative of his efforts—and the results he has been able to achieve.

Now, as TOM has made clear, it is time for someone else to step up to the plate and continue the work he has begun on so many issues. There is no question that you will be a difficult act to follow. For all those years TOM's heart and soul has been in Iowa while his mind and his focus has been in the nation's capital, working to make Iowa a better place to live.

Now TOM's remarkable career in the House and the Senate has come to a close and this chapter of his great adventure of serving the people of Iowa here in Congress has concluded. While we did not always agree on the best way to get things done we always agreed that we needed to focus on what we could do to have the greatest impact on the lives of Americans all across the country. Fortunately, I think we succeeded in many ways and TOM will be remembered for those positive results—and so many more.

One last TOM HARKIN memory has to do with his popcorn tradition. I know I am not the only one who hopes it will continue. I do not think a single visitor to your office or that section of the building will ever forget the wonderful aroma your Iowa popcorn sent all around the area. For visitors from back home it must have been a touch that made them feel right at home. It was just more proof that you never lost sight of the people back home and they loved you for that.

Thank you, TOM HARKIN, for all you have brought to the House and the Senate over the years. You have made it clear what the people of Iowa expect from their government and what you were working so hard to achieve for them. Thank you for your service, thank you for your dedication to making our Nation a better place to live and most of all, thank you for your friendship. You have not only been a witness to the history of your State and our country, you have helped to write each chapter over the years. In the days to come your achievements will continue to inspire the next generation of our leaders who will want to do what you have done. I am sure they can count on you for your insights, suggestions and advice. Diana joins in sending our best wishes to you.

MARK PRYOR

Mr. President, it is one of the Senate's great traditions at the close of each session of Congress to take a moment to note the service of those of our colleagues who be leaving the Senate at the end of the year. It is a time for us to express our appreciation to our fellow Senators for their service and share what we have learned from them as we worked together to make a difference in our states and in our nation.

I have often thought that MARK has one great overriding rule that has guided him in his work in the Senate, ''Is this what the people of Arkansas sent me here to do?'' More often than not the answer to that question has helped him to develop a strategy to get things done that were designed to make his home State and our nation better places to live.

Ask just about any one of us here in the Senate what has made MARK PRYOR such an effective legislator and you will get the same answer—bipartisanship. In fact, he was so good at it, we might need to come up with a different word to explain his strategy, something like Pryor-itize. For MARK, the best way to get things done was to get everyone involved—all parties, all sides of an issue, and representatives of every point in between—together and then take the best of what everyone had to offer to form a coalition that would bring his legislative effort to a successful conclusion.

That is why both parties would often try to recruit him for their legislative projects. Each party knew he had a great ability to persuade that would help to bring other members together to support their efforts.

I have often said that serving in the Senate is a great adventure. If it were anything else, it would be too much like work and too hard a job to take on. Because it is an adventure it is something more—it is a chance to take on the greatest challenge there is, leaving the world a better place than we found it when we first walked through the doors of the Senate, and find new, creative, and inventive ways to make it happen.

As he closes this chapter of his life, his Senate adventure, MARK can be very proud of his efforts, and his successes over the years. He has a great deal to be proud of and I hope it brings him the satisfaction that comes from knowing he has taken on a difficult job and done it well.

I know I will miss seeing MARK around campus here in Washington, DC. I will miss his willingness to help on those tough challenging issues we always seen to have before us. I will also miss his words of faith and determination that he would share with us during our prayer breakfasts.

I hope you will keep in touch with us in the days to come with news of your next great adventure in life. Thank you for your service to our country, thank you for your focus on making Arkansas and our nation better places to live, and, most of all, thank you for your friendship. Good luck in all your future endeavors. God bless.

TIM JOHNSON

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague from South Dakota, Senator TIM JOHNSON, who is retiring at end of this year. TIM has an impressively long career in public service, representing his home State of South Dakota in Congress for the last 28 years.

TIM is often described as ''a work horse, not a show horse,'' and with good reason. His values, passion and work ethic are reflected in the projects he has championed and the constituent services he has provided for the people of South Dakota. Following his AVM in 2006, Senator JOHNSON came into the national spotlight which he so seldom sought. All were inspired by his perseverance and dedication to the people of South Dakota to return to do the work he loves, and the Senate has been better for it.

As a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, TIM championed important water projects to bring clean drinking water to rural communities and Indian reservations, pressed for the development of renewable fuels, and supported efforts to build vital infrastructure throughout rural America. Through his position on the Appropriations Committee, he fought to see these efforts through from planning to completion.

Farmers and ranchers throughout his State could count on TIM to be a strong voice for agriculture, advancing their priorities in numerous farm bills. His leadership on country of origin labeling, COOL, laid important groundwork to support our Nation's producers and ensure consumers know where their food comes from—a fight that continues today.

TIM has also been a champion for veterans, working to improve the benefits they are owed and connecting South Dakota veterans with support and services in their communities. He was able to secure advanced appropriations for the Veterans Administration, providing budget certainty and ensuring access to health care for those who have so bravely served their country.

TIM has a strong relationship with the tribes in South Dakota and is considered a steadfast and valued friend in Indian Country. He has tirelessly pressed for the Federal Government to meet its treaty and trust responsibilities. While significant challenges remain, TIM JOHNSON's legacy as an advocate for Native American issues has improved the quality of life on many reservations. This commitment will be missed both in the Senate and on the Indian Affairs Committee.

Senator JOHNSON brought his passion for rural and Native American issues to the Senate Banking Committee. Under his chairmanship, the work of the committee highlighted the often-overlooked needs in these communities—and he was a champion during our efforts on housing finance reform to make sure they could receive the resources they so desperately need. Strengthening small community banks, improving housing, and reauthorizing critical highway and transit programs are just a few of the initiatives Chairman JOHNSON undertook, and it was a pleasure working under his leadership.

Throughout all of these accomplishments, accolades, and challenges, TIM has remained true to his roots. He has never taken his public service for granted and has always considered it a privilege to serve the people of South Dakota. The impact of his work during his time in Congress will be seen in communities throughout his State for years to come, and he has certainly left his mark on South Dakota politics. I wish him the very best as he and his wife Barbara embark on this new chapter and get to enjoy more time with their family back in South Dakota.

MIKE JOHANNS

Mr. President, I also wish to honor my colleague from Nebraska, Senator MIKE JOHANNS, who is retiring from the Senate at the end of this year. Senator JOHANNS has been a friend since I started in the Senate, and I appreciate his willingness to work with me towards our shared goals. He is one of only two current Senators to have served as a Governor and cabinet Secretary, providing him with a tremendous amount of wisdom on how to get things done. It is his incredible knowledge and strong Midwestern work ethic that I admire most about him.

For more than 30 years, Senator JOHANNS has been a strong voice for the people of Nebraska. His first act in public service was in 1983 as a County Board member in Lancaster County. He later went on to serve as both Councilman and Mayor of Lincoln. He would eventually become Governor of Nebraska and Secretary of Agriculture under President George W. Bush. Senator JOHANNS set no limits to his potential; readily serving in any capacity he could to make our great Nation a better place.

Senator JOHANNS and I serve together on the Agriculture Committee and I greatly admired the thoughtfulness and expertise he brought to the negotiations on the Farm Bill. His knowledge as a former Agriculture Secretary was unmatched and ensured many improvements were made throughout the debate. Senator JOHANNS never forgot about our farmers and always kept his eye on providing them with the best possible outcome he could.

We also had the privilege of working together on the Banking and Housing Committee. He and I worked together with a bipartisan group of committee members to draft and advance legislation reforming the housing finance system to protect the American taxpayer from another bailout and to guarantee that another housing crisis does not happen again. Once again, his voice on behalf of rural America during these talks was critical and something that I greatly appreciated.

Senator JOHANNS has never been about taking credit or seeking the spotlight. He maintained a strong, hard work ethic throughout his time in the Senate and was one who was willing to cross the aisle to get things done. The American people expect that of their representatives, and Senator JOHANNS met those expectations on behalf of Nebraska.

I will miss having him as my colleague in the Senate, but I also know that his wife and family will enjoy the free time they will have with him. I wish him happiness and success in the next chapter of his life.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL GAMEL-McCORMICK

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, as I approach the end of my Senate career, I cannot help but reflect on the role that my tremendous staff members have played in advancing my policy goals and, indeed, advancing the important work the American people over the years. I have been blessed to have worked with truly remarkable individuals who have worked tirelessly to promote initiatives that will improve the lives of ordinary Americans.

Among my own legislative and policy priorities over the years, none has been greater for me than advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. I am proud and honored to have been the chief Senate sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the last of the great civil rights laws of the 20th century—one that has correctly been called the Emancipation Proclamation for persons with disabilities. That legislation sought, once and for all, to fully enfranchise people with disabilities and to fully integrate them into the fabric of American life, guided by four great principles—equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic sufficiency. Over the last quarter century, that legislation has resulted in a quantum leap forward in the civil rights and daily quality of life of millions of Americans with disabilities.

However, even with that quantum leap forward, much work remains to be done to advance the rights of people with disabilities both in the United States and around the world. And over the last several years, no one has worked harder to advance this unfinished agenda of disabilities rights than Michael Gamel-McCormick, who served on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee as my lead K–12 staffer through the markup of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and subsequently as a team leader on disability policy.

Throughout his career, Michael has worked to improve the lives of children

and other people with disabilities. He came to the HELP Committee from the University of Delaware, where he was dean of the College of Education and Human Development and where he had previously served as a departmental chair and director of the Center for Disability Studies. Prior to that, Michael served, variously, as director of an early intervention program in West Virginia, director of children's services at an urban community services agency, and as a preschool and kindergarten teacher. Michael also consulted worldwide in helping other countries to establish their own systems to support persons with disabilities and to expand early learning opportunities.

Michael's deep experience and knowledge was evident as soon as he arrived at the HELP Committee. Immediately, Michael became an integral and trusted member of my staff. His initial work on the committee was as an education policy advisor, lead staffer on K–12 education, and an expert on the intersection of education and inequality. His expertise and leadership were critical in crafting and passing in committee the Strengthening America's Schools Act. As an education policy adviser, Michael was also deeply involved in shaping policies to strengthen the education of children with disabilities.

After serving as a senior education advisor, Michael assumed the role of my chief disability policy advisor, spearheading a number of important initiatives, including two important committee reports on persons with disabilities. The first report, on the continued use of seclusions and restraints in our schools, exposed the inappropriate and often dangerous use of physical restraints on and unsupervised exclusion of many children, especially children with disabilities, in U.S. schools. That report was accompanied by important legislation to finally prohibit these outdated and ineffective measures. The second report, ''Fulfilling the Promise: Overcoming Persistent Barriers to Economic Self-Sufficiency for People with Disabilities,'' investigated the barriers that people with disabilities face as they seek to rise out of poverty and enter the middle class. This report found that living with a disability is both economically and socially costly, and that significant barriers—especially logistical barriers and discrimination—continue to stand in the way of the economic security of people with disabilities. Specifically, the report said this:

> Twenty-four years ago, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act. We have been successful at meeting many of the goals of the ADA. We have increased the accessibility of our buildings, our streets, even our parks, beaches and recreation areas. And we've made our books and TVs, telephones and computers more accessible as well. And for many Americans with disabilities, our workplaces have become more accessible as well.
>
> But far too few people with disabilities are in the workforce! The unemployment rate for people with disabilities is 12.8 percent, more than double the six percent unemployment rate for people without disabilities. Of the almost 29 million people with disabilities over 16 years of age, less than 20 percent participate in the workforce compared with nearly 70 percent of those without a disability.

Not content to identify a problem, Michael also seeks to solve them. His most enduring legacy as my disability policy director will be his work to promote the employment of persons with disabilities through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which was signed into law earlier this year. That law will ensure that young people with disabilities get the experiences they need to succeed in work settings. To obtain those experiences, the bill requires State vocational rehabilitation programs to work hand-in-hand with local secondary schools. The bill also ensures that employers will have the information necessary to recruit, hire, and retain people with disabilities.

These efforts will directly address the high unemployment rate among people with disabilities, smooth the transition of young people with disabilities into the competitive integrated workforce, and help employers to support their employees with disabilities. I am especially proud of these provisions. And I am very grateful to Michael, who successfully endeavored to enact them in the face of long odds.

I had the good fortune to travel with Michael to China earlier this year, where we sought to identify opportunities for international cooperation on disability policy and to work with the Chinese Government to strengthen its own policies and programs to assist and empower the millions persons with disabilities in that country. On the trip, not only was Michael incredibly helpful and knowledgeable, but he also proved to be a good humored and indefatigable travel partner.

Last and certainly not least, I want to salute Michael's heroic efforts over the past year to advance the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The CRPD, as it is known in shorthand, is a United Nation's treaty modeled after our own Americans with Disabilities Act, with a goal of exporting the same advances enjoyed by persons with disabilities in the United States to countries around the world. The United States has always been a city on a hill when it comes to disability policy, and the CRPD offers an opportunity for us to play a more robust leadership role in advancing disability rights across the globe. Unfortunately, despite broad support for the CRPD among business leaders, faith leaders, and in the disability policy community, the CRPD ran up against significant and, I might add, spurious opposition here in the Senate. In fact, after failing to be ratified in the 112th Congress, the treaty was all but declared dead.

However, at my urging and direction, Michael worked tirelessly to revive the moribund treaty, reaching out to Republicans, enlisting the assistance of business interests and activating grassroots networks around the country in support of the treaty. At the end of the day, the Senate was still not able to overcome the misinformed objections of a number of Senators who blocked consideration of the treaty. But Michael's efforts to resurrect and advance the treaty in the face of daunting odds were remarkable. Thanks to Michael's work, we came closer than ever before to passing the CRPD. I certainly haven't given up the fight to pass the CRPD, and I am grateful to Michael for all that he did to advance the cause of global disability rights.

It is no exaggeration to say that Michael has enriched the lives of countless individuals. Because of his work, young children have been exposed to the rich environments that they need for early learning. Because of his work, young people with disabilities will receive the supports and experiences they need to secure gainful employment. Because of his work, school-aged children will receive developmentally appropriate discipline and direction rather than the cruelty of seclusion and physical restraints. And because of his work, countless individuals with disabilities will work, live, laugh, and flourish in their communities alongside friends, colleagues, and neighbors.

This is a living legacy that Michael Gamel-McCormick deserves to be very proud of. I am deeply grateful for his service to the committee, to the American people, and to me personally. And I wish him great success in his future endeavors on behalf of people with disabilities here in America and across the globe.

TRIBUTE TO BETH STEIN

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in 1997, Beth Stein, a talented young woman armed with a razor-sharp mind and relentless attention to detail, arrived on Capitol Hill as counsel to a true American hero, U.S. Senator John Glenn. As his investigative counsel, Beth played a key role in the inquiry into campaign finance abuses in the 1996 election. And she helped to lead investigations into other critical issues, including food safety, Medicare fraud, waste, and abuse, and the relationship between thyroid cancer rates and exposure to nuclear fallout from Nevada testing in the 1940s. After working for Senator Glenn, Beth went on to serve as election counsel to Representative STENY HOYER and as Judiciary Committee counsel to U.S. Senator MARIA CANTWELL.

The work of a U.S. Senator is only as good as the staff that he or she hires, and in 2004 I was fortunate to convince Beth to join my staff, where she has served ever since. Throughout that time, she has served in a number of different capacities, distinguishing herself in each and every one of them. I owe a debt of gratitude to so many of my staff members across my career,

but I would be remiss if I did not single out Beth for her especially meritorious contributions to my office over the past decade.

Beth began her work in my office as counsel, providing excellent advice on myriad constitutional and civil rights issues, among other things. One of her most noteworthy accomplishments from this time related to the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, located not far from Burlington, IA. The history of the covert nuclear weapons program at the IAAP is a fascinating one that I could recount for hours. Suffice it to say that for decades the men and women of the Iowa Ammunition Plant worked on a secret nuclear weapons program, handling highly radioactive materials with protective gear of only cotton gloves—gloves that were intended to protect the weapons material from contact with humans, not to protect humans from contact with dangerous radioactive materials.

After my office helped to uncover the long history of dangerous working conditions at the IAAP, we still had to address the needs of hundreds of men and women who were exposed to radioactive materials and to try and help them receive compensation and health care to deal with the high rates of cancer and respiratory disease associated with their work. For years we struggled with various Federal agencies. We tried to seek a legislative fix. We sought an administrative remedy. It was finally under Beth's leadership that the men and women of the IAAP were designated a special exposure cohort, which made them eligible for compensation and medical care to account for medical expenses and lost wages. It is not an exaggeration to say that, but for Beth's efforts, the former workers of the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant might still be waiting on the Federal Government to appropriately compensate them for their service to our nation.

So much did I value Beth's work that when she decided that she wanted to take a step back and spend more time with her kids, I convinced her not to leave the payroll entirely but to stay on to work on special projects. In that capacity, Beth played a critical role in one of my proudest achievements, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008. This law was written in response to several Supreme Court decisions narrowing the definition of disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act. These narrow interpretations led to the denial of the ADA's protections for many individuals that Congress intended to protect under the ADA. The ADAAA made a number of changes to restore the intent of the ADA and to ensure that its protections were broadly available to persons with disabilities. Though the ADAAA passed the Senate by unanimous consent, a fact that is a credit to the Senate, one should not take from this the idea that it was easy. It required long negotiations and difficult choices involving Congress, the administration, disability rights organizations, and business interests. Beth played a critical role in these negotiations, deftly managing both the politics and the policy. The result of her steady guiding hand is abundantly clear today: the ADA, as amended by the ADAAA, continues its impact as one of the landmark civil rights laws of the 20th century, the Emancipation Proclamation for Persons with Disabilities.

When I became chair of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, one of my first acts was to establish an investigative unit to provide critical oversight and investigations work. There was no question in my mind that Beth, with her relentlessness, eye for detail, and penchant for sifting through detritus to reveal the truth, was the person for the job. As my chief investigative counsel, she has delivered time and again, for example, uncovering labor abuses by government contractors that led to a White House Executive order clamping down on such abuses. Beth also played a key role in producing HELP Committee reports on the abusive use of seclusions and restraints in our Nation's schools, on barriers that stand in the way of the economic security of persons with disabilities, and on the rapid growth of e-cigarettes and their marketing.

Most noteworthy was Beth's leadership of the HELP Committee's investigation of abuses in the for-profit sector of higher education. This investigation spanned several years and culminated in the release of a multi-volume report detailing in remarkable detail the abuses by some for-profit colleges—in particular, their misuse of taxpayer funds, their poor educational outcomes, and the need for greater Federal oversight of these schools. This investigation was monumental both in its scale and in its level of detail. Beth oversaw every aspect of this very delicate investigation, which resulted in much greater scrutiny of the for-profit industry and which also put the investigations arm of the HELP Committee on the map.

About a year ago, I asked Beth to return to my personal office to serve as legislative director. In that capacity, she has done yeoman's work managing the legislative staff, helping in the unenviable job of closing our Senate office, and continuing to provide the excellent counsel that had made her indispensable for the past decade. And she has done all of this while continuing in her role as chief investigations counsel for the HELP Committee.

Mr. President, when I was growing up, my parents didn't talk politics. We didn't know politicians. But we knew this: When my family hit rock bottom in the late years of the Depression, with my father out of work and with no way to provide for his family, the government gave us a hand up. Dad got a postcard in the mail notifying him to report for employment with the Work Projects Administration, the WPA. Dad always said that Franklin Roosevelt gave him a job. That opportunity gave my father dignity and enough money to put food on the table, and, maybe most important of all, it gave him hope.

As a proud Midwestern progressive, I have fought to give opportunity and hope to those who truly need it and deserve it, including working families seeking affordable health care and childcare, family farmers struggling to stay on the land, young people paying for college, and seniors seeking financial security in their retirement years.

But I haven't done it alone. Every Senator stands on the foundation of his or her staff, and on my staff Beth Stein has been a rock-solid cornerstone in that foundation. For her counsel, intelligence, and excellent work, and for helping me to be the best servant I can be to the people of Iowa and the United States, for working alongside me to do our best to give people hope, I extend my deepest gratitude to my counselor and friend Beth Stein.

TRIBUTE TO MILDRED OTERO

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President. As a boy growing up in rural Cumming, IA, population 150, I could never have imagined that I would one day serve in Congress. My father had a sixth-grade education. He spent most of his life working in coal mines, and all he had to show for it was a case of black lung disease. My mother was an immigrant, raising six kids in our little two-bedroom house. My parents did not talk politics. We did not know politicians. But we knew this: When my family hit rock bottom in the late years of the Depression, with my father out of work and with no way to provide for his family, the government gave us a hand up. Dad got a postcard in the mail, notifying him to report for employment with the Work Projects Administration, the WPA. Dad always said that Franklin Roosevelt gave him a job. That opportunity gave my father dignity, and enough money to put food on the table. Maybe most important of all, it gave him hope.

As a proud Midwestern progressive, my career has been guided by a desire to give hope to those who truly need it and deserve it, to provide a ladder of opportunity to working families seeking affordable health care and child care, family farmers struggling to stay on the land, and seniors seeking financial security in their retirement years. There is no rung on the ladder of opportunity more important than education, from rich early learning experiences, to college, and beyond.

As I have endeavored to give people hope and to provide them with a ladder of opportunity, I have not done it alone. I have been blessed to have one of the most capable staffs on Capitol Hill. I rise today to extend a personal thanks to one of the best, my chief

education counsel, Mildred Otero, who has stood stalwartly alongside me in my efforts to secure for every American a quality education from cradle to career.

Mildred came to Washington in 2003 as a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Fellow, working for then-Senator Hillary Clinton. Over the years, she has also worked at the Children's Defense Fund, for Senator JACK REED, and at the Department of State. Before joining the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Mildred served as Senior Policy Officer at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, helping to lead its Federal advocacy efforts for U.S. programs.

When she arrived at the HELP Committee, she brought with her sterling credentials, unmatched knowledge of education policy, and a reputation as a tough but fair negotiator. Most importantly, she brought with her a commitment to children and a determination to confront the savage inequalities in America's public education system, and these priorities have been the foundation of all the work that she does. For Mildred, ''leave no child behind'' is not a slogan, it is an imperative, an obligation that motivates her every day to strive to do what is best for the children of our country, especially those who are born into disadvantage.

Mildred's commitment to our children and her determination to extend a hand up to the disadvantaged have borne fruit in significant accomplishments since she joined the HELP Committee.

Foremost among these accomplishments was passage last summer of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, a bill to update and strengthen our Nation's job training programs. Frankly, to call enactment of this bill an accomplishment is a huge understatement. This is a bill that had been stalled for years due to one disagreement after another, each seemingly as intractable as the next. But for Mildred, what others see as an intractable disagreement is just another challenge to work through with creativity and diplomacy. Work through them she did, one after another, until all that was left was final passage of the bill. It is testament to Mildred's determination, creativity, and skill that the final bill passed by a vote of 95–3. As a result of her work on this bill, millions of Americans will be able to upgrade their skills, obtain better jobs, and ultimately, better their lives and the economic security of their families.

Mildred and her team also successfully guided into the law improvements to the Child Care and Development Block Grant, which allocates more than $5 billion annually and supports more than 1.5 million children across the country. The last reauthorization of this program took place 18 years ago, at a time when child care was principally seen as a work-support activity and only incidentally as something that could have a positive impact on the development of children. Today, backed up by impressive scientific research, we know that this program can and should be much more. In addition to providing vital work support for parents, it should be a rich early-learning opportunity for children. These are exactly the kinds of improvements that Mildred shepherded into law. Among other things, the bill requires States to improve education and training requirements, strengthens licensing requirements, and stipulates that States must demonstrate how they are meeting the needs of the most vulnerable children, especially children with disabilities.

I would be remiss if I did not also mention Mildred's effort in the K–12 and higher education spaces. Last summer, the HELP Committee, under Mildred's guidance, passed the Strengthening America's Schools Act of 2013. This bill, an update to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, provided a framework to ensure that all children graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in college and their careers. With Mildred's guidance, the Strengthening America's Schools Act focused greater attention on early childhood, encouraged equity through fair distribution of resources, and maintained a laser focus on helping all children, but especially disadvantaged children, to succeed in school.

Mildred brought similar energy to her efforts this year on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, efforts that culminated with the introduction of the Higher Education Affordability Act. For generations, a college education has been the pathway to the middle class, but new challenges are threatening that promise for many families in Iowa and across the country. College affordability, skyrocketing student debt, transparency—these are high stakes issues for students and families. The Higher Education Affordability Act seeks changes to our system of higher education in order to make college more affordable and accessible, and to restore and strengthen the ladder of opportunity—a ladder that has been growing weaker and that is in need of repair.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said that ''life's most urgent and persistent question is: what are you doing for others?'' During her tenure as a senior counselor on the HELP Committee, Mildred has answered that question in powerful ways, and in particular through her tireless efforts to bring greater equity to public education at all levels. We respect her expertise, and we admire the strong moral voice that she has brought to the Committee. I am deeply grateful to Mildred for her superb leadership of the Committee's Education Office, and I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DON HOUSE

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Don House, who will retire as the Walnut Ridge Mayor after 4 years of public service to the citizens of the community.

Mayor House constantly stressed the spirit of cooperation within and between each city department, and the importance of good work ethic among its employees. That is why when he began his service as mayor he met with all of the community's employees.

Don led a reorganization of the police department in an effort to serve the needs of the community more responsibly, including a crackdown on drug dealers and drug manufacturers within the city. Don also oversaw the completion of the Northeast Arkansas Water Authority project, improving the water quality in Walnut Ridge.

In addition to serving as mayor, Don lived in Lawrence County most of his life, owned House-Gregg Funeral Home—a local funeral home and family business, and held office in the Arkansas State House of Representatives.

I applaud Don for his outstanding achievements and success as city mayor. My staff and I have enjoyed working with Mayor House on the projects important to Walnut Ridge. I am truly appreciative of his dedication, leadership, and eagerness to serve Arkansas.•

RECOGNIZING THE IDAHO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation's 75th year as an organization.

The Idaho Farm Bureau, which was started in 1939 in Murtaugh as an organization of farm and ranch families, has represented the interests of Idaho producers in addressing agriculture and natural resources issues. The organization is focused on ''formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement and thereby, to promote the national well-being.''

Idaho is home to more than 25,000 farms and ranches. Farm families support our communities and are central to our economy and our State's culture. The pressures on these hardworking producers meeting the food needs of a growing world population are increasing as the pressures on our natural resources increase. Consideration of how policy changes affect this bedrock is critical to long-term economic growth and the success of our State and Nation.

From providing input on the farm bill, to transportation legislation and Federal regulation affecting the farm and ranch community, including Endangered Species Act concerns, the Idaho Farm Bureau has helped ensure that Idaho producers' voice is heard in a broad array of local and Federal policy discussions. I have greatly valued

the input of farm bureau leadership, staff and members. I look forward to continuing to work with this seasoned Idaho organization in shaping agriculture and natural resources policy to ensure that it best meets the needs of Idaho producers.

Congratulation to the Idaho Farm Bureau and its membership on this significant milestone. I wish you continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN CHARLES STEELE

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor Benjamin Charles Steele, a veteran of World War II.

On behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say ''thank you'' to Ben for his service to our Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of Ben's service in World War II, because no story of bravery—especially not one from our ''greatest generation''—should ever be forgotten.

Ben was born on November 11, 1917, in Roundup, MT. The son of ranchers, Ben loved the outdoors. Sometimes he would sneak out of school by pretending to go to the bathroom, but instead would jump on his horse and head for the ranch.

Ben was 22 when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in Missoula, MT on September 9, 1940.

In September of 1941, Ben was assigned to serve in the Philippines.

Ben had barely arrived in country when the Army gave him a rifle and told Ben ''now you're in the infantry.''

The Japanese attacked on December 8. A few weeks later, Ben's unit was evacuated from Clark Field and ordered to the Bataan Peninsula. In January 1942, Ben was sent to the front lines.

Three months later, the front lines collapsed. Soon after, Ben's unit was captured and he and his fellow soldiers began the infamous Bataan Death March.

Ben marched for 6 days and was fed only two cups of rice. The American captives were tormented by the Japanese soldiers. They were forced to walk closely together, and if a prisoner stumbled, or worse, fell, they were bayoneted or shot and killed.

Ben was a prisoner for three and one-half years. During this time, at great risk to himself, he secretly made drawings of the torture and cruelty he and his fellow prisoners endured. On one construction project, 324 prisoners started work beside Ben. By the end, Ben was one of only 50 surviving prisoners.

Ben then was sent to Japan where he did hard labor in the Japanese mines. He was liberated once the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, with Ground Zero less than 80 miles from Ben's coal mine. When he was freed, Ben had dysentery, pneumonia, malaria, blood poisoning and beriberi.

Ben was discharged from the U.S. Air Force on July 10, 1946. After beginning his art career drawing on the concrete floor of a prison in the Philippines, Ben pursued a formal art education. In 1955, he received a master's in art from the University of Denver.

Ben then taught art at Montana State University-Billings. To this day, he continues to recreate the images of his imprisonment through drawings and paintings.

Ben was never ''officially'' assigned to the infantry; the military just handed him a weapon and told him to go fight—and he did. He fought for months before he was captured.

Ben is now 97 years old, living in a nursing home in Billings, MT, fighting his last battle—and still painting. Ben never requested any medals or recognition for his brave and incredible service. A true World War II veteran, Ben feels he simply did the job he was sent to the Philippines to do.

But today, it is my honor to honor Ben Steele's true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service by including his story in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Thank you, Ben.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:56 p.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, without amendment:

S. 2759. An act to release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1378. An act to designate the United States Federal Judicial Center located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the ''John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center'' and to designate the United States courthouse located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the ''James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse''.

H.R. 5059. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5086. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5185. An act to reauthorize the Young Women's Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009.

H.R. 5701. An act to require that certain Federal lands be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of federally recognized tribes in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5705. An act to modify certain provisions relating to the Propane Education and Research Council.

H.R. 5764. An act to authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5781. An act to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5471. An act to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

MEASURES REFERRED ON DECEMBER 9, 2014

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 579. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the ''R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5146. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the ''Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 5385. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the ''Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5562. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Ocean Avenue in Lompoc, California, as the ''Federal Correctional Officer Scott J. Williams Memorial Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5687. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 East Market Street in Long Beach, California, as the ''Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5794. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the ''Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5086. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 5781. An act to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2992. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reform procedures for determinations to proceed to trial by court-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME ON DECEMBER 9, 2014

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2992. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reform procedures for determinations to proceed to trial by court-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 10, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 229. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 3900 Woodland Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the ''Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center''.

S. 1434. An act 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. 2673. An act to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 2917. An act to expand the program of priority review to encourage treatments for tropical diseases.

S. 2921. An act to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, as the ''Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic''.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 182. A bill 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 (Rept. No. 113–289).

S. 398. A bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–290).

S. 776. A bill 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, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–291).

S. 841. A bill to designate certain Federal land in the San Juan National Forest in the State of Colorado as wilderness, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–292).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 1328. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the archeological site and surrounding land of the New Philadelphia town site in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–293).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1419. A bill to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–294).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 1750. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with States and political subdivisions of States providing for the continued operation, in whole or in part, of public land, units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System in the State during any period in which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture is unable to maintain normal level of operations at the units due to a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–295).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1971. A bill to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–296).

S. 2031. A bill to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, and for other purposes, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–297).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 2104. A bill to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown (Rept. No. 113–298).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2379. A bill to approve and implement the Klamath Basin agreements, to improve natural resource management, support economic development, and sustain agricultural production in the Klamath River Basin in the public interest and the interest of the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–299).

S. 2602. A bill to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington (Rept. No. 113–300).

S. 2873. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acknowledge contributions at units of the National Park System (Rept. No. 113–301).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

H.R. 885. To expand the boundary of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–302).

H.R. 1241. A bill to facilitate a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Inyo National Forest, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–303).

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Report to accompany S. 2094, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel (Rept. No. 113–304).

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1317. A bill to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 2014 through 2016 and for other purposes.

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. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 2993. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the determination of cohort default rates and provide for enhanced civil penalties, and to authorize the establishment of an institutional risk-sharing commission; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2994. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to facilitate the administration and enforcement of antidumping and countervailing duty orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2995. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out a pilot program to work with municipalities that are seeking to develop and implement integrated plans to meet wastewater and stormwater obligations under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2996. A bill to create a limited population pathway for approval of certain antibacterial drugs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2997. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the exclusion for employer-provided dependent care assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico:

S. Res. 596. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need for reconciliation in Indonesia and disclosure by the United States Government of events surrounding the mass killings during 1965–66; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 597. A resolution commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS day; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. COATS):

S. Res. 598. A resolution expressing condolences to the family of Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig and condemning the terrorist acts of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 287

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 287, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve assistance to homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 610

At the request of Mr. HELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to repeal certain limitations on health care benefits.

S. 877

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to allow public access to research of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 1256

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1256, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to preserve the effectiveness of medically important antimicrobials used in the treatment of human and animal diseases.

S. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 2047

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2047, a bill to prohibit the marketing of electronic cigarettes to children, and for other purposes.

S. 2084

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2084, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require the Secretary of the Interior to publish and make available for public comment a draft economic analysis at the time a proposed rule to designate critical habitat is published.

S. 2581

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2581, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes.

S. 2807

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2807, a bill to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2930

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 2930, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of an evaluation of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3980

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3980 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5771, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions and make technical corrections, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 596—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE NEED FOR RECONCILIATION IN INDONESIA AND DISCLOSURE BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF EVENTS SURROUNDING THE MASS KILLINGS DURING 1965–66

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 596

Whereas, on October 1, 1965, six Indonesian Army generals were killed by military personnel, including members of Indonesia's Presidential Guard, and these killings were blamed on the Indonesian Communist Party and labeled an ''attempted Communist coup d'état'';

Whereas this alleged coup was used to justify the mass killing of alleged supporters of the Indonesian Communist Party, with estimates of the number of dead ranging from 500,000 to 1,000,000 killed;

Whereas the targeted individuals were predominantly unarmed civilians, and often included members of trade unions, intellectuals, teachers, ethnic Chinese, and those involved in the women's movement;

Whereas these killings and the imprisonment of up to 1,000,000 targeted individuals were done without due process of law;

Whereas the targeted individuals were subject to extrajudicial execution, torture, rape, forced disappearance, forced labor, and forced eviction;

Whereas the United States Central Intelligence Agency in a 1968 research study described the period as one of the worst mass murders of the twentieth century;

Whereas the United States Government provided the Indonesian Army with financial, military, and intelligence support during the period of the mass killings, and did so aware that such killings were taking place as recorded in partially declassified documents in the Department of State history, ''Foreign Relations of the United States'', pertaining to this period;

Whereas, within months of military leader Suharto's assumption of the presidency following the mass killing, the United States Government began sending economic and military support to Suharto's military regime, and played an indispensable role in its consolidation of power;

Whereas aid to the Suharto government continued for more than three decades, despite on-going crimes against humanity committed by the Suharto government, including mass killing and other gross violations of human rights during the invasion and subsequent 24-year occupation of East Timor;

Whereas perpetrators of the 1965–66 mass killings have largely lived with impunity, and the survivors and descendants of the victims suffer continuing discrimination economically and for decades had limited civil and political rights, as noted in the 2012 Indonesia National Commission on Human Rights report;

Whereas the United States Government has not yet fully declassified all relevant documents concerning this time period, and full disclosure could help bring historical clarity to atrocities committed in Indonesia between 1965 and 1966;

Whereas the United States Government has in recent years supported the declassification and release of documents in support of truth and reconciliation efforts following periods of violence in countries such as Chile and Brazil;

Whereas open dialogue about alleged past crimes against humanity and past human rights violations is important for continued efforts to reconcile populations of Indonesia and to ensure a stable, sustainable peace that will benefit the region and beyond;

Whereas, Indonesia has undergone a remarkable democratic transition over the last two decades, and is the world's third largest democracy with the largest Muslim population in the world;

Whereas through free and fair elections, the people of Indonesia have elected new leaders who now have the opportunity to establish a culture of accountability in partnership with the country's vibrant civil society, press, academia, and human rights activists;

Whereas the relationship between the United States and Indonesia is strong and involves many shared interests, as reflected in the 2010 United States-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership, including democracy and civil society, education, security, climate and environment, energy, and trade and investment;

Whereas the economic relationship between the United States and Indonesia is strong, with bilateral goods trade exceeding $27,000,000,000 and with major United States companies making significant long-term investments in Indonesia; and

Whereas strong relations between the United States and Indonesia are mutually beneficial to both countries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the mass murder in Indonesia in 1965–66;

(2) expresses great concern about the lack of accountability enjoyed by those who carried out crimes during this period;

(3) urges political leaders in Indonesia to consider a truth, justice, and reconciliation commission to address alleged crimes against humanity and other human rights violations, and to work to mend differences and animosity that remain after the 1965–66 mass killings; and

(4) calls on the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, and others involved in developing and implementing policy towards Indonesia during this time period to establish an interagency working group to—

(A) locate, identify, inventory, recommend for declassification, and make available to the public all classified records and documents concerning the mass killings of 1965 and1966, including records and documents pertaining to covert operations in Indonesia from January 1, 1964 through March 30, 1966;

(B) coordinate with Federal agencies and take such actions as necessary to expedite the release of such records to the public; and

(C) submit a report to Congress describing all such records, the disposition of such records, and the activities of the Interagency Group.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, our Nation and Indonesia enjoy a strong relationship, reflected in the U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership of 2010. This partnership is robust and growing. It serves both of our countries for bilateral, regional, and global cooperation. The election of President Widodo in July was a step forward—part of a great democratic tradition—over the past two decades in Indonesia. We are working together for economic growth, for the environment, and for our security.

This is progress—and to be encouraged. Indonesia has a major role to play as a regional and global leader, but in that role it must be an inclusive democracy. Key to this is to address past human rights abuses—specifically the mass murders committed in 1965 to 1966. Next year is the 50th anniversary of those killings.

I rise today, International Human Rights Day, to submit a resolution concerning those events, which Indonesia's own Human Rights Commission has labeled a crime against humanity. But let me be clear. This is not a censure of the people of Indonesia or Indonesia's new government; it is an opportunity for justice and for reconciliation.

The events took place decades ago. The reasons behind them are complex, but that cannot justify the past or forgetting those who suffered under it, nor can we ignore our own government's role during that time.

My resolution proposes two things:

First, I urge Indonesia's new government to create a truth and reconciliation commission to address these crimes. Second, I urge our own government to establish an interagency working group and to release relevant classified documents. We should make clear what was known to us, and we should make this information available.

It is a painful history to recall. On October 1, 1965, six Indonesian Army generals were killed. According to scholars, these generals were killed by military personnel, but their deaths were blamed on Indonesia's Communist Party, which was used to justify mass murders.

The next few months were horrific for the Indonesian people. The CIA has called it one of the worst periods of mass murder in the 20th century. Hundreds of thousands were killed. Many others were imprisoned, tortured, raped, starved, and disappeared across the country. These individuals were targeted for their alleged association with communism, but they came from all walks of life, including women's groups, teachers, intellectuals, and others. Most were unarmed, and none had due process of law.

The United States provided financial and military assistance during this time and later, according to documents released by the State Department, and General Suharto consolidated his power, ruling from 1967 to 1998.

Some may ask, why is this resolution needed? Why now? This is why. The survivors and descendents of victims continue to be marginalized. Many of the killers continue to live with impunity. Very few Americans are aware of these historical events or our government's actions during this time. These events demand our attention and resolution as we work together to build a strong Asia-Pacific partnership.

I am proud to serve on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. An important goal is the development of peaceful, stable democracies—democracies that provide security and hope to their own people and economic opportunity for businesses in my State and across the United States.

Indonesia is the world's third-largest democracy. Its population is diverse. It has the largest Muslim majority population in the world. It has faced many challenges and continues to move forward. A strong U.S.-Indonesia relationship benefits both of our countries. I offer this resolution in support of that relationship and Indonesia's continued progress as a growing democracy and a vital U.S. ally.

SENATE RESOLUTION 597—COMMEMORATING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF WORLD AIDS DAY

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 597

Whereas an estimated 35,000,000 people were living with HIV/AIDS as of the end of 2013;

Whereas the United Nations Millennium Development Goals established a global target of halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015;

Whereas the 2001 United Nations Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS mobilized global attention and commitment to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and set out a series of national targets and global actions to reverse the epidemic;

Whereas the 2011 United Nations Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS provided an updated framework for intensified efforts to eliminate HIV and AIDS, including redoubling efforts to achieve by 2015 universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support, and to eliminate gender inequalities and gender-based abuse and violence and increase the capacity of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection;

Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was launched in 2002 and, as of November 2013, supported programs in more than 140 countries that provided antiretroviral therapy to 6,600,000 people living with HIV/AIDS and antiretrovirals to 2,100,000 pregnant women to prevent transmission of HIV/AIDS to their babies;

Whereas the United States is the largest donor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;

Whereas, for every dollar contributed to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria by the United States, an additional $2 is leveraged from other donors;

Whereas the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) initiative was proposed by President George W. Bush and passed Congress on a bipartisan vote in 2003, and remains the largest commitment in history by any nation to combat a single disease;

Whereas, as of the end of September 2014, PEPFAR supported treatment for 7,700,000 people, up from 1,700,000 in 2008, and in 2012, PEPFAR supported the provision of antiretroviral drugs to 750,000 pregnant women living with HIV to prevent the transmission of HIV from mother to child during birth;

Whereas PEPFAR directly supported HIV testing and counseling for more than 56,700,000 people in fiscal year 2014;

Whereas considerable progress has been made in the fight against HIV/AIDS, with the number of new HIV infections estimated at 2,100,000 in 2013, a 38 percent reduction since 2001, new HIV infections among children reduced to 240,000 in 2013, a reduction of 58 percent since 2001, and AIDS-related deaths reduced to 1,500,000 in 2013, a 35 percent reduction since 2005;

Whereas increased access to antiretroviral drugs is the major contributor to the reduction in deaths from HIV/AIDS, and HIV treatment reinforces prevention because it reduces, by up to 96 percent, the chance the virus can be spread;

Whereas the World Health Organization (WHO) has revised its guidelines for determining whether HIV positive individuals are eligible for treatment, thereby increasing the number of individuals eligible for treatment from about 15,900,000 to 28,600,000;

Whereas 13,600,000 people in low- and middle-income countries had access to antiretroviral therapy as of June 2014;

Whereas 19,000,000 of the 35,000,000 people living with HIV globally do not know their status, according to a 2014 UNAIDS report;

Whereas, although sub-Saharan Africa remains the epicenter of the epidemic with approximately 1,100,000 AIDS-related deaths in 2013, there have also been successes, with an approximate 33 percent decline in new HIV infections from 2005 to 2013 and a 39 percent decrease in the number of AIDS-related deaths in sub-Saharan Africa between 2005 and 2013;

Whereas stigma, gender inequality, and lack of respect for the rights of HIV positive individuals remain significant barriers to access to services for those most at risk of HIV infection;

Whereas President Barack Obama voiced commitment to realizing the promise of an AIDS-free generation and his belief that the

goal was within reach in his February 2013 State of the Union Address;

Whereas the international community is united in pursuit of achieving the goal of an AIDS-free generation;

Whereas a UNAIDS 2014 report on the state of the global epidemic assessed that AIDS could be ended as a public health threat by 2030 if a fast-track response is taken and certain targets are realized by 2020, and further noted that doing so would avert nearly 28,000,000 new HIV infections and 21,000,000 AIDS-related deaths by 2030;

Whereas, during the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak of 2014, countries with PEPFAR-strengthened lab capacity, human capacity, and health facility capacity were able to contain Ebola outbreaks;

Whereas, in August 2014, PEPFAR and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) launched an initiative to double the total number of children receiving treatment over the next two years in ten countries;

Whereas December 1 of each year is internationally recognized as World AIDS Day; and

Whereas, in 2014, the theme for World AIDS Day commemorations was ''Focus, Partner, Achieve: An AIDS-free Generation'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day, including seeking to get to zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths;

(2) applauds the goals and approaches for achieving an AIDS-free generation set forth in the PEPFAR Blueprint: Creating an AIDS-free Generation, as well as the targets set by United Nations member states in the 2011 United Nations Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS;

(3) commends the dramatic progress in global AIDS programs supported through the efforts of PEPFAR, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and UNAIDS;

(4) urges, in order to ensure that an AIDS-free generation is within reach, rapid action by all nations towards—

(A) full implementation of the Global Plan Towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections Among Children by 2015 and Keeping Their Mothers Alive to build on progress made to date; and

(B) further expansion and scale-up of antiretroviral treatment programs, including efforts to reduce disparities and improve access for children to life-saving medications such as getting antiretroviral HIV medication to the 2,000,000 children with HIV currently unable to access them;

(5) calls for scaling up treatment to reach all individuals eligible for treatment under WHO guidelines;

(6) calls for greater focus on the HIV-related vulnerabilities of women and girls, including those at risk for or who have survived violence or faced discrimination as a result of the disease, and urges more directed efforts to ensure that they are connected to the information, care, support, and treatment they require;

(7) supports efforts to ensure inclusive access to programs and appropriate protections for all those most at risk of HIV/AIDS and hardest to reach;

(8) encourages additional private-public partnerships to research and develop better and more affordable tools for the diagnosis, treatment, vaccination, and cure of HIV;

(9) supports continued leadership by the United States in bilateral, multilateral, and private sector efforts to fight HIV;

(10) stresses the importance of ensuring that HIV and AIDS are central to the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and of advocating for the inclusion of targets under relevant goals towards achieving zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths;

(11) encourages and supports greater degrees of ownership and shared responsibility by developing countries in order to ensure sustainability of their domestic responses; and

(12) encourages other members of the international community to sustain and scale up their support for and financial contributions to efforts around the world to combat HIV/AIDS.

SENATE RESOLUTION 598—EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF ABDUL-RAHMAN PETER KASSIG AND CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ACTS OF THE ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT

Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. COATS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 598

Whereas Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig was a tireless humanitarian who devoted his life to helping those most in need;

Whereas Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig saved lives across Lebanon, Turkey, and Syria, particularly through the nongovernmental organization he founded, Special Emergency Response and Assistance;

Whereas Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig represented the best qualities of humanity through his work administering medical aid, food and shelter to the people most impacted by the war in Syria;

Whereas Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig served with honor as a United States Army Ranger;

Whereas the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (referred to in this preamble as ''ISIL'') is a terrorist organization that has committed widespread acts of violence against innocent civilians throughout Iraq and Syria, forcing many people to flee their homeland;

Whereas ISIL has carried out grave atrocities targeting Muslims and religious and ethnic minorities in the region, including women and children, for enslavement, torture, and massacre;

Whereas ISIL has captured and assassinated journalists and humanitarian and health workers, deepening the suffering of a war-torn region;

Whereas ISIL is responsible for the murder of United States citizens; and

Whereas ISIL continues to hold hostages in contravention of international law: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

The Senate—

(1) mourns the death of Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig;

(2) expresses condolences to the family and loved ones of Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig;

(3) condemns the terrorist acts by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (referred to in this resolution as ''ISIL''), including the targeting of innocent civilians, journalists, and aid workers; and

(4) urges the United States and the international community, working in partnership with the governments and citizens of the Middle East, to address the threat posed by ISIL and the suffering of innocent civilians impacted by the conflict.

SEC. 2. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this resolution is a declaration of war or authorization to use force.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3996. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LEE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KIRK, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3997. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. THUNE)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2444, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

SA 3998. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. ROCKEFELLER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2444, supra.

SA 3999. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2519, to codify an existing operations center for cybersecurity.

SA 4000. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4007, to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.

SA 4001. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2952, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess the cybersecurity workforce of the Department of Homeland Security and develop a comprehensive workforce strategy, and for other purposes.

SA 4002. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2952, supra.

SA 4003. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4004. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4005. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4006. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4007. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4008. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4009. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4010. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4011. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4012. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4013. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4014. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4015. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4016. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4017. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4018. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4019. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4020. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4021. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4022. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4023. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4024. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4025. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4026. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4027. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4028. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4029. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4030. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4031. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4032. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4033. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4034. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4035. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4036. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4037. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4038. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4039. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4040. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4041. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4042. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4043. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4044. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4045. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4046. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4047. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4048. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4049. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4050. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4051. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4052. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4053. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4054. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4055. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4056. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4057. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4058. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4059. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4060. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4061. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4062. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4063. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4064. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4065. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4066. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4067. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4068. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4069. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4070. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4071. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4072. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4073. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4074. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4075. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4076. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4077. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4078. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4079. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4080. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4081. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4082. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4083. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4084. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4085. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4086. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4087. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4088. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4089. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4090. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4091. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3996. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LEE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KIRK, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1034. PROHIBITION ON THE INDEFINITE DETENTION OF CITIZENS AND LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS.

Section 4001 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following new subsection (a):

''(a) No citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States shall be imprisoned or otherwise detained by the United States except consistent with the Constitution and pursuant to an act of Congress that expressly authorizes such imprisonment or detention.'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b)(1) A general authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority, on its own, shall not be construed to authorize the imprisonment or detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States apprehended in the United States.

''(2) Paragraph (1) applies to an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority enacted before, on, or after the date of the enactment of the Carl Levin and Howard P. 'Buck' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

''(3) This section shall not be construed to authorize the imprisonment or detention of a citizen of the United States, a lawful permanent resident of the United States, or any other person who is apprehended in the United States.''.

SA 3997. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. THUNE)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2444, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is the following:

Sec. 1. Short title.
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TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for necessary expenses of the Coast Guard as follows:

(1) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard, $6,981,036,000.

(2) For the acquisition, construction, rebuilding, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore and offshore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto, $1,546,448,000, to remain available until expended.

(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, including personnel and training costs, equipment, and services, $140,016,000.

(4) For environmental compliance and restoration of Coast Guard vessels, aircraft, and facilities (other than parts and equipment associated with operation and maintenance), $16,701,000, to remain available until expended.

(5) To the Commandant of the Coast Guard for research, development, test, and evaluation of technologies, materials, and human factors directly related to improving the performance of the Coast Guard's mission with respect to search and rescue, aids to navigation, marine safety, marine environmental protection, enforcement of laws and treaties, ice operations, oceanographic research, and defense readiness, $19,890,000.

(6) For alteration or removal of bridges over navigable waters of the United States constituting obstructions to navigation, and for personnel and administrative costs associated with the Alteration of Bridges Program, $16,000,000.

SEC. 102. AUTHORIZED LEVELS OF MILITARY STRENGTH AND TRAINING.

(a) ACTIVE DUTY STRENGTH.—The Coast Guard is authorized an end-of-year strength for active duty personnel of 43,000 for fiscal year 2015.

(b) MILITARY TRAINING STUDENT LOADS.—The Coast Guard is authorized average military training student loads for fiscal year 2015 as follows:

(1) For recruit and special training, 2,500 student years.

(2) For flight training, 165 student years.

(3) For professional training in military and civilian institutions, 350 student years.

(4) For officer acquisition, 1,200 student years.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

SEC. 201. COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Section 42(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''7,200'' and inserting ''6,900''.

SEC. 202. COMMANDANT; APPOINTMENT.

Section 44 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''The term of an appointment, and any reappointment, shall begin on June 1 of the appropriate year and end on May 31 of the appropriate year, except that, in the event of death, retirement, resignation, or reassignment, or when the needs of the Service demand, the Secretary may alter the date on which a term begins or ends if the alteration does not result in the term exceeding a period of 4 years.''.

SEC. 203. PREVENTION AND RESPONSE WORKFORCES.

Section 57 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2) by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) waterways operations manager shall have knowledge, skill, and practical experience with respect to marine transportation system management; or

''(5) port and facility safety and security specialist shall have knowledge, skill, and practical experience with respect to the safety, security, and environmental protection responsibilities associated with maritime ports and facilities.'';

(2) in subsection (c) by striking ''or marine safety engineer'' and inserting ''marine safety engineer, waterways operations manager, or port and facility safety and security specialist''; and

(3) in subsection (f)(2) by striking ''investigator or marine safety engineer.'' and inserting ''investigator, marine safety engineer, waterways operations manager, or port and facility safety and security specialist.''.

SEC. 204. CENTERS OF EXPERTISE.

Section 58(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) MISSIONS.—Any center established under subsection (a) shall—

''(1) promote, facilitate, and conduct—

''(A) education;

''(B) training; and

''(C) activities authorized under section 93(a)(4);

''(2) be a repository of information on operations, practices, and resources related to the mission for which the center was established; and

''(3) perform and support the mission for which the center was established.''.

SEC. 205. PENALTIES.

(a) AIDS TO NAVIGATION AND FALSE DISTRESS MESSAGES.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 83 by striking ''$100'' and inserting ''$1,500'';

(2) in section 84 by striking ''$500'' and inserting ''$1,500'';

(3) in section 85 by striking ''$100'' and inserting ''$1,500''; and

(4) in section 88(c)(2) by striking ''$5,000'' and inserting ''$10,000''.

(b) UNAUTHORIZED USE OF WORDS ''COAST GUARD''.—Section 639 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$1,000'' and inserting ''$10,000''.

SEC. 206. AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 93(a)(4) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking '', investigate'' and inserting ''and investigate''; and

(2) by striking '', and cooperate and coordinate such activities with other Government agencies and with private agencies''.

(b) AUTHORITY.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 102. Agreements

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out section 93(a)(4), the Commandant may—

''(1) enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, and other agreements with—

''(A) Federal entities;

''(B) other public or private entities in the United States, including academic entities; and

''(C) foreign governments with the concurrence of the Secretary of State; and

''(2) impose on and collect from an entity subject to an agreement or contract under paragraph (1) a fee to assist with expenses incurred in carrying out such section.

''(b) DEPOSIT AND USE OF FEES.—Fees collected under this section shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts. The fees may be used, to the extent provided in advance in an appropriation law, only to carry out activities under section 93(a)(4).''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''102. Agreements.''.

SEC. 207. TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COVERAGE OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS.

Section 93(a)(7) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''and the textbooks, manuals, and other materials required as part of such training or course of instruction'' after ''correspondence courses''.

SEC. 208. COAST GUARD HOUSING.

(a) COMMANDANT; GENERAL POWERS.—Section 93(a)(13) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the Treasury'' and inserting ''the fund established under section 687''.

(b) LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTY.—Section 672a(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the Treasury'' and inserting ''the fund established under section 687''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 687(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) Monies received under section 93(a)(13).

''(5) Amounts received under section 672a(b).''.

SEC. 209. LEASE AUTHORITY.

Section 93 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) LEASING OF TIDELANDS AND SUBMERGED LANDS.—

''(1) AUTHORITY.—The Commandant may lease under subsection (a)(13) submerged lands and tidelands under the control of the Coast Guard without regard to the limitation under that subsection with respect to lease duration.

''(2) LIMITATION.—The Commandant may lease submerged lands and tidelands under paragraph (1) only if—

''(A) lease payments are—

''(i) received exclusively in the form of cash;

''(ii) equal to the fair market value of the use of the leased submerged lands or tidelands for the period during which such lands are leased, as determined by the Commandant; and

''(iii) deposited in the fund established under section 687; and

''(B) the lease does not provide authority to or commit the Coast Guard to use or support any improvements to such submerged lands or tidelands, or obtain goods or services from the lessee.''.

SEC. 210. NOTIFICATION OF CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 103. Notification of certain determinations

''(a) IN GENERAL.—At least 90 days prior to making a final determination that a waterway, or a portion thereof, is navigable for purposes of the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard, the Commandant shall provide notification regarding the proposed determination to—

''(1) the Governor of each State in which such waterway, or portion thereof, is located;

''(2) the public; and

''(3) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

''(b) CONTENT REQUIREMENT.—Each notification provided under subsection (a) to an entity specified in paragraph (3) of that subsection shall include—

''(1) an analysis of whether vessels operating on the waterway, or portion thereof, subject to the proposed determination are subject to inspection or similar regulation by State or local officials;

''(2) an analysis of whether operators of commercial vessels on such waterway, or portion thereof, are subject to licensing or similar regulation by State or local officials; and

''(3) an estimate of the annual costs that the Coast Guard may incur in conducting operations on such waterway, or portion thereof.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''103. Notification of certain determinations.''.

SEC. 211. ANNUAL BOARD OF VISITORS.

Section 194 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 194. Annual Board of Visitors

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A Board of Visitors to the Coast Guard Academy is established to review and make recommendations on the operation of the Academy.

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The membership of the Board shall consist of the following:

''(A) The chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, or the chairman's designee.

''(B) The chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, or the chairman's designee.

''(C) 3 Members of the Senate designated by the Vice President.

''(D) 4 Members of the House of Representatives designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

''(E) 6 individuals designated by the President.

''(2) LENGTH OF SERVICE.—

''(A) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—A Member of Congress designated under subparagraph (C) or (D) of paragraph (1) as a member of the Board shall be designated as a member in the First Session of a Congress and serve for the duration of that Congress.

''(B) INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT.—Each individual designated by the President under subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) shall serve as a member of the Board for 3 years, except that any such member whose term of office has expired shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

''(3) DEATH OR RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER.—If a member of the Board dies or resigns, a successor shall be designated for any unexpired portion of the term of the member by the official who designated the member.

''(c) ACADEMY VISITS.—

''(1) ANNUAL VISIT.—The Board shall visit the Academy annually to review the operation of the Academy.

''(2) ADDITIONAL VISITS.—With the approval of the Secretary, the Board or individual members of the Board may make other visits to the Academy in connection with the duties of the Board or to consult with the Superintendent of the Academy.

''(d) SCOPE OF REVIEW.—The Board shall review, with respect to the Academy—

''(1) the state of morale and discipline;

''(2) the curriculum;

''(3) instruction;

''(4) physical equipment;

''(5) fiscal affairs; and

''(6) other matters relating to the Academy that the Board determines appropriate.

''(e) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of an annual visit of the Board under subsection (c)(1), the Board shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the actions of the Board during such visit and the recommendations of the Board pertaining to the Academy.

''(f) ADVISORS.—If approved by the Secretary, the Board may consult with advisors in carrying out this section.

''(g) REIMBURSEMENT.—Each member of the Board and each adviser consulted by the Board under subsection (f) shall be reimbursed, to the extent permitted by law, by the Coast Guard for actual expenses incurred while engaged in duties as a member or adviser.''.

SEC. 212. FLAG OFFICERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 295 the following:

''§ 296. Flag officers

''During any period in which the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Navy, section 1216(d) of title 10 does not apply with respect to flag officers of the Coast Guard.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 295 the following:

''296. Flag officers.''.

SEC. 213. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON MEDALS OF HONOR.

Section 494 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''medal of honor,'' each place it appears.

SEC. 214. COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after chapter 13 the following:

''CHAPTER 14—COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE

''SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

''Sec.

''531. Work-life policies and programs.

''532. Surveys of Coast Guard families.

''SUBCHAPTER II—COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT

''542. Education and training opportunities for Coast Guard spouses.

''543. Youth sponsorship initiatives.

''SUBCHAPTER III—COAST GUARD CHILD CARE

''551. Definitions.

''553. Child development center standards and inspections.

''554. Child development center employees.

''555. Parent partnerships with child development centers.

''SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

''§ 531. Work-life policies and programs

''The Commandant is authorized—

''(1) to establish an office for the purpose of developing, promulgating, and coordinating policies, programs, and activities related to the families of Coast Guard members;

''(2) to implement and oversee policies, programs, and activities described in paragraph (1) as the Commandant considers necessary; and

''(3) to perform such other duties as the Commandant considers necessary.

''§ 532. Surveys of Coast Guard families

''(a) AUTHORITY.—The Commandant, in order to determine the effectiveness of Federal policies, programs, and activities related to the families of Coast Guard members, may survey—

''(1) any Coast Guard member;

''(2) any retired Coast Guard member;

''(3) the immediate family of any Coast Guard member or retired Coast Guard member; and

''(4) any survivor of a deceased Coast Guard member.

''(b) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Participation in any survey conducted under subsection (a) shall be voluntary.

''(c) FEDERAL RECORDKEEPING.—Each person surveyed under subsection (a) shall be considered an employee of the United States for purposes of section 3502(3)(A)(i) of title 44.

''SUBCHAPTER II—COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT

''§ 542. Education and training opportunities for Coast Guard spouses

''(a) TUITION ASSISTANCE.—The Commandant may provide, subject to the availability of appropriations, tuition assistance to an eligible spouse to facilitate the acquisition of—

''(1) education and training required for a degree or credential at an accredited college, university, or technical school in the United States that expands employment and portable career opportunities for the spouse; or

''(2) education prerequisites and a professional license or credential required, by a government or government-sanctioned licensing body, for an occupation that expands employment and portable career opportunities for the spouse.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

''(1) ELIGIBLE SPOUSE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'eligible spouse' means the spouse of a member of the Coast Guard who is serving on active duty and includes a spouse who receives transitional compensation under section 1059 of title 10.

''(B) EXCLUSION.—The term 'eligible spouse' does not include a person who—

''(i) is married to, but legally separated from, a member of the Coast Guard under a court order or statute of any State or territorial possession of the United States; or

''(ii) is eligible for tuition assistance as a member of the Armed Forces.

''(2) PORTABLE CAREER.—The term 'portable career' includes an occupation that requires education, training, or both that results in a credential that is recognized by an industry, profession, or specific type of business.

''§ 543. Youth sponsorship initiatives

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant is authorized to establish, within any Coast Guard unit, an initiative to help integrate into new surroundings the dependent children of members of the Coast Guard who received permanent change of station orders.

''(b) DESCRIPTION OF INITIATIVE.—An initiative established under subsection (a) shall—

''(1) provide for the involvement of a dependent child of a member of the Coast Guard in the dependent child's new Coast Guard community; and

''(2) primarily focus on preteen and teenaged children.

''(c) AUTHORITY.—In carrying out an initiative under subsection (a), the Commandant may—

''(1) provide to a dependent child of a member of the Coast Guard information on youth programs and activities available in the dependent child's new Coast Guard community; and

''(2) enter into agreements with nonprofit entities to provide youth programs and activities to such child.

''SUBCHAPTER III—COAST GUARD CHILD CARE

''§ 551. Definitions

''In this subchapter, the following definitions apply:

''(1) CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.—The term 'child abuse and neglect' has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note).

''(2) CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER EMPLOYEE.—The term 'child development center employee' means a civilian employee of the Coast Guard who is employed to work in a Coast Guard child development center without regard to whether the employee is paid from appropriated or nonappropriated funds.

''(3) COAST GUARD CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER.—The term 'Coast Guard child development center' means a facility on Coast Guard property or on property under the jurisdiction of the commander of a Coast Guard unit at which child care services are provided for members of the Coast Guard.

''(4) COMPETITIVE SERVICE POSITION.—The term 'competitive service position' means a position in the competitive service (as defined in section 2102 of title 5).

''(5) FAMILY HOME DAYCARE.—The term 'family home daycare' means home-based child care services provided for a member of the Coast Guard by an individual who—

''(A) is certified by the Commandant as qualified to provide home-based child care services; and

''(B) provides home-based child care services on a regular basis in exchange for monetary compensation.

''§ 553. Child development center standards and inspections

''(a) STANDARDS.—The Commandant shall require each Coast Guard child development center to meet standards that the Commandant considers appropriate to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the children and employees at the center.

''(b) INSPECTIONS.—The Commandant shall provide for regular and unannounced inspections of each Coast Guard child development center to ensure compliance with this section.

''(c) NATIONAL REPORTING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall maintain and publicize a means by which an individual can report, with respect to a Coast Guard child development center or a family home daycare—

''(A) any suspected violation of—

''(i) standards established under subsection (a); or

''(ii) any other applicable law or standard;

''(B) suspected child abuse or neglect; or

''(C) any other deficiency.

''(2) ANONYMOUS REPORTING.—The Commandant shall ensure that an individual making a report pursuant to paragraph (1) may do so anonymously if so desired by the individual.

''(3) PROCEDURES.—The Commandant shall establish procedures for investigating reports made pursuant to paragraph (1).

''§ 554. Child development center employees

''(a) TRAINING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall establish a training program for Coast Guard child development center employees and satisfactory completion of the training program shall be a condition of employment for each employee of a Coast Guard child development center.

''(2) TIMING FOR NEW HIRES.—The Commandant shall require each employee of a Coast Guard child development center to complete the training program established under paragraph (1) not later than 6 months after the date on which the employee is hired.

''(3) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The training program established under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, instruction with respect to—

''(A) early childhood development;

''(B) activities and disciplinary techniques appropriate to children of different ages;

''(C) child abuse and neglect prevention and detection; and

''(D) cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency medical procedures.

''(4) USE OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS.—The Commandant may use Department of Defense training programs, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, for purposes of this subsection.

''(b) TRAINING AND CURRICULUM SPECIALISTS.—

''(1) SPECIALIST REQUIRED.—The Commandant shall require that at least 1 employee at each Coast Guard child development center be a specialist in training and curriculum development with appropriate credentials and experience.

''(2) DUTIES.—The duties of the specialist described in paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) special teaching activities;

''(B) daily oversight and instruction of other child care employees;

''(C) daily assistance in the preparation of lesson plans;

''(D) assisting with child abuse and neglect prevention and detection; and

''(E) advising the director of the center on the performance of the other child care employees.

''(3) COMPETITIVE SERVICE.—Each specialist described in paragraph (1) shall be an employee in a competitive service position.

''§ 555. Parent partnerships with child development centers

''(a) PARENT BOARDS.—

''(1) FORMATION.—The Commandant shall require that there be formed at each Coast Guard child development center a board of parents, to be composed of parents of children attending the center.

''(2) FUNCTIONS.—Each board of parents formed under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) meet periodically with the staff of the center at which the board is formed and the commander of the unit served by the center, for the purpose of discussing problems and concerns; and

''(B) be responsible, together with the staff of the center, for coordinating any parent participation initiative established under subsection (b).

''(3) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) does not apply to a board of parents formed under paragraph (1).

''(b) PARENT PARTICIPATION INITIATIVE.—The Commandant is authorized to establish a parent participation initiative at each Coast Guard child development center to encourage and facilitate parent participation in educational and related activities at the center.''.

(b) TRANSFER OF PROVISIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) REIMBURSEMENT FOR ADOPTION EXPENSES.—Section 514 of title 14, United States Code, is redesignated as section 541 and transferred to appear before section 542 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(B) CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES.—Section 515 of title 14, United States Code—

(i) is redesignated as section 552 and transferred to appear after section 551 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section; and

(ii) is amended—

(I) in subsection (b)(2)(B) by inserting ''and whether a family is participating in an initiative established under section 555(b)'' after ''family income'';

(II) by striking subsections (c) and (e); and

(III) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(C) DEPENDENT SCHOOL CHILDREN.—Section 657 of title 14, United States Code—

(i) is redesignated as section 544 and transferred to appear after section 543 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section; and

(ii) is amended in subsection (a) by striking ''Except as otherwise'' and all that follows through ''the Secretary may'' and inserting ''The Secretary may''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) PART I.—The analysis for part I of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 13 the following:

''14. Coast Guard Family Support and Child Care ..... 531''.

(B) CHAPTER 13.—The analysis for chapter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(i) by striking the item relating to section 514; and

(ii) by striking the item relating to section 515.

(C) CHAPTER 14.—The analysis for chapter 14 of title 14, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section, is amended by inserting—

(i) before the item relating to section 542 the following:

''541. Reimbursement for adoption expenses.'';

(ii) after the item relating to section 551 the following:

''552. Child development services.''; and

(iii) after the item relating to section 543 the following:

''544. Dependent school children.''.

(D) CHAPTER 17.—The analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 657.

(c) COMMANDANT; GENERAL POWERS.—Section 93(a)(7) of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting '', and to eligible spouses as defined under section 542,'' after ''Coast Guard''.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that the amount of funds appropriated for a fiscal year for operating expenses related to Coast Guard child development services should not be less than the amount of the child development center fee receipts estimated to be collected by the Coast Guard during that fiscal year.

(2) CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER FEE RECEIPTS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''child development center fee receipts'' means fees paid by members of the Coast Guard for child care services provided at Coast Guard child development centers.

SEC. 215. MISSION NEED STATEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 569 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 569. Mission need statement

''(a) IN GENERAL.—On the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2016 under section 1105 of title 31, on the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2019 under such section, and every 4 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an integrated major acquisition mission need statement.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

''(1) INTEGRATED MAJOR ACQUISITION MISSION NEED STATEMENT.—The term 'integrated major acquisition mission need statement' means a document that—

''(A) identifies current and projected gaps in Coast Guard mission capabilities using mission hour targets;

''(B) explains how each major acquisition program addresses gaps identified under subparagraph (A) if funded at the levels provided for such program in the most recently submitted capital investment plan; and

''(C) describes the missions the Coast Guard will not be able to achieve, by fiscal year, for each gap identified under subparagraph (A).

''(2) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term 'major acquisition program' has the meaning given that term in section 569a(e).

''(3) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—The term 'capital investment plan' means the plan required under section 663(a)(1).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 569 and inserting the following:

''569. Mission need statement.''.

SEC. 216. TRANSMISSION OF ANNUAL COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 662 the following:

''§ 662a. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for a fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a Coast Guard authorization request with respect to such fiscal year.

''(b) COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'Coast Guard authorization request' means a proposal for legislation that, with respect to the Coast Guard for the relevant fiscal year—

''(1) recommends end strengths for personnel for that fiscal year, as described in section 661;

''(2) recommends authorizations of appropriations for that fiscal year, including with respect to matters described in section 662; and

''(3) addresses any other matter that the Secretary determines is appropriate for inclusion in a Coast Guard authorization bill.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 662 the following:

''662a. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.''.

SEC. 217. INVENTORY OF REAL PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 679. Inventory of real property

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2015, the Commandant shall establish an inventory of all real property, including submerged lands, under the control of the Coast Guard, which shall include—

''(1) the size, the location, and any other appropriate description of each unit of such property;

''(2) an assessment of the physical condition of each unit of such property, excluding lands;

''(3) a determination of whether each unit of such property should be—

''(A) retained to fulfill a current or projected Coast Guard mission requirement; or

''(B) subject to divestiture; and

''(4) other information the Commandant considers appropriate.

''(b) INVENTORY MAINTENANCE.—The Commandant shall—

''(1) maintain the inventory required under subsection (a) on an ongoing basis; and

''(2) update information on each unit of real property included in such inventory not later than 30 days after any change relating to the control of such property.

''(c) RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than March 30, 2016, and every 5 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes—

''(1) a list of all real property under the control of the Coast Guard and the location of such property by property type;

''(2) recommendations for divestiture with respect to any units of such property; and

''(3) recommendations for consolidating any units of such property, including—

''(A) an estimate of the costs or savings associated with each recommended consolidation; and

''(B) a discussion of the impact that such consolidation would have on Coast Guard mission effectiveness.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''679. Inventory of real property.''.

SEC. 218. RETIRED SERVICE MEMBERS AND DEPENDENTS SERVING ON ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 680. Retired service members and dependents serving on advisory committees

''A committee that—

''(1) advises or assists the Coast Guard with respect to a function that affects a member of the Coast Guard or a dependent of such a member; and

''(2) includes in its membership a retired Coast Guard member or a dependent of such a retired member;

shall not be considered an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) solely because of such membership.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 679 the following:

''680. Retired service members and dependents serving on advisory committees.''.

SEC. 219. ACTIVE DUTY FOR EMERGENCY AUGMENTATION OF REGULAR FORCES.

Section 712(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''not more than 60 days in any 4-month period and''.

SEC. 220. ACQUISITION WORKFORCE EXPEDITED HIRING AUTHORITY.

Section 404(b) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–281; 124 Stat. 2951) is amended by striking ''2015'' and inserting ''2017''.

SEC. 221. COAST GUARD ADMINISTRATIVE SAVINGS.

(a) ELIMINATION OF OUTDATED AND DUPLICATIVE REPORTS.—

(1) MARINE INDUSTRY TRAINING.—Section 59 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant'' and inserting ''The Commandant''; and

(B) by striking subsection (b).

(2) OPERATIONS AND EXPENDITURES.—Section 651 of title 14, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 17 of such title, are repealed.

(3) DRUG INTERDICTION.—Section 103 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 (14 U.S.C. 89 note), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents in section 2 of that Act, are repealed.

(4) NATIONAL DEFENSE.—Section 426 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (14 U.S.C. 2 note), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents in section 1(b) of that Act, are repealed.

(5) LIVING MARINE RESOURCES.—Section 4(b) of the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act of 2010 (16 U.S.C. 1828 note) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''No report shall be required under this subsection, including that no report shall be required under section 224 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 or section 804 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006, for fiscal years beginning after fiscal year 2014.''.

(b) CONSOLIDATION AND REFORM OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) MARINE SAFETY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 2116(d)(2)(B) of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(B) on the program's mission performance in achieving numerical measurable goals established under subsection (b), including—

''(i) the number of civilian and military Coast Guard personnel assigned to marine safety positions; and

''(ii) an identification of marine safety positions that are understaffed to meet the workload required to accomplish each activity included in the strategy and plans under subsection (a); and''.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 57 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(i) by striking subsection (e); and

(ii) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (e), (f), and (g) respectively.

(2) MINOR CONSTRUCTION.—Section 656(d)(2) of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(2) REPORT.—Not later than the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget under section 1105 of title 31 each year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing each project carried out under paragraph (1), in the most recently concluded fiscal year, for which the amount expended under such paragraph for such project was more than $1,000,000. If no such project was carried out during a fiscal year, no report under this paragraph shall be required with respect to that fiscal year.''.

SEC. 222. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 14.

Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in section 93(b)(1) by striking ''Notwithstanding subsection (a)(14)'' and inserting ''Notwithstanding subsection (a)(13)''; and

(2) in section 197(b) by striking ''of Homeland Security''.

SEC. 223. MULTIYEAR PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR OFFSHORE PATROL CUTTERS.

In fiscal year 2015 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may enter into, in accordance with section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, multiyear contracts for the procurement of Offshore Patrol Cutters and associated equipment.

SEC. 224. MAINTAINING MEDIUM ENDURANCE CUTTER MISSION CAPABILITY.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) a schedule and plan for decommissioning, not later than September 30, 2029, each of the 210-foot, Reliance-Class Cutters operated by the Coast Guard on the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) a schedule and plan for enhancing the maintenance or extending the service life of each of the 270-foot, Famous-Class Cutters

operated by the Coast Guard on the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) to maintain the capability of the Coast Guard to carry out sea-going missions with respect to such Cutters at the level of capability existing on September 30, 2013; and

(B) for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the final Offshore Patrol Cutter is scheduled to be commissioned under paragraph (4);

(3) an identification of the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters capable of sea state 5 operations that, if 8 National Security Cutters are commissioned, are necessary to return the sea state 5 operating capability of the Coast Guard to the level of capability that existed prior to the decommissioning of the first High Endurance Cutter in fiscal year 2011;

(4) a schedule and plan for commissioning the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters identified under paragraph (3); and

(5) a schedule and plan for commissioning, not later than September 30, 2034, a number of Offshore Patrol Cutters not capable of sea state 5 operations that is equal to—

(A) 25; less

(B) the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters identified under paragraph (3).

SEC. 225. AVIATION CAPABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may—

(1) request and accept through a direct military-to-military transfer under section 2571 of title 10, United States Code, such H–60 helicopters as may be necessary to establish a year-round operational capability in the Coast Guard's Ninth District; and

(2) use funds provided under section 101 of this Act to convert such helicopters to Coast Guard MH–60T configuration.

(b) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Coast Guard may not—

(A) close a Coast Guard air facility that was in operation on November 30, 2014; or

(B) retire, transfer, relocate, or deploy an aviation asset from an air facility described in subparagraph (A) for the purpose of closing such facility.

(2) SUNSET.—This subsection is repealed effective January 1, 2016.

SEC. 226. GAPS IN WRITINGS ON COAST GUARD HISTORY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on any gaps that exist in writings on the history of the Coast Guard. The report shall address, at a minimum, operations, broad topics, and biographies with respect to the Coast Guard.

SEC. 227. OFFICER EVALUATION REPORTS.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a written assessment of the Coast Guard's officer evaluation reporting system.

(b) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assessment required under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, an analysis of—

(1) the extent to which the Coast Guard's officer evaluation reports differ in length, form, and content from the officer fitness reports used by the Navy and other branches of the Armed Forces;

(2) the extent to which differences determined pursuant to paragraph (1) are the result of inherent differences between—

(A) the Coast Guard and the Navy; and

(B) the Coast Guard and other branches of the Armed Forces;

(3) the feasibility of more closely aligning and conforming the Coast Guard's officer evaluation reports with the officer fitness reports of the Navy and other branches of the Armed Forces; and

(4) the costs and benefits of the alignment and conformity described in paragraph (3), including with respect to—

(A) Coast Guard administrative efficiency;

(B) fairness and equity for Coast Guard officers; and

(C) carrying out the Coast Guard's statutory mission of defense readiness, including when operating as a service in the Navy.

SEC. 228. IMPROVED SAFETY INFORMATION FOR VESSELS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process that allows an operator of a marine exchange or other non-Federal vessel traffic information service to use the automatic identification system to transmit weather, ice, and other important navigation safety information to vessels.

SEC. 229. E–LORAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may not carry out activities related to the dismantling or disposal of infrastructure that supported the former LORAN system until the later of—

(1) the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) the date on which the Secretary provides to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate notice of a determination by the Secretary that such infrastructure is not required to provide a positioning, navigation, and timing system to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to activities necessary for the safety of human life.

(c) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, and other agreements with Federal entities and other public or private entities, including academic entities, to develop a positioning, navigation, and timing system, including an enhanced LORAN system, to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.

SEC. 230. ANALYSIS OF RESOURCE DEFICIENCIES WITH RESPECT TO MARITIME BORDER SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report describing any Coast Guard resource deficiencies related to—

(1) securing maritime borders with respect to the Great Lakes and the coastal areas of the Southeastern and Southwestern United States, including with respect to Florida, California, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands;

(2) patrolling and monitoring maritime approaches to the areas described in paragraph (1); and

(3) patrolling and monitoring relevant portions of the Western Hemisphere Drug Transit Zone.

(b) SCOPE.—In preparing the report under subsection (a), the Commandant shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) the Coast Guard's statutory missions with respect to migrant interdiction, drug interdiction, defense readiness, living marine resources, and ports, waterways, and coastal security;

(2) whether Coast Guard missions are being executed to meet national performance targets set under the National Drug Control Strategy;

(3) the number and types of cutters and other vessels required to effectively execute Coast Guard missions;

(4) the number and types of aircraft, including unmanned aircraft, required to effectively execute Coast Guard missions;

(5) the number of assets that require upgraded sensor and communications systems to effectively execute Coast Guard missions;

(6) the Deployable Specialized Forces required to effectively execute Coast Guard missions; and

(7) whether additional shoreside facilities are required to accommodate Coast Guard personnel and assets in support of Coast Guard missions.

SEC. 231. MODERNIZATION OF NATIONAL DISTRESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEM.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the implementation of the Rescue 21 project in Alaska and in Coast Guard sectors Upper Mississippi River, Lower Mississippi River, and Ohio River Valley.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) describe what improvements are being made to the distress response system in the areas specified in subsection (a), including information on which areas will receive digital selective calling and direction finding capability;

(2) describe the impediments to installing digital selective calling and direction finding capability in areas where such technology will not be installed;

(3) identify locations in the areas specified in subsection (a) where communication gaps will continue to present a risk to mariners after completion of the Rescue 21 project;

(4) include a list of all reported marine accidents, casualties, and fatalities occurring in the locations identified under paragraph (3) since 1990; and

(5) provide an estimate of the costs associated with installing the technology necessary to close communication gaps in the locations identified under paragraph (3).

SEC. 232. REPORT RECONCILING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES ON THE MISSOURI RIVER.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that outlines a course of action to reconcile general maintenance priorities for cutters with operational priorities on the Missouri River.

SEC. 233. MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSISTANCE POLICY ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall assess the Maritime Search and Rescue Assistance Policy as it relates to State and local responders.

(b) SCOPE.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) the extent to which Coast Guard search and rescue coordinators have entered into domestic search and rescue agreements with State and local responders under the National Search and Rescue Plan;

(2) whether the domestic search and rescue agreements include the Maritime Search and Rescue Assistance Policy; and

(3) the extent to which Coast Guard sectors coordinate with 911 emergency centers, including ensuring the dissemination of appropriate maritime distress check-sheets.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit a report on the assessment under subsection (a) to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

SEC. 301. REPEAL.

Chapter 555 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by repealing section 55501;

(2) by redesignating section 55502 as section 55501; and

(3) in the analysis by striking the items relating to sections 55501 and 55502 and inserting the following:

''55501. United States Committee on the Marine Transportation System.''.

SEC. 302. DONATION OF HISTORICAL PROPERTY.

Section 51103 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) DONATION FOR HISTORICAL PURPOSES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may convey the right, title, and interest of the United States Government in any property administered by the Maritime Administration, except real estate or vessels, if—

''(A) the Secretary determines that such property is not needed by the Maritime Administration; and

''(B) the recipient—

''(i) is a nonprofit organization, a State, or a political subdivision of a State;

''(ii) agrees to hold the Government harmless for any claims arising from exposure to hazardous materials, including asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls, or lead paint, after conveyance of the property;

''(iii) provides a description and explanation of the intended use of the property to the Secretary for approval;

''(iv) has provided to the Secretary proof, as determined by the Secretary, of resources sufficient to accomplish the intended use provided under clause (iii) and to maintain the property;

''(v) agrees that when the recipient no longer requires the property, the recipient shall—

''(I) return the property to the Secretary, at the recipient's expense and in the same condition as received except for ordinary wear and tear; or

''(II) subject to the approval of the Secretary, retain, sell, or otherwise dispose of the property in a manner consistent with applicable law; and

''(vi) agrees to any additional terms the Secretary considers appropriate.

''(2) REVERSION.—The Secretary shall include in any conveyance under this subsection terms under which all right, title, and interest conveyed by the Secretary shall revert to the Government if the Secretary determines the property has been used other than as approved by the Secretary under paragraph (1)(B)(iii).''.

SEC. 303. SMALL SHIPYARDS.

Section 54101(i) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2009 through 2013'' and inserting ''2015 through 2017''.

SEC. 304. DRUG TESTING REPORTING.

Section 7706 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''an applicant for employment by a Federal agency,'' after ''Federal agency,''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by—

(A) inserting ''or an applicant for employment by a Federal agency'' after ''an employee''; and

(B) striking ''the employee.'' and inserting ''the employee or the applicant.''.

SEC. 305. OPPORTUNITIES FOR SEA SERVICE VETERANS.

(a) ENDORSEMENTS FOR VETERANS.—Section 7101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) The Secretary may issue a license under this section in a class under subsection (c) to an applicant that—

''(1) has at least 3 months of qualifying service on vessels of the uniformed services (as that term is defined in section 101(a) of title 10) of appropriate tonnage or horsepower within the 7-year period immediately preceding the date of application; and

''(2) satisfies all other requirements for such a license.''.

(b) SEA SERVICE LETTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 427 the following:

''§ 428. Sea service letters

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide a sea service letter to a member or former member of the Coast Guard who—

''(1) accumulated sea service on a vessel of the armed forces (as such term is defined in section 101(a) of title 10); and

''(2) requests such letter.

''(b) DEADLINE.—Not later than 30 days after receiving a request for a sea service letter from a member or former member of the Coast Guard under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide such letter to such member or former member if such member or former member satisfies the requirement under subsection (a)(1).''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 427 the following:

''428. Sea service letters.''.

(c) CREDITING OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES SERVICE, TRAINING, AND QUALIFICATIONS.—

(1) MAXIMIZING CREDITABILITY.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, in implementing United States merchant mariner license, certification, and document laws and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, shall maximize the extent to which United States Armed Forces service, training, and qualifications are creditable toward meeting the requirements of such laws and such Convention.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the steps taken to implement this subsection.

(d) MERCHANT MARINE POST-SERVICE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall take steps to promote better awareness, on an ongoing basis, among Coast Guard personnel regarding post-service use of Coast Guard training, education, and practical experience in satisfaction of requirements for merchant mariner credentials under section 11.213 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 306. CLARIFICATION OF HIGH-RISK WATERS.

Section 55305(e) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''provide armed personnel aboard'' and inserting ''reimburse, subject to the availability of appropriations, the owners or operators of''; and

(B) by inserting ''for the cost of providing armed personnel aboard such vessels'' before ''if''; and

(2) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

''(2) In this subsection, the term 'high-risk waters' means waters so designated by the Commandant of the Coast Guard in the maritime security directive issued by the Commandant and in effect on the date on which an applicable voyage begins, if the Secretary of Transportation—

''(A) determines that an act of piracy occurred in the 12-month period preceding the date the voyage begins; or

''(B) in such period, issued an advisory warning that an act of piracy is possible in such waters.''.

SEC. 307. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) TITLE 46.—Section 2116(b)(1)(D) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 93(c)'' and inserting ''section 93(c) of title 14''.

(b) COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2006.—Section 304(a) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–241; 33 U.S.C. 1503 note) is amended by inserting ''and from'' before ''the United States''.

(c) DEEPWATER PORT ACT OF 1974.—Section 4(i) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1503(i)) is amended by inserting ''or that will supply'' after ''be supplied with''.

SEC. 308. REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the number of jobs, including vessel construction and vessel operating jobs, that would be created in the United States maritime industry each year in 2015 through 2025 if liquified natural gas exported from the United States were required to be carried—

(1) before December 31, 2018, on vessels documented under the laws of the United States; and

(2) on and after such date, on vessels documented under the laws of the United States and constructed in the United States.

SEC. 309. FISHING SAFETY GRANT PROGRAMS.

(a) FISHING SAFETY TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4502(i)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2010 through 2014'' and inserting ''2015 through 2017''.

(b) FISHING SAFETY RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4502(j)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2010 through 2014'' and inserting ''2015 through 2017''.

SEC. 310. ESTABLISHMENT OF MERCHANT MARINE PERSONNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 81 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 8108. Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as 'the Committee'). The Committee—

''(1) shall act solely in an advisory capacity to the Secretary through the Commandant of the Coast Guard on matters relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards, and other matters as assigned by the Commandant;

''(2) shall review and comment on proposed Coast Guard regulations and policies relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards;

''(3) may be given special assignments by the Secretary and may conduct studies, inquiries, workshops, and fact finding in consultation with individuals and groups in the private sector and with State or local governments;

''(4) shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations reflecting its independent judgment to the Secretary;

''(5) shall meet not less than twice each year; and

''(6) may make available to Congress recommendations that the Committee makes to the Secretary.

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall consist of not more than 19 members who are appointed by and serve terms of a duration determined by the Secretary. Before filling a position on the Committee, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register soliciting nominations for membership on the Committee.

''(2) REQUIRED MEMBERS.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary shall appoint as members of the Committee—

''(A) 9 United States citizens with active licenses or certificates issued under chapter 71 or merchant mariner documents issued under chapter 73, including—

''(i) 3 deck officers who represent the viewpoint of merchant marine deck officers, of whom—

''(I) 2 shall be licensed for oceans any gross tons;

''(II) 1 shall be licensed for inland river route with a limited or unlimited tonnage;

''(III) 2 shall have a master's license or a master of towing vessels license;

''(IV) 1 shall have significant tanker experience; and

''(V) to the extent practicable—

''(aa) 1 shall represent the viewpoint of labor; and

''(bb) another shall represent a management perspective;

''(ii) 3 engineering officers who represent the viewpoint of merchant marine engineering officers, of whom—

''(I) 2 shall be licensed as chief engineer any horsepower;

''(II) 1 shall be licensed as either a limited chief engineer or a designated duty engineer; and

''(III) to the extent practicable—

''(aa) 1 shall represent a labor viewpoint; and

''(bb) another shall represent a management perspective;

''(iii) 2 unlicensed seamen, of whom—

''(I) 1 shall represent the viewpoint of able-bodied seamen; and

''(II) another shall represent the viewpoint of qualified members of the engine department; and

''(iv) 1 pilot who represents the viewpoint of merchant marine pilots;

''(B) 6 marine educators, including—

''(i) 3 marine educators who represent the viewpoint of maritime academies, including—

''(I) 2 who represent the viewpoint of State maritime academies and are jointly recommended by such State maritime academies; and

''(II) 1 who represents either the viewpoint of the State maritime academies or the United States Merchant Marine Academy; and

''(ii) 3 marine educators who represent the viewpoint of other maritime training institutions, 1 of whom shall represent the viewpoint of the small vessel industry;

''(C) 2 individuals who represent the viewpoint of shipping companies employed in ship operation management; and

''(D) 2 members who are appointed from the general public.

''(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Transportation in making an appointment under paragraph (2)(B)(i)(II).

''(c) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Secretary shall designate one member of the Committee as the Chairman and one member of the Committee as the Vice Chairman. The Vice Chairman shall act as Chairman in the absence or incapacity of the Chairman, or in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Chairman.

''(d) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Committee may establish and disestablish subcommittees and working groups for any purpose consistent with this section, subject to conditions imposed by the Committee. Members of the Committee and additional persons drawn from the general public may be assigned to such subcommittees and working groups. Only Committee members may chair subcommittee or working groups.

''(e) TERMINATION.—The Committee shall terminate on September 30, 2020.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''8108. Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee.''.

SEC. 311. TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE.

(a) TITLE 46, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 2110 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

''(b)(1) In addition to the collection of fees and charges established under subsection (a), in providing a service or thing of value under this subtitle the Secretary may accept in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence.

''(2) The value of in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence accepted under this paragraph may not exceed applicable per diem rates set forth in regulations prescribed under section 464 of title 37.''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''subsections (a) and (b),'' and inserting ''subsection (a),''.

(b) TITLE 14, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 664 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by redesignating subsections (e) though (g) as subsections (f) through (h), respectively, and by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e)(1) In addition to the collection of fees and charges established under this section, in the provision of a service or thing of value by the Coast Guard the Secretary may accept in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence.

''(2) The value of in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence accepted under this paragraph may not exceed applicable per diem rates set forth in regulations prescribed under section 464 of title 37.''.

(c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating may not accept in-kind transportation, travel, or subsistence under section 664(e) of title 14, United States Code, or section 2110(d)(4) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by this section, until the Commandant of the Coast Guard—

(1) amends the Standards of Ethical Conduct for members and employees of the Coast Guard to include regulations governing the acceptance of in-kind reimbursements; and

(2) notifies the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives of the amendments made under paragraph (1).

SEC. 312. PROMPT INTERGOVERNMENTAL NOTICE OF MARINE CASUALTIES.

Section 6101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) NOTICE TO STATE AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—Not later than 24 hours after receiving a notice of a major marine casualty under this section, the Secretary shall notify each State or federally recognized Indian tribe that is, or may reasonably be expected to be, affected by such marine casualty.'';

(2) in subsection (h)—

(A) by striking ''(1)''; and

(B) by redesignating subsection (h)(2) as subsection (i) of section 6101, and in such subsection—

(i) by striking ''paragraph,'' and inserting ''section,''; and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as paragraphs (1) through (4); and

(3) by redesignating the last subsection as subsection (j).

SEC. 313. AREA CONTINGENCY PLANS.

Section 311(j)(4) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''qualified personnel of Federal, State, and local agencies.'' and inserting ''qualified—

''(i) personnel of Federal, State, and local agencies; and

''(ii) members of federally recognized Indian tribes, where applicable.'';

(2) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

(A) by striking ''and local'' and inserting '', local, and tribal''; and

(B) by striking ''wildlife;'' and inserting ''wildlife, including advance planning with respect to the closing and reopening of fishing areas following a discharge;'';

(3) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking ''and local'' and inserting '', local, and tribal''; and

(4) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) in clause (iv), by striking ''and Federal, State, and local agencies'' and inserting '', Federal, State, and local agencies, and tribal governments'';

(B) by redesignating clauses (vii) and (viii) as clauses (viii) and (ix), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after clause (vi) the following:

''(vii) include a framework for advance planning and decisionmaking with respect to the closing and reopening of fishing areas following a discharge, including protocols and standards for the closing and reopening of fishing areas;''.

SEC. 314. INTERNATIONAL ICE PATROL REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 803 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 80301, by adding at the end the following:

''(c) PAYMENTS.—Payments received pursuant to subsection (b)(1) shall be credited to the appropriation for operating expenses of the Coast Guard.'';

(2) in section 80302—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking ''An ice patrol vessel'' and inserting ''The ice patrol'';

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''An ice patrol vessel'' and inserting ''The ice patrol''; and

(C) in the first sentence of subsection (d), by striking ''vessels'' and inserting ''aircraft''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''§ 80304. Limitation on ice patrol data

''Notwithstanding sections 80301 and 80302, data collected by an ice patrol conducted by the Coast Guard under this chapter may not be disseminated to a vessel unless such vessel is—

''(1) documented under the laws of the United States; or

''(2) documented under the laws of a foreign country that made the payment or contribution required under section 80301(b) for the year preceding the year in which the data is collected.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''80304. Limitation on ice patrol data.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on January 1, 2017.

SEC. 315. OFFSHORE SUPPLY VESSEL THIRD-PARTY INSPECTION.

Section 3316 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g), and by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f)(1) Upon request of an owner or operator of an offshore supply vessel, the Secretary shall delegate the authorities set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) with respect to such vessel to a classification society to which a delegation is authorized under that paragraph. A delegation by the Secretary under this subsection shall be used for any vessel inspection and examination function carried out by the Secretary, including the issuance of certificates of inspection and all other related documents.

''(2) If the Secretary determines that a certificate of inspection or related document issued under authority delegated under paragraph (1) of this subsection with respect to a vessel has reduced the operational safety of that vessel, the Secretary may terminate the certificate or document, respectively.

''(3) Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, and for each year of the subsequent 2-year period, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing—

''(A) the number of vessels for which a delegation was made under paragraph (1);

''(B) any savings in personnel and operational costs incurred by the Coast Guard that resulted from the delegations; and

''(C) based on measurable marine casualty and other data, any impacts of the delegations on the operational safety of vessels for which the delegations were made, and on the crew on those vessels.''.

SEC. 316. WATCHES.

Section 8104 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by striking ''coal passers, firemen, oilers, and water tenders'' and inserting ''and oilers''; and

(2) in subsection (g)(1), by striking ''(except the coal passers, firemen, oilers, and water tenders)''.

SEC. 317. COAST GUARD RESPONSE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) VESSEL RESPONSE PLAN CONTENTS.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall require that each vessel response plan prepared for a mobile offshore drilling unit includes information from the facility response plan prepared for the mobile offshore drilling unit regarding the planned response to a worst case discharge, and to a threat of such a discharge.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNIT.—The term ''mobile offshore drilling unit'' has the meaning given that term in section 1001 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701).

(2) RESPONSE PLAN.—The term ''response plan'' means a response plan prepared under section 311(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)).

(3) WORST CASE DISCHARGE.—The term ''worst case discharge'' has the meaning given that term under section 311(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(a)).

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Coast Guard to review or approve a facility response plan for a mobile offshore drilling unit.

SEC. 318. REGIONAL CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Section 5002(k)(3) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2732(k)(3)) is amended by striking ''not more than $1,000,000'' and inserting ''not less than $1,400,000''.

SEC. 319. UNINSPECTED PASSENGER VESSELS IN THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4105 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b)(1) In applying this title with respect to an uninspected vessel of less than 24 meters overall in length that carries passengers to or from a port in the United States Virgin Islands, the Secretary shall substitute '12 passengers' for '6 passengers' each place it appears in section 2101(42) if the Secretary determines that the vessel complies with, as applicable to the vessel—

''(A) the Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Commercial Motor Vessels (commonly referred to as the 'Yellow Code'), as published by the U.K. Maritime and Coastguard Agency and in effect on January 1, 2014; or

''(B) the Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Commercial Sailing Vessels (commonly referred to as the 'Blue Code'), as published by such agency and in effect on such date.

''(2) If the Secretary establishes standards to carry out this subsection—

''(A) such standards shall be identical to those established in the Codes of Practice referred to in paragraph (1); and

''(B) on any dates before the date on which such standards are in effect, the Codes of Practice referred to in paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to the vessels referred to in paragraph (1).''.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 4105(c) of title 46, United States Code, as redesignated by subsection (a)(1) of this section, is amended by striking ''Within twenty-four months of the date of enactment of this subsection, the'' and inserting ''The''.

SEC. 320. TREATMENT OF ABANDONED SEAFARERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 111 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 11113. Treatment of abandoned seafarers

''(a) ABANDONED SEAFARERS FUND.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury a separate account to be known as the Abandoned Seafarers Fund.

''(2) AUTHORIZED USES.—Amounts in the Fund may be appropriated to the Secretary for use—

''(A) to pay necessary support of a seafarer—

''(i) who—

''(I) was paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)), or for whom the Secretary has requested parole under such section; and

''(II) is involved in an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter that is related to the administration or enforcement of law by the Coast Guard; or

''(ii) who—

''(I) is physically present in the United States;

''(II) the Secretary determines was abandoned in the United States; and

''(III) has not applied for asylum under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.); and

''(B) to reimburse a vessel owner or operator for the costs of necessary support of a seafarer who has been paroled into the United States to facilitate an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter that is related to the administration or enforcement of law by the Coast Guard, if—

''(i) the vessel owner or operator is not convicted of a criminal offense related to such matter; or

''(ii) the Secretary determines that reimbursement is appropriate.

''(3) CREDITING OF AMOUNTS TO FUND.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), there shall be credited to the Fund the following:

''(i) Penalties deposited in the Fund under section 9 of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1908).

''(ii) Amounts reimbursed or recovered under subsection (c).

''(B) LIMITATION.—Amounts may be credited to the Fund under subparagraph (A) only if the unobligated balance of the Fund is less than $5,000,000.

''(4) REPORT REQUIRED.—On the date on which the President submits each budget for a fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that describes—

''(A) the amounts credited to the Fund under paragraph (2) for the preceding fiscal year; and

''(B) amounts in the Fund that were expended for the preceding fiscal year.

''(b) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

''(1) to create a private right of action or any other right, benefit, or entitlement to necessary support for any person; or

''(2) to compel the Secretary to pay or reimburse the cost of necessary support.

''(c) REIMBURSEMENT; RECOVERY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A vessel owner or operator shall reimburse the Fund an amount equal to the total amount paid from the Fund for necessary support of a seafarer, if—

''(A) the vessel owner or operator—

''(i) during the course of an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter under this Act that the Coast Guard referred to a United States attorney or the Attorney General, fails to provide necessary support of a seafarer who was paroled into the United States to facilitate the investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication; and

''(ii) subsequently is—

''(I) convicted of a criminal offense related to such matter; or

''(II) required to reimburse the Fund pursuant to a court order or negotiated settlement related to such matter; or

''(B) the vessel owner or operator abandons a seafarer in the United States, as determined by the Secretary based on substantial evidence.

''(2) ENFORCEMENT.—If a vessel owner or operator fails to reimburse the Fund under paragraph (1) within 60 days after receiving a written, itemized description of reimbursable expenses and a demand for payment, the Secretary may—

''(A) proceed in rem against the vessel on which the seafarer served in the Federal district court for the district in which the vessel is found; and

''(B) withhold or revoke the clearance required under section 60105 for the vessel and any other vessel operated by the same operator (as that term is defined in section 2(9)(a) of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1901(9)(a)) as the vessel on which the seafarer served.

''(3) OBTAINING CLEARANCE.—A vessel may obtain clearance from the Secretary after it is withheld or revoked under paragraph (2)(B) if the vessel owner or operator—

''(A) reimburses the Fund the amount required under paragraph (1); or

''(B) provides a bond, or other evidence of financial responsibility, sufficient to meet the amount required to be reimbursed under paragraph (1).

''(4) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall notify the vessel at least 72 hours before taking any action under paragraph (2)(B).

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ABANDONS; ABANDONED.—Each of the terms 'abandons' and 'abandoned' means—

''(A) a vessel owner's or operator's unilateral severance of ties with a seafarer; or

''(B) a vessel owner's or operator's failure to provide necessary support of a seafarer.

''(2) FUND.—The term 'Fund' means the Abandoned Seafarers Fund established under this section.

''(3) NECESSARY SUPPORT.—The term 'necessary support' means normal wages and expenses the Secretary considers reasonable for lodging, subsistence, clothing, medical care (including hospitalization), repatriation, and any other support the Secretary considers to be appropriate.

''(4) SEAFARER.—The term 'seafarer' means an alien crew member who is employed or engaged in any capacity on board a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

''(5) VESSEL SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES.—The term 'vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States' has the meaning given that term in section 70502(c), except that it does not include a vessel that is—

''(A) owned, or operated under a bareboat charter, by the United States, a State or political subdivision thereof, or a foreign nation; and

''(B) not engaged in commerce.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''11113. Treatment of abandoned seafarers.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 9 of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1908) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) Any penalty collected under subsection (a) or (b) that is not paid under that subsection to the person giving information leading to the conviction or assessment of such penalties shall be deposited in the Abandoned Seafarers Fund established under section 11113 of title 46, United States Code.''.

SEC. 321. WEBSITE.

(a) REPORTS TO SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION; INCIDENTS AND DETAILS.—Section 3507(g)(3)(A) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (ii) by striking ''the incident to an Internet based portal maintained by the Secretary'' and inserting ''each incident specified in clause (i) to the Internet website maintained by the Secretary of Transportation under paragraph (4)(A)''; and

(2) in clause (iii) by striking ''based portal maintained by the Secretary'' and inserting ''website maintained by the Secretary of Transportation under paragraph (4)(A)''.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF INCIDENT DATA ON INTERNET.—Section 3507(g)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) WEBSITE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall maintain a statistical compilation of all incidents on board a cruise vessel specified in paragraph (3)(A)(i) on an Internet website that provides a numerical accounting of the missing persons and alleged crimes reported under that paragraph without regard to the investigative status of the incident.

''(ii) UPDATES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The compilation under clause (i) shall—

''(I) be updated not less frequently than quarterly;

''(II) be able to be sorted by cruise line;

''(III) identify each cruise line by name;

''(IV) identify each crime or alleged crime committed or allegedly committed by a passenger or crewmember;

''(V) identify the number of individuals alleged overboard; and

''(VI) include the approximate number of passengers and crew carried by each cruise line during each quarterly reporting period.

''(iii) USER-FRIENDLY FORMAT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall ensure that the compilation, data, and any other information provided on the Internet website maintained under this subparagraph are in a user-friendly format. The Secretary shall, to the greatest extent practicable, use existing commercial off the shelf technology to transfer and establish the website, and shall not independently develop software, or acquire new hardware in operating the site.''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B) by striking ''Secretary'' and inserting ''Secretary of Transportation''.

SEC. 322. COAST GUARD REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives an analysis of the Coast Guard's proposed promulgation of safety and environmental management system requirements for vessels engaged in Outer Continental Shelf activities. The analysis shall include—

(1) a discussion of any new operational, management, design and construction, financial, and other mandates that would be imposed on vessel owners and operators;

(2) an estimate of all associated direct and indirect operational, management, personnel, training, vessel design and construction, record keeping, and other costs;

(3) an identification and justification of any of such proposed requirements that exceed those in international conventions applicable to the design, construction, operation, and management of vessels engaging in United States Outer Continental Shelf activities; and

(4) an identification of exemptions to the proposed requirements, that are based upon vessel classification, tonnage, offshore activity or function, alternative certifications, or any other appropriate criteria.

(b) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not issue proposed regulations relating to safety and environmental management system requirements for vessels on the United States Outer Continental Shelf for which noticed was published on September 10, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 55230) earlier than 6 months after the submittal of the analysis required by subsection (a).

TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Maritime Commission $24,700,000 for fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 402. AWARD OF REPARATIONS.

Section 41305 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking '', plus reasonable attorney fees''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) ATTORNEY FEES.—In any action brought under section 41301, the prevailing party may be awarded reasonable attorney fees.''.

SEC. 403. TERMS OF COMMISSIONERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) TERMS.—The term of each Commissioner is 5 years. When the term of a Commissioner ends, the Commissioner may continue to serve until a successor is appointed and qualified, but for a period not to exceed one year. Except as provided in paragraph (3), no individual may serve more than 2 terms.''; and

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (5), and inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) VACANCIES.—A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy is appointed only for the unexpired term of the individual being succeeded. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy may serve 2 terms in addition to the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of that individual was appointed.

''(4) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—

''(A) LIMITATION ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH REGULATED ENTITIES.—A Commissioner may not have a pecuniary interest in, hold an official relation to, or own stocks or bonds of any entity the Commission regulates under chapter 401 of this title.

''(B) LIMITATION ON OTHER ACTIVITIES.—A Commissioner may not engage in another business, vocation, or employment.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(1) does not apply with respect to a Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission appointed and confirmed by the Senate before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE V—ARCTIC MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 501. ARCTIC MARITIME TRANSPORTATION.

(a) ARCTIC MARITIME TRANSPORTATION.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 89 the following:

''§ 90. Arctic maritime transportation

''(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to ensure safe and secure maritime shipping in the Arctic including the availability of aids to navigation, vessel escorts, spill response capability, and maritime search and rescue in the Arctic.

''(b) INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION AGREEMENTS.—To carry out the purpose

of this section, the Secretary is encouraged to enter into negotiations through the International Maritime Organization to conclude and execute agreements to promote coordinated action among the United States, Russia, Canada, Iceland, Norway, and Denmark and other seafaring and Arctic nations to ensure, in the Arctic—

''(1) placement and maintenance of aids to navigation;

''(2) appropriate marine safety, tug, and salvage capabilities;

''(3) oil spill prevention and response capability;

''(4) maritime domain awareness, including long-range vessel tracking; and

''(5) search and rescue.

''(c) COORDINATION BY COMMITTEE ON THE MARITIME TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.—The Committee on the Maritime Transportation System established under section 55501 of title 46, United States Code, shall coordinate the establishment of domestic transportation policies in the Arctic necessary to carry out the purpose of this section.

''(d) AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS.—The Secretary may, subject to the availability of appropriations, enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, or other agreements with, or make grants to, individuals and governments to carry out the purpose of this section or any agreements established under subsection (b).

''(e) ICEBREAKING.—The Secretary shall promote safe maritime navigation by means of icebreaking where necessary, feasible, and effective to carry out the purposes of this section.

''(f) ARCTIC DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'Arctic'? has the meaning given such term in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 89 the following:

''90. Arctic maritime transportation''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 307 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–281; 14 U.S.C. 92 note) is repealed.

SEC. 502. ARCTIC MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 154. Arctic maritime domain awareness

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall improve maritime domain awareness in the Arctic—

''(1) by promoting interagency cooperation and coordination;

''(2) by employing joint, interagency, and international capabilities; and

''(3) by facilitating the sharing of information, intelligence, and data related to the Arctic maritime domain between the Coast Guard and departments and agencies listed in subsection (b).

''(b) COORDINATION.—The Commandant shall seek to coordinate the collection, sharing, and use of information, intelligence, and data related to the Arctic maritime domain between the Coast Guard and the following:

''(1) The Department of Homeland Security.

''(2) The Department of Defense.

''(3) The Department of Transportation.

''(4) The Department of State.

''(5) The Department of the Interior.

''(6) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

''(7) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

''(8) The Environmental Protection Agency.

''(9) The National Science Foundation.

''(10) The Arctic Research Commission.

''(11) Any Federal agency or commission or State the Commandant determines is appropriate.

''(c) COOPERATION.—The Commandant and the head of a department or agency listed in subsection (b) may by agreement, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, share personnel, services, equipment, and facilities to carry out the requirements of this section.

''(d) 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than January 1, 2016 and every 5 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a 5-year strategic plan to guide interagency and international intergovernmental cooperation and coordination for the purpose of improving maritime domain awareness in the Arctic

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the term 'Arctic' has the meaning given that term in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 153 the following:

''154. Arctic maritime domain awareness.''.

SEC. 503. IMO POLAR CODE NEGOTIATIONS.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and thereafter with the submission of the budget proposal submitted for each of fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018 under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a report on—

(1) the status of the negotiations at the International Maritime Organization regarding the establishment of a draft international code of safety for ships operating in polar waters, popularly known as the Polar Code, and any amendments proposed by such a code to be made to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships;

(2) the coming into effect of such a code and such amendments for nations that are parties to those conventions;

(3) impacts, for coastal communities located in the Arctic (as that term is defined in the section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111)) of such a code or such amendments, on—

(A) the costs of delivering fuel and freight; and

(B) the safety of maritime transportation; and

(4) actions the Secretary must take to implement the requirements of such a code and such amendments.

SEC. 504. FORWARD OPERATING FACILITIES.

The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may construct facilities in the Arctic (as that term is defined in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111). The facilities shall—

(1) support aircraft maintenance, including exhaust ventilation, heat, an engine wash system, fuel, ground support services, and electrical power;

(2) provide shelter for both current helicopter assets and those projected to be located at Air Station Kodiak, Alaska, for at least 20 years; and

(3) include accommodations for personnel.

SEC. 505. ICEBREAKERS.

(a) COAST GUARD POLAR ICEBREAKERS.—Section 222 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 126 Stat. 1560) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading by striking ''; BRIDGING STRATEGY''; and

(B) by striking ''Commandant of the Coast Guard'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea.'';

(2) by adding at the end of subsection (d) the following:

''(3) RESULT OF NO DETERMINATION.—If in the analysis submitted under this section the Secretary does not make a determination under subsection (a)(5) regarding whether it is cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, then—

''(A) the Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea; or

''(B) the Secretary may make such determination, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, and take actions in accordance with this subsection as though such determination was made in the analysis previously submitted.'';

(3) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) STRATEGIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the analysis required under subsection (a) is submitted, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

''(A) unless the Secretary makes a determination under this section that it is cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, a bridging strategy for maintaining the Coast Guard's polar icebreaking services until at least September 30, 2024;

''(B) a strategy to meet the Coast Guard's Arctic ice operations needs through September 30, 2050; and

''(C) a strategy to meet the Coast Guard's Antarctic ice operations needs through September 30, 2050

''(2) REQUIREMENT.—The strategies required under paragraph (1) shall include a business case analysis comparing the leasing and purchasing of icebreakers to maintain the needs and services described in that paragraph.''.

(b) CUTTER ''POLAR SEA''.—Upon the submission of a service life extension plan in accordance with section 222(d)(1)(C) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 126 Stat. 1560), the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may use funds authorized under section 101 of this Act to conduct a service life extension of 7 to 10 years for the Coast Guard Cutter *Polar Sea* (WAGB 11) in accordance with such plan.

(c) LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may not expend amounts appropriated for the Coast Guard for any of fiscal years 2015 through 2024, for—

(A) design activities related to a capability of a Polar-Class Icebreaker that is based solely on an operational requirement of another Federal department or agency, except for amounts appropriated for design activities for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016; or

(B) long-lead-time materials, production, or post-delivery activities related to such a capability.

(2) OTHER AMOUNTS.—Amounts made available to the Secretary under an agreement with another Federal department or agency and expended on a capability of a Polar-Class Icebreaker that is based solely on an operational requirement of that or another Federal department or agency shall not be treated as amounts expended by the Secretary for purposes of the limitation established under paragraph (1).

SEC. 506. ICEBREAKING IN POLAR REGIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 86 the following:

"§ 87. Icebreaking in polar regions

''The President shall facilitate planning for the design, procurement, maintenance, deployment, and operation of icebreakers as needed to support the statutory missions of the Coast Guard in the polar regions by allocating all funds to support icebreaking operations in such regions, except for recurring incremental costs associated with specific projects, to the Coast Guard.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 86 the following:

''87. Icebreaking in polar regions.''.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 601. DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.

Section 421 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (46 U.S.C. 8103 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (c) and (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (f) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

SEC. 602. EXTENSION OF MORATORIUM.

Section 2(a) of Public Law 110–299 (33 U.S.C. 1342 note) is amended by striking ''2014'' and inserting ''2017''.

SEC. 603. NATIONAL MARITIME STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a national maritime strategy.

(b) CONTENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify—

(A) Federal regulations and policies that reduce the competitiveness of United States flag vessels in international transportation markets; and

(B) the impact of reduced cargo flow due to reductions in the number of members of the United States Armed Forces stationed or deployed outside of the United States; and

(2) include recommendations to—

(A) make United States flag vessels more competitive in shipping routes between United States and foreign ports;

(B) increase the use of United States flag vessels to carry cargo imported to and exported from the United States;

(C) ensure compliance by Federal agencies with chapter 553 of title 46, United States Code;

(D) increase the use of third-party inspection and certification authorities to inspect and certify vessels;

(E) increase the use of short sea transportation routes, including routes designated under section 55601(c) of title 46, United States Code, to enhance intermodal freight movements; and

(F) enhance United States shipbuilding capability.

SEC. 604. WAIVERS.

(a) ''JOHN CRAIG''.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8902 of title 46, United States Code, shall not apply to the vessel *John Craig* (United States official number D1110613) when such vessel is operating on the portion of the Kentucky River, Kentucky, located at approximately mile point 158, in Pool Number 9, between Lock and Dam Number 9 and Lock and Dam Number 10.

(2) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) shall apply on and after the date on which the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating determines that a licensing requirement has been established under Kentucky State law that applies to an operator of the vessel *John Craig*.

(b) ''F/V WESTERN CHALLENGER''.—Notwithstanding section 12132 of title 46, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for the *F/V Western Challenger* (IMO number 5388108).

SEC. 605. COMPETITION BY UNITED STATES FLAG VESSELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct an assessment of authorities under subtitle II of title 46, United States Code, that have been delegated to the Coast Guard and that impact the ability of vessels documented under the laws of the United States to effectively compete in international transportation markets.

(b) REVIEW OF DIFFERENCES WITH IMO STANDARDS.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall include a review of differences between United States laws, policies, regulations, and guidance governing the inspection of vessels documented under the laws of the United States and standards set by the International Maritime Organization governing the inspection of vessels.

(c) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Commandant enters into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences under subsection (a), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the assessment required under such subsection.

SEC. 606. VESSEL REQUIREMENTS FOR NOTICES OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AND AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the status of the final rule that relates to the notice of proposed rulemaking titled ''Vessel Requirements for Notices of Arrival and Departure, and Automatic Identification System'' and published in the Federal Register on December 16, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 76295).

SEC. 607. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard is authorized to convey, at fair market value, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, consisting of approximately 0.2 acres, that is under the administrative control of the Coast Guard and located at 527 River Street in Rochester, New York.

(b) RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.—The City of Rochester, New York, shall have the right of first refusal with respect to the purchase, at fair market value, of the real property described in subsection (a).

(c) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the property described in subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Commandant.

(d) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The fair market value of the property described in subsection (a) shall—

(1) be determined by appraisal; and

(2) be subject to the approval of the Commandant.

(e) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The responsibility for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental documentation costs, associated with a conveyance under subsection (a) shall be determined by the Commandant and the purchaser.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Commandant may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with a conveyance under subsection (a) as the Commandant considers appropriate and reasonable to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—Any proceeds from a conveyance under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the fund established under section 687 of title 14, United States Code.

SEC. 608. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY IN GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) CITY.—The term ''City'' means the city of Gig Harbor, Washington.

(2) PROPERTY.—The term ''Property'' means the parcel of real property, together with any improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 0.86 acres of fast lands commonly identified as tract 65 of lot 1 of section 8, township 21 north, range 2 east, Willamette Meridian, on the north side of the entrance of Gig Harbor, narrows of Puget Sound, Washington.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) CONVEYANCE.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO CONVEY.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating relinquishes the reservation of the Property for lighthouse purposes, at the request of the City and subject to the requirements of this section, the Secretary shall convey to the City all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Property, notwithstanding the land use planning requirements of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713).

(2) TERMS OF CONVEYANCE.—A conveyance made under paragraph (1) shall be made—

(A) subject to valid existing rights;

(B) at the fair market value as described in subsection (c); and

(C) subject to any other condition that the Secretary may consider appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(3) COSTS.—The City shall pay any transaction or administrative costs associated with a conveyance under paragraph (1), including the costs of the appraisal, title searches, maps, and boundary and cadastral surveys.

(4) CONVEYANCE IS NOT A MAJOR FEDERAL ACTION.—A conveyance under paragraph (1) shall not be considered a major Federal action for purposes of section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)).

(c) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—

(1) DETERMINATION.—The fair market value of the Property shall be—

(A) determined by an appraisal conducted by an independent appraiser selected by the Secretary; and

(B) approved by the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (3).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—An appraisal conducted under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be conducted in accordance with nationally recognized appraisal standards, including—

(i) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(ii) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; and

(B) shall reflect the equitable considerations described in paragraph (3).

(3) EQUITABLE CONSIDERATIONS.—In approving the fair market value of the Property under this subsection, the Secretary shall take into consideration matters of equity and fairness, including the City's past and current lease of the Property, any maintenance or improvements by the City to the Property, and such other factors as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) REVOCATION; REVERSION.—Effective on and after the date on which a conveyance of the Property is made under subsection (b)(1)—

(1) Executive Order 3528, dated August 9, 1921, is revoked; and

(2) the use of the tide and shore lands belonging to the State of Washington and adjoining and bordering the Property, that were granted to the Government of the United States pursuant to the Act of the Legislature, State of Washington, approved March 13, 1909, the same being chapter 110 of the Session Laws of 1909, shall revert to the State of Washington.

SEC. 609. VESSEL DETERMINATION.

The vessel assigned United States official number 1205366 is deemed a new vessel effective on the date of delivery of the vessel after January 1, 2012, from a privately owned United States shipyard, if no encumbrances are on record with the Coast Guard at the time of the issuance of the new certificate of documentation for the vessel.

SEC. 610. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THUNDER BAY.

The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not prohibit a vessel operating within the existing boundaries and any future expanded boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve from taking up or discharging ballast water to allow for safe and efficient vessel operation if the uptake or discharge meets all Federal and State ballast water management requirements that would apply if the area were not a marine sanctuary.

SEC. 611. PARKING FACILITIES.

(a) ALLOCATION AND ASSIGNMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the Administrator of General Services, in coordination with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, shall allocate and assign the spaces in parking facilities at the Department of Homeland Security St. Elizabeths Campus to allow any member or employee of the Coast Guard, who is assigned to the Campus, to use such spaces.

(2) TIMING.—In carrying out paragraph (1), and in addition to the parking spaces allocated and assigned to Coast Guard members and employees in fiscal year 2014, the Administrator shall allocate and assign not less than—

(A) 300 parking spaces not later than September 30, 2015;

(B) 700 parking spaces not later than September 30, 2016; and

(C) 1,042 parking spaces not later than September 30, 2017.

(b) TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter in which spaces are allocated and assigned under subsection (a)(2), the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on—

(1) the impact of assigning and allocating parking spaces under subsection (a) on the congestion of roads connecting the St. Elizabeths Campus to the portions of Suitland Parkway and I–295 located in the Anacostia section of the District of Columbia; and

(2) progress made toward completion of essential transportation improvements identified in the Transportation Management Program for the St. Elizabeths Campus.

(c) REALLOCATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Administrator may revise the allocation and assignment of spaces to members and employees of the Coast Guard made under subsection (a) as necessary to accommodate employees of the Department of Homeland Security, other than the Coast Guard, when such employees are assigned to the St. Elizabeths Campus.

SA 3998. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. ROCKEFELLER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2444, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: ''A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.''.

SA 3999. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2519, to codify an existing operations center for cybersecurity; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''National Cybersecurity Protection Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term ''Center'' means the national cybersecurity and communications integration center under section 226 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 3;

(2) the term ''critical infrastructure'' has the meaning given that term in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101);

(3) the term ''cybersecurity risk'' has the meaning given that term in section 226 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 3;

(4) the term ''information sharing and analysis organization'' has the meaning given that term in section 212(5) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 131(5));

(5) the term ''information system'' has the meaning given that term in section 3502(8) of title 44, United States Code; and

(6) the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AND COMMUNICATIONS INTEGRATION CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 226. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AND COMMUNICATIONS INTEGRATION CENTER.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'cybersecurity risk' means threats to and vulnerabilities of information or information systems and any related consequences caused by or resulting from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, degradation, disruption, modification, or destruction of information or information systems, including such related consequences caused by an act of terrorism;

''(2) the term 'incident' means an occurrence that—

''(A) actually or imminently jeopardizes, without lawful authority, the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of information on an information system; or

''(B) constitutes a violation or imminent threat of violation of law, security policies, security procedures, or acceptable use policies;

''(3) the term 'information sharing and analysis organization' has the meaning given that term in section 212(5); and

''(4) the term 'information system' has the meaning given that term in section 3502(8) of title 44, United States Code.

''(b) CENTER.—There is in the Department a national cybersecurity and communications integration center (referred to in this section as the 'Center') to carry out certain responsibilities of the Under Secretary appointed under section 103(a)(1)(H).

''(c) FUNCTIONS.—The cybersecurity functions of the Center shall include—

''(1) being a Federal civilian interface for the multi-directional and cross-sector sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks, incidents, analysis, and warnings for Federal and non-Federal entities;

''(2) providing shared situational awareness to enable real-time, integrated, and operational actions across the Federal Government and non-Federal entities to address cybersecurity risks and incidents to Federal and non-Federal entities;

''(3) coordinating the sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents across the Federal Government;

''(4) facilitating cross-sector coordination to address cybersecurity risks and incidents, including cybersecurity risks and incidents that may be related or could have consequential impacts across multiple sectors;

''(5)(A) conducting integration and analysis, including cross-sector integration and analysis, of cybersecurity risks and incidents; and

''(B) sharing the analysis conducted under subparagraph (A) with Federal and non-Federal entities;

''(6) upon request, providing timely technical assistance, risk management support, and incident response capabilities to Federal and non-Federal entities with respect to cybersecurity risks and incidents, which may include attribution, mitigation, and remediation; and

''(7) providing information and recommendations on security and resilience measures to Federal and non-Federal entities, including information and recommendations to—

''(A) facilitate information security; and

''(B) strengthen information systems against cybersecurity risks and incidents.

''(d) COMPOSITION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall be composed of—

''(A) appropriate representatives of Federal entities, such as—

''(i) sector-specific agencies;

''(ii) civilian and law enforcement agencies; and

''(iii) elements of the intelligence community, as that term is defined under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4));

''(B) appropriate representatives of non-Federal entities, such as—

''(i) State and local governments;

''(ii) information sharing and analysis organizations; and

''(iii) owners and operators of critical information systems;

''(C) components within the Center that carry out cybersecurity and communications activities;

''(D) a designated Federal official for operational coordination with and across each sector; and

''(E) other appropriate representatives or entities, as determined by the Secretary.

''(2) INCIDENTS.—In the event of an incident, during exigent circumstances the Secretary may grant a Federal or non-Federal entity immediate temporary access to the Center.

''(e) PRINCIPLES.—In carrying out the functions under subsection (c), the Center shall ensure—

''(1) to the extent practicable, that—

''(A) timely, actionable, and relevant information related to cybersecurity risks, incidents, and analysis is shared;

''(B) when appropriate, information related to cybersecurity risks, incidents, and analysis is integrated with other relevant information and tailored to the specific characteristics of a sector;

''(C) activities are prioritized and conducted based on the level of risk;

''(D) industry sector-specific, academic, and national laboratory expertise is sought and receives appropriate consideration;

''(E) continuous, collaborative, and inclusive coordination occurs—

''(i) across sectors; and

''(ii) with—

''(I) sector coordinating councils;

''(II) information sharing and analysis organizations; and

''(III) other appropriate non-Federal partners;

''(F) as appropriate, the Center works to develop and use mechanisms for sharing information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents that are technology-neutral, interoperable, real-time, cost-effective, and resilient; and

''(G) the Center works with other agencies to reduce unnecessarily duplicative sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents;

''(2) that information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents is appropriately safeguarded against unauthorized access; and

''(3) that activities conducted by the Center comply with all policies, regulations, and laws that protect the privacy and civil liberties of United States persons.

''(f) NO RIGHT OR BENEFIT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The provision of assistance or information to, and inclusion in the Center of, governmental or private entities under this section shall be at the sole and unreviewable discretion of the Under Secretary appointed under section 103(a)(1)(H).

''(2) CERTAIN ASSISTANCE OR INFORMATION.—The provision of certain assistance or information to, or inclusion in the Center of, one governmental or private entity pursuant to this section shall not create a right or benefit, substantive or procedural, to similar assistance or information for any other governmental or private entity.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 note) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 225 the following:

''Sec. 226. National cybersecurity and communications integration center.''.

SEC. 4. RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING NEW AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit recommendations on how to expedite the implementation of information-sharing agreements for cybersecurity purposes between the Center and non-Federal entities (referred to in this section as ''cybersecurity information-sharing agreements'') to—

(1) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(b) CONTENTS.—In submitting recommendations under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) address the development and utilization of a scalable form that retains all privacy and other protections in cybersecurity information-sharing agreements that are in effect as of the date on which the Secretary submits the recommendations, including Cooperative Research and Development Agreements; and

(2) include in the recommendations any additional authorities or resources that may be needed to carry out the implementation of any new cybersecurity information-sharing agreements.

SEC. 5. ANNUAL REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States a report on the Center, which shall include—

(a) information on the Center, including—

(1) an assessment of the capability and capacity of the Center to carry out its cybersecurity mission under this Act;

(2) the number of representatives from non-Federal entities that are participating in the Center, including the number of representatives from States, nonprofit organizations, and private sector entities, respectively;

(3) the number of requests from non-Federal entities to participate in the Center and the response to such requests;

(4) the average length of time taken to resolve requests described in paragraph (3);

(5) the identification of—

(A) any delay in resolving requests described in paragraph (3) involving security clearance processing; and

(B) the agency involved with a delay described in subparagraph (A);

(6) a description of any other obstacles or challenges to resolving requests described in paragraph (3) and a summary of the reasons for denials of any such requests;

(7) the extent to which the Department is engaged in information sharing with each critical infrastructure sector, including—

(A) the extent to which each sector has representatives at the Center;

(B) the extent to which owners and operators of critical infrastructure in each critical infrastructure sector participate in information sharing at the Center; and

(C) the volume and range of activities with respect to which the Secretary has collaborated with the sector coordinating councils and the sector-specific agencies to promote greater engagement with the Center; and

(8) the policies and procedures established by the Center to safeguard privacy and civil liberties.

SEC. 6. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the effectiveness of the Center in carrying out its cybersecurity mission.

SEC. 7. CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN; CLEARANCES; BREACHES.

(a) CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN; CLEARANCES.—Subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 141 et seq.), as amended by section 3, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 227. CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN.

''The Under Secretary appointed under section 103(a)(1)(H) shall, in coordination with appropriate Federal departments and agencies, State and local governments, sector coordinating councils, information sharing and analysis organizations (as defined in section 212(5)), owners and operators of critical infrastructure, and other appropriate entities and individuals, develop, regularly update, maintain, and exercise adaptable cyber incident response plans to address cybersecurity risks (as defined in section 226) to critical infrastructure.

''SEC. 228. CLEARANCES.

''The Secretary shall make available the process of application for security clearances under Executive Order 13549 (75 Fed. Reg. 162; relating to a classified national security information program) or any successor Executive Order to appropriate representatives of sector coordinating councils, sector information sharing and analysis organizations (as defined in section 212(5)), owners and operators of critical infrastructure, and any other person that the Secretary determines appropriate.''.

(b) BREACHES.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall ensure that data breach notification policies and guidelines are updated periodically and require—

(A) except as provided in paragraph (4), notice by the affected agency to each committee of Congress described in section 3544(c)(1) of title 44, United States Code, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, which shall—

(i) be provided expeditiously and not later than 30 days after the date on which the agency discovered the unauthorized acquisition or access; and

(ii) include—

(I) information about the breach, including a summary of any information that the agency knows on the date on which notification is provided about how the breach occurred;

(II) an estimate of the number of individuals affected by the breach, based on information that the agency knows on the date on which notification is provided, including an assessment of the risk of harm to affected individuals;

(III) a description of any circumstances necessitating a delay in providing notice to affected individuals; and

(IV) an estimate of whether and when the agency will provide notice to affected individuals; and

(B) notice by the affected agency to affected individuals, pursuant to data breach notification policies and guidelines, which shall be provided as expeditiously as practicable and without unreasonable delay after the agency discovers the unauthorized acquisition or access.

(2) NATIONAL SECURITY; LAW ENFORCEMENT; REMEDIATION.—The Attorney General, the head of an element of the intelligence community (as such term is defined under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)), or the Secretary may delay the notice to affected individuals

under paragraph (1)(B) if the notice would disrupt a law enforcement investigation, endanger national security, or hamper security remediation actions.

(3) OMB REPORT.—During the first 2 years beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall, on an annual basis—

(A) assess agency implementation of data breach notification policies and guidelines in aggregate; and

(B) include the assessment described in clause (i) in the report required under section 3543(a)(8) of title 44, United States Code.

(4) EXCEPTION.—Any element of the intelligence community (as such term is defined under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)) that is required to provide notice under paragraph (1)(A) shall only provide such notice to appropriate committees of Congress.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendment made by subsection (a) or in subsection (b)(1) shall be construed to alter any authority of a Federal agency or department.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 note), as amended by section 3, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 226 the following:

''Sec. 227. Cyber incident response plan.
''Sec. 228. Clearances.''.

SEC. 8. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) PROHIBITION ON NEW REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to grant the Secretary any authority to promulgate regulations or set standards relating to the cybersecurity of private sector critical infrastructure that was not in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) PRIVATE ENTITIES.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to require any private entity—

(1) to request assistance from the Secretary; or

(2) that requested such assistance from the Secretary to implement any measure or recommendation suggested by the Secretary.

SA 4000. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4007, to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''TITLE XXI—CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS

''SEC. 2101. DEFINITIONS.

''In this title—

''(1) the term 'CFATS regulation' means—

''(A) an existing CFATS regulation; and

''(B) any regulation or amendment to an existing CFATS regulation issued pursuant to the authority under section 2107;

''(2) the term 'chemical facility of interest' means a facility that—

''(A) holds, or that the Secretary has a reasonable basis to believe holds, a chemical of interest, as designated under Appendix A to part 27 of title 6, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto, at a threshold quantity set pursuant to relevant risk-related security principles; and

''(B) is not an excluded facility;

''(3) the term 'covered chemical facility' means a facility that—

''(A) the Secretary—

''(i) identifies as a chemical facility of interest; and

''(ii) based upon review of the facility's Top-Screen, determines meets the risk criteria developed under section 2102(e)(2)(B); and

''(B) is not an excluded facility;

''(4) the term 'excluded facility' means—

''(A) a facility regulated under the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–295; 116 Stat. 2064);

''(B) a public water system, as that term is defined in section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f);

''(C) a Treatment Works, as that term is defined in section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1292);

''(D) a facility owned or operated by the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy; or

''(E) a facility subject to regulation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or by a State that has entered into an agreement with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission under section 274 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2021(b)) to protect against unauthorized access of any material, activity, or structure licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission;

''(5) the term 'existing CFATS regulation' means—

''(A) a regulation promulgated under section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–295; 6 U.S.C. 121 note) that is in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014; and

''(B) a Federal Register notice or other published guidance relating to section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 that is in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014;

''(6) the term 'expedited approval facility' means a covered chemical facility for which the owner or operator elects to submit a site security plan in accordance with section 2102(c)(4);

''(7) the term 'facially deficient', relating to a site security plan, means a site security plan that does not support a certification that the security measures in the plan address the security vulnerability assessment and the risk-based performance standards for security for the facility, based on a review of—

''(A) the facility's site security plan;

''(B) the facility's Top-Screen;

''(C) the facility's security vulnerability assessment; or

''(D) any other information that—

''(i) the facility submits to the Department; or

''(ii) the Department obtains from a public source or other source;

''(8) the term 'guidance for expedited approval facilities' means the guidance issued under section 2102(c)(4)(B)(i);

''(9) the term 'risk assessment' means the Secretary's application of relevant risk criteria identified in section 2102(e)(2)(B);

''(10) the term 'terrorist screening database' means the terrorist screening database maintained by the Federal Government Terrorist Screening Center or its successor;

''(11) the term 'tier' has the meaning given the term in section 27.105 of title 6, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto;

''(12) the terms 'tiering' and 'tiering methodology' mean the procedure by which the Secretary assigns a tier to each covered chemical facility based on the risk assessment for that covered chemical facility;

''(13) the term 'Top-Screen' has the meaning given the term in section 27.105 of title 6, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto; and

''(14) the term 'vulnerability assessment' means the identification of weaknesses in the security of a chemical facility of interest.

''SEC. 2102. CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM.

''(a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Department a Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program, the Secretary shall—

''(A) identify—

''(i) chemical facilities of interest; and

''(ii) covered chemical facilities;

''(B) require each chemical facility of interest to submit a Top-Screen and any other information the Secretary determines necessary to enable the Department to assess the security risks associated with the facility;

''(C) establish risk-based performance standards designed to address high levels of security risk at covered chemical facilities; and

''(D) require each covered chemical facility to—

''(i) submit a security vulnerability assessment; and

''(ii) develop, submit, and implement a site security plan.

''(b) SECURITY MEASURES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A facility, in developing a site security plan as required under subsection (a), shall include security measures that, in combination, appropriately address the security vulnerability assessment and the risk-based performance standards for security for the facility.

''(2) EMPLOYEE INPUT.—To the greatest extent practicable, a facility's security vulnerability assessment and site security plan shall include input from at least 1 facility employee and, where applicable, 1 employee representative from the bargaining agent at that facility, each of whom possesses, in the determination of the facility's security officer, relevant knowledge, experience, training, or education as pertains to matters of site security.

''(c) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF SITE SECURITY PLANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) REVIEW.—Except as provided in paragraph (4), the Secretary shall review and approve or disapprove each site security plan submitted pursuant to subsection (a).

''(B) BASES FOR DISAPPROVAL.—The Secretary—

''(i) may not disapprove a site security plan based on the presence or absence of a particular security measure; and

''(ii) shall disapprove a site security plan if the plan fails to satisfy the risk-based performance standards established pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(C).

''(2) ALTERNATIVE SECURITY PROGRAMS.—

''(A) AUTHORITY TO APPROVE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may approve an alternative security program established by a private sector entity or a Federal, State, or local authority or under other applicable laws, if the Secretary determines that the requirements of the program meet the requirements under this section.

''(ii) ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES.—If the requirements of an alternative security program do not meet the requirements under

this section, the Secretary may recommend additional security measures to the program that will enable the Secretary to approve the program.

''(B) SATISFACTION OF SITE SECURITY PLAN REQUIREMENT.—A covered chemical facility may satisfy the site security plan requirement under subsection (a) by adopting an alternative security program that the Secretary has—

''(i) reviewed and approved under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) determined to be appropriate for the operations and security concerns of the covered chemical facility.

''(3) SITE SECURITY PLAN ASSESSMENTS.—

''(A) RISK ASSESSMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—In approving or disapproving a site security plan under this subsection, the Secretary shall employ the risk assessment policies and procedures developed under this title.

''(B) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PLANS.—In the case of a covered chemical facility for which the Secretary approved a site security plan before the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary may not require the facility to resubmit the site security plan solely by reason of the enactment of this title.

''(4) EXPEDITED APPROVAL PROGRAM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A covered chemical facility assigned to tier 3 or 4 may meet the requirement to develop and submit a site security plan under subsection (a)(2)(D) by developing and submitting to the Secretary—

''(i) a site security plan and the certification described in subparagraph (C); or

''(ii) a site security plan in conformance with a template authorized under subparagraph (H).

''(B) GUIDANCE FOR EXPEDITED APPROVAL FACILITIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall issue guidance for expedited approval facilities that identifies specific security measures that are sufficient to meet the risk-based performance standards.

''(ii) MATERIAL DEVIATION FROM GUIDANCE.—If a security measure in the site security plan of an expedited approval facility materially deviates from a security measure in the guidance for expedited approval facilities, the site security plan shall include an explanation of how such security measure meets the risk-based performance standards.

''(iii) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS TO DEVELOPMENT AND ISSUANCE OF INITIAL GUIDANCE.—During the period before the Secretary has met the deadline under clause (i), in developing and issuing, or amending, the guidance for expedited approval facilities under this subparagraph and in collecting information from expedited approval facilities, the Secretary shall not be subject to—

''(I) section 553 of title 5, United States Code;

''(II) subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code; or

''(III) section 2107(b) of this title.

''(C) CERTIFICATION.—The owner or operator of an expedited approval facility shall submit to the Secretary a certification, signed under penalty of perjury, that—

''(i) the owner or operator is familiar with the requirements of this title and part 27 of title 6, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto, and the site security plan being submitted;

''(ii) the site security plan includes the security measures required by subsection (b);

''(iii)(I) the security measures in the site security plan do not materially deviate from the guidance for expedited approval facilities except where indicated in the site security plan;

''(II) any deviations from the guidance for expedited approval facilities in the site security plan meet the risk-based performance standards for the tier to which the facility is assigned; and

''(III) the owner or operator has provided an explanation of how the site security plan meets the risk-based performance standards for any material deviation;

''(iv) the owner or operator has visited, examined, documented, and verified that the expedited approval facility meets the criteria set forth in the site security plan;

''(v) the expedited approval facility has implemented all of the required performance measures outlined in the site security plan or set out planned measures that will be implemented within a reasonable time period stated in the site security plan;

''(vi) each individual responsible for implementing the site security plan has been made aware of the requirements relevant to the individual's responsibility contained in the site security plan and has demonstrated competency to carry out those requirements;

''(vii) the owner or operator has committed, or, in the case of planned measures will commit, the necessary resources to fully implement the site security plan; and

''(viii) the planned measures include an adequate procedure for addressing events beyond the control of the owner or operator in implementing any planned measures.

''(D) DEADLINE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date described in clause (ii), the owner or operator of an expedited approval facility shall submit to the Secretary the site security plan and the certification described in subparagraph (C).

''(ii) DATE.—The date described in this clause is—

''(I) for an expedited approval facility that was assigned to tier 3 or 4 under existing CFATS regulations before the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the date that is 210 days after the date of enactment of that Act; and

''(II) for any expedited approval facility not described in subclause (I), the later of—

''(aa) the date on which the expedited approval facility is assigned to tier 3 or 4 under subsection (e)(2)(A); or

''(bb) the date that is 210 days after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014.

''(iii) NOTICE.—An owner or operator of an expedited approval facility shall notify the Secretary of the intent of the owner or operator to certify the site security plan for the expedited approval facility not later than 30 days before the date on which the owner or operator submits the site security plan and certification described in subparagraph (C).

''(E) COMPLIANCE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For an expedited approval facility submitting a site security plan and certification in accordance with subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D)—

''(I) the expedited approval facility shall comply with all of the requirements of its site security plan; and

''(II) the Secretary—

''(aa) except as provided in subparagraph (G), may not disapprove the site security plan; and

''(bb) may audit and inspect the expedited approval facility under subsection (d) to verify compliance with its site security plan.

''(ii) NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary determines an expedited approval facility is not in compliance with the requirements of the site security plan or is otherwise in violation of this title, the Secretary may enforce compliance in accordance with section 2104.

''(F) AMENDMENTS TO SITE SECURITY PLAN.—

''(i) REQUIREMENT.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—If the owner or operator of an expedited approval facility amends a site security plan submitted under subparagraph (A), the owner or operator shall submit the amended site security plan and a certification relating to the amended site security plan that contains the information described in subparagraph (C).

''(II) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—For purposes of this clause, an amendment to a site security plan includes any technical amendment to the site security plan.

''(ii) AMENDMENT REQUIRED.—The owner or operator of an expedited approval facility shall amend the site security plan if—

''(I) there is a change in the design, construction, operation, or maintenance of the expedited approval facility that affects the site security plan;

''(II) the Secretary requires additional security measures or suspends a certification and recommends additional security measures under subparagraph (G); or

''(III) the owner or operator receives notice from the Secretary of a change in tiering under subsection (e)(3).

''(iii) DEADLINE.—An amended site security plan and certification shall be submitted under clause (i)—

''(I) in the case of a change in design, construction, operation, or maintenance of the expedited approval facility that affects the security plan, not later than 120 days after the date on which the change in design, construction, operation, or maintenance occurred;

''(II) in the case of the Secretary requiring additional security measures or suspending a certification and recommending additional security measures under subparagraph (G), not later than 120 days after the date on which the owner or operator receives notice of the requirement for additional security measures or suspension of the certification and recommendation of additional security measures; and

''(III) in the case of a change in tiering, not later than 120 days after the date on which the owner or operator receives notice under subsection (e)(3).

''(G) FACIALLY DEFICIENT SITE SECURITY PLANS.—

''(i) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) or (E), the Secretary may suspend the authority of a covered chemical facility to certify a site security plan if the Secretary—

''(I) determines the certified site security plan or an amended site security plan is facially deficient; and

''(II) not later than 100 days after the date on which the Secretary receives the site security plan and certification, provides the covered chemical facility with written notification that the site security plan is facially deficient, including a clear explanation of each deficiency in the site security plan.

''(ii) ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—If, during or after a compliance inspection of an expedited approval facility, the Secretary determines that planned or implemented security measures in the site security plan of the facility are insufficient to meet the risk-based performance standards based on misrepresentation, omission, or an inadequate description of the site, the Secretary may—

''(aa) require additional security measures; or

''(bb) suspend the certification of the facility.

''(II) RECOMMENDATION OF ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES.—If the Secretary suspends

the certification of an expedited approval facility under subclause (I), the Secretary shall—

''(aa) recommend specific additional security measures that, if made part of the site security plan by the facility, would enable the Secretary to approve the site security plan; and

''(bb) provide the facility an opportunity to submit a new or modified site security plan and certification under subparagraph (A).

''(III) SUBMISSION; REVIEW.—If an expedited approval facility determines to submit a new or modified site security plan and certification as authorized under subclause (II)(bb)—

''(aa) not later than 90 days after the date on which the facility receives recommendations under subclause (II)(aa), the facility shall submit the new or modified plan and certification; and

''(bb) not later than 45 days after the date on which the Secretary receives the new or modified plan under item (aa), the Secretary shall review the plan and determine whether the plan is facially deficient.

''(IV) DETERMINATION NOT TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES.—

''(aa) REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION.—If an expedited approval facility does not agree to include in its site security plan specific additional security measures recommended by the Secretary under subclause (II)(aa), or does not submit a new or modified site security plan in accordance with subclause (III), the Secretary may revoke the certification of the facility by issuing an order under section 2104(a)(1)(B).

''(bb) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—If the Secretary revokes the certification of an expedited approval facility under item (aa) by issuing an order under section 2104(a)(1)(B)—

''(AA) the order shall require the owner or operator of the facility to submit a site security plan or alternative security program for review by the Secretary review under subsection (c)(1); and

''(BB) the facility shall no longer be eligible to certify a site security plan under this paragraph.

''(V) FACIAL DEFICIENCY.—If the Secretary determines that a new or modified site security plan submitted by an expedited approval facility under subclause (III) is facially deficient—

''(aa) not later than 120 days after the date of the determination, the owner or operator of the facility shall submit a site security plan or alternative security program for review by the Secretary under subsection (c)(1); and

''(bb) the facility shall no longer be eligible to certify a site security plan under this paragraph.

''(H) TEMPLATES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may develop prescriptive site security plan templates with specific security measures to meet the risk-based performance standards under subsection (a)(2)(C) for adoption and certification by a covered chemical facility assigned to tier 3 or 4 in lieu of developing and certifying its own plan.

''(ii) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS TO DEVELOPMENT AND ISSUANCE OF INITIAL SITE SECURITY PLAN TEMPLATES AND RELATED GUIDANCE.—During the period before the Secretary has met the deadline under subparagraph (B)(i), in developing and issuing, or amending, the site security plan templates under this subparagraph, in issuing guidance for implementation of the templates, and in collecting information from expedited approval facilities, the Secretary shall not be subject to—

''(I) section 553 of title 5, United States Code;

''(II) subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code; or

''(III) section 2107(b) of this title.

''(iii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to prevent a covered chemical facility from developing and certifying its own security plan in accordance with subparagraph (A).

''(I) EVALUATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall take any appropriate action necessary for a full evaluation of the expedited approval program authorized under this paragraph, including conducting an appropriate number of inspections, as authorized under subsection (d), of expedited approval facilities.

''(ii) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that contains—

''(I)(aa) the number of eligible facilities using the expedited approval program authorized under this paragraph; and

''(bb) the number of facilities that are eligible for the expedited approval program but are using the standard process for developing and submitting a site security plan under subsection (a)(2)(D);

''(II) any costs and efficiencies associated with the expedited approval program;

''(III) the impact of the expedited approval program on the backlog for site security plan approval and authorization inspections;

''(IV) an assessment of the ability of expedited approval facilities to submit facially sufficient site security plans;

''(V) an assessment of any impact of the expedited approval program on the security of chemical facilities; and

''(VI) a recommendation by the Secretary on the frequency of compliance inspections that may be required for expedited approval facilities.

''(d) COMPLIANCE.—

''(1) AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

''(i) the term 'nondepartmental'—

''(I) with respect to personnel, means personnel that is not employed by the Department; and

''(II) with respect to an entity, means an entity that is not a component or other authority of the Department; and

''(ii) the term 'nongovernmental'—

''(I) with respect to personnel, means personnel that is not employed by the Federal Government; and

''(II) with respect to an entity, means an entity that is not an agency, department, or other authority of the Federal Government.

''(B) AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS.—The Secretary shall conduct audits or inspections under this title using—

''(i) employees of the Department;

''(ii) nondepartmental or nongovernmental personnel approved by the Secretary; or

''(iii) a combination of individuals described in clauses (i) and (ii).

''(C) SUPPORT PERSONNEL.—The Secretary may use nongovernmental personnel to provide administrative and logistical services in support of audits and inspections under this title.

''(D) REPORTING STRUCTURE.—

''(i) NONDEPARTMENTAL AND NONGOVERNMENTAL AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS.—Any audit or inspection conducted by an individual employed by a nondepartmental or nongovernmental entity shall be assigned in coordination with a regional supervisor with responsibility for supervising inspectors within the Infrastructure Security Compliance Division of the Department for the region in which the audit or inspection is to be conducted.

''(ii) REQUIREMENT TO REPORT.—While an individual employed by a nondepartmental or nongovernmental entity is in the field conducting an audit or inspection under this subsection, the individual shall report to the regional supervisor with responsibility for supervising inspectors within the Infrastructure Security Compliance Division of the Department for the region in which the individual is operating.

''(iii) APPROVAL.—The authority to approve a site security plan under subsection (c) or determine if a covered chemical facility is in compliance with an approved site security plan shall be exercised solely by the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary within the Department.

''(E) STANDARDS FOR AUDITORS AND INSPECTORS.—The Secretary shall prescribe standards for the training and retraining of each individual used by the Department as an auditor or inspector, including each individual employed by the Department and all nondepartmental or nongovernmental personnel, including—

''(i) minimum training requirements for new auditors and inspectors;

''(ii) retraining requirements;

''(iii) minimum education and experience levels;

''(iv) the submission of information as required by the Secretary to enable determination of whether the auditor or inspector has a conflict of interest;

''(v) the proper certification or certifications necessary to handle chemical-terrorism vulnerability information (as defined in section 27.105 of title 6, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto);

''(vi) the reporting of any issue of non-compliance with this section to the Secretary within 24 hours; and

''(vii) any additional qualifications for fitness of duty as the Secretary may require.

''(F) CONDITIONS FOR NONGOVERNMENTAL AUDITORS AND INSPECTORS.—If the Secretary arranges for an audit or inspection under subparagraph (B) to be carried out by a nongovernmental entity, the Secretary shall—

''(i) prescribe standards for the qualification of the individuals who carry out such audits and inspections that are commensurate with the standards for similar Government auditors or inspectors; and

''(ii) ensure that any duties carried out by a nongovernmental entity are not inherently governmental functions.

''(2) PERSONNEL SURETY.—

''(A) PERSONNEL SURETY PROGRAM.—For purposes of this title, the Secretary shall establish and carry out a Personnel Surety Program that—

''(i) does not require an owner or operator of a covered chemical facility that voluntarily participates in the program to submit information about an individual more than 1 time;

''(ii) provides a participating owner or operator of a covered chemical facility with relevant information about an individual based on vetting the individual against the terrorist screening database, to the extent that such feedback is necessary for the facility to be in compliance with regulations promulgated under this title; and

''(iii) provides redress to an individual—

''(I) whose information was vetted against the terrorist screening database under the program; and

''(II) who believes that the personally identifiable information submitted to the Department for such vetting by a covered

chemical facility, or its designated representative, was inaccurate.

''(B) PERSONNEL SURETY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.—To the extent that a risk-based performance standard established under subsection (a) requires identifying individuals with ties to terrorism—

''(i) a covered chemical facility—

''(I) may satisfy its obligation under the standard by using any Federal screening program that periodically vets individuals against the terrorist screening database, or any successor program, including the Personnel Surety Program established under subparagraph (A); and

''(II) shall—

''(aa) accept a credential from a Federal screening program described in subclause (I) if an individual who is required to be screened presents such a credential; and

''(bb) address in its site security plan or alternative security program the measures it will take to verify that a credential or documentation from a Federal screening program described in subclause (I) is current;

''(ii) visual inspection shall be sufficient to meet the requirement under clause (i)(II)(bb), but the facility should consider other means of verification, consistent with the facility's assessment of the threat posed by acceptance of such credentials; and

''(iii) the Secretary may not require a covered chemical facility to submit any information about an individual unless the individual—

''(I) is to be vetted under the Personnel Surety Program; or

''(II) has been identified as presenting a terrorism security risk.

''(C) RIGHTS UNAFFECTED.—Nothing in this section shall supersede the ability—

''(i) of a facility to maintain its own policies regarding the access of individuals to restricted areas or critical assets; or

''(ii) of an employing facility and a bargaining agent, where applicable, to negotiate as to how the results of a background check may be used by the facility with respect to employment status.

''(3) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall share with the owner or operator of a covered chemical facility any information that the owner or operator needs to comply with this section.

''(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

''(1) IDENTIFICATION OF CHEMICAL FACILITIES OF INTEREST.—In carrying out this title, the Secretary shall consult with the heads of other Federal agencies, States and political subdivisions thereof, relevant business associations, and public and private labor organizations to identify all chemical facilities of interest.

''(2) RISK ASSESSMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this title, the Secretary shall develop a security risk assessment approach and corresponding tiering methodology for covered chemical facilities that incorporates the relevant elements of risk, including threat, vulnerability, and consequence.

''(B) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SECURITY RISK.—The criteria for determining the security risk of terrorism associated with a covered chemical facility shall take into account—

''(i) relevant threat information;

''(ii) potential severe economic consequences and the potential loss of human life in the event of the facility being subject to attack, compromise, infiltration, or exploitation by terrorists; and

''(iii) vulnerability of the facility to attack, compromise, infiltration, or exploitation by terrorists.

''(3) CHANGES IN TIERING.—

''(A) MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.—The Secretary shall document the basis for each instance in which—

''(i) tiering for a covered chemical facility is changed; or

''(ii) a covered chemical facility is determined to no longer be subject to the requirements under this title.

''(B) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—The records maintained under subparagraph (A) shall include information on whether and how the Secretary confirmed the information that was the basis for the change or determination described in subparagraph (A).

''(4) SEMIANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, and not less frequently than once every 6 months thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that includes, for the period covered by the report—

''(A) the number of covered chemical facilities in the United States;

''(B) information—

''(i) describing—

''(I) the number of instances in which the Secretary—

''(aa) placed a covered chemical facility in a lower risk tier; or

''(bb) determined that a facility that had previously met the criteria for a covered chemical facility under section 2101(3) no longer met the criteria; and

''(II) the basis, in summary form, for each action or determination under subclause (I); and

''(ii) that is provided in a sufficiently anonymized form to ensure that the information does not identify any specific facility or company as the source of the information when viewed alone or in combination with other public information;

''(C) the average number of days spent reviewing site security or an alternative security program for a covered chemical facility prior to approval;

''(D) the number of covered chemical facilities inspected;

''(E) the average number of covered chemical facilities inspected per inspector; and

''(F) any other information that the Secretary determines will be helpful to Congress in evaluating the performance of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.

''SEC. 2103. PROTECTION AND SHARING OF INFORMATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, information developed under this title, including vulnerability assessments, site security plans, and other security related information, records, and documents shall be given protections from public disclosure consistent with the protection of similar information under section 70103(d) of title 46, United States Code.

''(b) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the sharing of information developed under this title, as the Secretary determines appropriate, with State and local government officials possessing a need to know and the necessary security clearances, including law enforcement officials and first responders, for the purpose of carrying out this title, provided that such information may not be disclosed pursuant to any State or local law.

''(c) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH FIRST RESPONDERS.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall provide to State, local, and regional fusion centers (as that term is defined in section 210A(j)(1)) and State and local government officials, as the Secretary determines appropriate, such information as is necessary to help ensure that first responders are properly prepared and provided with the situational awareness needed to respond to security incidents at covered chemical facilities.

''(2) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall disseminate information under paragraph (1) through a medium or system determined by the Secretary to be appropriate to ensure the secure and expeditious dissemination of such information to necessary selected individuals.

''(d) ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS.—In any proceeding to enforce this section, vulnerability assessments, site security plans, and other information submitted to or obtained by the Secretary under this title, and related vulnerability or security information, shall be treated as if the information were classified information.

''(e) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code), section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Freedom of Information Act') shall not apply to information protected from public disclosure pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

''(f) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Secretary from disclosing information developed under this title to a Member of Congress in response to a request by a Member of Congress.

''SEC. 2104. CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.

''(a) NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—

''(1) NOTICE.—If the Secretary determines that a covered chemical facility is not in compliance with this title, the Secretary shall—

''(A) provide the owner or operator of the facility with—

''(i) not later than 14 days after date on which the Secretary makes the determination, a written notification of noncompliance that includes a clear explanation of any deficiency in the security vulnerability assessment or site security plan; and

''(ii) an opportunity for consultation with the Secretary or the Secretary's designee; and

''(B) issue to the owner or operator of the facility an order to comply with this title by a date specified by the Secretary in the order, which date shall be not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary issues the order.

''(2) CONTINUED NONCOMPLIANCE.—If an owner or operator remains noncompliant after the procedures outlined in paragraph (1) have been executed, or demonstrates repeated violations of this title, the Secretary may enter an order in accordance with this section assessing a civil penalty, an order to cease operations, or both.

''(b) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

''(1) VIOLATIONS OF ORDERS.—Any person who violates an order issued under this title shall be liable for a civil penalty under section 70119(a) of title 46, United States Code.

''(2) NON-REPORTING CHEMICAL FACILITIES OF INTEREST.—Any owner of a chemical facility of interest who fails to comply with, or knowingly submits false information under, this title or the CFATS regulations shall be liable for a civil penalty under section 70119(a) of title 46, United States Code.

''(c) EMERGENCY ORDERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (a) or any site security plan or alternative security program approved under this title, if the Secretary determines that there is an imminent threat of death, serious illness, or severe personal injury, due to a violation of this title or the risk of a terrorist

incident that may affect a chemical facility of interest, the Secretary—

''(A) shall consult with the facility, if practicable, on steps to mitigate the risk; and

''(B) may order the facility, without notice or opportunity for a hearing, effective immediately or as soon as practicable, to—

''(i) implement appropriate emergency security measures; or

''(ii) cease or reduce some or all operations, in accordance with safe shutdown procedures, if the Secretary determines that such a cessation or reduction of operations is the most appropriate means to address the risk.

''(2) LIMITATION ON DELEGATION.—The Secretary may not delegate the authority under paragraph (1) to any official other than the Under Secretary responsible for overseeing critical infrastructure protection, cybersecurity, and other related programs of the Department appointed under section 103(a)(1)(H).

''(3) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may exercise the authority under this subsection only to the extent necessary to abate the imminent threat determination under paragraph (1).

''(4) DUE PROCESS FOR FACILITY OWNER OR OPERATOR.—

''(A) WRITTEN ORDERS.—An order issued by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall be in the form of a written emergency order that—

''(i) describes the violation or risk that creates the imminent threat;

''(ii) states the security measures or order issued or imposed; and

''(iii) describes the standards and procedures for obtaining relief from the order.

''(B) OPPORTUNITY FOR REVIEW.—After issuing an order under paragraph (1) with respect to a chemical facility of interest, the Secretary shall provide for review of the order under section 554 of title 5 if a petition for review is filed not later than 20 days after the date on which the Secretary issues the order.

''(C) EXPIRATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF ORDER.—If a petition for review of an order is filed under subparagraph (B) and the review under that paragraph is not completed by the last day of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the petition is filed, the order shall vacate automatically at the end of that period unless the Secretary determines, in writing, that the imminent threat providing a basis for the order continues to exist.

''(d) RIGHT OF ACTION.—Nothing in this title confers upon any person except the Secretary or his or her designee a right of action against an owner or operator of a covered chemical facility to enforce any provision of this title.

''SEC. 2105. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.

''(a) PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING PROBLEMS.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF A REPORTING PROCEDURE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall establish, and provide information to the public regarding, a procedure under which any employee or contractor of a chemical facility of interest may submit a report to the Secretary regarding a violation of a requirement under this title.

''(2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The Secretary shall keep confidential the identity of an individual who submits a report under paragraph (1) and any such report shall be treated as a record containing protected information to the extent that the report does not consist of publicly available information.

''(3) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT.—If a report submitted under paragraph (1) identifies the individual making the report, the Secretary shall promptly respond to the individual directly and shall promptly acknowledge receipt of the report.

''(4) STEPS TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS.—The Secretary—

''(A) shall review and consider the information provided in any report submitted under paragraph (1); and

''(B) may take action under section 2104 of this title if necessary to address any substantiated violation of a requirement under this title identified in the report.

''(5) DUE PROCESS FOR FACILITY OWNER OR OPERATOR.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If, upon the review described in paragraph (4), the Secretary determines that a violation of a provision of this title, or a regulation prescribed under this title, has occurred, the Secretary may—

''(i) institute a civil enforcement under section 2104(a) of this title; or

''(ii) if the Secretary makes the determination under section 2104(c), issue an emergency order.

''(B) WRITTEN ORDERS.—The action of the Secretary under paragraph (4) shall be in a written form that—

''(i) describes the violation;

''(ii) states the authority under which the Secretary is proceeding; and

''(iii) describes the standards and procedures for obtaining relief from the order.

''(C) OPPORTUNITY FOR REVIEW.—After taking action under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall provide for review of the action if a petition for review is filed within 20 calendar days of the date of issuance of the order for the action.

''(D) EXPIRATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF ORDER.—If a petition for review of an action is filed under subparagraph (C) and the review under that subparagraph is not completed by the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date the petition is filed, the action shall cease to be effective at the end of such period unless the Secretary determines, in writing, that the violation providing a basis for the action continues to exist.

''(6) RETALIATION PROHIBITED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An owner or operator of a chemical facility of interest or agent thereof may not discharge an employee or otherwise discriminate against an employee with respect to the compensation provided to, or terms, conditions, or privileges of the employment of, the employee because the employee (or an individual acting pursuant to a request of the employee) submitted a report under paragraph (1).

''(B) EXCEPTION.—An employee shall not be entitled to the protections under this section if the employee—

''(i) knowingly and willfully makes any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; or

''(ii) uses any false writing or document knowing the writing or document contains any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry.

''(b) PROTECTED DISCLOSURES.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit the right of an individual to make any disclosure—

''(1) protected or authorized under section 2302(b)(8) or 7211 of title 5, United States Code;

''(2) protected under any other Federal or State law that shields the disclosing individual against retaliation or discrimination for having made the disclosure in the public interest; or

''(3) to the Special Counsel of an agency, the inspector general of an agency, or any other employee designated by the head of an agency to receive disclosures similar to the disclosures described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

''(c) PUBLICATION OF RIGHTS.—The Secretary, in partnership with industry associations and labor organizations, shall make publicly available both physically and online the rights that an individual who discloses information, including security-sensitive information, regarding problems, deficiencies, or vulnerabilities at a covered chemical facility would have under Federal whistleblower protection laws or this title.

''(d) PROTECTED INFORMATION.—All information contained in a report made under this subsection (a) shall be protected in accordance with section 2103.

''SEC. 2106. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.

''(a) OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to supersede, amend, alter, or affect any Federal law that—

''(1) regulates (including by requiring information to be submitted or made available) the manufacture, distribution in commerce, use, handling, sale, other treatment, or disposal of chemical substances or mixtures; or

''(2) authorizes or requires the disclosure of any record or information obtained from a chemical facility under any law other than this title.

''(b) STATES AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.—This title shall not preclude or deny any right of any State or political subdivision thereof to adopt or enforce any regulation, requirement, or standard of performance with respect to chemical facility security that is more stringent than a regulation, requirement, or standard of performance issued under this section, or otherwise impair any right or jurisdiction of any State with respect to chemical facilities within that State, unless there is an actual conflict between this section and the law of that State.

''SEC. 2107. CFATS REGULATIONS.

''(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may, in accordance with chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, promulgate regulations or amend existing CFATS regulations to implement the provisions under this title.

''(b) EXISTING CFATS REGULATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 4(b) of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, each existing CFATS regulation shall remain in effect unless the Secretary amends, consolidates, or repeals the regulation.

''(2) REPEAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall repeal any existing CFATS regulation that the Secretary determines is duplicative of, or conflicts with, this title.

''(c) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall exclusively rely upon authority provided under this title in—

''(1) determining compliance with this title;

''(2) identifying chemicals of interest; and

''(3) determining security risk associated with a chemical facility.

''SEC. 2108. SMALL COVERED CHEMICAL FACILITIES.

''(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'small covered chemical facility' means a covered chemical facility that—

''(1) has fewer than 100 employees employed at the covered chemical facility; and

''(2) is owned and operated by a small business concern (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)).

''(b) ASSISTANCE TO FACILITIES.—The Secretary may provide guidance and, as appropriate, tools, methodologies, or computer software, to assist small covered chemical facilities in developing the physical security, cybersecurity, recordkeeping, and reporting procedures required under this title.

''(c) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on best practices that may assist small covered chemical facilities in development of physical security best practices.

''SEC. 2109. OUTREACH TO CHEMICAL FACILITIES OF INTEREST.

''Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall establish an outreach implementation plan, in coordination with the heads of other appropriate Federal and State agencies, relevant business associations, and public and private labor organizations, to—

''(1) identify chemical facilities of interest; and

''(2) make available compliance assistance materials and information on education and training.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–196; 116 Stat. 2135) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''TITLE XXI—CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI–TERRORISM STANDARDS

''Sec. 2101. Definitions.
''Sec. 2102. Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.
''Sec. 2103. Protection and sharing of information.
''Sec. 2104. Civil enforcement.
''Sec. 2105. Whistleblower protections.
''Sec. 2106. Relationship to other laws.
''Sec. 2107. CFATS regulations.
''Sec. 2108. Small covered chemical facilities.
''Sec. 2109. Outreach to chemical facilities of interest.''.

SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT; REPORTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program'' means—

(A) the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program initially authorized under section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109-295; 6 U.S.C. 121 note); and

(B) the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program subsequently authorized under section 2102(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2;

(2) the term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security; and

(3) the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) THIRD-PARTY ASSESSMENT.—Using amounts appropriated to the Department before the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall commission a third-party study to assess vulnerabilities of covered chemical facilities, as defined in section 2101 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by section 2), to acts of terrorism.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program that includes—

(A) a certification by the Secretary that the Secretary has made significant progress in the identification of all chemical facilities of interest under section 2102(e)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2, including—

(i) a description of the steps taken to achieve that progress and the metrics used to measure the progress;

(ii) information on whether facilities that submitted Top-Screens as a result of the identification of chemical facilities of interest were tiered and in what tiers those facilities were placed; and

(iii) an action plan to better identify chemical facilities of interest and bring those facilities into compliance with title XXI of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2;

(B) a certification by the Secretary that the Secretary has developed a risk assessment approach and corresponding tiering methodology under section 2102(e)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2;

(C) an assessment by the Secretary of the implementation by the Department of the recommendations made by the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute as outlined in the Institute's Tiering Methodology Peer Review (Publication Number: RP12–22–02); and

(D) a description of best practices that may assist small covered chemical facilities, as defined in section 2108(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2, in the development of physical security best practices.

(2) ANNUAL GAO REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—During the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress an annual report that assesses the implementation of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(B) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress the first report under subparagraph (A).

(C) SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the initial report required under subparagraph (B), the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress the second report under subparagraph (A), which shall include an assessment of the whistleblower protections provided under section 2105 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2, and—

(i) describes the number and type of problems, deficiencies, and vulnerabilities with respect to which reports have been submitted under such section 2105;

(ii) evaluates the efforts of the Secretary in addressing the problems, deficiencies, and vulnerabilities described in subsection (a)(1) of such section 2105; and

(iii) evaluates the efforts of the Secretary to inform individuals of their rights, as required under subsection (c) of such section 2105.

(D) THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Comptroller General submits the second report required under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress the third report under subparagraph (A), which shall include an assessment of—

(i) the expedited approval program authorized under section 2102(c)(4) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2; and

(ii) the report on the expedited approval program submitted by the Secretary under subparagraph (I)(ii) of such section 2102(c)(4).

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE; CONFORMING REPEAL.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–295; 120 Stat. 1388), is repealed as of the effective date of this Act.

SEC. 5. TERMINATION.

The authority provided under title XXI of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2(a), shall terminate on the date that is 4 years after the effective date of this Act.

SA 4001. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2952, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess the cybersecurity workforce of the Department of Homeland Security and develop a comprehensive workforce strategy, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term ''Cybersecurity Category'' means a position's or incumbent's primary work function involving cybersecurity, which is further defined by Specialty Area;

(2) the term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security;

(3) the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

(4) the term ''Specialty Area'' means any of the common types of cybersecurity work as recognized by the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education's National Cybersecurity Workforce Framework report.

SEC. 3. CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY.

(a) WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary shall assess the cybersecurity workforce of the Department.

(2) CONTENTS.—The assessment required under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum—

(A) an assessment of the readiness and capacity of the workforce of the Department to meet its cybersecurity mission;

(B) information on where cybersecurity workforce positions are located within the Department;

(C) information on which cybersecurity workforce positions are—

(i) performed by—

(I) permanent full-time equivalent employees of the Department, including, to the greatest extent practicable, demographic information about such employees;

(II) independent contractors; and

(III) individuals employed by other Federal agencies, including the National Security Agency; or

(ii) vacant; and

(D) information on—

(i) the percentage of individuals within each Cybersecurity Category and Specialty Area who received essential training to perform their jobs; and

(ii) in cases in which such essential training was not received, what challenges, if any, were encountered with respect to the provision of such essential training.

(b) WORKFORCE STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, develop a comprehensive workforce strategy to enhance the readiness, capacity, training, recruitment, and retention of the cybersecurity workforce of the Department; and

(B) maintain and, as necessary, update the comprehensive workforce strategy developed under subparagraph (A).

(2) CONTENTS.—The comprehensive workforce strategy developed under paragraph (1) shall include a description of—

(A) a multi-phased recruitment plan, including with respect to experienced professionals, members of disadvantaged or underserved communities, the unemployed, and veterans;

(B) a 5-year implementation plan;

(C) a 10-year projection of the cybersecurity workforce needs of the Department;

(D) any obstacle impeding the hiring and development of a cybersecurity workforce in the Department; and

(E) any gap in the existing cybersecurity workforce of the Department and a plan to fill any such gap.

(c) UPDATES.—The Secretary submit to the appropriate congressional committees annual updates on—

(1) the cybersecurity workforce assessment required under subsection (a); and

(2) the progress of the Secretary in carrying out the comprehensive workforce strategy required to be developed under subsection (b).

SEC. 4. CYBERSECURITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the feasibility, cost, and benefits of establishing a Cybersecurity Fellowship Program to offer a tuition payment plan for individuals pursuing undergraduate and doctoral degrees who agree to work for the Department for an agreed-upon period of time.

SA 4002. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2952, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess the cybersecurity workforce of the Department of Homeland Security and develop a comprehensive workforce strategy, and for other purposes; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: ''To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess the cybersecurity workforce of the Department of Homeland Security and develop a comprehensive workforce strategy, and for other purposes.''.

SA 4003. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 30___. DEFERRED MAINTENANCE BACKLOG ON FEDERAL LAND.

Section 7(a) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460*l*–9(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) To address the maintenance backlog on Federal land.''.

SA 4004. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 30____. ELIGIBILITY FOR PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES.

Any land designated as a unit of the National Park System or a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System under this title shall not be subject to chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code.

SA 4005. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 30___. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR FEDERAL LAND ACQUISITION.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act (or an amendment made by this Act) may be obligated or expended to establish a new unit of the National Park System or to acquire Federal land until the date on which the Secretary of the Interior certifies that the maintenance backlog on Federal land has declined for at least 2 consecutive years.

SA 4006. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION E—EFFECT OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS

SEC. 5001. SEALASKA LAND ENTITLEMENT FINALIZATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3002 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5002. BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3031 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5003. COLTSVILLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3032 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5004. FIRST STATE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3033 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5005. HINCHLIFFE STADIUM ADDITION TO PATERSON GREAT FALLS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3037 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5006. MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3039 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5007. VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE, NEW MEXICO.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3043 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5008. VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3044 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5009. REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3050 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5010. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDIES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3051 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5011. NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS AND CORRIDORS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3052 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5012. COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3056 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5013. ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS ADDITIONS AND PRATT AND MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE RIVERS PROTECTION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3060 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5014. COLUMBINE-HONDO WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3061 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5015. HERMOSA CREEK WATERSHED PROTECTION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3062 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5016. NORTH FORK FEDERAL LANDS WITHDRAWAL AREA.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3063 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5017. PINE FOREST RANGE WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3064 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5018. ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AREA AND WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3065 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5019. WOVOKA WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3066 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5020. WITHDRAWAL AREA RELATED TO WOVOKA WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3067 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5021. ILLABOT CREEK, WASHINGTON, WILD AND SCENIC RIVER.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3071 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5022. MISSISQUOI AND TROUT WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS, VERMONT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3072 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5023. WHITE CLAY CREEK WILD AND SCENIC RIVER EXPANSION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3073 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5024. STUDIES OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3074 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5025. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES RELATED TO LAS VEGAS VALLEY PUBLIC LAND AND TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3092 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5026. REFINANCING OF PACIFIC COAST GROUNDFISH FISHING CAPACITY REDUCTION LOAN.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3095 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5027. PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3096 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4007. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. CRITERIA FOR OCO FUNDING REQUESTS.

(a) CERTIFICATION BY DIRECTOR OF OMB.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any request of the President for funds for overseas contingency operations to be carried out by the Armed Forces (including any request for supplemental funding for a fiscal year for such purpose) shall include, for each program, project, activity, or other item for which funds are so requested, a certification by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget whether such program, project, activity, or item meets one or more of the criteria specified in paragraph (3).

(2) SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION.—Each certification under paragraph (1) for a program, project, activity, or item that meets more than one of the criteria specified in paragraph (3) shall specify each of the criteria which such program, project, activity, or item meets.

(3) CRITERIA.—The criteria specified in this paragraph are as follows:

(A) MAJOR EQUIPMENT.—That the program, project, activity, or item is for major equipment as follows:

(i) Replacement of loses that have occurred, other than—

(I) items already programmed for replacement in the future-years defense program; and

(II) accelerations of replacements.

(ii) Replacement or repair to original capability (to upgraded capability if currently available) of equipment returning from a theater operations—

(I) including replacement by a similar end item if the original item is no longer in production; but

(II) excluding incremental cost of non-war related upgrades.

(iii) Procurement of specialized, theater-specific equipment.

(B) GROUND EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT.—That the program, project, activity, or item is for replacement of ground equipment as follows:

(i) Replacement of combat losses and returning equipment that is not economical to repair, including replacement of equipment to be given to coalition partners.

(ii) Replacement of in-theater stocks above customary equipping levels, if jointly determined by the Director and the Secretary of Defense to be consistent with the purposes of certification under paragraph (1).

(C) EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS.—That the program, project, activity, or item is for operationally-required modifications to equipment used in a theater of operations or in direct support of combat operations, other than modifications already programmed in the future-years defense program.

(D) MUNITIONS.—That the program, project, activity, or item is for munitions as follows:

(i) Replenishment of munitions expended in combat operations in a theater of operations.

(ii) Procurement of training ammunition for training events unique to a theater of operations.

(iii) Anticipated procurement of munitions where existing stocks are insufficient to sustain combat operations in a theater of operations, if jointly determined by the Director and the Secretary to be consistent with the purposes of certification under paragraph (1).

(E) AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT.—That the program, project, activity, or item is for replacement of aircraft as follows:

(i) Replacement of combat losses by accident that occur in a theater of operations.

(ii) Replacement of combat losses by enemy action that occur in a theater of operations.

(F) MILITARY CONSTRUCTION.—That the program, project, activity, or item is for military construction as follows:

(i) Construction of facilities and infrastructure in a theater of operations in direct support of combat operations.

(ii) Construction at non-enduring locations of facilities, and infrastructure for temporary use.

(iii) Construction at enduring locations of facilities and infrastructure for temporary use.

(iv) Construction an enduring locations for surge operations or major changes in operational requirements, if jointly determined by the Director and the Secretary to be consistent with the purposes of certification under paragraph (1).

(G) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—That the program, project, activity, or item is for research and development for combat operations that can be delivered in 12 months.

(H) OPERATIONS.—That the item is for operations as follows:

(i) Direct war costs, including the following:

(I) Transport of personnel, equipment, and supplies to, from, and within a theater of operations.

(II) Deployment-specific training and preparation for units and personnel (whether military or civilian) to assume their directed missions as defined in the orders for deployment into a theater of operations.

(ii) Within a theater of operations, incremental costs for purposes as follows:

(I) To support commanders in the conduct of their directed missions (including Emergency Response Programs).

(II) To build and maintain temporary facilities.

(III) To provide food, fuel, supplies, contracted services and other support.

(IV) To cover the operational costs of coalition partners supporting military missions of the United States Armed Forces.

(iii) Indirect war costs incurred outside a theater of operations, if jointly determined by the Director and the Secretary to be consistent with the purposes of certification under paragraph (1).

(I) HEALTH CARE.—That the program, project, activity, or item is for health care as follows:

(i) Provision of short-term care directly related to combat.

(ii) Procurement of infrastructure that is only to be used during the current conflict.

(J) PERSONNEL.—That the item is for pay and allowances for members of the Armed Forces as follows:

(i) Payment of incremental special pays and allowances for members of the Armed Forces and civilians deployed to a combat zone.

(ii) Payment of incremental pay, special pays, and allowances for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are mobilized to support war missions.

(K) SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND.—That the program, project, activity, or item is for the United States Special Operations Command as follows:

(i) Operations certifiable under another subparagraph of this paragraph.

(ii) Equipment certifiable under another subparagraph of this paragraph.

(L) PREPOSITIONED SUPPLIED AND EQUIPMENT.—That the program, project, activity, or item is for procurement of prepositioned supplies and equipment for resetting in-theater stocks of supplies and equipment to preconflict levels.

(M) SECURITY FORCES.—That the program, project, activity, or item is for training, equipping, and sustaining military and police forces of countries in a theater of operations.

(N) FUEL.—That the program, project, activity, or item is for fuel as follows:

(i) Procurement of fuel for logistical support for combat operations.

(ii) Maintenance of Defense Working Capital Funds to cover seven-day disbursements for base fuel shortfalls attributable to fuel price increases.

(b) SENATE POINT OF ORDER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the Senate, it shall not be in order to consider any appropriations legislation, including any amendment thereto, motion in relation thereto, or conference report thereon, that includes amounts designated for overseas contingency operations unless such amounts are for a program, project, activity, or other item that meets one or more of the criteria specified in subsection (a)(3).

(2) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—

(A) WAIVER.—In the Senate, paragraph (1) may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(B) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under paragraph (1).

(c) ADJUSTMENTS TO DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.—Notwithstanding section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)), if, for any fiscal year, appropriations for discretionary accounts are enacted that the Congress designates for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism, the adjustment to discretionary spending limits under such section 251(b)(2)(A) for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism shall be the total of only such appropriations in discretionary accounts that are certified by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to be for a program, project, activity, or other item that meets one or more criteria specified in subsection (a)(3).

SA 4008. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the

Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. ___. INSTALLATION RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT DATABASE.

(a) LIMITATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a searchable database to uniformly report information regarding installation renewable energy projects undertaken since 2010.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The database established under subsection (a) shall include, for each installation energy project—

(1) the estimated project costs;

(2) estimated power generation;

(3) estimated total cost savings;

(4) estimated payback period;

(5) total project costs;

(6) actual power generation;

(7) actual cost savings to date;

(8) current operational status; and

(9) access to relevant business case documents, including the economic viability assessment.

(c) UPDATES.—The database established under subsection (a) shall be updated not less than quarterly.

SA 4009. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VIII, insert the following:

SEC. ___. ENHANCED WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION FOR CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES.

(a) PROHIBITION ON PREVENTION OF WHISTLEBLOWER DISCLOSURES.—

(1) DEFENSE CONTRACTS.—Section 2409(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing'' and inserting ''may not be prohibited in any way from, or discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for, disclosing''.

(2) CIVILIAN CONTRACTS.—Section 4705(b) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking ''may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing'' and inserting ''may not be prohibited in any way from, or discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for, disclosing''.

(b) CONTRACT CLAUSE REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulation and the Defense Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be amended to require that any contract entered into after such date by an executive agency, and any subcontract at any tier, include the following clause: ''The contractor shall not enter into any agreement with an employee performing work under this contract that would prohibit that employee from disclosing information as described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 2409(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code or section 4705(b) of title 41, United States Code, to officials described in such sections.''.

(2) EXECUTIVE AGENCY DEFINED.—The term ''executive agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

SA 4010. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE _____—AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SEC. ___01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Audit the Pentagon Act of 2014''.

SEC. ___02. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Section 9 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States requires all agencies of the Federal Government, including the Department of Defense, to publish ''a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money''.

(2) Section 3515 of title 31, United States Code, requires the agencies of the Federal Government, including the Department of Defense, to present auditable financial statements beginning not later than March 1, 1997. The Department has not complied with this law.

(3) The Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 3512 note) requires financial systems acquired by the Federal Government, including the Department of Defense, to be able to provide information to leaders to manage and control the cost of Government. The Department has not complied with this law.

(4) The financial management of the Department of Defense has been on the ''High-Risk'' list of the Government Accountability Office, which means that the Department is not consistently able to ''control costs; ensure basic accountability; anticipate future costs and claims on the budget; measure performance; maintain funds control; [and] prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse''.

(5) The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107–107) requires the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress annually on the reliability of the financial statements of the Department of Defense, to minimize resources spent on producing unreliable financial statements, and to use resources saved to improve financial management policies, procedures, and internal controls.

(6) In 2005, the Department of Defense created a Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) Plan, overseen by a directorate within the office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), to improve Department business processes with the goal of producing timely, reliable, and accurate financial information that could generate an audit-ready annual financial statement. In December 2005, that directorate, known as the FIAR Directorate, issued the first of a series of semiannual reports on the status of the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness Plan.

(7) The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84) requires regular status reports on the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness Plan described in paragraph (6), and codified as a statutory requirement the goal of the Plan in ensuring that Department of Defense financial statements are validated as ready for audit not later than September 30, 2017. In addition, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239) requires that the statement of budgetary resources of the Department of Defense be validated as ready for audit by not later than September 30, 2014.

(8) At a September 2010 hearing of the Senate, the Government Accountability Office stated that past expenditures by the Department of Defense of $5,800,000,000 to improve financial information, and billions of dollars more of anticipated expenditures on new information technology systems for that purpose, may not suffice to achieve full audit readiness of the financial statement of the Department. At that hearing, the Government Accountability Office could not predict when the Department would achieve full audit readiness of such statements.

(9) At a 2013 hearing of the Senate, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel affirmed his commitment to audit-ready budget statements for the Department of Defense by the end of 2014, and stated that he ''will do everything he can to fulfill this commitment''. At that hearing, Secretary Hagel noted that auditable financial statements were essential to the Department not only for improving the quality of its financial information, but also for reassuring the public and Congress that it is a good steward of public funds.

SEC. ___03. CESSATION OF APPLICABILITY OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) CESSATION OF APPLICABILITY.—

(1) MILITARY DEPARTMENTS.—The financial statements of a military department shall cease to be covered by the reporting requirements specified in subsection (b) upon the issuance of an unqualified audit opinion on such financial statements.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—The reporting requirements specified in subsection (b) shall cease to be effective when an unqualified audit opinion is issued on the financial statements of the Department of Defense, including each of the military departments and the other reporting entities defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The reporting requirements specified in this subsection are the following:

(1) The requirement for annual reports in section 892(b) of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111–383; 124 Stat. 4311; 10 U.S.C. 2306a note).

(2) The requirement for semi-annual reports in section 1003(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2440; 10 U.S.C. 2222 note).

(3) The requirement for annual reports in section 817(d) of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (10 U.S.C. 2306a note).

(4) The requirement for annual reports in section 1008(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107–107; 115 Stat. 1204; 10 U.S.C. 113 note).

(5) The requirement for periodic reports in section 908(b) of the Defense Acquisition Improvement Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–500; 100 Stat. 1783–140; 10 U.S.C. 2326 note) and duplicate requirements as provided for in section 6 of the Defense Technical Corrections Act of

1987 (Public Law 100–26; 101 Stat. 274; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note).

SEC. ___04. ENHANCED REPROGRAMMING AUTHORITY FOLLOWING ACHIEVEMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND MILITARY DEPARTMENTS OF AUDIT WITH UNQUALIFIED OPINION OF STATEMENT OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES FOR FISCAL YEARS AFTER FISCAL YEAR 2014.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE GENERALLY.—Subject to section ___06(1), if the Department of Defense obtains an audit with an unqualified opinion on its statement of budgetary resources for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2014, the limitation on the total amount of authorizations that the Secretary of Defense may transfer pursuant to general transfer authority available to the Secretary in the national interest in the succeeding fiscal year shall be $8,000,000,000.

(b) MILITARY DEPARTMENTS, DEFENSE AGENCIES, AND DEFENSE FIELD ACTIVITIES.—Subject to section ___07(a), if a military department, Defense Agency, or defense field activity obtains an audit with an unqualified opinion on its statement of budgetary resources for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2014, the thresholds for reprogramming of funds of such military department, Defense Agency, or defense field activity, as the case may be, without prior notice to Congress for the succeeding fiscal year shall be deemed to be the thresholds as follows:

(1) In the case of an increase or decrease to the program base amount for a procurement program, $60,000,000.

(2) In the case of an increase or decrease to the program base amount for a research program, $30,000,000.

(3) In the case of an increase or decrease to the amount for a budget activity for operation and maintenance, $45,000,000.

(4) In the case of an increase or decrease to the amount for a budget activity for military personnel, $30,000,000.

(c) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or revise any requirement (other than a threshold amount) for notice to Congress on transfers covered by subsection (a) or reprogrammings covered by subsection (b) under any other provision of law.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''program base amount'', ''procurement program'', ''research program'', and ''budget activity'' have the meanings given such terms in chapter 6 of volume 3 of the Financial Management Regulation of the Department of Defense (DoD 7000.14R), dated March 2011, or any successor document.

SEC. ___05. FAILURE TO OBTAIN AUDITS WITH UNQUALIFIED OPINION OF FISCAL YEAR 2015 GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Department of Defense fails to obtain an audit with an unqualified opinion on its general fund statement of budgetary resources for fiscal year 2015 by December 31, 2015, the following shall take effect on January 1, 2016:

(1) ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF USD (COMPTROLLER).—

(A) QUALIFICATIONS.—Any individual nominated for appointment to the position of Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) under section 135 of title 10, United States Code, shall be an individual who has served—

(i) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a Federal or State agency that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such agency's financial statements during the time of such individual's service; or

(ii) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a public company that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such company's financial statements during the time of such individual's service.

(B) DUTIES AND POWERS.—The duties and powers of the individual serving as Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) shall include, in addition to the duties and powers specified in section 135(c) of title 10, United States Code, such duties and powers with respect to the financial management of the Department of Defense as the Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting in the capacity of Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense) or a successor official in the Department of Defense (acting in such capacity) may prescribe.

(2) ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASA FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.—

(A) QUALIFICATIONS.—Any individual nominated for appointment to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management under section 3016 of title 10, United States Code, shall be an individual who has served—

(i) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a Federal or State agency that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such agency's financial statements during the time of such individual's service; or

(ii) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a public company that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such company's financial statements during the time of such individual's service.

(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the individual serving as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management shall include, in addition to the responsibilities specified in section 3016(b)(4) of title 10, United States Code, such responsibilities as the Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting in the capacity of Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense) or a successor official in the Department of Defense (acting in such capacity) may prescribe.

(3) ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASN FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.—

(A) QUALIFICATIONS.—Any individual nominated for appointment to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management under section 5016 of title 10, United States Code, shall be an individual who has served—

(i) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a Federal or State agency that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such agency's financial statements during the time of such individual's service; or

(ii) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a public company that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such company's financial statements during the time of such individual's service.

(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the individual serving as Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management shall include, in addition to the responsibilities specified in section 5016(b)(4) of title 10, United States Code, such responsibilities as the Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting in the capacity of Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense) or a successor official in the Department of Defense (acting in such capacity) may prescribe.

(4) ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASAF FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.—

(A) QUALIFICATIONS.—Any individual nominated for appointment to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management under section 8016 of title 10, United States Code, shall be an individual who has served—

(i) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a Federal or State agency that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such agency's financial statements during the time of such individual's service; or

(ii) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a public company that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such company's financial statements during the time of such individual's service.

(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the individual serving as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management shall include, in addition to the responsibilities specified in section 8016(b)(4) of title 10, United States Code, such responsibilities as the Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting in the capacity of Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense) or a successor official in the Department of Defense (acting in such capacity) may prescribe.

(b) PUBLIC COMPANY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''public company'' has the meaning given the term ''issuer'' in section 2(a)(7) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 7201(a)(7)).

SEC. ___06. FAILURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO OBTAIN AUDITS WITH UNQUALIFIED OPINION OF FISCAL YEAR 2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

If the Department of Defense fails to obtain an audit with an unqualified opinion on its general fund statement of budgetary resources for fiscal year 2018 by December 31, 2018:

(1) PERMANENT CESSATION OF ENHANCED GENERAL TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—Effective as of January 1, 2019, the authority in section ___04(a) shall cease to be available to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2018 and any fiscal year thereafter.

(2) REORGANIZATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER.—Effective as of April 1, 2019:

(A) POSITION OF CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER.—Section 132a of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 132a. Chief Management Officer

''(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) There is a Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, appointed from civilian life by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

''(2) Any individual nominated for appointment as Chief Management Officer shall be an individual who has—

''(A) extensive executive level leadership and management experience in the public or private sector;

''(B) strong leadership skills;

''(C) a demonstrated ability to manage large and complex organizations; and

''(D) a proven record in achieving positive operational results.

''(b) POWERS AND DUTIES.—The Chief Management Officer shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe.

''(c) SERVICE AS CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER.—(1) The Chief Management Officer is the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.

''(2) In serving as the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, the Chief Management Officer shall be responsible for the management and administration of the Department of Defense with respect to the following:

''(A) The expenditure of funds, accounting, and finance.

''(B) Procurement, including procurement of any enterprise resource planning (ERP) system and any information technology (IT) system that is a financial feeder system, human resources system, or logistics system.

''(C) Facilities, property, nonmilitary equipment, and other resources.

''(D) Strategic planning, annual performance planning, and identification and tracking of performance measures.

''(E) Internal audits and management analyses of the programs and activities of the Department, including the Defense Contract Audit Agency.

''(F) Such other areas or matters as the Secretary of Defense may designate.

''(3) The head of the Defense Contract Audit Agency shall be under the supervision of, and shall report directly to, the Chief Management Officer.

''(d) PRECEDENCE.—The Chief Management Officer takes precedence in the Department of Defense after the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense.''.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(i) Section 131(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(I) by striking paragraph (3);

(II) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(III) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

''(2) The Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.''.

(ii) Section 132 of such title is amended—

(I) by striking subsection (c); and

(II) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

(iii) Section 133(e)(1) of such title is amended by striking ''and the Deputy Secretary of Defense'' and inserting '', the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense''.

(iv) Such title is further amended by inserting ''the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense,'' after ''the Deputy Secretary of Defense,'' each place it appears in the provisions as follows:

(I) Section 133(e)(2).

(II) Section 134(c).

(v) Section 137a(d) of such title is amended by striking ''the Secretaries of the military departments,'' and all that follows and inserting ''the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, the Secretaries of the military departments, and the Under Secretaries of Defense.''.

(vi) Section 138(d) of such title is amended by striking ''the Secretaries of the military departments,'' and all that follows through the period and inserting ''the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, the Secretaries of the military departments, the Under Secretaries of Defense, and the Director of Defense Research and Engineering.''.

(C) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 4 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 132a and inserting the following new item:

''132a. Chief Management Officer.''.

(D) EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE.—Section 5313 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.''.

(E) REFERENCE IN LAW.—Any reference in any provision of law to the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense shall be deemed to refer to the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense under section 132a of title 10, United States Code (as amended by this paragraph).

(3) JURISDICTION OF DFAS.—Effective as of April 1, 2019:

(A) TRANSFER TO DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.—Jurisdiction of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) is transferred from the Department of Defense to the Department of the Treasury.

(B) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall administer the Defense Finance and Accounting Service following transfer under this paragraph through the Financial Management Service of the Department of the Treasury.

(C) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Treasury shall jointly enter into a memorandum of understanding regarding the transfer of jurisdiction of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service under this paragraph. The memorandum of understanding shall provide for the transfer of the personnel and other resources of the Service to the Department of the Treasury and for the assumption of responsibility for such personnel and resources by the Department of the Treasury.

(D) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as terminating, altering, or revising any responsibilities or authorities of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (other than responsibilities and authorities in connection with the exercise of jurisdiction of the Service following transfer under this paragraph).

SEC. ____07. FAILURE OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS TO OBTAIN AUDITS WITH UNQUALIFIED OPINION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS AFTER FISCAL YEAR 2018.

(a) PERMANENT CESSATION OF AUTHORITIES ON REPROGRAMMING OF FUNDS.—If a military department fails to obtain an audit with an unqualified opinion on its financial statements for fiscal year 2018 by December 31, 2018, effective as of January 1, 2019, the authorities in section ____04(b) shall cease to be available to the military department for fiscal year 2018 and any fiscal year thereafter.

(b) ANNUAL PROHIBITION ON EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN MDAPS PAST MILESTONE B IN CONNECTION WITH FAILURE.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—Effective for fiscal years after fiscal year 2017, if a military department fails to obtain an audit with an unqualified opinion on its financial statements for any fiscal year, effective as of the date of the issuance of the opinion on such audit, amounts available to the military department for the following fiscal year may not be obligated by the military department for a weapon or weapon system or platform being acquired as a major defense acquisition program for any activity beyond Milestone B approval unless such program has already achieved Milestone B approval of the date of the issuance of the opinion on such audit.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) The term ''major defense acquisition program'' has the meaning given that term in section 2430 of title 10, United States Code.

(B) The term ''Milestone B approval'' has the meaning given that term in section 2366(e)(7) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. ____08. ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING.

The Secretary of Defense shall amend the acquisition guidance of the Department of Defense to provide for the following:

(1) The Defense Business System Management Committee may not approve procurement of any Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) business system that is independently estimated to take longer than three years to procure from initial obligation of funds to full deployment and sustainment.

(2) Any contract for the acquisition of an Enterprise Resource Planning business system shall include a provision authorizing termination of the contract at no cost to the Government if procurement of the system takes longer than three years from initial obligation of funds to full deployment and sustainment.

(3) Any implementation of an Enterprise Resource Planning system shall comply with each of the following:

(A) The current Business Enterprise Architecture established by the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.

(B) The provisions of section 2222 of title 10, United States Code.

(4) The Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting in the capacity of Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense) or a successor official in the Department of Defense (acting in such capacity) shall have the authority to replace any program manager (whether in a military department or a Defense Agency) for the procurement of an Enterprise Resource Planning business system if procurement of the system takes longer than three years from initial obligation of funds to full deployment and sustainment.

(5) Any integrator contract for the implementation of an Enterprise Resource Planning business system shall only be awarded to companies that have a history of successful implementation of other Enterprise Resource Planning business systems for the Federal Government (whether with the Department of Defense or another department or agency of the Federal Government), including meeting cost and schedule goals.

SA 4011. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON EMPLOYMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF INDIVIDUALS AND CONTRACTORS WITH SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBTS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—An individual or contractor with a seriously delinquent tax debt may not be appointed to, or continue serving in, a position within or funded by the Department of Defense.

(b) SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''seriously delinquent tax debt'' means an outstanding debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for which a notice of lien has been filed in public records pursuant to section 6323 of such Code, except that such term does not include—

(1) a debt that is being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement under section 6159 or section 7122 of such Code; and

(2) a debt with respect to which a collection due process hearing under section 6330 of such Code, or relief under subsection (a), (b), or (f) of section 6015 of such Code, is requested or pending.

SA 4012. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. CONSOLIDATION OF DUPLICATIVE AND OVERLAPPING AGENCIES, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the heads of other departments and agencies of the Federal Government—

(1) use available administrative authority to eliminate, consolidate, or streamline Government agencies, programs, and activities with duplicative and overlapping missions as identified in Government Accountability Office reports on duplication and overlap in Government programs;

(2) identify and submit to Congress a report setting the legislative action required to further eliminate, consolidate, or streamline Government agencies, programs, and activities with duplicative and overlapping missions as identified in the reports referred to in paragraph (1); and

(3) determine the total cost savings that—

(A) will accrue to each department, agency, and office effected by an action under paragraph (1) as a result of the actions taken under that paragraph; and

(B) could accrue to each department, agency, and office effected by an action under paragraph (2) as a result of the actions proposed to be taken under that paragraph using the legislative authority set forth under that paragraph.

SA 4013. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. TERMINATION OF US FAMILY HEALTH PLAN.

(a) TERMINATION.—The US Family Health Plan (USFHP) is hereby terminated.

(b) WIND-UP OF ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Defense shall take appropriate actions to wind up the activities of the US Family Health Plan as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 4014. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. DATABASE ON PATIENT SAFETY, QUALITY OF CARE, AND OUTCOME MEASURES REGARDING HEALTH CARE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE DATABASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall develop and make available to the public a comprehensive database containing all applicable patient safety, quality of care, and outcome measures for health care provided by the Department of Defense that are tracked by the Secretary.

(2) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall update the database required by paragraph (1) not less frequently than once every six months.

(3) UNAVAILABLE MEASURES.—For any measure that the Secretary would otherwise publish in the database required by paragraph (1) but has not done so because such measure is not available, the Secretary shall publish notice in the database of the reason for such unavailability and a timeline for making such measure available in the database.

(4) ACCESSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that the database required by paragraph (1) is accessible to the public through the primary Internet website of the Department and through each primary Internet website of a Department medical center.

(b) SHARING OF INFORMATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT MEDICAL CENTERS AND DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY.—The Secretary of Defense shall take appropriate actions to facilitate and enhance sharing between the medical centers of the Department of Defense and the Defense Health Agency on information on patient safety, quality of care, and outcomes for health care provided by such medical centers, including information obtained through the measures developed pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) HOSPITAL COMPARE WEBSITE OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—

(1) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the provision by the Secretary of Defense of such information as the Secretary of Health and Human Services may require to report and make publicly available patient quality and outcome information concerning Department of Defense medical centers through the Hospital Compare Internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services or any successor Internet website.

(2) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—The information provided by the Secretary of Defense to the Secretary of Health and Human Services under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Measures of timely and effective health care.

(B) Measures of readmissions, complications of death, including with respect to 30-day mortality rates and 30-day readmission rates, surgical complication measures, and health care related infection measures.

(C) Survey data of patient experiences, including the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems or any similar successor survey developed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

(D) Any other measures required of or reported with respect to hospitals participating in the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

(3) UNAVAILABLE INFORMATION.—For any applicable metric collected by the Department of Defense or required to be provided under paragraph (2) and withheld from or unavailable in the Hospital Compare Internet website or successor Internet website, the Secretary of Defense shall publish a notice on such Internet website stating the reason why such metric was withheld from public disclosure and a timeline for making such metric available, if applicable.

(d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SAFETY AND QUALITY METRICS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the safety and quality metrics made publicly available by the Secretary of Defense under this section to assess the degree to which the Secretary is complying with the provisions of this section.

SA 4015. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. LIMITATION ON GOVERNMENT AGENCY EXPENDITURES ON CONFERENCES.

(a) CONFERENCE LIMITATIONS.—

(1) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT EXPENDED ON A CONFERENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—No agency may expend more than $500,000 to support a single conference, unless the head of the agency and the Chief Financial Officer of the agency submits to Congress before the conference a written certification that the conference is in the national interest, which shall include—

(i) an estimate of the total cost of the conference;

(ii) the dates of the conference;

(iii) an estimate of the number of full-time equivalent employees attending the conference;

(iv) any costs associated with planning for the conference; and

(v) an explanation of how the conference advances the mission of the agency.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to preclude an agency from receiving financial support or other assistance from a foundation or other non-Federal source to pay or defray the costs of a conference.

(2) LIMITATION ON CONFERENCE POLICIES.—An agency may not establish or implement a policy that discourages or prohibits the selection of a location for travel, an event, a meeting, or a conference because the location is perceived to be a resort or vacation destination.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''agency'' has the meaning given that term under section 5701(1) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) the term ''conference'' means a meeting, retreat, seminar, symposium, or event that involves attendee travel.

SA 4016. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PROHIBITION ON ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SPONSORSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT OR MOTOR SPORTS.

Section 503(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) Recruiting and advertising campaigns authorized by paragraphs (1) and (2) or by any other provision of law, including section 561(b) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001

(as enacted into law by Public Law 106–398; 10 U.S.C. 503 note), for the purposes of branding or marketing of, or promoting enlistment in, the Army National Guard may not include payments for professional wrestling entertainment sponsorships or motor sports sponsorships. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit recruiters from making direct, personal contact with secondary school students and other prospective recruits.''.

SA 4017. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1212. INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to provide defense articles, defense services, and training to the Government of Ukraine for the purpose of countering offensive weapons and reestablishing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including anti-tank and anti-armor weapons, crew weapons and ammunition, counter-artillery radars to identify and target artillery batteries, fire control, range finder, and optical and guidance and control equipment, tactical troop-operated surveillance drones, and secure command and communications equipment, pursuant to the provisions of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), and other relevant provisions of law.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) a detailed description of the anticipated defense articles, defense services, and training to be provided pursuant to this section;

(2) a timeline for the provision of such defense articles, defense services, and training; and

(3) a list of defense articles, defense services, and training authorized to be provided by subsection (a) that have been requested by the Government of Ukraine but are not being provided and an explanation with respect to why such defense articles, defense services, and training are not being provided.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State $350,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 to carry out activities under this section.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall remain available for obligation and expenditure through the end of fiscal year 2017.

(d) AUTHORITY FOR THE USE OF FUNDS.—The funds made available pursuant to subsection (c) for provision of defense articles, defense services, and training may be used to procure such articles, services, and training from the United States Government or other appropriate sources.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) DEFENSE ARTICLE; DEFENSE SERVICE; TRAINING.—The terms ''defense article'', ''defense service'', and ''training'' have the meanings given those terms in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794).

SA 4018. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Palestinian Authority Reform

SEC. 1281. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Palestinian and United Nations Anti-Terrorism Act of 2014''.

SEC. 1282. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On April 23, 2014, representatives of the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Hamas, a designated terrorist organization, signed an agreement to form a government of national consensus.

(2) On June 2, 2014, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas announced a unity government as a result of the April 23, 2014, agreement.

(3) United States law requires that any Palestinian government that ''includes Hamas as a member'', or over which Hamas exercises ''undue influence'', only receive United States assistance if certain certifications are made to Congress.

(4) The President has taken the position that the current Palestinian government does not include members of Hamas or is influenced by Hamas and has thus not made the certifications required under current law.

(5) The leadership of the Palestinian Authority has failed to completely denounce and distance itself from Hamas' campaign of terrorism against Israel.

(6) President Abbas has refused to dissolve the power-sharing agreement with Hamas even as more than 2,300 rockets have targeted Israel since July 2, 2014.

(7) President Abbas and other Palestinian Authority officials have failed to condemn Hamas' extensive use of the Palestinian people as human shields.

(8) The Israeli Defense Forces have gone to unprecedented lengths for a modern military to limit civilian casualties.

(9) On July 23, 2014, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a one-sided resolution criticizing Israel's ongoing military operations in Gaza.

(10) The United Nations Human Rights Council has a long history of taking anti-Israel actions while ignoring the widespread and egregious human rights violations of many other countries, including some of its own members.

(11) On July 16, 2014, officials of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) discovered 20 rockets in one of the organization's schools in Gaza, before returning the weapons to local Palestinian officials rather than dismantling them.

(12) On multiple occasions during the conflict in Gaza, Hamas has used the facilities and the areas surrounding UNRWA locations to store weapons, harbor their fighters, and conduct attacks.

SEC. 1283. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to deny United States assistance to any entity or international organization that harbors or collaborates with Hamas, a designated terrorist organization, until Hamas agrees to recognize Israel, renounces violence, disarms, and accepts prior Israeli-Palestinian agreements;

(2) to seek a negotiated settlement of this conflict only under the condition that Hamas and any United States-designated terrorist groups are required to entirely disarm; and

(3) to continue to provide security assistance to the Government of Israel to assist its efforts to defend its territory and people from rockets, missiles, and other threats.

SEC. 1284. RESTRICTIONS ON AID TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.

For purposes of section 620K of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378b), any power-sharing government, including the current government, formed in connection with the agreement signed on April 23, 2014, between the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Hamas is considered a ''Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority''.

SEC. 1285. REFORM OF UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Until the Secretary of State submits to the appropriate congressional committees a certification that the requirements described in subsection (b) have been satisfied—

(1) the United States contribution to the regular budget of the United Nations shall be reduced by an amount equal to the percentage of such contribution that the Secretary determines would be allocated by the United Nations to support the United Nations Human Rights Council or any of its Special Procedures;

(2) the Secretary shall not make a voluntary contribution to the United Nations Human Rights Council; and

(3) the United States shall not run for a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—The annual certification referred to in subsection (a) is a certification made by the Secretary of State to Congress that the United Nations Human Rights Council's agenda does not include a permanent item related to the State of Israel or the Palestinian territories.

(c) REVERSION OF FUNDS.—Funds appropriated and available for a United States contribution to the United Nations but withheld from obligation and expenditure pursuant to this section shall immediately revert to the United States Treasury and the United States Government shall not consider them arrears to be repaid to any United Nations entity.

SEC. 1286. UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA).

Section 301(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2221(c)) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) PALESTINE REFUGEES; CONSIDERATIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR FURNISHING ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—No contributions by the United States to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for programs in the West Bank and Gaza, a successor entity or any related entity, or to the regular budget of the United Nations for the support of

UNRWA or a successor entity for programs in the West Bank and Gaza, may be provided until the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

''(A) no official, employee, consultant, contractor, subcontractor, representative, or affiliate of UNRWA—

''(i) is a member of Hamas or any United States-designated terrorist group; or

''(ii) has propagated, disseminated, or incited anti-Israel, or anti-Semitic rhetoric or propaganda;

''(B) no UNRWA school, hospital, clinic, other facility, or other infrastructure or resource is being used by Hamas or an affiliated group for operations, planning, training, recruitment, fundraising, indoctrination, communications, sanctuary, storage of weapons or other materials, or any other purposes;

''(C) UNRWA is subject to comprehensive financial audits by an internationally recognized third party independent auditing firm and has implemented an effective system of vetting and oversight to prevent the use, receipt, or diversion of any UNRWA resources by Hamas or any United States-designated terrorist group, or their members; and

''(D) no recipient of UNRWA funds or loans is a member of Hamas or any United States-designated terrorist group.

''(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(A) the Committees on Foreign Relations, Appropriations, and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

''(B) the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Appropriations, and Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.''.

SEC. 1287. ISRAELI SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

The equivalent amount of all United States contributions withheld from the Palestinian Authority, the United Nations Human Rights Council, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East under this subtitle is authorized to be provided to—

(1) the Government of Israel for the Iron Dome missile defense system and other missile defense programs; and

(2) underground warfare training and technology and assistance to identify and deter tunneling from Palestinian-controlled territories into Israel.

SA 4019. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. 333. REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR LAUNCHES IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the requirements and investments needed to modernize Department of Defense space launch facilities and supporting infrastructure at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Vandenberg Air Force Base.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) The results of the investigation into the failure of the radar system supporting the Eastern range in March 2014, including the causes for the failure.

(2) An assessment of each current radar and other system as well as supporting infrastructure required to support the mission requirement of the range, including back-up systems.

(3) An estimate of the annual level of dedicated funding required to maintain and modernize the range infrastructure in adequate condition to meet national security requirements.

(4) A review of requirements to repair, upgrade, and modernize the radars and other mission support systems to current technologies.

(5) A prioritized list of projects, costs, and projected funding schedules needed to carry out the maintenance, repair, and modernization requirements.

SA 4020. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1080. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON BENEFITS OF USING SIMULATORS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The use of technologies such as virtual reality and modeling and simulation tools provides cutting-edge, cost-effective training and technology development for members of the Armed Forces.

(2) Leveraging such technologies is an especially relevant supplement to live training given the future of declining defense budgets.

(3) The implementation by the Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation of virtual reality centers is part of a coordinated effort to broaden the use of virtual training methods.

(4) Those centers use of a variety of training tools that give members of the Armed Forces and developers alike a realistic training experience that contributes to improved readiness and system effectiveness.

(5) Organizations like the United States Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation would benefit from increased utilization of virtual reality and modeling and simulations tools.

(6) Modeling and simulation tools can provide powerful planning and training capabilities to expose a member of the Armed Forces to the complexities and uncertainties of combat before ever leaving the member's home station. For example, the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division integrates the science of learning with performance-based training focused on improving the performance of members of the Army and Marine Corps and measures the effectiveness of such training. The Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division continually engages members of the Army and Marine Corps to understand challenges, solve problems, create new capabilities, and provide essential support.

(7) The use of simulation training has yielded military units that are better trained, more capable, and more confident when compared to units that do not have access to modern simulation training devices.

(8) Simulation training can be a cost-effective means for units to improve combat readiness and tactical decisionmaking skills and ultimately to save lives.

(9) The Department of Defense could meet the training challenges of the future in a fiscally austere environment by leveraging simulation training that uses simulators owned and operated by the Federal Government combined with simulation training services provided by universities and industry.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the use of simulators offers cost savings and provides members of the Armed Forces exceptional preparation for combat; and

(2) existing synergies between the Department of Defense and entities in the private sector should be maintained and cultivated to provide members of the Armed Forces with the best simulation experience possible.

SA 4021. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 601 and insert the following:

SEC. 601. FISCAL YEAR 2015 INCREASE IN MILITARY BASIC PAY.

(a) WAIVER OF SECTION 1009 ADJUSTMENT.—The adjustment to become effective during fiscal year 2015 required by section 1009 of title 37, United States Code, in the rates of monthly basic pay authorized members of the uniformed services shall not be made.

(b) INCREASE IN BASIC PAY.—Effective on January 1, 2015, the rates of monthly basic pay for members of the uniformed services are increased by 1.8 percent for enlisted member pay grades, warrant officer pay grades, and commissioned officer pay grades below pay grade O–7.

(c) APPLICATION OF EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE LEVEL II CEILING ON PAYABLE RATES FOR GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS.—Section 203(a)(2) of title 37, United States Code, shall be applied for rates of basic pay payable for commissioned officers in pay grades O–7 through O–10 during calendar year 2015 by using the rate of pay for level II of the Executive Schedule in effect during 2014.

(d) INCREASE IN AMOUNT FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL.—The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 by section 421 for military personnel is hereby increased by $600,000,000.

SA 4022. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 30____. PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES REFORM.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO PILT.—

(1) DEFINITION OF ENTITLEMENT LAND.—Section 6901(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''the National Park System or''; and

(B) in subparagraph (H), by inserting '', other than land that is a unit of the National Park System'' before the period at the end.

(2) ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS.—Section 6904(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) the United States acquired for the National Forest Wilderness Areas; and''.

(3) REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK.—Section 6905 of title 31, United States Code, is repealed.

(4) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 501 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (16 U.S.C. 471j) is amended by striking subsection (f).

(B) The chapter analysis for chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 6905.

(b) DEFERRED MAINTENANCE BACKLOG.—Any amounts saved as a result of the amendments made by subsection (a) shall be made available to the Secretary of the Interior, without further appropriation, to address the maintenance backlog on National Park System land.

SA 4023. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. ENSURING PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE SUMMIT OF RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN IN THE HANFORD REACH NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3081 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4024. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, CONVEYANCE OF REVERSIONARY INTERESTS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3082 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4025. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. RELEASE OF PROPERTY INTERESTS IN BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND CONVEYED TO THE STATE OF OREGON FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF HERMISTON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3083 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4026. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3087 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4027. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. TOLEDO BEND HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3088 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4028. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. EAST BENCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT CONTRACT EXTENSION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3089 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4029. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. COMMEMORATION OF CENTENNIAL OF WORLD WAR I.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3091 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4030. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES RELATED TO LAS VEGAS VALLEY PUBLIC LAND AND TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3092 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4031. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. NATIONAL DESERT STORM AND DESERT SHIELD MEMORIAL.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3093 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4032. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. EXTENSION OF LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMEMORATIVE WORK IN HONOR OF FORMER PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3094 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4033. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. REFINANCING OF PACIFIC COAST GROUNDFISH FISHING CAPACITY REDUCTION LOAN.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3095 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4034. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3096 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4035. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. ILLABOT CREEK, WASHINGTON, WILD AND SCENIC RIVER.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3071 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4036. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. MISSISQUOI AND TROUT WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS, VERMONT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3072 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4037. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. WHITE CLAY CREEK WILD AND SCENIC RIVER EXPANSION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3073 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4038. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. STUDIES OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3074 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4039. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR BENEFIT OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3077 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4040. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION, BADGER ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT, BARABOO, WISCONSIN.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3078 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4041. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5044. HERMOSA CREEK WATERSHED PROTECTION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3062 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4042. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5045. NORTH FORK FEDERAL LANDS WITHDRAWAL AREA.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3063 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4043. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. PINE FOREST RANGE WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3064 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4044. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AREA AND WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3065 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4045. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. WOVOKA WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3066 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4046. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient

Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. WITHDRAWAL AREA RELATED TO WOVOKA WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3067 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4047. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION OF ADDITIONAL PUBLIC LAND FOR NAVAL AIR WEAPONS STATION, CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3068 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4048. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5043. COLUMBINE-HONDO WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3061 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4049. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5037. NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE SUPPORT FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3053 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4050. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5038. NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3054 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4051. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5039. COIN TO COMMEMORATE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3055 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4052. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5040. COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3056 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4053. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5041. CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE RECREATIONAL AREA.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3057 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4054. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5042. ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS ADDITIONS AND PRATT AND MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE RIVERS PROTECTION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3060 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4055. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5031. SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3042 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4056. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5032. VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE, NEW MEXICO.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3043 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4057. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5033. VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3044 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4058. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5034. REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3050 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4059. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5035. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDIES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3051 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4060. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5036. NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS AND CORRIDORS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3052 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4061. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5030. OREGON CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3041 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4062. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. INTERNET-BASED ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3022 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4063. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. GRAZING PERMITS AND LEASES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3023 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4064. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. CABIN USER AND TRANSFER FEES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3024 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4065. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. ADDITION OF ASHLAND HARBOR BREAKWATER LIGHT TO THE APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3030 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4066. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3031 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4067. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. COLTSVILLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3032 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4068. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. FIRST STATE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3033 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4069. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3034 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4070. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. HARRIET TUBMAN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, MARYLAND.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3035 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4071. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, AUBURN, NEW YORK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3036 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4072. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. HINCHLIFFE STADIUM ADDITION TO PATERSON GREAT FALLS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3037 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4073. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5027. LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3038 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4074. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5028. MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3039 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4075. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5029. NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK AND STEPHEN MATHER WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3040 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4076. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. LAND CONVEYANCE, WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3001 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4077. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. SEALASKA LAND ENTITLEMENT FINALIZATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3002 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4078. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. SOUTHEAST ARIZONA LAND EXCHANGE AND CONSERVATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3003 shall have no force or effect

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SA 4079. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. LAND EXCHANGE, CIBOLA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, ARIZONA, AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3004 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4080. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. SPECIAL RULES FOR INYO NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA, LAND EXCHANGE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3005 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4081. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. LAND EXCHANGE, TRINITY PUBLIC UTILITIES DISTRICT, TRINITY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, AND THE FOREST SERVICE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3006 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4082. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO, SHOOTING RANGE LAND CONVEYANCE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3007 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4083. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. SCHOOL DISTRICT 318, MINNESOTA, LAND EXCHANGE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3008 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4084. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees

under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. NORTHERN NEVADA LAND CONVEYANCES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3009 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4085. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, FEDERAL LAND CONVEYANCE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3010 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4086. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. LAND CONVEYANCE, UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST, UTAH.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3011 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4087. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LAND TO THE CITY OF FRUIT HEIGHTS, UTAH.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3012 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4088. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. LAND CONVEYANCE, HANFORD SITE, WASHINGTON.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3013 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4089. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PERMIT PROCESSING.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3021 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4090. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. RANCH A WYOMING CONSOLIDATION AND MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3014 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4091. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 1209.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 10, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SR–328A of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Commodity Futures Trading Commission: Effective Enforcement and the Future of Derivatives Regulation.''

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 10, 2014, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Cybersecurity: Enhancing Coordination To Protect the Financial Sector.''

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 10, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SR–253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Passenger Rail: Investing in our Nation's Future.''

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 10, 2014, at 10 a.m., room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 10, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., to hold a Subcommittee on African Affairs hearing entitled, ''The Ebola Epidemic: The Keys to Success for the International Response.''

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on December 10, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Executive Nominations.''

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on December 10, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Keeping Families Together: The President's Executive Action On Immigration And The Need To Pass Comprehensive Reform.''

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Deepa Ghosh, a foreign affairs fellow in my office, and Kaveh Sadeghzadeh, a natural resources fellow, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

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

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following people from my office be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 113th Congress: Military Fellow, Chief Master Sergeant Lavor Kirkpatrick; Interns Lee Kearns, Eleanor Murphy, Morgan Mena, and Joy Demmert.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent that Jonathon Burpee, a National Park Service fellow on the staff of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the 113th Congress.

RECOGNIZING 20 YEARS SINCE THE GENOCIDE IN RWANDA

On Tuesday, December 9, 2014, the Senate adopted S. Res. 413, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, as follows:

S. RES. 413

Whereas in the aftermath of the Holocaust, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide declaring that genocide, whether committed in a time of peace or war, is a crime under international law;

Whereas the United States was the first country to sign the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and the Senate voted to ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide on February 11, 1986;

Whereas, for approximately 100 days between April 7, 1994, and July 1994, more than 800,000 civilians were killed in a genocide in Rwanda that targeted members of the Tutsi, moderate Hutu, and Twa populations, resulting in the horrific deaths of nearly 70 percent of the Tutsi population living in Rwanda;

Whereas the massacres of innocent Rwandan civilians were premeditated and systematic attempts to eliminate the Tutsi population by Hutu extremists, fueled by hatred and incitement propagated by newspapers and radio;

Whereas in addition to systematic targeting of an ethnic minority in Rwanda resulting in the mass slaughter of innocent civilians, rape was also used as a weapon of war;

Whereas, despite the deployment of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) in October 1993 following the end of the Rwandan Civil War, its mandate was insufficient to ensure the protection of large swathes of the population, demonstrating the inability of the United Nations to effectively respond to the unfolding genocide and stop or mitigate its impact;

Whereas, on July 4, 1994, the Rwandan Patriotic Front, a trained military group consisting of formerly exiled Tutsis, began its takeover of the country, which resulted in an ending of the genocide, though not a complete end to the violence, including retribution;

Whereas, in October 1994, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was established as the first international tribunal with the mandate to prosecute the crime of genocide and ultimately prosecuted 63 individuals for war crimes, including genocide and crimes against humanity as well as the first convictions for rape as a weapon of war;

Whereas the United States Government supports initiatives to ensure that victims of genocide and mass atrocities are not forgotten, and has committed to work with international partners to help prevent genocide and mass atrocities and identify and support a range of actions to protect civilian populations at risk;

Whereas, in July 2004, the Senate adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 133 and the House of Representatives adopted House Concurrent Resolution 467, declaring that ''the atrocities unfolding in Darfur, Sudan, are genocide'', and calling on the United States Government and the international community to take measures to address the situation immediately;

Whereas, in September 2004, the United States Government, in testimony by Secretary of State Colin Powell before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, declared the ongoing conflict in Darfur, Sudan, a ''genocide'' perpetrated by the government based in Khartoum against its own people and affecting over 2,400,000 people in Sudan, including an estimated 200,000 fatalities;

Whereas, in September 2005, the United States joined other members of the United Nations in adopting United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/1, which affirmed that the international community has a responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means to help protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity;

Whereas, in December 2011, the Senate unanimously passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 71, recognizing the United States national interest in helping to prevent and mitigate acts of genocide and other mass atrocities against civilians, and urging the development of a whole of government approach to prevent and mitigate such acts;

Whereas, in April 2012, President Barack Obama established the Atrocities Prevention Board within the United States inter-agency structure, chaired by National Security staff, to help identify and more effectively address atrocity threats, including genocide, as a core national security interest and core moral responsibility;

Whereas, in July 2013, the National Intelligence Council completed the first ever National Intelligence Estimate on the global risk for mass atrocities and genocide;

Whereas, in January 2014, the National Director of Intelligence testified before the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, stating that ''the overall risk of mass atrocities worldwide will probably increase in 2014 and beyond. . . . Much of the world will almost certainly turn to the United States for leadership to prevent and respond to mass atrocities.'';

Whereas, despite measures taken by the United States Government and other governments since 1994, the international community still faces the challenges of responding to escalation of violence, atrocities, and religious-based conflict in many corners of the globe, including Syria and the Central African Republic, and a failure of the international community to appropriately respond to and address the rapidly deteriorating situation could result in further atrocities;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council was unable to pass a resolution condemning the Government of Bashar al Assad of Syria for the use of chemical weapons against civilians, killing more than 1,400 of his own people in August 2013; and

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recommended to the United Nations Security Council the establishment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic with the primary mandate to protect civilians: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the United Nations designation of April 7th as the International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda;

(2) honors the memory of the more than 800,000 victims of the Rwandan genocide and expresses sympathy for those whose lives were forever changed by this horrific event;

(3) expresses support for the people of Rwanda as they remember the victims of genocide;

(4) affirms it is in the national interest of the United States to work in close coordination with international partners to prevent and mitigate acts of genocide and mass atrocities;

(5) condemns ongoing acts of violence and mass atrocities perpetrated against innocent civilians in Syria, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Sudan and elsewhere;

(6) urges the President to confer with Congress on an ongoing basis regarding the priorities and objectives of the Atrocities Prevention Board;

(7) urges the President to work with Congress to strengthen the United States Government's ability to identify and more rapidly respond to genocide and mass atrocities in order to prevent where possible and mitigate the impact of such events;

(8) clarifies that nothing in this resolution shall be construed as an authorization for the use of force or a declaration of war; and

(9) supports ongoing United States and international efforts to—

(A) strengthen multilateral peacekeeping capacities;

(B) build capacity for democratic rule of law, security sector reform, and other measures to improve civilian protection in areas of conflict;

(C) ensure measures of accountability for per-petrators of mass atrocities and crimes against humanity; and

(D) strengthen the work of United States and international institutions, such as the Holocaust Memorial Museum, which are working to document, identify, and prevent mass atrocities and inspire citizens and leaders worldwide to confront hatred and prevent genocide.

DEATH IN CUSTODY REPORTING ACT OF 2013

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 604, H.R. 1447.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1447) to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the death of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today Senators have finally come together to pass the Death in Custody Reporting Act, which will provide important transparency to law enforcement efforts and our prison system. At a time

when our Nation is having an important conversation about police encounters that result in the loss of life, we know that hundreds of police-related deaths are unaccounted for in Federal statistics. The Death in Custody Reporting Act will require that State and Federal law enforcement officials report deaths in their custody, including those that occur during arrest. The Justice Department will then have the opportunity to analyze the data and see what we can learn from it. The American people deserve as much.

Too many communities across our country are losing faith in our justice system. This bill provides a step toward accountability, and it is my hope that it may ultimately lead to restoring some measure of trust in these communities. If we are ever able to truly embody the words engraved in Vermont marble above the United States Supreme Court building, ''Equal Justice Under the Law,'' then more of course must be done. I look forward to continuing these efforts in the next Congress.

The prior authorization for the Death in Custody Reporting Act expired in 2006, and after too many years of inaction, I am glad that Democrats and Republicans have come together and sent this reauthorization bill to the President for signature. My appreciation goes to Congressman BOBBY SCOTT, who sponsored and has long championed this legislation, as well Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, who sponsored a Senate version.

This has been an important week for transparency. On Monday, the Senate came together to pass my bipartisan FOIA Improvement Act and I hope the House will soon take up this bill. On Tuesday, I spoke on the Senate floor in favor of the release of the executive summary of the Senate Intelligence Committee Study of the CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program. Both of these actions did not come easily, but in both instances the interests of the American public and our values as a democracy prevailed. Today, we have again come together in the interest of transparency for the betterment of our Nation.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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 bill (H.R. 1447) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMERICAN SAVINGS PROMOTION ACT

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3374 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3374) to provide for the use of savings promotion raffle products by financial institutions to encourage savings, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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 bill (H.R. 3374) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SMART SAVINGS ACT

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4193, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4193) to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BENNET. 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. 4193) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JAMES L. OBERSTAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4926, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4926) to designate a segment of Interstate Route 35 in the State of Minnesota as the ''James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BENNET. 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. 4926) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PROPANE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2014

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5705, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5705) to modify certain provisions relating to the Propane Education and Research Council.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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 bill (H.R. 5705) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DIGNIFIED INTERMENT OF OUR VETERANS ACT OF 2014

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2822 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2822) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BENNET. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 2822) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2822

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 ''Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STUDY ON MATTERS RELATING TO BURIAL OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS OF VETERANS IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES.

(a) STUDY AND REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) complete a study on matters relating to the interring of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration; and

(2) submit to Congress a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the study required under paragraph (1).

(b) MATTERS STUDIED.—The matters studied under subsection (a)(1) shall include the following:

(1) Determining the scope of issues relating to unclaimed remains of veterans, including an estimate of the number of unclaimed remains of veterans.

(2) Assessing the effectiveness of the procedures of the Department of Veterans Affairs for working with persons or entities having custody of unclaimed remains to facilitate interment of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration.

(3) Assessing State and local laws that affect the ability of the Secretary to inter unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration.

(4) Developing recommendations for such legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) METHODOLOGY.—

(1) NUMBER OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS.—In estimating the number of unclaimed remains of veterans under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary may review such subset of applicable entities as the Secretary considers appropriate, including a subset of funeral homes and coroner offices that possess unclaimed veterans remains.

(2) ASSESSMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL LAWS.—In assessing State and local laws under subsection (b)(3), the Secretary may assess such sample of applicable State and local laws as the Secretary considers appropriate in lieu of reviewing all applicable State and local laws.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF ABDUL-RAHMAN PETER KASSIG AND CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ACTS OF THE ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 598, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 598) expressing condolences to the family of Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig and condemning the terrorist acts of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 598) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2992

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I understand that S. 2992 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2992) to amend title 10, United States Code, to reform procedures for determinations to proceed in trial by court-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and for other purposes.

Mr. BENNET. I object to any further proceedings with respect to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF SENATE DOCUMENT

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that the tributes to retiring Senators be printed as a Senate document and that Senators be permitted to submit tributes until December 23, 2014.

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

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—H.R. 5471

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5471, and the bill be referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to accompany H.R. 3979, NDAA.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. BENNET. For the information of all Senators, there will be a cloture vote on the motion to concur on the Defense authorization bill at 10:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BENNET. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:55 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 11, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. STEVE SAULS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Steve Sauls, and to congratulate him on his retirement. Mr. Sauls is an outstanding individual who has served as the Vice President for Governmental Relations at Florida International University.

Steve has spent over 20 years at FIU, helping build the university into one of the top research institutions in the country. At FIU, he was instrumental in establishing and funding both the law school and medical school, and the expansion of graduate programs. His assistance has also led to millions of dollars of research funds being made available for the International Hurricane Research Center, Wolfsonian-FIU, and countless construction projects at the university.

Steve's accomplishments include much more than just his work at FIU. He is the author of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, which was created to provide educational assistance to Mariel and Haitian refugees. In the 1980s he also provided staff support to Governor Bob Graham of Florida. He was instrumental in the resurrection of the Everglades Coalition as part of the Save the Everglades program, and the purchase of Fakahatchee Strand, which protected Florida's panther habitat.

Having known Steve for over 20 years, and been able to work with him since my time in the Florida state legislature, I can attest that he has consistently demonstrated the highest degree of integrity, character, and professionalism. He has been dedicated to his career and has worked tirelessly for the state of Florida and FIU. Beyond that, over the years I have had the privilege of getting to know Steve on a personal level, and am honored to now call him my friend. I wish nothing but the best for Steve in the future, and again congratulate him on his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Steve Sauls for his tremendous service to Florida, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

CELEBRATING MARIN FRENCH CHEESE 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Marin French Cheese on the occasion of the company's 150th Anniversary Celebration on January 10, 2015.

In 1865, as the Civil War was drawing to an end, Jefferson Thompson made deliciously fresh cheese using the milk from his dairy cows at his Marin dairy farm. He developed a renowned reputation for his European style cheeses, and founded a creamery that would eventually be known as Marin French Cheese. 150 years later, Marin French Cheese operates in the same location, making it the longest continually operating cheese company in America. The company still creates the same classic styles of Brie and Camembert, crafting cheese in small batches using traditional cultures, coaxing the distinctly coastal California character and flavor into every cheese.

An internationally respected cheese maker, Marin French Cheese products have been honored with numerous well-deserved national and international awards over the years. On this momentous anniversary, it is appropriate to pay tribute to Marin French Cheese. Please join me in expressing congratulations to Marin French Cheese on one hundred fifty years of success and best wishes for an equally bountiful future.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SURING

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Village of Suring, located in Oconto County.

Suring applied to the Oconto Circuit Court for its incorporation as a Village in 1914. Residents voted in favor of incorporation in January 1915 and immediately elected W.J. Thielke as the first Village President.

Today, Suring is a wonderful destination to live, work and visit in the northern part of the 8th District. Outdoor enthusiasts and families looking for recreational opportunities can visit Suring to hike the Nicolet State Trail, relax for a weekend at the local campgrounds, enjoy a few rounds of golf, or go for a ride on the snowmobile trails during the winter months.

This is truly a time for the village residents to reflect on their shared history, but also share in the excitement of their future and what the next 100 years may bring. As Congressman, I am proud to represent the citizens of the Village of Suring and encourage everyone to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Village of Suring in 2015.

HONORING ANDREW LOWELL CROUSE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Lowell Crouse. Andrew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Andrew has become a member of the Order of the Arrow and earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Andrew has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Andrew remodeled the Smithville Middle School Family and Consumer Science Room by repairing, building, and painting shelving for sewing machines.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Andrew Lowell Crouse for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING STEVE SAULS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding accomplishments and extraordinary career of Steve Sauls, the outgoing Vice President for Government Relations at Florida International University.

There are many of us who just a few decades ago remember a much more nascent FIU. Today, serving over 50,000 students and helping to anchor a thriving South Florida, Florida International University has rapidly grown into the first-class research university and flagship public institution that this community has always deserved.

I am proud of today's FIU, and in short, much credit is deserved by Steve Sauls for helping make that a reality.

Our paths first crossed as young staffers in Tallahassee, where I encountered a thoughtful, personable, and whip-smart colleague. From there, Steve's drive and commitment to service propelled him onto a distinguished career. Fortunately, he took FIU on that rise with him.

From the establishment of its medical and law schools, to building its federal research portfolio, to its mission of training the next generation of high-skilled STEM graduates, to its acquisition of the Wolfsonian Museum, Steve has had a hand in nearly every major expansion and success of the university.

On behalf of each of my constituents who have ever stepped into an FIU classroom, whose lives have been touched by one of their research innovations, or who have ever worn the blue and gold, I thank Mr. Sauls for his leadership and decades of public service.

As this chapter of his career draws to a close, I hope he enjoys a joyous and restful break in the company of good friends and family, and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

HONORING MS. SHEILA JORDAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Ms. Sheila Jordan on the occasion of her retirement. Ms. Jordan is retiring after serving for fifteen years as the Alameda County Superintendent of Schools.

A proud native of the Bronx, Ms. Jordan graduated from Rutgers University with a B.A. in English. She went on to get her M.A. in Special Education from San Francisco State University, and is the holder of a lifetime teaching credential, a credential for teaching the learning handicapped, an Administrative Credential from California State University East Bay, and a Certificate in Executive Management from the Graduate School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley.

Prior to her service as Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Jordan served on the Oakland City Council and the Oakland Unified School District Board of Education, and was a teacher for 20 years.

During her time as Superintendent of Schools for Alameda County, Ms. Jordan has overseen the implementation of numerous programs designed to promote civic engagement and service, environmental education, arts and technology integration, math, language arts, and science. Her leadership has clarified and solidified the role of county offices of education and influenced new statewide policies. Her efforts to create a regional model have deepened the ties and accountability between school districts and county offices and inspired student success. For instance, she helped to forge a closer alliance with Chabot Space & Science Center's education department in order to provide county and regional schools with training and support of STEM and STEAM opportunities.

Ms. Jordan has also served in numerous community service positions, including the Executive Committee of the Economic Development Alliance for Business; and the boards of the Chabot Space & Science Center, the Workforce Investment Board, United Way, and the Interagency Children's Policy Council. She is also a former member of the Board of Directors of the East Bay Leadership Foundation, a past co-chair of the Alameda County Superior Court Children's Waiting Room Project, and a former Fellow of the Bay Area Writing Project.

Among other honors, Ms. Jordan has received the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award from the Peralta Presidential Council of the Alpha Delta Kappa educational sorority, the Educator of Excellence Award from Hispanos Saludos, the Programs of Excellence Award from the Association of Contra Costa County Administrators, and has been named Alumnus of the Year by California State University Hayward.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Ms. Sheila Jordan, I salute you. I thank you for a lifetime of service and congratulate you on your many achievements. I wish you and your loved ones the very best as you transition to this exciting new chapter of life.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S GENEROUS DONATIONS TO COMBAT EBOLA

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, in response to the Ebola epidemic, our government must take decisive action to combat and prevent the spread of this disease. We should also build up a concerted international effort to stem this epidemic.

There still exist critical needs in containing Ebola's spread. We, and several other nations, have made available limited resources; but it's not enough. Taiwan, though not directly affected, once again has risen to the challenge of helping other people in need.

On December 4th, Taiwan's Representative to the United States, Ambassador Shen, officially announced the contribution of $1,000,000 to the Global Distribution Fund of the Centers for Disease Control. This is in addition to 100,000 personal protection suits that Taiwan has donated to the medical authorities. This donation will help prevent deaths and alleviate some of the pain and suffering of victims, as well as offer hope where hope is scarce.

In crisis after crisis we have seen our old and reliable friend Taiwan respond. For example, over the past few years Taiwan immediately responded with aid to Japan's earthquake and tsunami in 2011, the Philippines Typhoon in 2013 and even donated over $1,000,000 to the United States in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

In times of crisis it is important to know on whom you can depend. Taiwan and its people remain dedicated to the same principles that guide our nation, and they can be counted upon in times of crisis. We are very grateful to Taiwan for this major contribution.

TRIBUTE TO D. MICHAEL B. McCALL

HON. THOMAS MASSIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent, Dr. Michael B. McCall. Dr. McCall is the Founding President and Chief Executive Officer of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). Since his appointment in 1998, Dr. McCall has honorably served as the head of a system made up of 16 colleges located on more than 70 campuses across the state, serving over 92,000 students. He recently announced his retirement, effective January 2015.

KCTCS is the largest provider of workforce training in Kentucky, serving more than 5,300 businesses and training more than 52,000 employees annually. Among his many achievements, Dr. McCall has led the KCTCS Board of Regents' ratification or approval of more than 700 credit program options that resulted in certificates, diplomas or associate degrees. Under Dr. McCall's leadership, KCTCS became the state's largest provider of online learning, offering more than 77 online credentials. Other KCTCS accomplishments spearheaded by Dr. McCall include the creation of the North American Racing Academy (first college-affiliated horseracing academy in the United States), the Kentucky Coal Academy, the Kentucky Fire Commission, and the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services.

Dr. McCall has also personally received numerous awards and honors, including the Phi Theta Kappa's prestigious State Community College Director Award of Distinction and the 2005 National Council for Continuing Education and Training's National Leadership Award. In addition, the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development honored Dr. McCall with its 2005 International Leadership Award. Dr. McCall also received the prestigious honor of selection by the Kentucky Monthly Magazine as the 2004 Kentuckian of the Year, and on June 30, 2006, Dr. McCall completed his tenure as Board Chair of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). This marked the first time ever that a system-level president was elected chair of the AACC board.

A recent study by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems highlighted many KCTCS accomplishments achieved under Dr. McCall's leadership. For example, KCTCS ranks 5th among the nation's community and technical college systems in the category of "improvement over time in its outreach to younger working-aged adults without college degrees." In addition, from 2000 to 2012, KCTCS experienced a 63 percent increase in enrollment, while at the same time, the population of KY citizens aged 18 to 34 only increased by 2%. Finally, at least one of KCTCS's colleges has been awarded a "top-ten" finish in each of the three rounds of the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

I salute Dr. McCall for his exemplary service to KCTCS, the state of Kentucky, and the nation.

H.R. 4926, DESIGNATING THE "JAMES L. OBERSTAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY" AND THE "JAMES L. OBERSTAR NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the unanimous passage today of H.R. 4926, which names a segment of Interstate 35 the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway."

Jim Oberstar was an infrastructure partisan, a transportation expert, and had more influence over the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee—a committee he served as staffer, member, ranking member, and chairman—than anyone in the last 50 years. And he was like an uncle to me.

Jim was a man of remarkable memory and learning. He spoke a half-dozen languages.

He never stopped fighting for what he believed in and what he knew was right for his district, his State, or for the American people. In his long career, he guided the passage of dozens of landmark laws and shaped the transportation policy of our country for the better, creating an infrastructure system that is more efficient, more sustainable, and safer than before Jim entered politics.

He was an incredible cyclist, a skilled and passionate legislator, and a good friend. I pleased that H.R. 4926 will literally cement his legacy.

HONORING JOHN C. MANKA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John C. Manka. John is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

John has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years John has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, John has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. John worked with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to provide five additional handicap-accessible deer blinds for organized hunts at Smithville Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending John C. Manka for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF ALARM (THE AFRICAN LEADERSHIP AND RECONCILIATION MINISTRIES) ON THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the work of ALARM (the African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries) on their 20th anniversary, and especially, the President and Founder of the organization, Dr. Celestin Musekura, an ordained Baptist minister who was born and raised in Rwanda.

It is important to note that ALARM works to strengthen the church in Africa to be an instrument of change in the community by focusing on three areas: developing servant leaders, reconciling relationships, and transforming communities. ALARM is made up of three charitable organizations: 1) ALARM-Africa, which has offices in eight countries; 2) ALARM-UK; and 3) ALARM-USA.

ALARM-Africa was founded after civil wars and political violence in Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, northern Uganda, and southern Sudan left a vacuum of leadership in Christian churches. These churches, once led primarily by western missionaries who were forced to flee due to the violence, needed leadership from within their own countries. These leaders needed to be trained in guiding, teaching, forgiving and reconciling, to bring healing and transformation to their communities.

In the aftermath of these crises, Dr. Musekura and his wife, Bernadette, felt called to help fill this void and to help train others in the ministry. They founded ALARM and continue to dedicate their lives to it.

Dr. Musekura received a Bachelor of Theology at Kenya Highlands Evangelical University in Kenya, a Master of Divinity at the Africa International University (AIU) in Kenya, a Master of Sacred Theology at Dallas Theological Seminary, a Master of Science in Justice Administration and Leadership at the University of Texas at Dallas, and a Ph.D. in theological studies at Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, Texas.

ALARM-Africa uses curriculum, most of which is internally developed, to equip untrained church and community leaders and reconcile hurting communities.

Since its founding in 1994, ALARM-Africa has expanded into eight countries across east and central Africa (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda) with its head office in Nairobi, Kenya. All offices are staffed by well-trained, professional African men and women who act as local missionaries to their people.

I would like to congratulate ALARM and Dr. Celestin Musekura on the occasion of this anniversary and for their dedication to this important work.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3979, PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5759, PREVENTING EXECUTIVE OVERREACH ON IMMIGRATION ACT OF 2014; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5781, CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, House Report 113–646, the report to accompany H. Res. 770, the special rule that governed consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 3979, as well as H.R. 5759 and H.R. 5781, contained an error in the description of the motion that was the subject of Rules Committee record vote No. 198.

The description of the motion should have read as follows:

Motion by Ms. SLAUGHTER to amend the rule for the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3979 to make in order and provide the appropriate waivers for amendment #5 to Rules Committee Print 113–58, offered by Rep. COFFMAN (CO), which prohibits U.S. funds from being used to pay the salaries of the Iraqi security forces or to provide weapons or equipment to the Iraqi security forces. Defeated: 3–7.

HONORING THE TOWN OF ELIZABETH, MISSISSIPPI

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable town of Elizabeth, Mississippi.

The town of Elizabeth, Mississippi is located on U.S. Highway 61, approximately 1 mile north of Leland and 2 miles east of Stoneville. In March 1889, a deed was issued to Mr. Joshua Skinner for a railroad depot in the area. At the time, the place was named ''Athol'', but it was later changed to its current name ''Elizabeth''.

In 1889, Elizabeth was advertised as ''a new town with an unparalleled future, located in the heart of the famous Yazoo Delta . . . the richest and most fertile section of the earth where king cotton reigns supreme.'' Elizabeth had the unique distinction of being located at the crossroads of the first two main railroads in the Delta: the Louisville, New Orleans, and Texas RR (which later became the Illinois Central RR) and the Georgia Pacific RR (which eventually became the Columbus and Greenville RR).

The town of Elizabeth was designed along the west and south sides of both railroads. Elizabeth emerged early on as a mercantile city, with numerous businesses started up due to the existence of the rail lines. The town can no longer boast a commercial center. Leland has taken that role. However, it does retain its identity as Elizabeth. It boasts a modest population of nearly 200 people and a beautiful roadside park. In 2013, DuPont Pioneer opened a new 30,000 square foot research center near Elizabeth that focuses on soybean breeding and product development as well as corn product testing and characterization for farmers in the Delta.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Town of Elizabeth for its dedication to serving others.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR CURT OWENS

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Curt Owens for his past two years of exemplary dedication to duty and service as an Army Congressional Fellow and Congressional Liaison for the Chief of Army Reserve. I am grateful that he will continue to serve the Army and Congress in his new assignment as a legislative liaison in the Programs Division of the Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison. We wish him well in his new position.

A native of Tallahassee, Florida, Major Owens earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business at Florida State University and was commissioned an infantry officer in the Army Reserve. He has earned advanced degrees in management and legislative affairs.

Curt has served in a broad range of assignments during his 20 years of service as a citizen soldier. As a lieutenant, he served as a rifle platoon leader in the 100th Infantry Battalion during combat operations in Iraq. As a captain, he served as an operations officer in a combined joint special operations task force, commanded a basic combat training company, and served as platoon trainer at the basic officer leadership course, 11th Infantry Regiment, Fort Benning, Georgia.

In 2013, following assignments as a battalion operations officer and executive officer with 1st Brigade, 98th Division, Major Owens was selected as an Army Congressional Fellow and assigned as the Defense Fellow in my office. In this role, Curt served as policy advisor on all matters relating to defense and national security. He provided me with candid advice and became a trusted source of counsel and productivity to my office.

After this, he served as a legislative liaison in the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve. In this capacity, Curt represented the Chief of Army Reserve directly with the Senate and House Armed Services and Appropriations Committees to educate and inform Senators, Representatives, and staff on critical Army Reserve issues and programs.

Throughout his twenty year career, Major Curt Owens has made positive impacts on the careers and lives of his soldiers, peers, and superiors. I am grateful that he has chosen to continue to serve as an Army leader. I join my colleagues today in honoring his dedication to our Nation and invaluable service to the United States Congress as an Army congressional liaison.

Curt is accustomed to working long hours in his congressional relations work. So let me also acknowledge Curt's wife Allison, and their sons Grayson, Carter and Brady, thank them for their sacrifices and wish them all the best for continued success in the future.

THE HONORABLE CONGRESSMAN KERRY BENTIVOLIO

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the 113th Congress comes to a close, I would like to recognize my good friend and colleague from Michigan's 11th District, Congressman KERRY BENTIVOLIO. We grew up in the same community and went to the same schools, only to meet years later in our nation's capital.

He is one of five sons of a factory worker who put himself through college, eventually earning a Master's Degree, worked as an automotive designer, home builder and an exceptional, highly qualified vocational and general education teacher in both private and public schools. Married for 37 years to his wife Karen he raised two wonderful children and has four grandchildren. He's an effective legislator, a staunch defender of conservative values, and he, and his team, have provided constituent services that would be considered beyond exceptional by even the tenacious critic.

KERRY's conservative colleagues aren't the only ones to recognize his work, many groups outside of the halls of Congress have taken notice.

The National Taxpayer's Union honored KERRY with the Taxpayers' Friend Award and NFIB named him a ''Guardian of Small Business''. He earned recognition from the National Association of Manufacturing for his support of that industry. The Family Research Council gave him one of their highest awards.

He received high ratings from Heritage Action for America, Club for Growth, and FreedomWorks for his voting record. The American Conservative Union named Mr. BENTIVOLIO a ''top conservative'' for his defense of our limited-government values. And, his voting record has been recognized as the #1 in Transparency according to GovTrack.us.

As a freshman legislator, a House historian pointed out Congressman BENTIVOLIO was one of the most successful and effective first-term legislators in recent memory. He passed two bills as amendments, and his Safe and Secure Federal Websites Act unanimously passed the House with 100% bipartisan support. The Safe and Secure Federal Websites Act had 126 cosponsors—which is more cosponsors than any other freshman Republican bill secured during the 113th Congress.

KERRY's successes didn't begin nor end in the marble halls of Congress. While legislators clamor for attention and dream of their next major network television appearance, Congressman BENTIVOLIO and his team were working hard on behalf of their constituents. He and his staff received two awards for their constituent service—one from National Write Your Congressman for their superior constituent service and the Public Service Award from NASASP.

He's the same man who volunteered as Santa Claus year after year, to the delight of neighborhood children. He's the same man—and only member of Congress—who served with honor in the combat arms in both Vietnam and Iraq and received 28 military awards, including the Combat Infantryman Badge which he proudly wore on his lapel every day as a member of Congress.

The upstanding Congressman from Michigan's 11th Congressional District may not be returning to the 114th Congress, but Congressman BENTIVOLIO's legacy will continue to shine long after his time here as he carries the torch for conservative values and maintains his community stewardship.

HONORING KALEB WADE BARBER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kaleb Wade Barber. Kaleb is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kaleb has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kaleb has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Kaleb has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Kaleb Wade Barber for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FA'AFETAI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, last October 2013, because of complications due to Agent Orange exposure during my service in Vietnam, I was airlifted from American Samoa to Hawaii where I was not expected to live. Thanks to the prayers offered and the assistance provided on my behalf at a time when I needed it most, I am here today. And so, for historical purposes, I rise to express my gratitude for all those involved in making my evacuation and recovery possible, and to say thank you to the people of American Samoa for giving me the opportunity to serve them in the U.S. House of Representatives from the time they first elected me in 1988 until 2014.

At about 2:30 p.m. Washington, DC time (7:30 a.m. in Pago Pago), on October 24, 2013, my staff in Washington, DC released an official statement informing the people of American Samoa that I had been hospitalized at the LBJ Tropical Medical Center (LBJ) on October 22, 2013. My Washington team learned of my hospitalization on October 23, 2013 through Fili Sagapolutele, a local reporter in American Samoa. Upon learning of my hospitalization, my staff in Washington, DC immediately sought a first-hand assessment of my condition and facilitated a conference call on October 23, 2013 between Dr. Rahim Remtulla of the Office of Attending Physician at the U.S. House of Representatives and medical officer (M.O.) Jerome Amoa who was supervising my care at LBJ. In American Samoa, medical officers are spoken of as doctors and, out of respect and appreciation for the care he provided me, I also use the local terminology when referring to Dr. Amoa, who recently passed away. Dr. Amoa was a true servant of our people and I am forever thankful for him. During his conference call with my staff, Dr. Amoa reported that LBJ did not have the equipment necessary to provide further evaluation of my condition and that a medical evacuation (medevac) was needed. He also reported that I was stable for travel and was not in a life-threatening situation. Because commercial flights from American Samoa only fly to and from Hawaii twice a week, Dr. Amoa stated that he had requested medevac services through the American Samoa Government (ASG) and the local Veterans Administration (VA) in the Territory but that no action had yet been taken due to some confusion about whether or not ASG should request the medevac or if the local VA should since I am a Vietnam veteran. Due to these delays, my Washington staff contacted General Robert Lee, former Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii, who contacted Major General Darryll Wong, the Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii who oversees the Hawaii Air National Guard and who provides direct support to the Office of Veterans Affairs. Based on letters my office obtained from Dr. Amoa and the Office

of Attending Physician, which stated that medevac services were essential, my Washington staff registered a request for medevac services through Colonel Ronald Han, Director of the State of Hawaii's Office of Veterans Services. Colonel Han, General Wong and Governor Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii acted with urgency and immediacy. Within 30 minutes of receiving the request, General Wong and his team put a crew into crew rest to prepare for the medevac flight. In less than 2 hours, General Wong informed my Washington staff that an aircraft would leave Honolulu (HNL) at approximately 8 a.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2013, with a doctor, nurse and aero-medical evacuation team in place. My Washington office then began the process of linking the Office of Attending Physician to the aero-medical evacuation team as well as to physicians at Tripler Army Medical Center (Tripler) so that I could be treated in the air and upon arrival at Tripler without delay. After taking these actions on October 23, 2013 and October 24, it was then that my office issued a press release on October 24, 2013 at about 2:30 p.m. Washington, DC time (7:30 a.m. in Pago Pago) announcing that a medevac team would depart from Hawaii at about 8 a.m. Honolulu time on Thursday, October 24, 2013, with scheduled landing in American Samoa the same day at about 1:00 p.m. Pago Pago time. On October 24, 2013, at approximately 5 p.m. DC time (10 a.m. in Pago Pago), while the medevac was already en route to American Samoa, my Washington staff learned in another conference call between Dr. Amoa and Dr. Remtulla that my condition had worsened and that my situation was now critical. When the medevac team reached me, they did not know if I would make it to Tripler alive, but I did and, on behalf of my family, I want to thank everyone involved in my rescue. I thank Governor Lolo Moliga and Lieutenant Governor Lemanu Peleti Mauga for the measures they instituted to provide me with the best chance for evacuation and recovery. I also thank the local police department in American Samoa for their fine work, and the late Dr. Amoa and his staff for the care they provided. I also express appreciation to the Office of Attending Physician, including Dr. Brian Monahan and Dr. Rahim Remtulla, who offered extraordinary assistance and support. I thank the Pacific Air Force's 613th Air Operations Center/Air Mobility Division and all its components and especially its Aero-medical Evacuation Team, Theatre Patient Movement Requirements Center, and Joint Patient Liaison Office, and the Hawaii Air National Guard maintenance and flight crew for their professionalism and expertise. These heroic men and women went for broke to rescue me. From the planning, execution, coordination down to the aircrew and maintenance personnel and everyone involved, they delivered me to Tripler in better condition than they found me. Upon my arrival at the HNL airport, a true Joint Force team of Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel was on the tarmac ready to transfer me from the airport to Tripler. Even after I was offloaded, the aircraft maintenance men and women worked into the night to offload equipment and bed down the jet. Neither my office nor I expected or requested this kind of outpouring of support. But given the care and love shown for me by our military men and women, I salute the service of all involved. Although words can never express how grateful I am, I would like to honor those who assisted by including their names in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: 613 Air Operations Center/Air Mobility Division Aero-Medical Evacuation Team: Lt Col Christine Thrasher, MSgt Gregory Moore, TSgt Christine Hill, TSgt Eric Hammerstrom, SSgt Jerry Marquez, SSgt Brittani McClure; 613 Air Operations Center/Air Mobility Division: Senior Director Lt Col Henry Fairtlough, Major John Lewis, Mr. Paul McDaniel, Major Patrick McClintock; Theater Patient Movement Requirements Center: Col Michael Martin, Maj Joseph Reno, Maj Cynthia Mandac-Clark, Maj Jacob Smith, Capt Amy Sivils, Lt Stephen Meyers, SSgt Maria Velasquez, Sgt Johnny Reynolds, Maj Ryan Gibbons, Maj Kirk Smith, Maj Jacob Smith; JPLO/Joint Patient Liaison Office (members that met the aircraft and transferred me into the ambulance and then to Tripler): HM2 Morgan Orton, Capt Michael Bringas, HM2 Isaac Kargbo, TSgt Delbert Smith; 613 Air Operations Center/Air Mobility Division Mission: Mangers MS. Mary Ann Chock, Mr. David Avigdor, Mr. Jeffrey Frye; 613 Air Operations Center/Air Mobility Division Airlift: Mr. Mark Salondaka, Mr. Matt Mustafaga; 613 Air Operations Center/Air Mobility Division Flight Managers: Mr. Myron Jones, Ms. Eileen Aina, Mr. Stephen Mather, Mr. Rick Dittmer; 613 Air Operations Center/Air Mobility Division Logistics: Mr. Paul Pang, Mr. Walter You, Mr. Ricky Davis; Hawaii Air National Guard: Major General Darryll Wong, Col Rob Hoffman (109th Air Operations Group Commander), Col Duke A. Pirak (154th Operations Group Commander), flight crew members: Capt Kellen Brede, Capt Liliukekulakamaile ''Kula'' Cummings, Capt William Kealaiki, MSgt Kevin Kalani, MSgt Denny Yoshikawa, TSgt Bronson Abellanida, TSgt Callen Cordeiro, TSgt Sterling Nakamura. I also thank Col Paul A. Friedrichs, Pacific Air Forces Command Surgeon and the medical personnel at Pacific Regional Medical Command and Tripler; including Dr. Osborn, Dr. Donald Helman, Dr. Jone Geimer-Flanders and the many other doctors, nurses and personnel who attended to my well-being. I pay special tribute to General Wong who coordinated every detail of my evacuation. I thank him for his leadership, kindness, expertise, for his calm in the eye of a storm, for his compassion, commitment, and faith. Through emails and phone calls, General Wong stayed in direct contact with my Washington staff every step of the way. He worked around the clock, and I publicly express my appreciation to him. I also publicly thank General Robert Lee, former Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii, whose quick action led to my rescue. Bob Lee is my brother and always will be. I also thank General Dennis Doyle, Commanding General of Tripler; Colonel Ronald Han; M. John Condello, Veterans Services Coordinator for the State of Hawaii; and members of their staff. I also thank Hawaii VA Director Wayne L. Pfeffer for the quality service he provides our veterans in Hawaii and American Samoa. I also thank Protocol Officer Joel Jenkins who cared for my family and worked with my staff on my behalf. I thank Tracey A. Betts, Director of the Honolulu VA Regional Office, for her tireless efforts. I also thank Captain Findley and those involved in my medical evacuation from Tripler to Travis Air Force Base in California, including the flight crew, and the doctors and nurses and medical personnel at the VA Medical Center in Palo Alto who also aided in my recovery. I recognize Mr. Scott Skiles who served as Liaison for my Congressional office and family while I was at the VA Palo Alto. I pay special tribute to my dear friends, Chairman Li Ka Shing and Ms. Solina Chau, for their visionary philanthropy that includes the Li Ka Shing Center for Learning and Knowledge at the Stanford School of Medicine, which provides services for our veterans at the VA Palo Alto. I thank Chairman Li and Ms. Chau for caring about America's veterans and for the quiet service they offered on my behalf, which strengthened my family and me during difficult days. I also thank the Stanford Medical team that worked with me. I am also appreciative of the medical staff and personnel at Walter Reed.

I thank my colleagues—both Republicans and Democrats—in the House and Senate for their prayers. We have worked together in close cooperation for many years and I will always be grateful for their steadfast friendship as well as their constant support of the initiatives I put forward for the benefit of the people of American Samoa. I particularly thank Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI. We came to know each other through Congressman Phil Burton, who was like a father to me. Leader PELOSI and I have been family since our Burton days, and I am grateful that she has been a part of my life for all these years. I am also very proud that she became the first woman in U.S. history to serve as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. To my friends from around the world, including leaders and diplomats from Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, Taiwan, Korea, China, India, Hong Kong and elsewhere, I also express my gratitude for their support and well wishes. I thank the pastors, priests, parishioners, and also those of my own faith who offered prayers and fasted on my behalf, including Elder Paul Pieper and Elder Gerrit Gong of the First Quorum of the Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Above all, I thank God. I know God loves us. We are His children. From the place of His habitation, He looks down from heaven upon all the inhabitants of the earth (Psalms 33:14), and He hears and answers our prayers. He does so in His own way and in His own time, as the object of prayer ''is not to change the will of God but to secure blessings for ourselves or others that God is already willing to grant but are made conditional on our asking for them.'' I know I am alive today because of prayer and because my appointed days are not yet (Job 14:5). But when my appointed time does come, I will return home to the God who made me with gratitude for the many blessings—especially my family, friends and associates—that He so richly bestowed upon me in this life. I will go, knowing that if a man die he shall live again according to the promise of our Lord (Job 14:14). Whether I go soon or stay for a while, I hope, like Gandhi, my life will be my message. Having grown up in the small village of Vailoatai in American Samoa and having graduated from Kahuku High School in Hawaii, I will always be grateful to the people of American Samoa for the opportunity they gave me to serve them. I thank the late Paramount Chief A.U. Fuimaono, who served as American Samoa's first elected Representative to Washington, DC, for giving me the opportunity to serve as his Chief of Staff from 1973 to 1975. I will always be thankful for all that he taught me. I am also

thankful for the late Congressman Phil Burton, former Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Territorial and Insular Affairs, who I served with from 1975 to 1981. During my service as his Staff Counsel, he tasked me with drafting legislation providing for an elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor in American Samoa. Congressman Burton introduced the legislation on June 10, 1976, which the U.S. House of Representatives passed by a landslide vote of 377 to 1. The historical proceedings and debates of the 94th Congress, Second Session related to this legislation were made part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in Volume 122–Part 18, July 1, 1976 to July 21, 1976 (Pages 21785 to 23276). After the legislation passed the House, instead of sending the bill to the Senate for a vote, Chairman Burton consulted with Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton and the two agreed that a Secretariat Order should be issued authorizing the American Samoa Government to pass enabling legislation to provide for an elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Secretariat Order No. 3009 was issued on September 13, 1977 in accordance with the will of the majority of voters in American Samoa who voted in favor of electing their own Governor and Lieutenant Governor in a plebiscite that was held on August 31, 1976. Chairman Burton also tasked me with drafting legislation providing for American Samoa to be represented in the U.S. Congress by a Delegate to the House of Representatives. Chairman Burton introduced this legislation, which later became Public Law 95–556, Oct. 31, 1978–92 Stat. 2078. The historical proceedings and debates of the 95th Congress, Second Session related to this legislation were made part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in Volume 124–Part 25, October 3, 1978 to October 6, 1978 (Pages 33129 to 34486). I will always be thankful for the opportunity I had to participate in such an historic undertaking for and on behalf of the people of American Samoa.

After I completed my service with Congressman Phil Burton, the late Senate President Paramount Chief Letuli Toloa encouraged me to come home and ''eat the dust and walk on the rocks'' or, as he put it, ai le pefu ma savali le ma'ama'a, meaning come home and more fully feel the suffering and pain of our people so that I might serve them more completely. I followed his advice and served the people of American Samoa as Deputy Attorney General from 1981 to 1984, and as Lieutenant Governor from 1985 to 1988. As I look back over my life, had I not returned to American Samoa to live and serve among our people, it would have been impossible for the people to have entrusted me to represent their interests for nearly four decades. Because of their faith in me, I became the first Asian Pacific American in U.S. history to serve as Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. This was an unexpected honor and an honor that belongs only to the people of American Samoa, not to me. When I left for Vietnam in 1967, I was uncertain if I would return alive. By the grace of God, I did return and went on to serve in the Army Reserve as a Captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and as a proud member of the 100 Battalion 442 Infantry Reserve Unit, Honolulu, Hawaii. By God's grace, I returned to Vietnam in 2007, for the first time in nearly 40 years after having served in Nha Trang as a young soldier at the height of the Tet Offensive. I returned in my official capacity as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment and, in returning, I found a people I love. This is why I have repeatedly called for the United States to clean up the mess it left behind and do right by the victims of Agent Orange. I was not aware of the many side effects caused by Agent Orange exposure but, now that I know, I urge anyone exposed to seek treatment. Agent Orange is a silent killer. From 1961 to 1971, the U.S. military sprayed more than 11 million gallons of Agent Orange in Vietnam, exposing millions of civilians and soldiers to dioxin, a toxic contaminant known to be one of the deadliest chemicals made by man. I was exposed during my service in Nha Trang. Like hundreds of thousands of veterans in the U.S. and Vietnam, I suffer from the side effects of Agent Orange, including heart and kidney disease. Sadly, many veterans and civilians have lost their lives because of Agent Orange exposure, and many more continue to suffer from its debilitating effects. Before it is too late, it is my sincere hope that the U.S. government will do its part to rectify this problem, and I hope that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will lead the way.

After serving in the U.S. House of Representatives for all these years, I now go forward with faith. In doing so, I again express my love for the people of American Samoa. I thank them for the opportunity they gave me to wear out my life in their service, and I hope I will be remembered for doing my best. As I begin a new chapter, I thank my staff in American Samoa, especially Faiivae Alex Godinet, as well as my Washington, DC staff, including Dr. Lisa Williams, Vili Le'i, Tavita Richmond, Leilani Pimentel, Ta'afili Sagapolutele and Jennifer Elliott. I thank them for their loyalty and dedication to me, to this institution and to the people of American Samoa. I also thank other members of my staff who served with me in the past and present, and I also recognize Cari Schemm and Cathy Barnhardt whose work I have relied on and appreciated. At this time, I pay special tribute to my wife, Antonina Hinanui Cave Hunkin. I am forever grateful that Hina is my companion in this life and in the life to come. I thank her for standing by my side during my recovery and throughout my many years of service. I love and appreciate her, and I always will. Hina and I express our profound love for our children and their spouses: Temanuata Jessie Tuilua'ai Hunkin and her husband Michael Laussen, Taualaitufanuaimeaatamali'i O'rereao Hunkin and her husband Fredrick Kolotau Vaitu'ulala, Nifae Ra'imana David Hunkin and his wife Malia Ana Jacqueline Rivera, Vaimoana Kealoha Hunkin, Leonne Lia'ina Hunkin and her husband Taufui-e-valu Vakapuna. We also express our love for our grandchildren: Tutehau Jeremiah Torres Hunkin, Leonne Kilisitinakolokiholeva Leigoanaimanuifa'alava Vaitu'ulala, Tamatoa Eni Nakita Vaitu'ulala, Feletiliki Kolotau Sebastiani Vaitu'ulala, Kenzo Kiyozo Nagashima Banno Vaitu'ulala, Taimana Kenese Rivera Hunkin, Taiatea Hinanui Rivera Hunkin, Maiana Vei Hina Taimalietane Vakapuna, and those yet to come. We pay tribute to our late parents, Eni Fa'auaa Hunkin and Taualaitufanuaimeaatamali'i Manu, and David Montague Cave and Georgina Popoua Bambridge. We also extend our love to my sisters, Dr. Salusalumalomamealeleimoleatunu'u Hunkin-Finau, Masinaatoa Magalei, my brother Albert, as well as my siblings Tuilua'ai, Arlene, and Taulauniumaituitagata who have since passed away. We also express our love for my sister Diane, my late sister Suzie, my late brother Felise, and Hina's brothers—Victor Dwight Cave and the late Dexter Buton Cave—as well as our extended families on this side and the other side of the veil. Hina and I believe that the best is yet to come. Until we meet again, Fa'afetai ma ia Soifua.

HONORING MR. AUBREY O'NEAL DENT JR., M.D.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Aubrey O'Neal Dent. Dr. Dent was a beloved husband, father, brother, and friend. With his passing on October 29, we look to Dr. Dent's personal legacy of leadership, service, and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born on May 7, 1934 in Roanoke, Virginia, to Aubrey O'Neal and Lillian Gertrude Dent, Dr. Dent was the only boy and the oldest of four children. After graduating from Lucy Addison High School, he went on to Howard University, where he was a proud member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity and received his Bachelor of Science degree.

In 1963, Dr. Dent married Carol Hayden Johnson at All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington, D.C., and that same year, he joined the Civil Rights Movement, proudly taking part in the March on Washington.

At that time, Dr. Dent served as a Major in the United States Army at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. His experience there drove him to enroll in College of Medicine at Howard University in 1964, where he would graduate four years later with a medical degree. After he graduated, he moved with his wife, Carol, and his daughter, Gina, to San Francisco. It was there, at the UCSF Medical Center at Mount Zion, that he completed his residency in psychiatry.

With his residency completed, Dr. Dent established a private practice specializing in general psychiatry that he maintained for 26 years. Working in the Presidio, he continued to serve his country as an active reservist in the United States Army Reserve. Later, he took a position at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville. Moreover, Dr. Dent served as Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the School of Medicine at UCSF.

As a past president of both the Golden Gate Medical Association and the John Hale Medical Society, and his affiliation with the Black Psychiatrists of America and the National Medical Association, Dr. Dent was an active member of his professional community. Dr. Dent dedicated himself to mentoring young students and professionals though his active participation in the Beta Upsilon Boulé of the Sigma Pi Phi fraternity, and he enjoyed attending Howard University's Homecoming each year to be reunited with old pledge brothers and friends.

On a personal note, Aubrey was a dear friend and loyal supporter. I will always remember his kindness and his concern for people who deserved a second chance. I will always remember him as a kind, gentle, loving, and brilliant human being who gave so much to others.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual, Dr. Aubrey O'Neal Dent. His dedication and efforts have impacted so many lives throughout the state of California. I join all of Aubrey's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 9, I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on #552 and "YEA" on #553.

HONORING LATONYA DENISE COTTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a determined young lady, LaTonya Denise Cotton. Ms. Cotton has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to make a positive difference in her community.

LaTonya Denise Cotton, a resident of Anguilla, Mississippi, was born on January 29, 1976 to Diane Cotton and Tom Davis in Hollandale, Mississippi. She is a graduate of Anguilla High School.

LaTonya is the author of a historical novel called "A Small Peyton Place in a Town Called Anguilla". She has plans to make a movie based on the novel. LaTonya has served as a volunteer through the AmeriCorps program as a career trainer in Sharkey County.

LaTonya has been a devout member of Union Chapel Baptist Church in Anguilla, MS for thirty one years. She is the proud parent of two girls, Dominique and Sumonia Cotton. She enjoys time with family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. LaTonya Denise Cotton for her dedication to serving her community.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN RALPH HALL

SPEECH OF

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there is no one like Texas Congressman RALPH HALL.

Congressman RALPH HALL is the oldest serving member of Congress, the oldest person to ever serve in the House of Representatives, the oldest person ever elected to a House term and the oldest House member ever to a cast a vote. Mr. HALL is also the last remaining Congressman who served our nation during World War II.

And for all of these accomplishments, I would like to thank and congratulate RALPH one more time for his service to the country and his leadership in the Texas Congressional Delegation.

Born in Fate, Texas on May 3, 1923, HALL did not know of his successful future which was ahead of him. At the age of 19, HALL enrolled into the U.S. Navy where he served as a lieutenant and combat aircraft carrier pilot from 1942 to 1945 during World War II.

After serving for three years, HALL then went on to finish college and received his LL.B. from Southern Methodist University in 1951. He was admitted to the Texas Bar, and practiced law in Rockwall.

Mr. HALL also participated in the business side of Rockwall where he took part in serving as President/CEO of Texas Aluminum Corp., General Counsel of Texas Extrusion Co., Chairman of Lakeside News, Inc., and was a founding member of Lakeside National Bank in Rockwall where he currently serves as Chairman of the Board.

RALPH had the calling to serve Texas in the political arena in Texas politics, a combat sport. So he began his public service from 1950 to 1962 when he served as County Judge of Rockwall County, Texas. Mr. HALL also served as President of the State Judges and Commissioners Association in 1958–1959.

From 1962 to 1972, Mr. HALL was elected and served as a Texas State Senator where he served as President Pro Tempore in 1968–1969.

Congressman RALPH HALL was first elected to serve the 4th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1980 and has been re-elected to each succeeding Congress.

On November 27, 2012, Congressman HALL became the oldest member in the U.S. House of Representatives to ever cast a vote. The following month, on December 25, 2012, he became the oldest-serving Member of the U.S. House of Representatives in recorded history.

Congressman HALL always ensured to serve his people and made sure their voice was heard on different issues throughout Congress.

A noteworthy quote Mr. HALL often said was "I'd rather be respected at home than liked in Washington." RALPH is a hardcore Texan with the unique knowledge of understanding all people from the rich and famous to the infamous and downtrodden.

He was a proud conservative democrat and personally knew the likes of LBJ, Speaker Sam Rayburn, Muhammad Ali, baseball great Mickey Mantle, war veteran Audie Murphy, Senator John F. Kennedy, Ted Williams, President Ronald Reagan, Texas Governor John Connally, Texas Governor William "Bill" P. Clements, Jr., Texas Governor Ann Richards, Texas Governor Rick Perry, Curtis Cokes, General Tommy Franks, Lieutenant General Tom Stafford, astronauts Gene Cernan, Buzz Aldrin, Neal Armstrong, U.S. Representative Ray Roberts, U.S. Senator Phil Gramm, famous aviator Claire Chennault, President George H.W. Bush, President George W. Bush, U.S. Senator JOHN CORNYN, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen, T. Boone Pickens, H. Ross Perot, Red Adair, Bo Derek, Chuck Norris, Ted Williams, Tom Hanks and The Ink Spots.

He works well with both Republicans and Democrats, but he "got religion," in 2004, and became a Republican. Never forgetting his Democrat roots, he commented, "Being a Democrat was more fun."

RALPH HALL always has a story and a new, but often used joke. He runs 2 miles a day and certainly symbolizes the best of the Greatest Generation.

RALPH HALL's service and leadership has shaped him into an important role model that members of the Texas Delegation in Congress, on both sides of the aisle admire. His dedication and love for his public service illustrates how success is attainable when mixed with hard work and determination, along with a love of America and of course, Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE KING INSTITUTE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Leader NANCY PELOSI, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, Congressman MIKE HONDA, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER and Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, to recognize the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute (King Institute) located at Stanford University. Led by Stanford University historian Dr. Clayborne Carson, the King Institute is preserving and promoting the legacy and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Before the King Institute was officially founded in 2005, Coretta Scott King approached Dr. Clayborne Carson in 1985 to become the director of the King Papers Project. This Project was established as a long term effort to publish Dr. King's sermons, speeches, correspondence, writings and other materials.

The King Institute is the largest online archive of Dr. King's writings that were previously inaccessible, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Encyclopedia, which was published in 2008.

The King Papers Project plans to release 14 volumes of The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr. by 2027. The first volume was published in 1992 and they have subsequently released six more. This Project is one of the few documentary archiving projects in the nation that focuses on the life of an African American leader.

Moreover, the King Institute prepares and provides educators with the Liberation Curriculum, a document-based set of lesson plans and online educational resources emphasizing the modem African American freedom struggle using nonviolence as the means to achieve positive social change and justice in the United States and other movements globally.

Additionally, the King Institute's Global Outreach program introduces Dr. King's work to a variety of countries, including China and India. By holding public events and by emphasizing the visionary ideas of Dr. King on a global

scale, these programs increase awareness of Dr. King's thoughts and life's work.

We are proud that the King Institute resides in such a prestigious academic institution. The Institute is a vital part of our national discourse, inspiring future generations to build upon Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy to achieve equality for all.

Therefore, on behalf of the residents of the Bay Area, we recognize the King Institute's work to preserve the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We wish the King Institute and Dr. Clayborne Carson the best as they continue to promote Dr. King's beliefs of social justice and racial equality.

IN HONOR OF JOHN DAVID DUKE LANE, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen and valued peach farmer of Middle Georgia, Mr. John David Duke Lane, Sr., who sadly passed away on Thursday, December 4, 2014 at the age of 87.

Although he was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Mr. Lane had long since planted his roots firmly into Georgia soil. Following his graduation from Gordon Military College in Barnesville, Georgia, Mr. Lane studied at the University of Georgia, where he became a member of the Chi Phi fraternity. He married the former Caroline Martin, and the young couple decided to return to Middle Georgia and help Mr. Lane's grandfather, John David Duke, run the family business at Diamond D Farm, which Mr. Duke founded in 1908.

Mr. Lane, or ''Big Duke'' as he was known, took the reins and the farm thrived under his leadership for many years. Mr. Lane, alongside his father, Dave Lane, founded Lane Packing Company, which is now a state-of-the-art facility and one of the most modern and efficient packinghouses in the industry. It has the capacity to pack and ship up to one million 25-pound cartons of peaches per season.

Mr. Lane was an innovator and made a name for himself in the agricultural community of Middle Georgia, so much so that the Georgia Peach Council bestowed upon him the title of ''Mr. Peach'' in 2002. He was one of the first people in Georgia to see the potential of agricultural tourism. The packinghouse has covered walkways where visitors can stroll and watch as peaches are being packed. It also has a restaurant and a large gift shop, which draws more than 200,000 visitors a year. His children and grandchildren continue to operate the packinghouse and the farm, now known as Lane Southern Orchards, one of the largest peach-growing operations in Georgia.

An avid outdoorsman, Mr. Lane enjoyed hunting and fishing and spent 44 years salt water fishing in Homosassa, Florida. In addition, he was fascinated by Indian artifacts and maintained an impressive collection of authentic arrowheads. But his greatest joy was roaming the farm, overseeing the growth and harvesting of the crops.

George Washington Carver once said, ''No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it.'' Mr. Lane has done just that, leaving behind a great legacy of leadership in the peach-growing community of Middle Georgia. His great contributions to our state's reputation as the ''Peach State'' will live on as long as Americans and people from all over the world enjoy our delicious and succulent Georgia peaches.

Mr. Lane is preceded in death by his daughter, Anne Lane Tribble, and brother, David Lane. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Rose Garrett Lane; his sons; Duke, Jr., Bobby, and Stevie Lane; stepchildren, Coleman and Lauren; and his beloved grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the Middle Georgia community in honoring the great John David Duke Lane, Sr. His leadership, wisdom, and keen business savvy helped make Middle Georgia's peach-growing industry the success that it is today. Mr. Lane was a remarkable man and a blessing to the state of Georgia and the nation as a whole. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

GENERAL LEAVE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 532–533. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on #532, yes on #533.

HONORING DEVIN TYLER McGUIRE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Devin Tyler McGuire. Devin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Devin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Devin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Devin has become a Brotherhood Member of the Order of the Arrow and earned the rank of Fire-Builder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Devin has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Devin built a backstop and painted a storage shed for the Smithville Baseball and Softball League.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Devin Tyler McGuire for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONSTITUTIONALITY AND LEGALITY OF EXECUTIVE AMNESTY

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, America has a Constitutional crisis. The President is in clear and direct violation of both the Constitution and existing federal statutes in proclaiming by fiat 'executive amnesty.'

With regard to violation of the Constitution, Article I, Section 1 is clear and definitive in its intent when it states ''All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.''

The President's blatant attempt to override existing immigration law by executive action is a clear violation of this.

With regard to violation of existing federal statutes, 8 USC 1324 'Bringing in and harboring certain aliens' both prohibits and specifies criminal penalties for bringing to the United States or harboring illegal aliens.

In section (a), the law states ''Any person who encourages or induces an alien to come to, enter, or reside in the United States, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such coming to, entry, or residence is or will be in violation of law;'' and further describes the penalties as ''A person who violates (these sections shall) be fined under title 18, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.''

Further, the Attorney General and the Secretary of State are in additional violation of 8 USC 1324 for not educating the public about the penalties for bringing in and harboring aliens in violation of this law.

In section (e), the law states ''The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, as appropriate, shall develop and implement an outreach program to educate the public in the United States and abroad about the penalties for bringing in and harboring aliens in violation of this section.''

Therefore, the President must immediately cease and desist his actions to impose amnesty by executive action. He must also reverse existing actions that he and his administration have taken to circumvent existing federal statutes and the Constitution in this matter.

RECOGNIZING REV. JEFFREY C. CHAMBLESS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INSTALLATION AS PASTOR OF MOUNT MORIAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rev. Jeffrey C. Chambless on the occasion of his installation as pastor of Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church on December 12th in Buffalo, New York. Rev. Chambless was born and baptized in Rockville Centre, Long Island and became an active member of the Shiloh Baptist Church at the age of 10 under the leadership of the late

Rev. Dr. Morgan M. Days, Jr. His early life of service included appointments as a junior trustee, deacon and usher board president. He later relocated to Buffalo and attended Canisius College, majoring in Pre-Law with a minor in Religious Studies. His educational pursuit also included a major in Police Services while attending Erie Community College.

Led by his family to Zion Missionary Baptist Church, this determined and dedicated man continued to embrace a life of service through his work on the Deacon Board, as Youth Pastor and then Interim Pastor. His impressive engagement with Church leadership and civic and community involvement includes membership with the Baptist Ministers Conference of Buffalo, NY and Vicinity, Delegate to the National Baptist Convention, Chaplain at Erie County Medical Center and Kaleida Health System, member of the Board of Directors for Teens In Progress (TIP) Youth Organization, Regional Committee for the New York State Department of Health AIDS/HIV Institute and Say Yes to Education Buffalo Clergy Task Force. Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church was founded in September 1960 by the late Rev. Anthony Benson, Sr. Their congregation has continued to grow for more than fifty years and through the guidance of several pastors. Under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Robert E. Baines Jr., valuable programs were started at the church including the Women's Ministry, the Senior Citizens Ministry and the Drug Abuse Program. Mount Moriah moved to its current location on Northampton Street in Buffalo in 1994 where fellowship flows to this day.

Since accepting this leadership position, Rev. Chambless's ministry has added new members and appointed two deacons. His many gifts and ability to bring his practical experience to serve the needs of people in the Church as well as the community will continue to yield growth, goodwill and guidance to his congregation and the City of Buffalo.

Mr. Speaker, it is in that spirit of service, that I rise with great pride today to extend deepest congratulations and best wishes for success to Rev. Jeffrey C. Chambless, his wife Clarisse and their daughter, Camille, and all who join with them on December 12th to witness his installation as Pastor of Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church.

HONORING MRS. MARY LEE TAYLOR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a former educator and longtime community activist from Tallahatchie County, MS, Mrs. Mary Lee Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor is 101 years old. She was born January 17, 1913 in Paynes, MS. Her years have been long and her mind is full of many stories her eyes have seen. I am talking about trying times, historical eras, blue skies, and personal achievements.

Mrs. Taylor is a 1936 graduate of the Tallahatchie County Training School. She went on to continue her education at Rust College in Holly Springs, MS and at the Mississippi Vocational College (now referred to as Mississippi Valley State University) in Itta Bena, MS. There she received her Bachelor of Science Degree.

Her age has not had an effect on her memory which brings smiles to her face. One of her personal achievements is that Mrs. Taylor is the only person in her family who received an education, according to her son, Mervyn Leon Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor taught 1st grade and adult education classes. Another achievement of Mrs. Taylor is that she was one of the original pioneers who lead the effort to bring the Head Start program to Charleston and across Tallahatchie County. Her list of fighting for the citizens of Tallahatchie County and surrounding communities goes on to include road improvements in the Black community, and bringing electricity and telephone service to the Black communities.

Her son, Mervyn, said his mother wasn't just active locally but also overseas. She traveled to poverty stricken areas on mission trips. Mrs. Taylor was also an active member in her church, St. Paul Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.) Church. She served as president of the local missionary, president of the Northern District Episcopal faith domination, and missionary president of the northern and southern Mississippi C.M.E. conferences.

Mrs. Taylor is the widow of the late Mr. Jimmy M. Taylor. She now lives in the Blue Cane Community, right outside of Charleston.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Mary Lee Taylor a pioneer in her community who has helped to pave the way for others, like you and me, to come along.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ASSOCIATION FOR TALENT DEVELOPMENT (ATD)

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Association for Talent Development (ATD) as the largest association dedicated to the talent development profession and recognize them for their annual Employee Learning Week, held from December 1st through the 5th, 2014.

Members of ATD come from more than 100 countries and connect locally with 125 U.S. chapters, international strategic partners, and global networks. They work in thousands of organizations of all sizes, in government, as independent consultants, and as suppliers.

Established in 1943 as the American Society for Training Directors, ATD is now a global leader in the talent development field. As businesses seek competitive advantages and growth, talent development professionals make sure an organization's best asset, its employees, have the skills they need to help achieve business growth. ATD serves this important community of professionals with research and resources.

To further these goals, ATD has declared December 1st through December 5th, 2014, as ''Employee Learning Week'' and designated time for organizations to recognize the strategic value of employee learning. I applaud ATD and its members for their dedication to developing knowledgeable and skilled employees during Employee Learning Week.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting policies that commit to maintaining a highly skilled workforce.

JAMES M. CARTER AND JUDITH N. KEEP UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1378, to designate the new courthouse at 333 West Broadway Street in San Diego as the James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse.

The bipartisan bill before us today has been a long time coming. I'm particularly grateful for SCOTT PETERS's hard work to bring interested parties together and craft a bill that all San Diegans can be proud of.

When we first reached out to the community, San Diego's leaders made it clear that there are no two figures more deserving of this honor than Judges Carter and Keep. The support was overwhelming.

Judges Carter and Keep were truly trailblazers in their field, and worked tirelessly both on and off the bench to better the San Diego community.

Judge Carter was the driving force behind the creation of the Southern California District, allowing the people of San Diego access to the federal court system.

Fittingly, once the Southern California District Court was established, Carter became its first Chief Judge.

Judge Carter also founded the Federal Defenders of San Diego and was instrumental in the creation of the University of San Diego Law School.

He is remembered by those who knew him as a giant of his time, a man whose service was an example for all those who followed in his footsteps.

For her part, Judge Keep was instrumental in opening up the San Diego legal field to women.

She graduated valedictorian at San Diego Law School at a time when only 5% of lawyers were women!

Judge Keep began her career as a public defender, and went on to serve as the Southern California District Court's first female Chief Judge.

Judith worked closely with the San Diego Community Foundation and the Armed Forces YMCA, and both she and James served as role models and mentors to countless young attorneys and judges in San Diego.

In addition to honoring Judges Carter and Keep, this bill will rename the Federal Judicial Center after the late Judge John Rhoades. Judge Rhoades spent over 20 years as a distinguished U.S. District Judge in San Diego. It is only fitting that the judicial center bear his name.

Judges Carter, Keep, and Rhoades were instrumental in shaping the San Diego legal community into what it is today. I can think of no better tribute to their service than to name this courthouse and judicial center in their honor.

HONORING LANDON MONTGOMERY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Landon Montgomery. Landon is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 714, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Landon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Landon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Landon contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Landon Montgomery for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE CALVIN SMYRE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished public servant, principled business leader and dear friend to my wife, Vivian and me, Georgia State Representative Calvin Smyre. Representative Smyre will be retiring this month as Executive Vice President of Corporate External Affairs of Synovus, a financial services company based in Columbus, Georgia.

Representative Smyre earned a degree in Business Administration from Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Georgia. In 1974, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives as its youngest member at 27 years of age. I was honored to have served with Rep. Smyre during my own tenure in the Georgia General Assembly, and I feel blessed to have gained a dear friend.

A 40-year legislative veteran, Rep. Smyre has built a repertoire of legislative accomplishments. He currently serves on the Appropriations Committee and the Rules Committee and is Chairman Emeritus of the House Democratic Caucus. In 1983, Rep. Smyre transcended racial barriers when Governor Joe Frank Harris appointed him as Administration Floor Leader, making Rep. Smyre the first African American in history to hold this position. In 1985, he was elected to the Democratic National Committee, becoming the first African-American elected official from Georgia to serve on the Committee. Then, in 2001, Rep. Smyre made history again when Governor Roy Barnes named him Chairman of the Democratic Party of Georgia, making Rep. Smyre the first African American to chair the state Democratic Party. Nationally, Rep. Smyre is President Emeritus of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) and the immediate Past President of the NBCSL Foundation.

In addition to his legislative achievements, Rep. Smyre has also built a successful business career. In 1976, he joined Columbus Bank & Trust Company, the Columbus-based division of Synovus, as a Manager Trainee. Two years later, he was promoted to Assistant Vice President and Marketing Officer. He served as Assistant Vice President and Vice President of Corporate Administration for Synovus from 1984 to 1990 and as Vice President of Corporate Affairs from 1992 to 1994. In 1996, Rep. Smyre was named Senior Vice President and Assistant to the Chairman for Community Affairs. In 1999, he was promoted to Executive Vice President and has served in this position ever since. In addition, he has the role of Synovus representative on the Financial Services Roundtable, the leading advocacy organization for the financial industry headquartered in Washington, D.C.

As former Chairman and CEO of the Synovus Foundation, the organization that directs corporate and philanthropic gifts from Synovus, Rep. Smyre has been one of the driving forces in ensuring that the company creates goodwill in the communities that it serves. Synovus boasts approximately $26 billion in assets and provides commercial and retail banking and investment services to consumers in the southeast United States. The company has been named one of Fortune magazine's ''100 Best Companies to Work For'' in America multiple times.

Although his business career and legislative duties have kept him busy, Rep. Smyre still finds the time to serve his community in various other capacities. He has held leadership and membership positions on numerous boards, foundations and organizations. He is a devoted Christian and has been a member of Greater Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church for over fifty years.

Nelson Mandela once said, ''For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.'' Rep. Smyre embodies this statement thoroughly, for in light of his great personal success, he continues to fight to ensure that every voice is respected and heard.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the Columbus, Georgia community in honoring Georgia State Representative Calvin Smyre for his decades of leadership at Synovus. While he leaves behind a great legacy at Synovus, we have certainly not seen the last of Rep. Smyre. He will continue to represent his constituents in the state legislature and he will continue to serve the Columbus community with integrity and distinction.

HONORING THE HEROIC SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF ABDUL-RAHMAN PETER EDWARD KASSIG

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the service and sacrifice of Abdul-Rahman Peter Edward Kassig. Tragically before his time, Kassig was taken from this earth by the hands of the terrorist group ISIL. He will forever be remembered as a selfless man who gave his life in service to those who needed it most. I also honor his loving and dedicated parents, Ed and Paula Kassig, who live in Indianapolis.

Although he was only 26 at the time of his death, Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig dedicated his entire adult life to serving others. Born and raised in Indianapolis, Kassig graduated from North Central High School in 2006. Upon his graduation, Kassig served as a soldier in the U.S. Army as a member of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Deployed to the Middle East, he bravely served his country and returned to the United States with an Honorable Medical Discharge.

After his tenure in the Army, Kassig attended Hanover College and Butler University. During this time, he also trained as an Emergency Medical Technician. In 2012, after seeing the suffering of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, he left higher education to use his medical training by providing humanitarian aid to those affected by the ongoing conflict in Syria. He founded a non-profit, Special Emergency Response Assistance (SERA), to provide Syrian refugees with medical supplies, medical assistance, clothing and food. Kassig also taught trauma care skills to others and thus spread his knowledge and good works to countless people.

The compassion and selflessness that Kassig displayed is an inspiration to his fellow Hoosiers and everyone who dreams of a more peaceful world. The danger he faced did nothing to temper his resolve to help those who needed it most. Kassig and SERA were dedicated to providing acute logistical support and assistance in areas too difficult for other humanitarian organizations to effectively operate.

Abdul-Rahman Peter Edward Kassig will be remembered as a young man of tremendous courage and integrity by family and friends from Indiana and across the globe. I join people of all faiths in praying for the comfort of those who mourn his death and a more peaceful world for all to live in.

HONORING REVEREND THADDEUS J. WILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Thaddeus J. Williams, a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi.

Reverend Thaddeus J. Williams is married to the former Teresa L. Buckner and the father to four children: Sam, Dante', Philip, and Alexandria. He is a Licensed and Ordained Minister of the Gospel and currently serves as Minister of Membership Assimilation at Greater Fairview Baptist Church.

Reverend Williams is currently enrolled in Mississippi Baptist Seminary and Bible College pursuing a Master in Christian Education. He earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Mississippi Valley State University in 1987 and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Mississippi in 1991. He is a graduate of the Mississippi Certified Public Manager Program, the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Leadership Yazoo City's Inaugural Class in 1992, and the 2008

Inaugural Class of FOCUS—DMH's Succession Planning/Accelerated Leadership Development Program.

Reverend Williams organized and has facilitated T and T (Thad and Teresa) Food/Outreach Ministry since 2000 where they have received both national and local recognition for their service to the community including the 2014 "WJTV Jefferson Award" and the 2013 Southern Christian Services "Hands of Providence Award."

Reverend Williams has served as Chaplain for the Mississippi Valley State University National Alumni Association, employed with the State of Mississippi since 1992 and currently with Mississippi Department of Mental Health's Central Office where he was voted by his peers as the 2012 Employee of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Thaddeus J. Williams.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JESUIT MARTYRS OF EL SALVADOR

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, in mid-November I was privileged to participate in the 25th Anniversary observance of the Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador. On November 16, 1989, the Salvadoran military carried out a joint operation with the specific purpose to enter the campus of the Jesuit-administered University of Central America José Simeon Cañas (the UCA) and murder the university rector and several of its faculty. That evening, members of the Salvadoran Army shot and killed six Jesuit priests, including the rector, along with two women, a housekeeper and her teenage daughter, who were being sheltered at the university that evening.

This year I traveled to El Salvador as part of a delegation led by the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), which included many presidents and officials of U.S. Jesuit colleges and universities. It was a very moving experience, one that strengthened both my faith and my commitment to stand up for human rights everywhere, including in my own country.

I was invited to participate in one of the forums organized by the UCA as part of the 25th Anniversary events, The Legacy of the Jesuits on U.S. Foreign Policy toward El Salvador and Central America and on the Society of Jesus. Also appearing on the panel were Fr. Charlie Currie, SJ, with Georgetown University and executive president of Jesuit Commons; Fr. Michael Sheeran, SJ, president, Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities/AJCU (in the USA); Fr. Andreu Oliva, SJ, rector, UCA; Geoff Thale, WOLA; and Fr. Tom Smolich, SJ, former president of US Conference of Jesuit Provincials.

I would like to submit the remarks I presented at the UCA on how the murders of the six Jesuits and two women affected me and how I see their legacy in El Salvador and the United States.

THE LEGACY OF THE JESUITS ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD EL SALVADOR AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND ON THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

Forum at the UCA: 25th Anniversary Observance of the Jesuit Martyrs
University of Central America José Simeõn Cañas
Saturday, November 15, 2014
10:00 AM–12:00 PM
Background: Panel presentations by Rep. Jim McGovern, Fr. Charles Currie, Geoff Thale, Fr. Tom Smolich, and UCA Rector Fr. Andreu Oliva. Presentations will be in Spanish/English with simultaneous translation provided.

REMARKS BY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JAMES P. MCGOVERN

Thank you for that very kind introduction. I am here this morning because I am grateful to the Jesuits of El Salvador, and especially those who have served and those who continue to serve here at the UCA. You have been my friends, my mentors and my teachers. How I think, what I believe, how I view and evaluate what is going on in the world has been shaped by my relations with the Jesuits, before, during and after the war.

The UCA itself was founded in the spirit of liberation. It is named after a Salvadoran priest, Jose Simeón Cañas, who as a congressman in the Constitutional Assembly championed and achieved the abolition of slavery in Central America in 1824. Abraham Lincoln didn't sign the Emancipation Proclamation until forty years later, in 1863. So it's right that we in the United States look to and work with the UCA to advance human rights, human dignity, freedom and equality.

Many people look upon the deaths of Fathers Ignacio Ellacuría, "Nacho" Martín-Baró, Segundo Montes, Juan Ramón Moreno, Joaquín López y López, Amando López, and Elba and Celina Ramos as crimes that epitomize the harsh reality of the war and the brutality of the Salvadoran armed forces. I prefer to remember their lives. I remember how they lived, how they carried out their pastoral work, their intellectual work and research, and how they interacted with their students, friends, colleagues and the Salvadoran people. And if there is one lesson that they taught me, it was that faith is more than ritual—it means action. "Feed the Hungry" means feed the hungry. "Treat Everyone with Dignity" means every person, and especially the poor, rightfully deserve a life with dignity.

One of the reasons U.S. policy changed towards El Salvador in the 1990s was because Jesuit university and college presidents from all around the United States—many who are here today—took up the challenge of the murdered Jesuits and ignited their alumni across the country to take action, not to remain silent. Those actions had tremendous power—the power of faith working to move history in support of human rights, truth, justice and peace.

We come to El Salvador this weekend to commemorate the lives and the loss of our Jesuit brothers. But we are also here to reflect on what has happened over the past 25 years. I believe that U.S. policy toward El Salvador has fallen far short in the aftermath of the war. In 1995, we all but abandoned El Salvador, significantly reducing our economic and development support just when it was most needed to consolidate the peace. When we have seen increases in our development aid, it has mainly been in response to natural disasters.

The U.S. should have helped lead a Marshall Plan for Peace in El Salvador over the past 20 years; instead, we did the opposite. We still don't have robust assistance ready to support a national development strategy for El Salvador—and we certainly aren't prioritizing projects focused on listening to, working with and helping lift up the poorest and most neglected Salvadorans, rather than economic projects that support elite interests. Even our Millennium Challenge Grants, which are targeted at strengthening Salvadoran agriculture and related infrastructure, and now at supporting development projects along the Pacific Coast, were held hostage to private sector interests for too long. But I'm glad that all conditions have now been resolved and I'm hopeful that development projects that take into account the interests of the communities on the coast might now move forward.

So, we Americans should not be surprised that we are now reaping what we have helped sow. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that had we invested significantly over the past 20 years in jobs, education, health care, food security, youth, women and families, fewer Salvadorans would have felt forced to abandon their homes and seek a life elsewhere. Not only did U.S. policies export gang violence to Central America, we did precious little to invest in preventing violence from taking root.

With all these families and unaccompanied children arriving at the U.S. border—many with terrible stories to tell—it is time to develop a policy that is good for the people of El Salvador, Central America and the United States. Will we help our friends and neighbors create jobs and greater opportunities for young people and marginalized communities and towns? Will we help strengthen judicial institutions to investigate and prosecute those responsible for violence? Will we help those same institutions root out corruption and identify those among society who are in league with or benefit from criminal activity and violence? Will we invest in the kind of citizen security and infrastructure that benefits all Salvadorans, not just the wealthy few?

President Sanchez Cerén is in Washington right now, and he and the other Central American presidents met with U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden yesterday. I hope that the Obama Administration and the U.S. Congress will decide to make long-term investments in youth, in development, and in citizen security. I hope they will embrace the positive lessons learned from USAID's recent programs on youth violence prevention. As they work on these proposals, I hope the U.S. and Salvadoran governments will make sure that programs are designed in partnership with civil society and affected communities—a real partnership.

We in the U.S. government need to be committed to reforming and strengthening institutions, and we have to make sure that our partners in Central America, most especially the regional governments, are also genuinely committed to using these investments for real institutional reform, and for development that benefits youth and marginal communities. We need to make sure that civil society and affected communities are wholly integrated into designing and evaluating these projects. And when I look around the region, I feel like the most potential for creating these types of sensitive and genuine partnerships is here in El Salvador.

Such long-term investments not only need to be made, they will need to be sustained. I am very concerned that the Administration, and especially the new U.S. Congress, will try to do everything "on the cheap." And meanwhile, the questions remain whether we in the United States will respect our own laws, as well as international humanitarian law, and welcome those who come to our borders in need of protection? Or will we continue to spend money primarily on increasing border security, expanding detention facilities, denying immigrants legal counsel,

streamlining deportation proceedings, and overwhelming, rather than strengthening, our immigration courts?

My country owes a great deal to the hundreds of thousands of Salvadorans who have made the United States their home. They are great assets to our local communities, working hard, opening small businesses, investing in their neighborhoods, and all the while continuing to invest in their families and former communities here in El Salvador. It reminds me a lot of my own Irish-Polish immigrant heritage.

I learned a great deal about El Salvador from refugees in 1983 who told my former boss, Congressman Joe Moakley, their stories. I believe that Salvadoran children and families telling similar stories about why they are trying to escape gang violence and criminal networks can make a difference today. Policymakers need to understand this reality. It also requires a commitment to invest in new policies, new ideas, new approaches—both here in El Salvador and in the United States.

When we deal with criminal and gang violence in the United States, we know we need to deal with education, social services and prevention programs, and with jobs and opportunities for young people. I don't know why anyone believes it's any different here.

The Government of El Salvador has made great progress. When I first traveled to El Salvador, the FMLN was in the mountains, settling differences through the barrel of a gun. Today, the Salvadoran people have just elected its second president from the FMLN political party. Peace has made a tremendous difference. The Salvadoran people's commitment to peace has made a tremendous difference. And today, political disputes are settled in the political and public arena.

I am grateful to be able to honor the lives of the Jesuit martyrs, and to know that their memory and their example continue to influence so many people, even now, 25 years after their murders.

I am also proud that we will be presenting later today a gift from the Moakley Foundation in Massachusetts for the UCA. I still believe that one of the best investments we can make in El Salvador is to support this university. Future leaders of El Salvador are being educated here today—maybe one of you sitting in the audience will be president of El Salvador one day, or a financial leader, or a teacher whose students will change the world, or a social worker who will work with communities and design the model that lifts thousands of Salvadorans out of poverty and into a dignified life. It is all possible, here at the UCA.

Education is the great liberator. The history of the UCA—and the lives and work of the Jesuit community—have long stood for an engaged and educated society, able to transform itself for the good of all people. This is why universities throughout Central America and around the world have created partnerships with the UCA. The UCA is the place where new ideas, new visions, and new leadership come to be nurtured and to flourish. And the UCA has always been where the voices of the poor were amplified—not just during the war, but in the hard work of advancing and consolidating the peace.

We all know there is no quick fix to the problems facing El Salvador. But many of the solutions to those problems are ones that the Jesuits and the UCA have advocated for as long as I can remember. All people deserve to be treated with dignity. Investing in the poor means listening to those who live in marginal communities and letting them decide how best to address the many problems that affect their daily lives. Certainly, confronting violent gangs and criminal networks requires strong police and judicial systems. But it also requires that those institutions be free of corruption, transparent, respectful of basic human rights, able to carry out their duties at a decent living wage, and in harmony with the communities that rely on their protection.

The good news is that there are solutions, and we basically know what they are. I believe with the commitment to act and press policymakers to do the right thing for the majority of Salvadorans, especially the poor, we can all make a difference. And I rely on the UCA and the Jesuits in El Salvador and the United States to remain committed and engaged, and to help show us the way.

In 1982, in a speech at Santa Clara University, Father Ellacuría spoke eloquently about the role of the university. He began by saying:

''Our historical reality—the reality of El Salvador, the reality of the Third World, that is, the reality of the larger part of the world and the most universal—is characterized fundamentally by the dominance of falsehood over truth, of injustice over justice, of oppression over liberty, of scarcity over abundance, in short of evil over good. . .''

He then went on to describe the role of the university this way:

''We ask ourselves what to do with the University. And we answer, above all, from the ethical point of view: transform it, do what is possible so that good wins over evil, liberty over oppression, justice over injustice, truth over falsehood and love over hate. . .

''A Christian university must take into account the gospel preference for the poor. This does not mean that only the poor study at the university; it does not mean that the university should abdicate its mission of academic excellence—excellence needed to solve complex social problems. It does mean that the university should be present intellectually where it is needed: to provide science for those who have no science; to provide skills for the unskilled; to be a voice for those who have no voice; to give intellectual support for those who do not possess the academic qualifications to promote and legitimize their truth and their rights.

I do not mean to be presumptuous by quoting Fr. Ellacuría to all of you who work and study at the UCA, but for me, those words resonate as strongly today as they did three decades ago. How can we look at the agony and desperation of so many Salvadorans and Central Americans and not feel called upon to respond generously and in solidarity with them, their families and their communities? I strongly believe—and it is one of the most important legacies of the Jesuit martyrs—that we are here to help the least among us. For me, this is the most important mission—for governments, for churches, for universities, for all of us. As Professor Emeritus Dave O'Brien, at the College of the Holy Cross, a Jesuit college in my home town of Worcester, wrote earlier this week, the challenge for all of us is in ''creating the next chapter.''

When I think of the lives and the deaths of those who we honor and who bring us together for this reflection, I believe that if they were still here with us, experiencing El Salvador's current reality, they would be calling us to the same commitment, built on the same ideals.

These eight individuals—six priests, two women—they died for a reason. What they stood for is very powerful. As long as I live I will be inspired by their words and by their example.

It is a powerful legacy. Let us build upon it together. Let us create the next chapter. Thank you.

HONORING JACKSON REXFORD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jackson Rexford. Jackson is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 206, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jackson has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jackson has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jackson has led his troop as the Patrol Leader and also became a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and a Brotherhood Member of the Order of the Arrow. Jackson has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jackson constructed four raised planters for Susquehanna Baptist Church in Independence, Missouri. All of the food produced in these planters will be provided to the church's food pantry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Jackson Rexford for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, the National Defense Authorization Act provides critical authorities for our men and women in uniform. It provides for their pay, addresses issues of mental health and suicide, protects victims of sexual assault and ensures they are well equipped and trained to conduct the missions that the country asks of them. I am proud that my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee and in the House could come to bipartisan agreement on this legislation to ensure that our Armed Forces remain the best in the world. It is not perfect, but this year's NDAA is an example of how we can work together to keep the American people safe, save tax payer dollars and make sure our men and women in uniform get the support they deserve.

However, I remain concerned about the provision included in the NDAA to provide for authorization through 2016 for the equipping and training of Syrian rebels.

There still remain too many questions about the long term implications of arming and equipping rebel forces and how this action fits into our broader strategy of destroying ISIS. I believe, without a detailed discussion on what supporting the Syrian rebels entails, that this kind of authorization will lead to a much longer and costly level of engagement. Congress has failed to properly discuss and weigh the long

term consequences of this military action. As a Member of Congress, it is my responsibility to make sure we don't commit resources, the most precious of which are our men and women in uniform, with no comprehensive plan for our involvement. Congress needs to debate and develop a new Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) before authorizing one piece of that strategy that will inevitably lead to further involvement across multiple national borders.

PREVENTING EXECUTIVE OVERREACH ON IMMIGRATION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5759, the so-called "Executive Amnesty Prevention Act of 2014."

This bill is nothing more than a political stunt by my colleagues across the aisle. It seeks to restrict the President from using his executive authority—much in the same way that President Reagan and President George H.W. Bush have done before him—to further secure the border and prioritize deporting felons over families. In fact, over the last 50 years, every President has used executive authority to take action on immigration, including six Republican Presidents.

This bill would not only be limited to the President's most recent use of executive authority but would also prevent the Administration from granting deferred action to Dreamers who are currently eligible for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) but have not yet received it. This would effectively end the DACA program—which has already provided temporary protection for 700,000 individuals who were brought to the United States as children—and would subject hundreds of thousands Dreamers to deportation. This legislation is so broad that the Administration would not even be able to grant deferred action from deportation to family members of U.S. Military troops.

Most importantly, this bill does nothing to address our broken immigration system. It has been more than 520 days since the Senate passed a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill yet Speaker BOEHNER has refused to let us vote on this legislation. Mr. Speaker, let the People's House vote on this important measure and let democracy work its will. Why is this House so afraid of a little democracy?

HEAR WHAT I HEAR: THANKING THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS CHRISTMAS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Armed Forces and their families, on this Christmas and holiday season of giving. Their gifts to our Nation are of the greatest. Let's keep them in our prayers this Christmas and holiday season. I submit this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

HEAR WHAT I HEAR

Pray for peace, people everywhere
Listen to what I say I say
The child, the child, sleeping in the night
he will bring us goodness and light
he will bring us goodness and light
Do you hear what I hear,
I hear
This Christmas our troops are coming home,
to their loved ones where they belong
To be near.
To be near
Do you hear what I hear
I hear
All those most poignant tears,
of all those who've lost their loved ones so very dear
So dear
Who will be alone year after year
After year
Never again to be near
To be near
All of those little boys and girls,
who've lost all their best friends in the world
In the world
Do you see what I see
I see
All those amputees,
who gave all their strong arms and legs,
as for you and me what they gave
What they gave
And all those physical therapists who inspire these
To dig in deep
Dig in deep
Do you see what I see
All those selfless ones,
whose eyesight is now gone,
all for the price of freedom they paid
They paid
Do you know what I know
I know
How inside them all so grows,
the scars of war upon them so
PTS something on that outside which doesn't show
Do you know what I know
Our Armed Forces,
are our most brilliant of all souls
Whose hearts are made of gold,
and their families so
And their families so
Let us bring them silver and gold
Silver and gold
All in our hearts that we hold,
that we hold
Do you know what I know
All those doctors and nurses so,
who from death have so stole
So stole
Giving all those families hope
Giving them peace and such hope
As all across America in hospitals their dedication shows
Shows
Do you see what I see
I see
On this Christmas Eve,
how much we owe to all of these
How great they are so all indeed
With a voice as big as the sea
as big as the sea
Found in all their deeds
In this season,
of the birth of the Prince of Peace,
please please remember him and all of these
Because they too bring us goodness and light,
they bring us goodness and light

By: Albert Caswell.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN TOM LATHAM ON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and colleague upon his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives.

I have had the honor and pleasure of serving with Congressman TOM LATHAM on the House Appropriations Committee since 1997. TOM has served on a number of subcommittees, lending his expertise on energy, agriculture and homeland security policy over the years, and most recently serving as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development.

Not only is he an exceedingly capable legislator who has demonstrated, time and again, his commitment to fiscal responsibility, but it is immediately obvious to anyone who meets him that he is 100% committed to his constituents in Iowa.

It is apparent that his Iowa values—hard work, community service, dedication to family—have colored his work here in the U.S. Congress. TOM is a thoughtful, natural born leader whose commitment to our country and his constituents comes through in every meeting, committee hearing and markup he attends. He isn't afraid to put his head down and do the difficult work demanded by this institution.

The two of us have made some great memories throughout his two decades of service, and my time in Congress has been greatly enhanced with TOM as a partner and friend. While all of us in the House of Representatives will miss his intellect and friendship, I ask you to join me in wishing TOM, his wife Kathy, their children and grandchildren all the best in his retirement. Thank you, TOM, for your service.

JAMES L. OBERSTAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 4926, to designate a segment of Interstate Route 35 in the State of Minnesota as the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway." This legislation would designate the segment of Interstate Route 35 between milepost 133 at Forest Lake, Minnesota, and milepost 259 at Duluth, Minnesota, as the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway."

Renaming these highways is a good way to memorialize Congressman Oberstar's contributions to Minnesota and our country. Born to an underground miner from Chisholm, Minnesota, Jim Oberstar served as a representative for the state of Minnesota for 36 years, totaling 18 terms from 1975 to 2011. He is the

longest-serving congressman in Minnesota history.

During his over thirty years of service to our state, Jim always put Minnesotans first. He was a public servant above all else. He had a gifted mind and an uncanny memory that helped him master a number of languages, including Haitian Creole. Jim's passion for helping people get from one place to another safely was contagious and his vision for Minnesota's future lives on as the projects he fought for as chairman of the Transportation Committee remain in Minnesota today.

After the Interstate 35 Bridge collapsed in Minnesota, Jim authored legislation which authorized $255 million without delay to begin the recovery and rebuilding process. His effective leadership was essential in that time of crisis. In addition to helping rebuild the I–35 Bridge, Jim was responsible for the Gitchi-Gami trail along Lake Superior's North Shore, the lakewalk in Duluth, and the 120-mile long Paul Bunyan bike trail.

Jim Oberstar embodied the Minnesotan values of public service, selflessness and compassion. His spirit, ideas and energy are deeply missed. For these reasons, I support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING JOHN ALTON MILLER, JR., FACHE FOR A RECORD OF SERVICE

HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and career of Mr. John A. Miller, Jr. for his 41 years of involvement with AnMed Health System and with the local community in South Carolina. John began his career with AnMed Health in 1973, eventually becoming its Chief Operating Officer (COO) in 1978 and serving as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from 1998 to the present. I have appreciated John's expert views on healthcare policy and economic development over the years.

Anchored by AnMed Health Medical Center in downtown Anderson, South Carolina, AnMed Health is one of the largest employers in South Carolina's Third Congressional District with over 500 physicians and nearly 4,000 employees. The 690-bed, not-for-profit health system is one of the state's largest not-for-profit independent health systems and serves South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina. AnMed Health also serves as a local hub of medical education, partnering with institutions such as Clemson University, Anderson University, The Medical University of South Carolina, and AnMed Health's own Family Medicine residency program in the training of future healthcare professionals, which has graduated over 300 family doctors since 1975.

John began his career with AnMed Health in 1973 after graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, serving in the U.S. Navy and completing a Masters of Health Administration from Duke University. John has also received an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Anderson University. John's career in healthcare now spans nearly 41 years as does his involvement in the Anderson Community and across the region. He has served in numerous leadership capacities with a number of local, regional, state, and national organizations, including the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce, the Anderson Area YMCA, the Anderson County United Way, Innovate Anderson, Hospice of the Upstate, Upstate South Carolina Alliance, Ten at the Top, Leadership South Carolina, and the SC Chamber of Commerce.

During John's tenure at AnMed Health, he has led AnMed Health from a community hospital to a comprehensive health system, encompassing five hospitals, a modern cancer center, a comprehensive home care division, a Level II trauma center, a cardiac and orthopedic center, three outpatient surgery centers, a family medicine residency program, two minor cares, two retail pharmacies, and a network of physician practices. John's knowledge and understanding of the changing healthcare landscape and his ongoing dedication to the organization and the community have ensured the continued realization of AnMed Health's founder Jennie Gilmer's vision to bring comprehensive and quality healthcare to the Anderson community. While at the helm of AnMed Health, he has continued to encourage the achievement of the gold standard for the health system by lending support to AnMed Health in its achievement of Magnet designation for nursing excellence by earning Top 100 recognitions by organizations such as Thomas Reuters and Becker's Hospital Review, U.S News and World Reports Best Regional Hospital, and numerous accreditations from the Joint Commission and other national organizations.

John has contributed to the advancement of the healthcare industry on a local, regional, state, and national level over the past four decades by serving in a leadership capacity with such organizations as the American Hospital Association, the American College of Healthcare Executives, the South Carolina Hospital Association, and many others. While he is leaving his leadership post, he will still remain active with AnMed Health and various national and local organizations. I know that John will always be there to offer much needed counsel to those in need. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 3rd District of South Carolina, I wish to express our deepest thanks to Mr. John A. Miller, Jr. for his significant contributions to AnMed Health, the local and regional communities, and healthcare overall. We wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HARRY EMMET MCKILLOP

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Harry Emmet McKillop of McKinney who passed away November 7 at the age of 92. Harry was a passionate family man, global humanitarian, a dedicated patriot, and a dear friend of mine.

The child of Harry and Cecilia (née D'Ozeville) McKillop, Harry was born January 2, 1922 in New York, New York. Harry served his country as a naval officer aboard the USS *Phoenix* in the South Pacific during World War II. A graduate of St. John's University with a degree in law, Harry worked throughout the world in the airline industry working his way up to the executive level with United Airlines, after which he serviced as Vice President for Braniff International and Vice President with Pan American Airways over a thirty year span. Hired in 1985 by Ross Perot, Harry headed the travel department for Electronic Data Systems before being appointed as President of Alliance International Airport—International Division by Ross Perot, Jr.

In addition to a lifelong career in the aviation industry, Harry dedicated more than 40 years of unselfish service to Americans in need around the world—most notably by continuing the search for and return of missing POWs and MIAs in many countries including Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Iran, and Iraq. His tireless work included managing logistics for Ross Perot's trip of the wives of American POWs to Vietnam to provide supplies and relief to the POWs. For his devotion to humanitarianism and patriotic service, in 2007 President George W. Bush awarded Mr. McKillop with the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service, one of the most prestigious awards given to a civilian by the Department of Defense.

A man who loved history especially as it relates to his Irish roots, Ross Perot established The Harry McKillop Irish Spirit Award to honor the life of and work of his friend for his commitment to "Irish Spirit" in 2003. Among those to receive the award are Jean Kelly of Speedwell Trust, Rev. Bill Shaw of 174 Trust, and Richard Moore of Children in Crossfire. In honor of his work addressing the plight of POWs and MIAs from Vietnam and successive wars, as well as his support of Irish causes and business developments in Ireland, specifically Shannon Airport, The University of Limerick conferred an Honor Doctor of Economic Science on Mr. McKillop in early 2014.

Harry was a long-time member of the Knights of Columbus, a former Grand Knight of the New World Council 9903 in McKinney, and a member of the 4th Degree Assembly 2266 in Plano. Children in the Fourth Congressional District attend the Harry McKillop Elementary School in Melissa, Texas. He has also been honored by the McKinney Fire Department as an Honorary Battalion Chief.

Harry is survived by his wife of 27 years, Rebecca Sue, and their daughters, Mary (and husband Seth) and Tory, six children from his first marriage: Linda, Laurie, Jeff, Wayne (and wife Mary), Allison, and Tracey, as well as 22 grandchildren: Aaron, Andrew, Kittredge (and husband Jack), Kelly (and husband Ken), Finnian, Vivienne, Ryan, Tessa, Maxwell, Jane, Corey (and wife Samantha), Zachary, Lauren, Kerry, Elizabeth, Lara, Tara (and husband Shane), Nick, Ben, Daniel (and wife Samantha), Michael (and wife Hannah), and Emily, and 9 great-grandchildren: Denver, Isabella, Sage, Sean, Maddox, Canyon, Noble, Leighton, and Olive, along with 17 nieces and nephews, and his siblings, Carol and Donald. He is preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Lucille, and his brother, Tom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Harry Emmett McKillop and the positive impact he had upon his community and communities around the world. He was a man of faith, family, generosity, and selflessness and I believe we can all learn from his example.

HONORING MR. JOHN RUMSEY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize John Rumsey for his lasting impact in the field of developmental disability advocacy and his exceptional service to those in need.

Early in his professional career, Mr. Rumsey turned his attention to helping those who were less fortunate than himself. In 1974, he joined the Contra Costa ARC, a non-profit, public benefit organization that is dedicated to helping adults with significant disabilities to realize their full potential and find meaningful employment.

In addition to his important work at Contra Costa ARC, Mr. Rumsey was an early active advocate for the accreditation of disability services agencies. As a statewide leader in the developmental disability field, John Rumsey held several key positions, such as President of California Disabilities Services Association. Today, the State of California requires the accreditation of such agencies to ensure quality service, due in large part to Mr. Rumsey's strong advocacy.

In 1984, Mr. Rumsey left Contra Costa ARC and devoted himself to assisting the developmentally disabled residents of Marin County. In 1990, Mr. Rumsey worked with other advocates to found Marin Ventures, where he served as the Executive Director for 21 years until his retirement in 2011.

Even in retirement, Mr. Rumsey continues to advocate for those in need and remains a strong voice for developmentally disabled adults. Please join me in expressing deep appreciation to John Rumsey for his long and singularly exceptional career, and for his outstanding record of service to the people of Marin County and beyond.

ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, our nation encourages personal savings in a number of ways throughout the tax code and now with the ABLE Act we are adding one more, specifically for individuals with disabilities. As we acknowledge through this legislation the importance of saving for individuals with disabilities and their families, it is important to place this policy in context and ensure the public and policymakers appreciate the continued need for effective asset tests in means-tested programs.

The ABLE Act explicitly ignores ABLE account balances and withdrawals for purposes of determining eligibility for Medicaid and other means-tested programs; under the SSI program, the first $100,000 in account balances is not counted as resources and withdrawals, except for those relating to housing, are not counted as income. This treatment is designed to provide generous new incentives to save for individuals with disabilities and their families, which current policy limits.

It would be a mistake for the public and future policymakers to argue that similar treatment should be afforded all low-income individuals under existing means-tested programs. Indeed, recent advances in administering resource limits suggests that such tools should be used more aggressively in making proper determinations about whether other individuals have sufficient personal means of support before asking taxpayers for government benefits. These advances rebut recent claims that administering resource limits is overly time consuming and burdensome, and suggest that State and Federal agencies are increasingly able to apply these limits in a cost-effective and efficient manner. For example, on March 11, 2011, the Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee heard testimony from the Social Security Inspector General about the use of electronic tools such as the Access to Financial Institutions (AFI) program, which allows the Social Security Administration to automate the process of checking for assets, limiting the burden on recipients and field office employees who administer the program.

Another argument for ensuring the use of effective resource limits for non-disabled individuals involves program cost. Especially if able-bodied individuals have significant assets or other resources on which to depend, they can and should be expected to use those resources first to support themselves before turning to taxpayer support. The alternative would be a significant expansion of taxpayer spending on able-bodied individuals who have significant personal resources they can and should turn to first for support. Recent years have seen examples of that through significant degradations in the effectiveness of the resource test in the food stamp program.

As of November 2010, thirty-three states and D.C. excluded the value of all vehicles in making food stamp eligibility determinations and in the last five years nearly every state has chosen to not have an asset test for food stamp benefits at all. Not surprisingly, due to these changes and other factors, the food stamp program has grown from 17 million recipients in the year 2000 to nearly 48 million recipients today, at four times its former cost to taxpayers. In July 25, 2012 testimony before the Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee, Professor Doug Besharov of the University of Maryland described this phenomenon as ''eligibility creep,'' or ''The process through which programs are successively expanded through a series of small steps, many of whose impacts are imperceptible at the time.''

Future policymakers need to protect against such eligibility creep and continue to ensure that limited taxpayer dollars are properly targeted to individuals needing assistance. Just as the ABLE Act allows parents to ensure sufficient resources are available to support their disabled children after they no longer can do so, we need to be good stewards of taxpayer-funded programs to ensure they are sustainable in the future. Continuing to effectively and efficiently administer income and resources limits, especially with regard to able-bodied individuals, is critical to achieving that goal.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend a warm goodbye to the Dean of the House, JOHN DINGELL, who I am honored to call my dear friend of over forty years. The people of Michigan's 12th congressional district as well as the people across the nation are truly grateful for the devotion and leadership that he has provided over the last half century in Congress.

JOHN has certainly demonstrated what it means to be a true American patriot and hero. A fellow veteran, he is currently one of two World War II veterans still serving in Congress leaving Texas Republican RALPH HALL as the sole member who served in World War II.

JOHN has made it his life's work to fight to protect the health and well-being of both our people and our planet, and we have all benefited from his hard work and many accomplishments during his tenure. JOHN acted as the driving force behind imperative legislative initiatives like the Clean Water Act of 1972, the Clean Air Act of 1990, and the Endangered Species Act.

Through dedication and an everlasting thirst for public service JOHN has made an indelible impact in this institution. His charismatic candor will be missed. I will always be thankful that JOHN fought alongside me in Congress in times of both good and bad. I know JOHN will remain a voice of reason in our nation.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLUMBUS (GA) CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the noble work of the Columbus (GA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated on the eve of its 50th anniversary. The Columbus (GA) Chapter was chartered on December 19, 1964. Its members and supporters will be celebrating this milestone at a luncheon on Saturday, December 13, 2014.

The Links, Incorporated traces its origins back to 1946. Margaret Roselle Hawkins and Sarah Strickland Scott gathered seven friends in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to form a group to respond to the pressing needs of the African-American community after World War II. Today, an esteemed international women's service organization, The Links, Incorporated aims to improve the lives of African Americans by providing them with essential resources and services which offer disadvantaged communities new hope for improved lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to specifically acknowledge the great work of the Columbus (GA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. The Columbus (GA) Chapter has implemented and sustained The Links,

Incorporated's five programming categories: National Trends and Services, The Arts, Services to Youth, International Trends and Services, and Health and Human Services.

The National Trends and Services facet of the Columbus (GA) Chapter champions the idea of empowering both the individual and the community through events such as a week-long community celebration that illustrates the positive impacts of diversity and multiculturalism. Displayed everywhere from government centers to schools to churches, The Links, Incorporated promotes ethnic pluralism within the community.

In addition, The Links were the first to gather local black entrepreneurs and prospective customers together in order to explore shared interests and encourage the potential for reciprocal benefits. The organization also takes the time to honor the lifeblood of local communities: trash collectors, school bus operators, postal carriers, and cafeteria workers. It seeks to recognize every aspect of a community, understanding that everyone deserves respect and gratitude for the vital roles they play in keeping the community afloat.

The International Trends and Services arm of the Columbus (GA) Chapter brings resources to countries across Africa through well-building and providing clean birth kits to those in Uganda and survival kits to women in Haiti. The organization's dedication to domestic and international service showcases the depth of its commitment to community betterment through public service.

The Columbus (GA) Chapter has instituted numerous programs under its Services to Youth facet, including a mentor program for kids in kindergarten to young adults in college. Additionally, Services to Youth promotes the values of higher education by raising interest in STEM education and career paths by awarding scholarships, creating endowments, and supporting Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

In line with its mission to promote cultural awareness through The Arts program, the Columbus (GA) Chapter partners with a number of arts institutions, such as museums, art councils, symphonies, and educational institutes to reinforce the importance of a strong minority presence in the art community.

Last, but certainly not least, the Health and Human Services facet of the Columbus (GA) Chapter works to implement and maintain community services to address the disparities in health conditions negatively impacting minorities. In this regard, the Columbus (GA) Chapter has joined forces with Linkages to Life, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Walk for Healthy Living, and the National Childhood Obesity Initiative.

Through the wisdom and strong leadership of its past fourteen presidents, the Columbus (GA) Chapter has given back so much to the African-American community and, in turn, the community as a whole. Today, the Chapter is led by current president, Olive Gibson Vidal-Kendall and boasts 33 spirited and outstanding members who provide over 1,500 hours of service each year.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing 50 years of incredible and inspiring work by the Columbus (GA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. The services this organization has provided to the greater Columbus community are immeasurable and there is no doubt in my mind that The Links, Incorporated will continue its worthy mission of promoting hope and prosperity for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I was traveling with President Obama and was unable to be present for Roll Call Vote numbers 552 and 553, the Motion to Recommit and Final Passage of H.R. 5781, The California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on Roll Call 552 and No on Roll Call 553.

HONORING ATTORNEY WILL ELLIS PITTMAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Attorney Will Ellis Pittman.

Attorney Pittman was born and raised in Tutwiler, MS. Mr. Pittman is 51 years old. He is the owner and managing member of Pittman & Associates, PLLC law firm in Clarksdale, Mississippi where he also serves as the first African-American County Prosecutor for Coahoma County. Attorney Pittman also serves as the board attorney for the Tunica County Board of Supervisors and is the first African-American to represent the Tunica County Board of Supervisors. Attorney Pittman is recognized amongst family, his community, and his colleagues as a man of wisdom, service, a generous spirit, and passion. He regularly attends and serves on the finance committee of the Galena Missionary Baptist Church in Tutwiler, Mississippi which he grew up in and joined at eight years of age.

Ellis attended and graduated from public high school in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. After earning his high school diploma, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. While in the Marine Corps, Ellis married his high school sweet heart, and they had two (2) children. After being honorably discharged from the Marine Corps, Ellis returned to his home town in Tutwiler.

However, he was unable to find employment anywhere in the delta area. Ellis returned to work and earned a living on the plantation in Tallahatchie County where he grew up. Ellis worked six (6) sometimes seven (7) days a week to provide food, shelter, and the bare necessities for his family. He always knew that if given the opportunity, he would provide them with a better way of life.

After working one full year and saving every penny that he could, Ellis departed for Dallas, Texas where he obtained a job with a janitorial service, cleaning grocery stores at night. Within two months Ellis saved enough funds for a deposit and first months' rent on an apartment. He then returned to Mississippi to get his wife and child and they returned to Dallas, Texas. Within six months, the store at which Ellis was employed took notice of his hard work and daily attendance and the store manager offered him a job as an apprentice baker that provided health insurance, dental, and vision benefits for both him and his family. With this break, Ellis used the extra earnings to provide a better place for his family to stay. Within six months, Ellis had worked his way from an apprentice baker to a journeyman baker and was able to provide his family with the kind of things that he had always dreamed of having.

Although he excelled in his employment, Ellis realized that in order to do more for his family he would have to obtain a college education. At the same time, Ellis desired to return home to be with his elderly father who became ill. So, he applied for and was hired with the Mississippi Department of Corrections as a correctional officer trainee.

He then made plans to attend Mississippi Valley State University to obtain a college degree. Prior to applying to Mississippi Valley State University, the Pittman's home caught on fire in which Ellis received second and third degree burns over a large portion of his body. His wife received severe burns as well. After a month, she passed away from the injuries she sustained from the fire. Ellis remained in the Greenville Burn Center for a month and half before he was released. After a short period of time, he returned to his place of employment at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. The home that he had purchased for his family had burned down, so the Department of Corrections provided him with a house on the ground for him and his two minor sons to live.

At this point, he made the decision not to attend Mississippi Valley State University due to the drive because he would have to commute. Being a single parent and still having to work, Ellis applied to Delta State University which was closer to where he was living at the penitentiary and he could make the daily commute. He commuted five days a week for three years until he graduated from Delta State University with a degree in criminal justice and political science.

Prior to graduation from Delta State University, Ellis applied to law school at Mississippi College, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, and the University Of Mississippi School Of Law. He was accepted for admission at all three law schools. However, he chose to attend the University of Mississippi—School of Law due to the financial aid available for African-American applicants. After obtaining his law degree and license to practice law, Ellis returned to the Mississippi Delta from Memphis, Tennessee and opened Pittman Law Office in Clarksdale, Mississippi in 1996 where he continues to practice to this day.

Ellis has given countless young lawyers, that have recently graduated with no experience and unable to find a job, a position at his law office to give them a start. He realized that most people will do well if given the chance which he learned from personal experience when he needed someone to give him a chance. There has not been a time when a newly admitted lawyer came to Ellis looking for job and was turned down for employment.

Ellis' practice has included representing countless individuals in cases for excessive force, employment discrimination, criminal defense, family law, as well as personal injury and wrongful death.

Attorney Will Ellis Pittman's work ethic, passion, dedication, dependability, and service

have made him synonymous with being one of the best, if not the best, attorney around. At the end of the day, Ellis is recognized for his service to God, his family, his country, his community, and the people that seek his help.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Attorney Will Ellis Pittman for his dedication to serving this great state and country.

HONORING SHARON MENDOZA DOUGHTY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Sharon Mendoza Doughty, who passed away on November 19, 2014 following a long battle with cancer. A pioneering rancher, conservationist, teacher, winemaker and a natural leader, Ms. Doughty was a positive force within the local community.

Sharon Doughty grew up on her parents' historic B Ranch on the Point Reyes Peninsula. After the passing of her second husband, Bill Bianchini Jr., in the early 1980s, she took over the daily operations of their 800-acre dairy. Transitioning from a career as an accountant and teacher, Sharon Doughty became a full-time rancher with the help of her close family and friends.

Through her comprehensive knowledge of the dairy trade, Ms. Doughty became a natural leader within the North Bay dairy community and leaves behind a long legacy of positive impacts. The depth of her commitment to Marin County agriculture united fellow ranchers and helped to propel their products into national markets. A dedicated advocate for the preservation of local agricultural lands, Ms. Doughty served two terms as the president of the Marin Agricultural Land Trust and one term as a member of the California Coastal Commission. She selflessly devoted her time and expertise to the Marconi Conference Center in Marshall and 4–H. Among her many honors, in 2007, Ms. Doughty was named the ''Woman of the Year'' for California's 6th Assembly District for her exceptional community leadership.

Mr. Speaker, Sharon Doughty's life teaches us that one woman can make a substantial difference. Her efforts will not soon be forgotten as much of her legacy lives on all around us in Marin County and beyond. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to her today and express our deepest condolences to her husband Steve; daughters Kathleen von Raesfeld and Karen Taylor; brothers Joseph Mendoza Jr. and James Mendoza; grandchildren Audrey and Nina von Raesfeld, Camilla, William Joseph, and Eva Taylor; and nephew Will Clark.

JAMES L. OBERSTAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, Jim Oberstar was a true gentleman of the House who ably represented Minnesota's 8th District for 36 years. He was a fixture of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Jim started as staff in the 1960s, became a Member in the 1970s, then served as Chairman of the Committee from 2007 to 2011. I was blessed to work, and sometimes ride, alongside Jim for many years. Given his many years of work to improve transportation in Minnesota and across the country, it is fitting that a portion of Interstate Highway 35 be renamed in his honor.

As a tireless advocate on transportation issues, Jim earned well-deserved admiration in many circles, including in my home state of Oregon. He accompanied me on tours to advocate for increased infrastructure investment. Jim truly understood the importance of investment as a way to create American jobs, improve safety, and build roads, bridges and transit systems to accommodate a 21st Century economy. His passion and leadership are evident in projects across the country.

Jim was also an avid cyclist, and I am grateful I had the opportunity to show him my state in 2007 during the Cycle Oregon event. He was one tough athlete, easily outpacing cyclists half his age. Jim was a champion of the road in more ways than one.

Like many people in Washington, DC, Minnesota and beyond, I feel fortunate to consider Jim not only a colleague, but a friend and a mentor. I only wish he had lived long enough to share all of his knowledge with the rest of us.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE JAMES M. BATZER FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A JUDGE FOR THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF MICHIGAN

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable James M. Batzer and his commendable service to Benzie and Manistee counties as a Circuit Court Judge.

Judge Batzer served West Michigan as a circuit court judge for 30 years. His commitment to the people of West Michigan has been exemplified through his long and illustrious career.

After graduating from Wayne State University with his Juris Doctor, Judge Batzer chose to remain in Michigan to practice. Before his election to the 19th Circuit Court, Judge Batzer worked a number of different jobs helping Michigan's youth. From 1968–1975, he served as a Children's Protective Services Worker as well as a Juvenile Delinquency Case Worker. He then went on to become a Teaching Fellow at the Detroit College of Law, where he taught legal research and writing to first-year law students. In 1979, Judge Batzer served as an Assistant Attorney General for the state of Michigan as well. Judge Batzer was later elected to the 19th Judicial Circuit Court on January 1, 1985.

Judge Batzer has proven his dedication to the courts of Michigan throughout his career, and he has been a respected and prominent figure in the law community. From 1989–1995, he served as a Member of the State Bar Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions, and he served as Chair of the committee from 1993–1995. He has also been a member of the Northwest Michigan Community Corrections Advisory Board from 1989–2010. Judge Batzer was later named as one of the least reversed trial court judges in criminal cases in Michigan by the Detroit Free Press, and was also profiled by the college textbook, Criminal Justice in America.

Judge Batzer stands as a shining example of the Michigan Judicial System. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Judge James Batzer for his service to the state of Michigan.

IN HONOR OF STANLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S NURSING PROGRAM

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Stanly Community College's Annie Ruth Kelley Associate Degree Nursing Program for being ranked #1 in the United States by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing for schools of nursing that lead to entry-level Registered Nurse licensure.

Stanly Community College's Annie Ruth Kelley Associate Degree Nursing Program ranks first among 1,904 programs in the United States.

This innovative program utilizes unique education techniques such as instant messaging, flipped classroom opportunities, adaptive testing, and simulated clinical experiences in a simulation hospital. All of these techniques lead graduates of SCC's nursing program to be well-prepared to serve those in need across the region.

A strong education system is important to empowering our nation and Stanly Community College's Nursing Program is setting a standard of excellence that should be commended.

The impact that the Stanly Community College Nursing Program has on our local communities, and the state of North Carolina, is undeniable.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on December 1, 2014, on Roll Call #532 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 5629—Strengthening Domestic Nuclear Security Act of 2014, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 1, 2014, on Roll Call #533 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3438—National Laboratories Mean National Security Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 2, 2014, on Roll Call #534 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 2040—Blackfoot River Land Exchange Act of

2014, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 2, 2014, on Roll Call #535 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5050—May 31, 1918 Act Repeal Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 2, 2014, on Roll Call #536 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 3572—To revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 2, 2014, on Roll Call #537 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5739—No Social Security for Nazis Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 2, 2014, on Roll Call #538 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and H.R. 3240—Regulation D Study Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 2, 2014, on Roll Call #539 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 2366—World War I American Veterans Centennial Commemorative Coin Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 3, 2014, on Roll Call #540 on H. Res. 766, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5771) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions and make technical corrections, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 647) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On December 3, 2014, on Roll Call #541 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and H.R. 5769—''To authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.'', I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 3, 2014, on Roll Call #543 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 5771, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 3, 2014, on Roll Call #544 on Passage of H.R. 5771—Tax Increase Prevention Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 3, 2014, on Roll Call #545 on Passage of H.R. 647—Achieving a Better Life Experience Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 4, 2014, on Roll Call #546 on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On December 4, 2014, on Roll Call #547 on H. Res. 770—Rule providing for consideration of the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment with an Amendment to H.R. 3979—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, H.R. 5759—''Preventing Executive Overreach on Immigration Act,'' and H.R. 5781—California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On December 4, 2014, on Roll Call #548 on H. Res. 758—Strongly condemning the actions of the Russian Federation, under Vladimir Putin, which has carried out a policy of aggression against neighboring countries aimed at political and economic domination, as amended, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 4, 2014, on Roll Call #549 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 5759, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 4, 2014, on Roll Call #550 on Passage of H.R. 5759, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On December 4, 2014, on Roll Call #551 on the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment with an Amendment to H.R. 3979, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ORONO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Orono High School girls' soccer team on winning the 2014 Minnesota State Soccer Championship recently.

After playing to a nil-nil draw through regulation and extra time in the finals, Orono displayed teamwork, grit, and nerves of steel as they came out on top in a 3–2 shootout. Goalkeeper Jessica Woessner played a major role in the Spartan's clean sheet and also came up big with the game winning stop in penalty kicks.

The ability of the Spartans to overcome adversity was especially noteworthy. Minnesota's Ms. Soccer, Sophie Babo, tragically suffered a leg injury in the second half of the finals. However, Orono rallied together in order to finish the game victorious. We all wish a speedy recovery for Sophie and best of luck as she plays for the University of Kentucky next year.'

Soccer is called the ''beautiful game'' for its ability to combine skill, teamwork, endurance, and toughness. Few sports require such dedication both to one's physical shape and a commitment to technique.

It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of these young women that they are able to effectively balance the time needed to excel as a team while still maintaining their school, family, and social commitments.

As a member of the Congressional Soccer Caucus, I'm happy to congratulate the Orono High School girls' soccer team, their coaches, and fans on a great season!

VOICE OF AMERICAN UKRAINE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the important work of the Ukrainian Service of the Voice of America.

VOA's Ukrainian Service has been a crucial source of news and information for the people of Ukraine for 65 years. Throughout Russia's campaign of aggression against Ukraine, VOA's Ukrainian Service has been an important source of news, information and discussion about the year-long crisis. Every week, VOA's Ukrainian Service reaches millions of people in Ukraine and through its daily reporting on U.S. politics, foreign policy, social issues, business, culture and the arts, VOA provides comprehensive, accurate and authoritative information that Ukrainians can employ in strengthening their nascent democracy, market economy and independent statehood.

I congratulate VOA Ukrainian for 65 years of service to the Ukrainian people and for all it is doing to strengthen ties between the U.S. and Ukraine.

HONORING ALEJANDRO BARLOCK

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my thanks to Alejandro Joshua Barlock of Unity Township, Pennsylvania for his service to the Greater Latrobe community by planning and installing a new veterans memorial at Barnes Place, a senior living community.

Alec is a student at Greater Latrobe High School and a member of Boy Scout Troop 327 in Youngstown, Pennsylvania. Alec had noticed that his grandfather Eugene Jones, 89, a World War II veteran who fought in the Battle of the Bulge, could no longer travel from Barnes Place to local Veterans Day ceremonies. Thus, Alec decided for an Eagle Scout project to build a memorial for his grandfather and all of the Barnes Place veteran residents.

He spent nearly nine months planning his project and approximately twenty hours constructing the memorial with the help of his family and fellow scouts. The memorial is now open for use of the entire community for special patriotic ceremonies.

By building this memorial to honor our veterans, Alec has answered the call of the Scout Oath to show ''duty to country.'' Mr. Speaker, I again congratulate Alejandro Barlock on a job well done, and I ask that all Members join me in thanking him for an Eagle Scout project that remembers the sacrifice of America's service men and women.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EDINA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' TENNIS CHAMPS!

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker. today I rise to commend the Edina High School girls' tennis team on their 2014 Minnesota State Championship.

The Edina Hornets clinched the state tennis team title with a strong performance top to bottom in their 6–1 victory over Prior Lake. Senior Caitlyn Merzbacher and Freshman Sophia Reddy led the way in Singles play, but it took a complete team effort to take home the title.

Credit goes to Coach Steve Paulsen, who now can now count this as his 19th state title, including 18 in a row. With such a consecutive title streak on the line, it's easy to see these Edina athletes have no problem coping with pressure.

Tennis is a game with tremendous ups and downs that takes focus, mental toughness, and an ability to overcome mistakes. Edina's success is a testament to the time spent day after day honing those skills.

What makes it even more impressive is that these Hornet athletes are able to thrive at their sport while still meeting their academic, family, and social commitments. Family and friends should be tremendously proud of what these girls have accomplished.

It is my pleasure to honor and congratulate the Edina High School girls' tennis team on bringing home another state title!

IN HONOR OF SHIRLEY McDOWELL'S CAREER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shirley McDowell of Concord, North Carolina for her faithful work as Executive Director at Hospice and Palliative Care of Cabarrus County. Upon retiring she will have served 28 years building a team of caregivers that have served our community during times when families have confronted terminal illness.

Under Shirley's leadership, Cabarrus County's Hospice service has grown into a strong program that effectively helps those in need. She guided this program through all of the changes in healthcare over the years and directed Hospice through acquisition of land for a permanent building and the construction of the Tucker Hospice House in Kannapolis.

The impact that Shirley has had on our community is profound, and we are grateful for her commitment to help those in need. I am proud to represent Shirley McDowell and we are thankful for her years of service.

HONORING ISAAC PALMER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable person, Mr. Isaac Palmer.

Mr. Isaac Palmer was born on May 23, 1914 in Sharkey County, Mississippi, the oldest of nine children born to the late Reverend Littleton and Frances Nathaniel Palmer. Mr. Palmer was married to the late Vera Lee Bell Palmer for over 50 years. He has eight children: Betty, Geraldine, Odell, Isaac Lavelle, Nina, Patricia, David (deceased) and Fred (deceased).

Mr. Palmer wanted to attend school badly; but, he had to leave school when he was twelve years old, in the 6th grade, to work on the farm and help provide for his younger sisters and brothers. However, he didn't let this stop him. He learned to read, write and speak more fluently by studying the Holy Bible. Mr. Palmer was a ''jack of all trades'', doing things like driving tractors, farming, welding and being a mechanic, just to name a few.

At an early age, Mr. Palmer accepted Christ as his Savior. He was an active member of New Hope Baptist Church in Blanton, Mississippi, where he served as Senior Deacon and Superintendent of the Sunday school for many years. During this time, he led many children, friends and acquaintances to Christ. He has been and remains a laborer for Christ for more than 85 years.

Though Mr. Palmer only had a 6th grade education, he remains passionate about helping and encouraging his children and other young people to get as much education as possible. To help out, he would drive his own children to and from Alcorn and Jackson State Universities, as well as their friends who lived in the area (free of charge), after working all day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Isaac Palmer for his dedication to serving and giving back to his family and community.

HONORING JOE GERGELA

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Joe Gergela, who will retire at the end of this year from his position as the Long Island Farm Bureau's Executive Director, a position he has held for 26 years.

Joe's highly effective advocacy for Long Island agriculture was first cultivated early in his life, harvesting potatoes and other vegetables with his father and grandfather. He came to know the satisfaction of a hard day's work and the vital role family plays in a working farm, which form the backbone of the economy and tradition of Long Island's East End. In doing so, Joe celebrated the rich agricultural heritage that has been the pride of eastern Long Island since the 1600s. But he also learned the struggles farming families face, which strengthened his resolve to fight for our farming communities as the leader and chief advocate of the Long Island Farm Bureau.

At the helm of the Farm Bureau, Joe has worked tirelessly for the over 600 farms covering nearly 36,000 acres of land in Suffolk County, in which my district lies, and the thousands of acres of farmland in adjacent Nassau County. During my tenure in Congress, Joe has been a trusted and valued counsel upon whom I have relied for expert knowledge of agricultural and environmental policy. I enjoyed my regular visits that Joe coordinated for me with board members of the Long Island Farm Bureau that became known as ''coffee with the congressman,'' which I found to be invaluable forums. These annual coffee meetings gave me the opportunity to hear directly from East End farmers who imparted first-hand accounts of their success and challenges with issues relating to water quality, open space preservation, the Farm Bill, immigration reform and access to affordable labor, and how we could work together to maintain Long Island's robust agricultural footprint.

Joe has been an invaluable resource to my staff and me, providing real life knowledge about working farms but also helpful insight on public policy. He has helped my office build meaningful relationships with the agriculture community and has always been ready to assist when there were opportunities to work together. Most recently, Joe helped coordinate a visit to Long Island for the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, to focus USDA's attention on our land, wineries, farm stands, related small businesses, and the hard-working Long Islanders behind these successful, growing ventures.

Mr. Speaker, I have been proud to call Joe a friend and colleague for many years now. I know there will be many farmers, small businesses, and Suffolk County residents who will miss his tenacious dedication to farming and farmers on Long Island. On behalf of New York's First Congressional District, I congratulate Joe on his years of outstanding service and his many accomplishments with the Long Island Farm Bureau, and I wish him well in retirement and his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE SIXTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, on December 20, 2014, Brevard County families, businesses and local community organizations will gather together to celebrate the Sixth Annual Christmas Extravaganza. This wonderful event, which will take place at the Max K. Rodes Park in West Melbourne, will provide an uplifting message of hope during this Christmas season as so many families are still facing difficult challenges.

The House at Palm Bay, Brevard County Parks & Recreation and their business partners have recognized the importance of providing a positive venue for residents and children to celebrate Christmas.

What makes the Christmas Extravaganza so special is that there is no cost to attend—everything is absolutely free to the public. From cotton candy and hot dogs, to live music performed by the Bay West Church Band, and

fun activities for children, such as face painting, rock wall climbing, bounce houses, and a robotics demonstration, the sponsors of this annual event have committed to serving others during this Christmas season and giving back to their community in order to make a difference in someone's life.

This year, over sixty local businesses and organizations have made donations of food, gift certificates, equipment, cash and goodie bags. Toys for Tots will again make donations of toys for local children while the Sheriff, law enforcement officials and firemen have all volunteered their time. Florida Institute of Technology has partnered with The House at Palm Bay's Christmas Extravaganza team to provide free trolley rides for children and adults alike. Also, this year the Heritage High School Marching Band will be performing along with members of The House at Palm Bay's drama team which will provide their rendition of the Music Box, a Musical Drama for all ages.

Senior Pastor Ken Delgado of The House at Palm Bay said, ''The essence of Christmas is about sacrificial giving. Parents do everything possible, to their own hurt, to bless their families. What an honor it is to see the business community sacrificially coming together to create a moment where families can find love, hope and joy—it's the example of the love, hope and joy that was expressed through the life of Jesus Christ 2000 years ago.''

The Cities of Palm Bay and Melbourne have issued proclamations of support for this year's Christmas Extravaganza and the Brevard County Commission passed a resolution commending these efforts and encouraging families to attend.

I salute all those who have given so much to make the Annual Christmas Extravaganza possible, and applaud all the communities across our great nation who have seized upon this opportunity to spread the Christmas spirit through good deeds and charitable acts.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANKS

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to recognize the 25th anniversary of a grant program that has benefitted thousands of individuals and families across the country—the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLBank) system's Affordable Housing Program (AHP). The AHP is a flexible source of grants designed to help community-based lenders and their partners develop affordable housing solutions for very low- to moderate-income individuals and families.

The AHP receives its funding through annual contributions of 10 percent of the FHLBanks' net income. The Federal Home Loan Banks have awarded over $5.1 billion in AHP funds since Congress created the program in 1990. These funds represent the largest single source of private grant dollars available for housing and community development in the country.

By developing affordable housing—and creating stable communities in the process—AHP funds have a long-term, positive economic impact. Many projects are designed for seniors, the disabled, homeless families, first-time homeowners and others with limited resources. More than 845,157 housing units have been built using AHP funds. And I'm happy to say that the Federal Home Loan Bank system is the largest single funding provider to Habitat for Humanity, an organization that I have strongly supported during my 16 years in Congress.

Created by an act of Congress in 1932, the Federal Home Loan Banks are 12 regional cooperative banks that community-based financial institutions utilize to make home loans, small business loans and agriculture loans in every corner of America. Nearly 8,000 lenders are members of the Federal Home Loan Bank cooperative, representing approximately 80 percent of America's insured lending institutions. The FHLBanks and their members have been the largest and most reliable source of funding for community lending for over 80 years.

The FHLBanks have repeatedly demonstrated their ability to serve their members and to meet the affordable housing and community development needs of individuals, families and local communities through the Affordable Housing Program. As Congress contemplates the future of housing finance, I encourage members of Congress and the Administration to look to the Federal Home Loan Banks as an example of a system that works well.

AN IRANIAN OPPOSITION GROUP'S FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you may not know it, but there is a group that, like the United States, thinks the Supreme Leader of Iran needs to go. They are a group of Iranians called the MEK. They want their countrymen to be free from the oppressive regime that has ruled with an iron fist since 1979. But the MEK is locked up in a prison-like camp in Iraq. 112 of its members have been killed.

How we came to this point is a story worth telling. After the Iranian revolution, the MEK opposed the Supreme Leader. So the newly installed Islamic regime systematically arrested and executed members of the MEK. The MEK fled and found refuge in Iraq. They built a home in the middle of the desert in a place called Camp Ashraf. In August 2002, the MEK disclosed two previously unknown nuclear facilities in Iran.

The Natanz enrichment facility and Arak heavy water facility triggered the IAEA inspection of Iranian sites for the first time.

After the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003, the MEK gave over all of its weapons to the U.S. Army 4th Infantry Division. In return, the U.S. promised to protect the MEK, labeling them ''protected persons'' under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

On January 1, 2009, U.S. forces handed control over to the Iraqi Security Forces. Then Prime Minister Maliki was beholden to Tehran so when the Supreme Leader asked him to crack down on the MEK, he obeyed. Maliki either allowed or facilitated two deadly attacks on the defenseless residents living in Camp Ashraf. In July 2009, 11 residents were killed and 500 more injured. Two years later, in April 2011, the Camp was attacked again.

Videos would show Humvees running over residents and snipers shooting at residents as they ran for their lives. The attackers were not trying to talk. They were trying to kill. And they succeeded. 36 residents were killed and 345 injured.

I and other Members of Congress met with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in June 2011. The meeting that was supposed to last 20 minutes but went for 2 hours came to an abrupt halt when our delegation asked to see Camp Ashraf where the MEK members lived. Maliki's mood immediately changed and he said that there was no way we were going to see the Camp. Maliki did not allow us to go because he had something to hide.

After pressure from the Government of Iraq and the U.S. Government, the remaining residents agreed to be transferred to Camp Hurriya near Baghdad as the UN worked to resettle them in some other country besides Iraq or Iran. But a new camp would still not keep them safe—not while Maliki was under the thumb of an Iranian regime that wanted to decimate the MEK. On three more occasions in 2013, 65 more unarmed residents were killed and over 600 injured. The UN has now resettled 600 residents, but there are still 3,200 living in squalid conditions in Camp Hurriya. They are confined to the Camp, not allowed to leave.

Lawyers and family members cannot visit them. After a series of rocket attacks killed many of them, residents dug trenches and slept inside them because they had no other way to protect themselves. These conditions are worse than an American prison. This is no way to treat thousands of people who have risked their lives for three decades so that their countrymen may know the sweet taste of freedom. One day, I believe, we will not be talking about ensuring Iranian freedom fighters like the MEK have another country to live in. One day, the Supreme Leader will supremely fall.

Democracy and freedom will once again flourish in Iran. And the freedom fighters, who have now been fighting for decades, can finally return home to join their families and their countrymen in building a new, peaceful Iran.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH OF MARY PARKS NATONSKI

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pepper and David Natonski on the birth of their beautiful daughter. Mary Parks Natonski was born on her Thanksgiving Day due date at 7:02 a.m., November 27th, 2014; weighing 8 pounds and 8 ounces and measuring 21 and ½ inches long.

She was born to Pepper Pennington Natonski and David Richard Natonski, my Chief of Staff and KEVIN YODER's (KS–03) Chief of Staff respectively. I must admit, she clearly has her mother's punctuality—and her father's size.

Mary Parks gets her name from her two remarkable great-grandmothers, Mary Allen and

Mary Pennington, and her late great-aunt, Mary Natonski. Parks comes from her great-grandfather, Wayman Parks Allen.

She is the first grandchild for grandparents General and Mrs. Richard Natonski, and Cass and Cindy Pennington. Proud great-grandparents include Sadie Natonski, Mary Pennington, and Wayman and Mary Allen.

Mary Parks Natonski joins a wonderful family who are devoted to her well-being and will empower her for a bright future.

HONORING THE BOTHELL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SUZAN K. DelBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2014 Bothell High School football team. On December 6, the Cougars won the 4A Washington State football championship, finishing their outstanding season with a perfect record of 14–0. I congratulate them on this exemplary achievement.

The resounding 24–14 victory over the defending champions, Chiawana High School, left no doubt that Bothell is the state's best team. This championship win is especially remarkable for the Cougars, as it is the football team's first state title in school history.

I would like to give special recognition to Caleb Meyer, Damani St. John-Watkins, and Ross Bowers, for their exceptional performances in Saturday's game. Meyer and St. John-Watkins both capped the season with over 100 yards rushing, but it was quarterback Ross Bower's score with 6 seconds remaining in the 3rd quarter that grabbed the headlines. On a scramble from 5 yards out, Bower landed a complete front flip over the Chiawana defenders on his way into the end zone. He also went 17–19, passing for over 200 yards and a touchdown.

The Cougars displayed a great deal of character and determination throughout this season led by Coach Tom Bainter. His constant encouragement and training helped guide the Cougars to this momentous victory.

Again, I congratulate the Bothell football team on all of their success. Their accomplishments on the field this season are hard-earned and well-deserved.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today I am voting against the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of Fiscal Year 2015. Although this bill contains a few positive measures and provisions that I support it unfortunately creates a two year blank check for the U.S. to wage a war against the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) in both Syria and Iraq.

I am vehemently opposed to this two year authorization to train and equip as yet unknown forces in both Syria and Iraq to combat ISIL. Tragically, Congress has once again abdicated its constitutional responsibilities under War Powers. Instead of voting on a vague authorization today, we should wait and pass judgment on a more detailed assessment on this operation and vote on a specific authorization for use of military force (AUMF). In addition to the $5 billion already authorized to continue the fight against ISIL, this bill mistakenly allows for the reprogramming of funds as the President sees fit from the $63.7 billion overseas contingency operations account, which has turned into a slush fund to fight unauthorized wars.

If you turned to any of my colleagues today and asked the basic question who are the 5,000 fighters that the U.S. will train and equip in Syria, they could not give you an answer. Not even our intelligence agencies know who we can trust. Before granting authorization, Congress should at least know who it is we are giving U.S. weapons to and what their ideology and political goals are. This is a complex mess of various actors, many of whom cannot be considered trustworthy allies. The Syrian opposition is made up of hundreds of thousands of fighters from various factions that are also fighting amongst each other.

In Iraq, the U.S. is looking to form an alliance with a new government whose current Prime Minister has yet to prove he will bring Sunnis back into an inclusive society and government. At the moment the Iraqi army barely exists on paper. The main Iraqi force currently fighting ISIL, Asaib Ahl al-haq, is incredibly hostile to the U.S. and was attacking our troops up to the last day of the U.S. occupation of Iraq. The enemy of our enemy is not always an ally.

That is why it is so critical that Congress be presented with a detailed plan of this ''train and equip'' operation including who it is that we are arming before we vote and this authorization fails to do that.

Most importantly what we are voting on today is a small part of President Obama's larger strategy to go to war with ISIL. No President can declare war without Congressional authorization. If the U.S. is going to war with ISIL as it appears that we are, then my colleagues need to vote on an AUMF. The American people did not elect us to punt the responsibility for matters of war and peace to the President. The purpose of an AUMF is to lay out in detail the scope, plan, purpose, and duration of a military operation and to provide both classified and non-classified briefings to Congress and allow them to debate and express their opinions on the merits of this. Absent an AUMF from Congress, we are committing ourselves to an open ended war, declared by the President about which we have little to no details.

Despite my disagreements with the President on defense policy, members of our armed forces must be adequately funded and get the services they deserve. The bill includes increased funding for the National Guard, a 1% pay raise for our troops, and additional funding for mental health screenings and psychological services for those who have served and suffer from post traumatic stress disorder. Additionally, this bill prevents the retirement of the A–10 Warthog, a more cost effective close air-support weapons system than the F–35 Joint Striker, contains funding for nuclear non-proliferation activities, and acquisition reform measures that take a small step in reining in the bloated Pentagon budget. I strongly support these provisions of the NDAA.

Lastly, there was a public lands package attached to this bill that include provisions that are critical to the West Coast and Oregon. The REFI Act will save West Coast fishermen millions of dollars by refinancing expensive, unfair high-interest federal loans. The expansion of the Oregon Caves National Monument will boost the local economy and create needed jobs in southern Oregon, protect the unique cave system for hiking and other recreational opportunities, and it designates the River Styx—the underground stream running through Oregon Caves—as the first subterranean Wild and Scenic River in the nation. The package wasn't perfect, but it was the result of a multi-year negotiation to clear the backlog of mostly non-controversial, locally supported lands bills that have languished in this dysfunctional Congress. I didn't pick the vehicle to move these bills, and unfortunately it was attached to the NDAA.

Again, I will ultimately vote no on this legislation because it contains a two-year blank check to fight an unauthorized war in Iraq and Syria. Congress shouldn't duck its responsibility to thoroughly debate and discuss the authorization of use of force.

IN HONOR OF NEW MEXICO HOUSE CHIEF CLERK STEPHEN ARIAS

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of New Mexico House Chief Clerk Stephen Arias, who is retiring at the end of the year.

Mr. Arias began his career with the New Mexico Legislature in 1966 and worked his way through the ranks of the House, starting as a clerk reading legislation, a payroll officer, and even a coat checker. In 1983 he was elected House Chief Clerk by the majority caucus and has served in that position for the past 31 years. In that time, Mr. Arias became the third-longest serving legislative clerk in the country. Originally elected Chief Clerk under Speaker of the House Raymond Sanchez, Mr. Arias went on to serve under four subsequent speakers as he was re-elected time and again by the members of the House—a testament to the tremendous job he did over three decades.

Although they may not receive a lot of attention, Chief Clerks are essential to the smooth functioning of the legislature. Chief Clerks are in charge of hiring seasonal staff, tracking and filing bills, maintaining and setting the House budget, keeping communication between the House and Senate chambers flowing smoothly, and helping incoming lawmakers and committees address constituent issues. Mr. Arias has done all these things and more during his tenure as Chief Clerk, and I applaud his tireless work ethic. I congratulate Stephen Arias on his remarkable career, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church Canton, Mississippi.

The population of Madison County, Mississippi has been predominantly African-American since 1840. Prior to 1865, some members of the African-American population, most of whom had arrived in the county as slaves, were permitted to attend worship services, to be baptized and to be married in the area churches. They were also allowed to join established white congregations.

Early county records indicate that slaves were a part of the church communities. The Old Madison Presbyterian Church, the First Presbyterian, and the First Baptist listed a total membership of one hundred and thirty-four. One hundred were slaves and the other thirty-four were whites.

After the Civil War and freedom, African-Americans naturally desired to establish their own houses of worship. In 1865, the newly freed members of the congregation of First Baptist, with encouragement and financial assistance from their white counterparts, organized Mount Zion Baptist Church. Rev. T. J. Drane, pastor of the white church, served as minister receiving for his services a monthly salary of one dollar.

In 1870, Drane and R. B. Johnson donated two acres of land on the northern boundary of the plantation to Mount Zion. The first church was erected on Freedman Hill, located at the corner of North Railroad and Bowman Streets, according to the 1898 George and Dunlap map of Canton. Rev. Drane called for a meeting with council along with Mr. Will Powell from the white Baptist Church to help establish the church.

In addition to serving as pastor, Rev. Drane ran a day school and was assisted by Lillian Highgate, a white female. Rev. Drane received an additional $1.50 a month for his services. He also organized and maintained the first Sunday school class. All other organizations came into existence after Rev. Drane's resignation. Rev. Jordan Williams replaced him.

Newspapers frequently carried announcements concerning Mount Zion's activities. For example, ''Several converts at the Colored Baptist Church were baptized at the railroad culvert,'' or ''Rev. Williams, pastor of the Colored Baptist Church, immersed ten converts last Sunday night''. The second church site was across the street where the TWL parking lot is now located.

The third and fourth pastors were Reverends Mass and Davis. The fifth pastor, Rev. R.T. Sims, served for eighteen years and Rev. W. L. Varnado for seven. The seventh through the tenth pastors were as follows: Rev. Bradley, Rev. Morris, Rev. Drew, and Rev. A. D. Purnell.

By the 1920's, the congregation had outgrown the church and Rev. Purnell, along with members, began raising money for a larger building. The new lot for our present church was purchased from Jack Warren. Rev. Purnell asked Mr. S. M. Reddrick, Vice President of Madison County Bank, to serve as custodian over the church's building funds. He also asked if he would direct the building of the church and issue bonds to underwrite construction costs.

The bank issue $14,000 in bonds. Raymond H. Spencer was the architect of the neoclassical brick structure. He also designed the First Methodist Church of which Reddrick was a member. The building was erected in 1929 at the cost of $35,000. The congregation moved into the new structure February 1930.

Rev. P. F. Parker, the eleventh pastor, with the help of God and members, burned the mortgage. Under his leadership the church grew. For example, the following organizations played an active role in missionary work: Senior Missionary Society, Junior Matrons, Young Woman's Auxiliary, Red Circle/Sunshine Band, Sunday school, Baptist Training Union, Senior Choir, Gospel Chorus, Junior/Beginner's Choir, New Membership Club, Pastor's Aide, Boys' Bible Club and Usher Board. Rev. Parker served until his death in 1970.

Mount Zion continued to serve the African-American community religiously and socially. During the summer of 1964, Mount Zion was the location of a pivotal moment in our state's civil rights struggle. In her autobiography, Coming of Age in Mississippi, Ann Moody notes that Mount Zion was the biggest Negro church in Canton and the center of the local marches.

On Friday, May 29, 1964, on the church lawn, six hundred community and church members witnessed the near death beating of McKinley Hamilton, a young African-American man. As a result, eighty church members marched on the Madison County jail in one of the first protest marches in Canton. Mount Zion became known as the ''Church of Refuge''. In 1968, twelve hundred students from Rogers High School marched because they were outraged over the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A group of parents led them to Mount Zion. Rev. Parker opened the doors of the church to them, thus saving them from injury by law enforcement officers waiting for them on Hickory Street in front of High's Funeral Home.

Dr. W. L. Johnson, our twelfth and present pastor, has served for twenty-nine years. His words have power through the Holy Spirit. Under Dr. Johnson's leadership, the church has continued its growth. For example, the church has been air-conditioned, carpeted throughout, a fellowship hall and recreation center built and equipped, four parking lots purchased and surfaced, restrooms were remodeled, a lounge installed, pews padded, a new intercom system purchased, speakers installed in the pulpit and choir loft, additional chairs purchased for the choir and seating areas in the wings, two new copiers, a computer, storage room, and a fifteen passenger van and twenty-seven passenger bus were also purchased. The stained glass windows were repaired, and the pastor study was moved upstairs.

We now have a summer recreation program. Our membership is approximately 500 and still growing. The church is one of the most monumental, intact, and historic resources associated with the Canton African-American Community. As a result of this, the church was recently placed on the registry of Historical Buildings.

Our aim is to give every God-seeking person an opportunity to receive salvation. The church clearly reflects the importance of the social and religious life of the African-American community from its birth in 1865 up to the present. Let us resolve to make service to Christ a priority in our lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

A TRIBUTE TO MARIE E. THOMPSON, AUDREY B. LESESNE, WILLIAM J. ''BILLY'' BARKER AND THE STAFF OF THE SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Marie E. Thompson, Audrey B. Lesesne, and William J. ''Billy'' Barker, my most senior staff, for their steadfast service, longevity of commitment and passionate performance in serving the constituents of the Seventh Congressional District of North Carolina.

These individuals have served faithfully with me throughout my entire Congressional career, and their exemplary service has truly made a difference in the many lives which they have impacted by their professional, prompt, and persistent service.

Marie Thompson's work on constituent services is unparalleled and has inspired other Congressional Offices to emulate her distinguished service.

Audrey Lesense's mastery of multiple responsibilities, sharp insight, and valuable institutional knowledge have been greatly admired.

Billy Barker's practical working knowledge and unfailing work ethic have been integral to the respect he has earned throughout our district by citizens everywhere.

These three individuals have proudly and graciously given their very best in the service of their country and our district, and I am grateful for their work and their friendship. Indeed, they—along with the many others who have served in our Congressional office over these past 18 years—have proven that teamwork and loyalty demonstrate the true dedication and determination they possess and the devotion to the people that they have given.

May God bless them and all of our staff, both past and present, for their strong, distinguished service to the people with purpose and passion—and for which our country, the people of our district, and I will forever be grateful.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CONGRESSMAN HERMAN BADILLO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with grief to honor the passing of Herman Badillo, a great New Yorker, a great friend and a man that worked honorably for this country. I fondly remember walking down 116th street, the borderline of Harlem and East Harlem, as we

shared the great plans we had for our districts and this great nation. Herman and I were part of the 1970 Congressional freshman class. Herman was also the man who gave Percy Sutton, David Dinkins, Basil Paterson, and me the special label: the Gang of Four. He was always driven and persistent, called himself "the first Puerto Rican everything," and won the respect for being a fighter. Congressman Herman Badillo will be truly missed.

My friend, Herman Badillo, will always be remembered as America's first Puerto Rican-born Congressman and a fixture in New York City politics for four decades, championing civil rights, jobs, housing and educational reforms. Born in Caguas, P.R., on Aug. 21, 1929, Herman was the only child of Francisco and Carmen Rivera Badillo. Upon moving to the continental United States, he learned English and was an excellent student at Haaren High School in Manhattan. Being a hard worker since a young age, he labored as a dishwasher, bowling pinsetter, and accountant and graduated with high honors from City College in 1951. Herman went on to graduate from Brooklyn Law School as valedictorian in 1954, then settled into law practice in New York. Badillo served his community as a public servant on many fronts. Besides his election to four terms in Congress, he was a city commissioner, the Bronx borough president, a deputy to Mayor Edward I. Koch, a counsel to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, a candidate for state and city comptroller, and for many years a trustee and then board chairman of the City University of New York.

I was honored to serve with Herman during his seven years in Congress in the 1970s, when he pushed urban renewal, antipoverty programs, voting rights and bilingual education. Herman has been a treasure to the people of our community as well as a true testament to the American Dream. Herman Badillo will forever remain in our hearts.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EDEN PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend the Eden Prairie High School Football Team on winning the Minnesota State Championship.

The Eagles capped off an undefeated 13–0 season with a hard-fought victory over Totino-Grace in which they trailed at halftime by 14 points. Senior running back Will Rains led the way with 230 yards rushing and 3 Touchdowns, but the victory by Mike Grant's unit was a complete team effort.

With their backs against the wall, the Eagles dug deep to claw their way back and win their fourth consecutive big school title.

Football is a unique sport in that every play requires 11 teammates working in unison to be successful. It takes perfect execution combined with skill and of course, a large amount of toughness to make a deep play-off run and win a title.

Eden Prairie's commitment to excelling on the gridiron is even more noteworthy when combined with the requirements of a student-athlete. Maintaining commitments in the classroom, with their families, and fitting in a social life is not easy for a group of teenagers—but these young men were able rise to the occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to once again congratulate the Eden Prairie Eagles for bringing home the state title!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

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 $17,993,213,058,619.35. We've added $7,366,336,009,706.27 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING HEAVENLY ANGELS DAYCARE CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Heavenly Angels Daycare Center.

The Heavenly Angels Daycare Center opened on August 8, 2006 with Mrs. Emma Bell as owner and director, in Port Gibson, Claiborne County, Mississippi on Church St.

Mrs. Bell loves children and started Heavenly Angels Daycare Center with 8 enrolled from 6 months to 3 years old. She also had an After School Program with 6 children up to 12 years old.

Through the years, the Heavenly Angels Daycare Center has grown and in 2008 a Pre-K Center was included to better equip children who started in the center to be able to successfully start 1st grade.

Heavenly Angels Daycare Center has been progressing for 8 years with a current full capacity of 87 children, who are enjoying the process of learning and the After School Program has 27 children.

Mrs. Bell, because of her hard and diligent work at Heavenly Angels Daycare Center has received a trophy honoring her as Businesswoman of the Year.

Mrs. Bell has been married for 25 years to a husband that loves and supports her. They have 5 children: 4 boys and 1 daughter, Janice, who has worked with Heavenly Angels Daycare Center since its opening and graduated from Jackson State University with a Business Degree.

Heavenly Angels Daycare Center's slogan is: To look, listen and learn and every child succeeds. Mrs. Bell stated that "When they come through our doors, we make sure that they get the learning that they need. They all are smart children."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Heavenly Angels Daycare Center for caring and educating children.

HONORING DAVE CUELLAR

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dave Cuellar of Veterans Helping Veterans for his outstanding volunteer work with New Mexican veterans.

A Vietnam veteran himself, Mr. Cuellar had a distinguished career as a Gallup police officer after serving his country in the Army. Before retiring as a police lieutenant, he helped to protect and serve Gallup for over 22 years. In 2003, Mr. Cuellar was inspired to help start Veterans Helping Veterans, an organization dedicated to providing informational and social support for veterans in the Gallup area. The group provides critical help to veterans navigating the Veteran Administration's benefit and healthcare systems. More importantly, Mr. Cuellar has created an open and welcoming network run by veterans for veterans. His group is all inclusive, working with veterans young and old, from all backgrounds and all branches of the military to create a voice for all veterans.

Words alone cannot express our full appreciation and gratitude for the service of our veterans, and the deeds of volunteers like Mr. Cuellar help make a difference in the lives of our veterans who often face many challenges when they return home from active duty. Veterans Helping Veterans is a great example of a remarkable volunteer organization that is having a positive impact in the community. I thank Dave Cuellar for both his service and for his work with Veterans Helping Veterans.

HONORING CHAIRWOMAN FUDGE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE on her extraordinary leadership as the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

With conviction and passion, she defended the change we have all worked so diligently to achieve since the CBC was founded in 1971.

Throughout her career in Congress, MARCIA's passion for the advancement of the least among us, regardless of race, color or creed, has served her constituents in Cleveland well. This tireless advocacy made her an excellent choice for the CBC chair.

During her tenure, she was fearless in promoting the goals of the CBC and advancing our fight to confront critical issues that are confronted by the communities we represent.

Her staff certainly impressed us with their unparalleled work ethic, enthusiasm, responsibility and flexibility to meet the needs of so many Members. They demonstrated great aptitude in communicating urgent matters to us in a timely and effective manner.

The Chairwoman was unwavering in her strength as she gracefully tackled the harsh political battles we were confronted during this Congress.

She has left a huge imprint in the CBC and will be missed by all of us who have come to

respect and appreciate her very much as our leader.

I look forward to working with MARCIA and the rest of my Colleagues on the CBC in the 114th Congress as we continue our efforts to put America back to work, cut our deficit responsibly, tackle tax reform, and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to pursue the American Dream.

RECOGNIZING POTH HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Poth High School Women's Volleyball Team for their ninth state championship win under the leadership of Coach Patti Zenner.

On Saturday, November 22nd, the Poth Pirettes emerged victorious over Brock High School during the UIL Class 3A State Final. This was a defining match for the Pirettes, marking their fourteenth appearance at the state tournament and ninth state championship win. With this recent victory, the Poth Pirettes are now tied for the second most championship wins in state history. Pirettes Volleyball Senior Alyssa Kruse was awarded Most Valuable Player of the championship.

Mr. Speaker, this is a momentous occasion for Poth High School and I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Pirettes Women's Volleyball Team for its record-setting victory. I thank you for this time.

INTRODUCING THE AFRICAN DESCENT AFFAIRS ACT IN RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill recognizing persons of African descent on the occasion of the December 10, 2014 launch of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

As our country fights to realize justice for Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Aiyana Jones, John Warner, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and many others, we must not forget the names—Stephen Lawrence, Oury Jalloh, Mark Duggan, Zyed Benna, Bouna Traore, and many others—who are victims of similar injustices in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

The International Decade provides an opportunity to join efforts with countries around the globe to, over the next 10 years, develop and implement national strategies honoring the vast contributions of people of African Descent and to combat continuing issues of prejudice and discrimination such as those currently gripping our nation.

To aid these efforts, I have introduced the African Descent Affairs Act. The Act seeks to improve the situation of people of African descent around the world by establishing within our State Department a Global Office of African Descent Affairs to establish global foreign policy and assistance strategies for people of African descent. Furthermore, it creates a ''President Obama Fund'' to support anti-discrimination and empowerment efforts by African descent-led civil society organizations, and requires annual State Department human rights reports to include a section on discrimination faced by people of African descent. U.S. foreign policy strategies such as these have improved the situation of vulnerable groups internationally and would greatly assist in responding to increasing levels of prejudice and discrimination faced by people of African descent around the globe.

The International Decade reaffirms the importance of inclusion and the full and equal participation of people of African descent around the world in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life. I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the collective history and achievements made by people of African descent on the occasion of the launch of the Decade by supporting the African Descent Affairs Act.

HONORING RAINBOW LEARNING & DAYCARE CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable Rainbow Learning & Daycare Center.

Rainbow, opened in June 2007, is operated by the owner/director, Mrs. Pernada Jackson. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Rainbow's mission is to provide child care services and a safe learning environment that focuses on the developmental needs of the children. The center serves families in Leland, Mississippi, and the surrounding towns.

Rainbow strives to provide a quality early childhood education program filled with love and compassion for children. They believe that children are the most important resource and that the early childhood experiences are crucial in the development of their future.

Rainbow's belief is that the family is the strongest influence in the child's growth and development. They extend the child's home experience and provide new and different experiences of value. Rainbow's program is based on the knowledge that children learn best through play and active hands-on activities. Using developmental appropriate materials to stimulate and explore their potential is their goal.

Growth occurs in developmental stages and each stage must be offered, encouraged and supported. Rainbow's classrooms are arranged in an environment that presents maximum opportunities for cognitive development, discovery learning and an awareness of cultural diversity. They offer clean and spacious learning centers that offer a wide variety of daily activities to encourage and challenge each child.

Rainbow's learning environment will empower children and enhance self-esteem by creating an atmosphere where social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development can take place. By encouraging children to learn and develop at their own level, they will gain the confidence of self-importance. Rainbow offers children guidance and understanding, so they will have the opportunity to explore their world in a safe and controlled environment.

Rainbow provides nutritional meals and snacks. All meals meet the nutritional guidelines set by the USDA.

Each caregiver receives on-going training through staff meetings and during early childhood conferences and workshops that are held throughout the year. All Rainbow employees are trained in Pediatric CPR and First Aid. Rainbow accepts all children regardless of race, color, creed, and sex, religious or ethnic backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Rainbow Learning & Daycare Center for its dedication to serving others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I missed two recorded votes on December 9. I would like to indicate at this point how I would have voted had I been present for those votes.

On Roll Call No. 552, on Motion to Recommit the California Emergency Drought Relief Act 2014, I would have voted ''aye.''

On Roll Call No. 553, passage of the California Emergency Drought Relief Act 2014, I would have voted ''nay.''

IN HONOR OF NEW MEXICO STATE TREASURER JAMES B. LEWIS

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James B. Lewis, who is retiring after a career devoted to public service. Most recently, Mr. Lewis served as New Mexico State Treasurer, a position he held for the last 8 years.

Mr. Lewis' long and distinguished career includes serving our country in the Army and serving New Mexico in many notable positions, such as Chief of Staff to Governor Bruce King, Chief Clerk and Chief Executive Officer of the New Mexico State Corporation Commission, Director and Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, President of the National Association of State Treasurers, and immediate past President of the National Association of State Auditors, Controllers, and Treasurers. In 1986, Mr. Lewis became the first African American to be elected to a statewide office in New Mexico, and is also the first and only African American to be appointed and then elected to office three times.

His tenure in the Treasurer's office will be remembered for his efforts to increase transparency and raise public awareness and understanding of this important office and the

role it plays in our great state. Treasurer Lewis automated the warrant and collateral compliance system, established the Remote Electronic Banking System, signed the first joint Powers Agreement enabling the Ramah Navajo Chapter to invest in the Local Government Investment Pool, and implemented the new state Linked Deposit program.

The State Treasury plays a vital role in protecting state monies deposited in New Mexico's financial institutions and promoting a stable state economy, and as Treasurer, Mr. Lewis led that effort with distinction. While Mr. Lewis' retirement is a loss for the state of New Mexico, I wish him all the best as he embarks on this next chapter, and I congratulate him on his distinguished career.

RECOGNIZING DR. MICHAEL B. McCALL

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Michael B. McCall, the Founding President of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). Since 1998, Dr. McCall has served as system President. His exemplary service has greatly benefited community colleges throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky, including Jefferson Community and Technical College, which is in my Congressional district.

Under Dr. McCall's leadership, KCTCS has become the largest provider of post-secondary education in Kentucky. This year, KCTCS enrolled more than 92,000 students and remains the largest provider of workforce training in the Commonwealth, serving more than 5,300 businesses and training more than 52,000 employees every year.

Recently, a study by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems reviewed many of the accomplishments achieved under Dr. McCall stewardship and found that ''Relative to most other public community and technical college systems in the U.S., KCTCS has improved dramatically on the key measures of student participation and completion. Enrollment in the system has nearly doubled since 2001 and its production of college credentials has increased by more than 400 percent.''

Dr. McCall has spent the last fifteen years dedicated to improving Kentucky's workforce and economy by leading the transformation of KCTCS. I would like to thank Dr. McCall for his commitment to improving the lives of Kentucky families and for his service to the Commonwealth. I wish you the best in your retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SALVATORE FERRARA II: FORMER CEO OF FERRARA PAN CANDY CO.

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life of Mr. Salvatore Ferrara II, former CEO of Chicago's Ferrara Pan Candy Company; Mr. Ferrara II passed away on November 27, 2014.

Named after his grandfather, Salvatore Ferrara, Mr. Ferrara lived a life surrounded by all the sweetness that candy could ever provide. His grandfather started the family business in 1908 on Chicago's famous Taylor Street in the Little Italy neighborhood. It was not long before Mr. Ferrara's father, Nello Ferrara, joined the business and continued the hard work that had been started before him. Under Nello Ferrara's guidance the creation of the Atomic Fireball and Lemonheads candy became reality, one inspired from his service in World War II and the other on the birth of his son.

Salvatore Ferrara II, or ''Sal'' to his friends, attended high school in the Chicago area and attended Loyola University New Orleans. He followed the path of his father and grandfather and joined the family business in the 1970s; under his leadership, the company went into a growth phase that raised the number of annual earnings and hardworking employees. He would stay in the family business until March of this year but even after stepping down, Sal would continue to work until the end. Chicagoland has lost an outstanding citizen, businessman, father and husband; he will truly be missed. He will be missed not only by his family and friends, but also by all of us who have enjoyed his specialty candies distributed at parties, picnics, weddings, birthdays and special gatherings.

All of us say thanks to you Mr. Salvatore Ferrara II. Sweet dreams as you rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING ROBERTO GALVEZ JUNIOR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Roberto Galvez Junior of Laredo, Texas.

Mr. Galvez was born in 1971 in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas to parents Roberto Galvez Martinez and Gloria Irma Alcala de Galvez. As the eldest of three brothers, Mr. Galvez studied in Mexico up until high school.

For decades, Mr. Galvez has been involved in broadcasting for both Mexico and the United States in radio and television. He began his career as a sports correspondent in 1990, and then became a sports broadcaster for KLDO Univision Laredo in 1998. From 2008 to 2010, Mr. Galvez became editorial director for the popular magazine ''Mas Accion,'' where he emphasized the importance of athletics in Laredo and the surrounding region.

Since 2010, Mr. Galvez has worked as Sports Director and Anchor for Telemundo Laredo Channel 25. Motivated by a desire to give back to his community, he has collected toys for underprivileged children during the holidays for the past four years.

Mr. Roberto Galvez has been honored with the ''Best Sports Anchor'' national award from the Mexican Federation of Sports Newscasters for his important work in sports journalism. Additionally, he has been named the best sports reporter in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas by this organization and will receive the award in a ceremony in Torreón, Coahuila in February, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Roberto Galvez Junior for his many accomplishments and great contributions to the Laredo area. I thank you for this time.

HONORING JUDGE IVORY E. BRITTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Ivory Britton, a Justice Court Judge of District 2, who is a native Jacksonian.

Judge Britton was reared on Tougaloo Street in the Virden Addition Community.

Judge Britton attended Brinkley Elementary School, which is now Walton Elementary School, and graduated from Brinkley High School. He attended: the University of Judicial Court, National Judicial College, Reno, NV, National Judges Association, American Judges Association, and National Center for State Courts.

As a Justice Court Judge Britton works hard to ensure fair and equal treatment for all litigants of his court. He has increased his knowledge of the judicial process to enable citizens to easily use the Justice Court System. Judge Britton will continue to be fair and accessible to all citizens and be knowledgeable and obedient to the laws of The State of Mississippi.

Judge Britton is married to Liza Britton and they have three children: Perry, Dexter and Tabathia. He is a member of Cade Chapel M. B. Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Judge Ivory E. Britton.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my respect and appreciation for Congressman JOHN DINGELL and his 59 years of service in the United States House of Representatives. Congressman DINGELL served with honor, dignity, and distinction, fighting each and every day for his home state of Michigan and for our entire country. While Mr. DINGELL is retiring, DEBBIE DINGELL was elected this year to represent Michigan's 12th Congressional District in the next Congress. Like her husband, I know she will make the people of Michigan proud, and I look forward to working with her.

As a veteran of World War II and the longest-serving Member of Congress, Mr. DINGELL understands the meaning of service. He devoted himself to expanding opportunities for all Americans and to helping more families achieve the American Dream. He was a leader in the fight to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and helped create Medicare in 1965. An advocate for public safety, Mr. DINGELL wrote

the 1990 Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act, protecting the health of Americans and the environment.

Mr. DINGELL's tireless efforts will leave an indelible mark on our country and in Congress. I am thankful for his service and proud to call him a colleague and a friend. While we will miss his leadership, we can follow Mr. DINGELL's example and honor his legacy by putting aside our differences and working together to tackle our nation's challenges.

I wish Mr. DINGELL and his family all the best.

IN HONOR OF REGIS PECOS

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Regis Pecos, who has dedicated his career to working on behalf of his community and the people of New Mexico.

I have had the honor of knowing Regis for many years as he served as Chief of Staff to my father, Ben Lujan, Speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives. Regis was more than just a trusted advisor, he was a friend to my father and to our whole family.

Regis has spent much of his career helping to advance the interests of the people of New Mexico, and has continually been a strong advocate for Native American communities in our state. Regis served his pueblo as both Governor and Lieutenant Governor and went on to work as Executive Director at the New Mexico Office of Indian Affairs for 16 years and under four different governors. While in this important position, he helped gain the support of the New Mexico State Legislature for the State Indian Child Welfare Act.

Regis' passion for Tribal public policy and community issues extends beyond his time in government. In 1997, he co-founded the Santa Fe Indian School Leadership Institute, an organization dedicated to creating systemic change within Tribal communities. The Leadership Institute helps create a dialogue on the important policy issues facing Indian Country and also gives youth community members important exposure and education on Native issues.

The knowledge and passion that Regis has brought to his endeavors on behalf of the people of New Mexico will be greatly missed as he leaves the Roundhouse. But I know that whatever the next chapter brings for Regis, he will always remember his deep roots and always work to build a brighter future for his community and his state. It is with great honor that I congratulate Regis on his many years of service and wish him continued success.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 17

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone.

SD–406

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6467–S6581

Measures Introduced: Five bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2993–2997, and S. Res. 596–598. **Page S6540**

Measures Reported:

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, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–289)

S. 398, to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–290)

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, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–291)

S. 841, to designate certain Federal land in the San Juan National Forest in the State of Colorado as wilderness, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–292)

S. 1328, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the archeological site and surrounding land of the New Philadelphia town site in the State of Illinois. (S. Rept. No. 113–293)

S. 1419, to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–294)

S. 1750, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with States and political subdivisions of States providing for the continued operation, in whole or in part, of public land, units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System in the State during any period in which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture is unable to maintain normal level of operations at the units due to a lapse in appropriations. (S. Rept. No. 113–295)

S. 1971, to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–296)

S. 2031, to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–297)

S. 2104, to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown. (S. Rept. No. 113–298)

S. 2379, to approve and implement the Klamath Basin agreements, to improve natural resource management, support economic development, and sustain agricultural production in the Klamath River Basin in the public interest and the interest of the United States, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–299)

S. 2602, to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–300)

S. 2873, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acknowledge contributions at units of the National Park System, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–301)

H.R. 885, To expand the boundary of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, and for other purposes. (S. Rept. No. 113–302)

H.R. 1241, to facilitate a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Inyo National Forest. (S. Rept. No. 113–303)

Report to accompany S. 2094, to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel. (S. Rept. No. 113–304)

S. 1317, to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 2014 through 2016 and for other purposes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6540**

Measures Passed:

Coast Guard Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. 2444, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S6480–81**

Boxer (for Rockefeller/Thune) Amendment No. 3997, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6480**

Boxer (for Rockefeller) Amendment No. 3998, to amend the title. **Page S6480**

National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center Act: Senate passed S. 2519, to codify an existing operations center for cybersecurity, after withdrawing the committee amendment, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S6481**

Boxer (for Carper) Amendment No. 3999, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6481**

Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act: Senate passed H.R. 4007, to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6481–86**

Boxer (for Carper) Amendment No. 4000, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6486**

Critical Infrastructure Research and Development Advancement Act: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2952, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess the cybersecurity workforce of the Department of Homeland Security and develop a comprehensive workforce strategy, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S6486–87**

Boxer (for Carper) Amendment No. 4001, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S6486–87**

Boxer (for Carper) Amendment No. 4002, to amend the title. **Page S6487**

FAA Modernization and Reform Act: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. 2614, to amend certain provisions of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S6517–18**

Death in Custody Reporting Act: Senate passed H.R. 1447, to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies. **Pages S6579–80**

American Savings Promotion Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3374, to provide for the use of savings promotion raffle products by financial institutions to encourage savings, and the bill was then passed. **Page S6580**

Smart Savings Act: Senate passed H.R. 4193, to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan. **Page S6580**

James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway: Senate passed H.R. 4926, to designate a segment of Interstate Route 35 in the State of Minnesota as the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway". **Page S6580**

Propane Education and Research Enhancement Act: Senate passed H.R. 5705, to modify certain provisions relating to the Propane Education and Research Council. **Page S6580**

Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 2822, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S6580–81**

Condolences to the Family of Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig: Senate agreed to S. Res. 598, expressing condolences to the family of Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig and condemning the terrorist acts of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. **Page S6581**

House Messages:

Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S6470–80, S6487–S6517, S6518–28**

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill. **Page S6470**

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Reid Amendment No. 3984 (to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill), to change the enactment date. **Page S6470**

Reid Amendment No. 3985 (to Amendment No. 3984), of a perfecting nature. **Page S6470**

Reid motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 3986, to change the enactment date. **Page S6470**

Reid Amendment No. 3987 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 3986), of a perfecting nature. **Page S6470**

Reid Amendment No. 3988 (to Amendment No. 3987), of a perfecting nature. **Page S6470**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, December 11, 2014. **Page S6581**

Retiring Senators Tributes—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the tributes to retiring Senators be printed as a Senate document and that Senators be permitted to submit tributes until December 23, 2014. **Page S6581**

Bill Referral—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5471, to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and the bill be referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. **Page S6581**

Messages from the House: **Page S6539**

Measures Referred: **Page S6539**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S6540, S6581**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S6540**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S6541**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S6541–43**

Additional Statements: **Pages S6538–39**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S6543–78**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6578**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6579**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:55 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6581.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, focusing on the effective enforcement and the future of derivatives regulation, after receiving testimony from Timothy Massad, Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

CYBERSECURITY

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine cybersecurity, focusing on enhancing coordination to protect the financial sector, after receiving testimony from Brian Peretti, Director, Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Compliance Policy, and Valerie Abend, Senior Critical Infrastructure Officer, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, both of the Department of the Treasury; Phyllis Schneck, Deputy Undersecretary for Cybersecurity, National Protection and Programs Directorate, and William Noonan, Deputy Special Agent in Charge, Secret Service, Criminal Investigation Division, Cyber Operations Branch, both of the Department of Homeland Security; and Joseph M. Demarest, Jr., Assistant Director, Cyber Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

PASSENGER RAIL

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security concluded a hearing to examine passenger rail, focusing on investing in our nation's future, after receiving testimony from Peter M. Rogoff, Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy; Anthony R. Coscia, Amtrak, New Brunswick, New Jersey; John Previsich, SMART–Transportation Division, North Olmsted, Ohio; and Ray B. Chambers, Association of Independent Passenger Rail Operators, Washington, DC.

EBOLA EPIDEMIC

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on African Affairs concluded a hearing to examine the Ebola

epidemic, focusing on the keys to success for the international response, after receiving testimony from Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Monrovia; Paul Farmer, Partners in Health, Boston, Massachusetts; E. Anne Peterson, World Vision, Washington, DC; Pape Gaye, IntraHealth International, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and Javier Alvarez, Mercy Corps, Portland, Oregon.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Michelle K. Lee, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and Daniel Henry Marti, of Virginia, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's executive action on immigration and the need to pass comprehensive reform, including S. 744, to provide for comprehensive immigration reform, after receiving testimony from Elizabeth H. Shuler, AFL–CIO, Washington, DC; Christopher H. Schroeder, Duke University Program in Public Law, Durham, North Carolina; John C. Eastman, Chapman University's Dale E. Fowler School of Law, Orange, California; Jan C. Ting, Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Astrid Silva, Las Vegas, Nevada.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 24 public bills, H.R. 1, 5825–5847; and 6 resolutions, H.J. Res. 130; H. Con. Res. 122–124; and H. Res. 777–778 were introduced. **Pages H9043–45**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H9045**

Reports Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 776, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 83) to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–655). **Page H9043**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Jolly to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H8933**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:19 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H8942**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend Aaron McEmrys, Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Arlington, Virginia. **Page H8942**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 261 yeas to 155 nays with 1 voting "present", Roll No. 556. **Page H8968**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014: S. 1691, to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents; **Pages H8945–51**

Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015: Concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4681, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 325 yeas to 100 nays, Roll No. 558; **Pages H8951–62, H8991–92**

Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act: Concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 425 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 559; **Pages H8968–73, H8992–93**

Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act: Concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204, to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 416 yeas to 5 nays, Roll No. 560;

Pages H8973–75, H8993–94

DHS OIG Mandates Revision Act of 2014: S. 2651, to repeal certain mandates of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General;

Pages H9014–15

United States Cotton Futures Act: H.R. 5810, to amend the United States Cotton Futures Act to exclude certain cotton futures contracts from coverage under such Act; **Pages H9015–16**

Naval Vessel Transfer Act: S. 1683, to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients; **Pages H9017–19**

Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014: S. 2142, to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela and to strengthen civil society in Venezuela; and **Pages H9020–23**

Feed the Future Global Food Security Act of 2014: H.R. 5656, amended, to authorize the Feed the Future Initiative to reduce global poverty and hunger in developing countries on a sustainable basis. **Pages H9023–28**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, promote sustainable agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.". **Page H9028**

Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014: The House passed S. 2244, to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, by a yea-and-nay vote of 417 yeas to 7 nays, Roll No. 557. **Pages H8962–67, H8975–91**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in H. Rept. 113–654 shall be considered as adopted. **Page H8962**

H. Res. 775, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (S. 2244), was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 231 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 554, after the previous question was ordered. **Pages H8966–67**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Tuesday, December 9th:

Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014: S. 1000, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a crosscut budget for restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 416 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 555.

Pages H8967–68

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of our brave men and women in uniform who have given their lives in the service of our country in Iraq and Afghanistan, their families, and all who serve in our armed forces and their families. **Page H8968**

Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2014: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 1281, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and concur in the Senate amendment. **Page H8994**

Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 2521, to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to provide for reform to Federal information security. **Pages H8994–98**

Providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 3979: The House agreed by unanimous consent to H. Con. Res. 123, to provide for a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 3979. **Page H8998**

Providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 5771: The House agreed by unanimous consent to H. Con. Res. 124, to provide for a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 5771. **Page H8998**

Coast Guard Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 2444, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2015 through 2016. **Pages H9002–14**

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Authorization: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 5816, to extend the authorization for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Page H9016

Denouncing the use of civilians as human shields by Hamas and other terrorist organizations: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and agree to the amendments of the Senate to H. Con. Res. 107, denouncing the use of civilians as human shields by Hamas and other terrorist organizations. **Pages H9016–17**

Insurance Capital Standards Clarification Act of 2014: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass S. 2270, to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. **Pages H9019–20**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Supporting America's Charities Act: H.R. 5806, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent certain expiring provisions related to charitable contributions. **Pages H8998–H9002**

National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics—Reappointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's reappointment of the following individual on the part of the House to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics for a term of four years: Dr. Vickie M. Mays, Los Angeles, California. **Pages H9039–40**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today and messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H8942, H8968 and H9028.

Senate Referrals: S. 1474, S. 2614, S. 2519, and S. 2444 were held at the desk. **Pages H8942, H8968, H9028**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, December 11. **Page H9017**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Seven yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H8966–67, H8967, H8968, H8991, H8991–92, H8992–93 and H8993. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Committee Meetings

EXAMINING FDA'S ROLE IN THE REGULATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD INGREDIENTS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Examining FDA's Role in the Regulation of Genetically Modified Food Ingredients''. Testimony was heard from Michael M. Landa, Director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration; and public witnesses.

COUNTERING ISIS: ARE WE MAKING PROGRESS?

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Countering ISIS: Are We Making Progress?''. Testimony was heard from Brett McGurk, Deputy Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, Department of State.

RUSSIAN ARMS CONTROL CHEATING AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade; and Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services, held a joint hearing entitled ''Russian Arms Control Cheating and the Administration's Responses''. Testimony was heard from Rose Gottemoeller, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Department of State; and Brian McKeon, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Policy, Department of Defense.

THE UNITED STATES AS AN ARCTIC NATION: OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HIGH NORTH

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats held a hearing entitled ''The United States as an Arctic Nation: Opportunities in the High North''. Testimony was heard from Admiral Robert Papp, Jr., USCG, Retired, Special Representative for the Arctic, Department of State; and public witnesses.

AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL: THE WAY FORWARD IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN (PART III)

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa; and the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, held a joint hearing entitled ''After the Withdrawal: The Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan (Part III)''. Testimony was heard from Jarret Blanc, Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Department of State; Donald L. Sampler, Assistant to the Administrator, Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development; and Mr. James Soiles, Deputy Chief of Operations, Office of Global Enforcement, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice.

THE IMPACT ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES OF THE RELEASE OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN MINORS AND THE NEED FOR CONSULTATION AND NOTIFICATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security held a hearing entitled ''The Impact on Local Communities of the Release

of Unaccompanied Alien Minors and the Need for Consultation and Notification''. Testimony was heard from the following Representatives: Barletta, Olson, Smith of Nebraska, and Crowley; Leonard Scarcella, Mayor of Stafford, Texas; Thomas M. Hodgson, Sheriff of Bristol County, Massachusetts; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING EPA'S MANAGEMENT OF THE RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD PROGRAM

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements held a hearing entitled ''Examining EPA's Management of the Renewable Fuel Standard Program''. Testimony was heard from Janet G. McCabe, Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, Environmental Protection Agency.

ADDRESSING THE BACKLOG IN THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PROCESS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service, and the Census held a hearing entitled ''Addressing the Backlog in the Federal Employee Retirement Process''. Testimony was heard from Kenneth J. Zawodny, Jr., Associate Director of Retirement Services, Office of Personnel Management; Donna Seymour, Chief Information Officer, Office of Personnel Management; Valerie C. Melvin, Director, Information Management and Technology Resource Issues, Government Accountability Office; and a public witness.

SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL, TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ASSEMBLE A TEAM OF TECHNICAL, POLICY, AND FINANCIAL EXPERTS TO ADDRESS THE ENERGY NEEDS OF THE INSULAR AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY ACTION PLANS AIMED AT PROMOTING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE ENERGY, INCLUDING INCREASING USE OF INDIGENOUS CLEAN-ENERGY RESOURCES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on the Senate amendment to H.R. 83, to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes [Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015]. The committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a rule that provides for the consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 83. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 83 with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–59 modified by the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion. The rule provides that the Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The rule provides 80 minutes of debate on the motion, with 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. In section 2, the rule provides that upon adoption of the motion specified in section 1, H. Con. Res. 122 (enrollment correction to the title) shall be considered as adopted. In section 3, the rule provides that the chair of the Committee on Appropriations may insert in the Congressional Record at any time during the remainder of the second session of the 113th Congress such material as he may deem explanatory of the Senate amendment and the motion specified in the first section of the resolution. In section 4, the rule waives clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against any resolution reported from the Rules Committee through the legislative day of December 12, 2014. Testimony was heard from Chairman Rogers of Kentucky, Chairman Kline, and Representatives Lowey, Price of North Carolina, George Miller of California, Salmon, Polis, King of Iowa, Deutch, Gohmert, Norton, Bachmann, McClintock, Duncan of South Carolina, Gosar, Huelskamp, Mulvaney, Ribble, and Clawson.

AN UPDATE ON THE SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM AND ORION: MONITORING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION'S DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION CAPABILITIES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space held a hearing entitled ''An Update on the Space Launch System and Orion: Monitoring the Development of the Nation's Deep Space Exploration Capabilities''. Testimony was heard from Bill Gerstenmaier, Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and Cristina Chaplain, Director, Acquisition

and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office.

U.S. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS: INTEGRATION, OVERSIGHT, AND COMPETITIVENESS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled ''U.S. Unmanned Aircraft Systems: Integration, Oversight, and Competitiveness''. Testimony was heard from Peggy Gilligan, Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety, Federal Aviation Administration; Matthew Hampton, Assistant Inspector General for Aviation Audits, Department of Transportation; Gerald Dillingham, Director of Civil Aviation Issues, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

HEARING 2

Select Committee on Benghazi: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Hearing 2'', relating to reviewing efforts to secure U.S. diplomatic facilities and personnel. Testimony was heard from Greg Starr, Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security, Department of State; and Steve Linick, Inspector General, Department of State.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Environment and Public Works: with the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, to hold a joint oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the President's executive order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider an original resolution to authorize the limited use of the United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, S. Con. Res. 38, expressing the sense of Congress that Warren Weinstein should be returned home to his family, S. Res. 595, recognizing Nobel Laureates Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai for their efforts to end the financial exploitation of children and to ensure the right of all children to an education, an original resolution commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day, H.R. 4573, to protect children from exploitation, especially sex trafficking in tourism, by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered child-sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known child-sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, S. 2922, to reinstate reporting requirements related to United States-Hong Kong relations, the nominations of Antony Blinken, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of State, Leslie Berger Kiernan, of Maryland, as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America, to the Sixty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and lists in the Foreign Service, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: with the Committee on Environment and Public Works, to hold a joint oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the President's executive order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Joan Marie Azrack, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Loretta Copeland Biggs, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, Elizabeth K. Dillon, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, and Michael P. Botticelli, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled ''The Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975: Are We Positioning America for Success in an Era of Energy Abundance?'', 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled ''The Future of Nuclear Energy'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Full Committee, business meeting to approve the second annual activities report for the 113th Congress; hearing entitled ''Evaluating Federal and Community Efforts to Eliminate Veteran Homelessness'', 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, December 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 3979, Carl Levin and Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act. At 10:30 a.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, December 11

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 83—Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Subject to a Rule).

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